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PERSPECTIVE

Stop expecting YOU from other people.

Assam mulls including Zubeen Garg's biography in school curriculum

GUWAHATI

State Education Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu on November 3 said that the proposal to include the biography of late singer Zubeen Garg in Assam's school syllabus is under active consideration.

"I think the board is the competent authority to make a decision. SCERT is also examining it because it will have to be in conformity with the national curriculum framework. Something will be done. We'll do it," Pegu stated.

Meanwhile, reacting to Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi's recent comments, the minister made a sharp counterattack, alleging that Gogoi's conduct and questions in Parliament hint at questionable affiliations.

"The kind of questions he (Gaurav Gogoi) asks in Parliament, that itself reveals, that itself gives an indication that he has some Pakistan connections. We do not have to go for any other things. Just go through the kind of questions he asks in Parliament," Pegu remarked.

WHO SAID WHAT

As long as I'm the Chief Minister, eviction drives are NOT going anywhere, but the encroachers certainly are ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM Assam

Manipur: Thousands of migratory Amur falcons arrive in Tamenglong, officials report

IMPHAL

The arrival and roosting of the world's longest-traveling migratory birds, the Amur falcons, have increased in large numbers in Manipur's Tamenglong district over the past 48 hours.

The Range Forest Officer for Tamenglong district, Joel Gangmei, said that these migratory birds, in their efforts to travel to the southern hemisphere (South Africa), have been roosting and feeding in the villages of Chiuluan, Puching, Guangram, Bhalok, and adjoining areas in Tamenglong district since October 7, 2025.

As part of a study on migration and to gather real-time data to aid in the protection of this globally threatened species, the Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) announced that concerned scientists would tag three Amur falcons with satellite transmitters at an opportune time this season.



Two Amur falcons — Chiuluan2 and Guangram — were fitted with satellite transmitters under a WII-led project last year to track their migratory routes. Earlier, the State Forest Department had feared that the

number of Amur falcons roosting in Manipur might be lower this year compared to previous years, due to climate change and disturbances to their habitat.

The officer said that the Amur falcons, which start their annual 20,000-kilometer journey from Siberia, China, and Russia to the southern hemisphere, are likely to leave Manipur for South Africa via Central India and the Arabian Sea from November 25.

The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, protects the Amur falcon under Schedule IV.

After the 2022 amendment, the government listed the species under Schedule I, the RFO said, adding that the international community has started acknowledging the state government's efforts to protect the Amur falcon, a globally significant species.

Officials also reiterated their appeal to the public not to catch, kill, or trade these migratory birds and not to disturb their habitat.

GUWAHATI

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, inaugurated the North Eastern Science and Technology (NEST) Cluster at IIT Guwahati, and laid the foundation stone for transformative development projects worth Rs 635 crore across Assam, an official statement said on Monday.

The new projects, aimed at catalysing growth and connectivity across Assam, include infrastructure development of 65 new secondary school buildings at the cost of Rs 455 crore, upgradation of Chayagaon-Ukium road with an investment of Rs 102.69 crore, and the construction of RCC Bridge at Silonijan-Dhansiri Par Ghat at a cost of Rs 20.59 crore.

The development of industrial estates at Ramphalbil (Kokrajhar) with an investment of Rs 14.40 crore and at Lakhibazar (Baksa) at a cost of Rs 18.40 crore were the other projects for which the foundation stones were laid by the minister.



Highlighting the human impact of the projects, Scindia said, "Every brick laid and every classroom built is a promise kept in the service of aspiration." The North Eastern Science and Technology (NEST) Cluster, established with an investment of Rs 22.98 crore, will serve as the

nerve centre of the Northeast's innovation ecosystem — transforming local wisdom into global solutions. It will focus on four verticals: Grassroots Innovation; Semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence; Bamboo-Based Technologies; Biodegradable Plastics, according to an official

statement.

The NEST cluster will complement DoNER's youth-centric programmes such as NE-SPARKS and Ashtalakshmi Darshan, through which 3,200 students from across India will visit the Northeast, while 800 Northeastern students will undertake scientific exposure visits to ISRO. The event was attended by senior officials from the Government of Assam, representatives of educational institutions, and members of the scientific and entrepreneurial community. The minister said that Assam, long the gateway to India's eastern renaissance, is now emerging as the innovation and connectivity hub of a 'Viksit Purvottar'. During his visit to the IIT Guwahati exhibition, the minister interacted with students and researchers showcasing innovations in 6G communication, biodegradable polymers, bamboo tissue culture, and low-field MRI systems for accessible healthcare. Reviewing the biodegradable polymer project, Scindia remarked, "If you get this going, it will be the future," commending

the students' spirit of scientific curiosity and sustainable innovation. Scindia underlined that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, northeast has undergone a remarkable transformation from being landlocked to land-linked and future-ready. Over Rs 6.2 lakh crore has been invested in the region through the 10 per cent Gross Budgetary Support policy, driving growth, enterprise, and empowerment. He highlighted landmark projects such as the Bogibeel Bridge, Bhupen Hazarika Setu, Sela Tunnel, and Jogighopa Multi-Modal Logistics Park, which have redefined Assam's connectivity landscape. He added that the Act East Policy has opened new trade frontiers, reducing travel time between Kolkata and Agartala from 31 hours to just 10 hours, through new rail and road links to Bangladesh. The minister also noted PM Modi's recent projects worth Rs 6,500 crore in Darrang and Rs 18,530 crore across Assam, reaffirming the Centre's commitment to holistic growth spanning health, education, energy, and industry.

Chargesheet in Zubeen Garg case to be filed by Dec 17: Assam CM

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday announced that authorities will file the chargesheet in the Zubeen Garg "murder" case by December 17, 2025.

Sarma announced this a day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters this afternoon that officials are not calling today's incident an accident. He confirmed that authorities will file the chargesheet for Zubeen Garg's murder by December 17, adding that he has set an eight-day target and that officials are fully prepared to meet it. "If any such incident happens abroad, approval from the Home Ministry is needed before filing the chargesheet. Yesterday, I met Amit Shah. So that we can get the approval soon, I think that within three-four days, SIT will write to the Ministry of Home Affairs. If needed, we will give the chargesheet in 7, 8, or 9 days," CM Sarma added.

The investigation into the death of legendary Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, who drowned under suspicious circumstances in the sea in Singapore on September 19, 2025, has intensified.

Garg, 52, was in Singapore for the North East India Festival when he reportedly died while swimming, and was not wearing a life jacket. The Singapore autopsy listed drowning as the cause, but thousands of fans suspected foul play.

To probe the case, the Assam government swiftly constituted a 9-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department

(CID) on September 24, led by Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta.

Dispur Police Station consolidated over 60 FIRs filed statewide against festival organizer Shyamkanu Mahanta and others into Case No. 18/2025.

The FIR invokes key sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including 103 (murder, added later), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), and 106(1) (causing death by negligence).

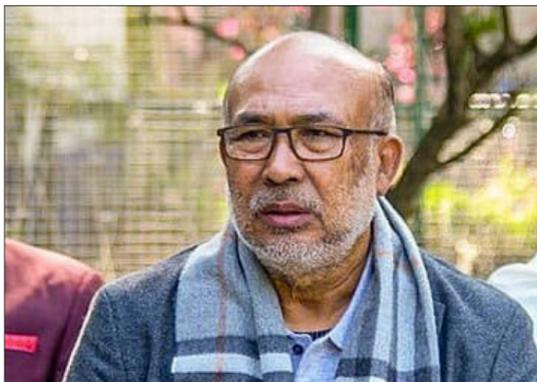
Seven arrests have followed, including Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma, cousin and DSP Sandipan Garg (suspended), band members Shekharjyoti Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta, and personal security officers Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya. All are in judicial custody, with extensions granted amid public outrage; two band members remain in Haflong prison while the rest five are in Baksa jail. The Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department are also probing financial irregularities tied to Mahanta's firm, Trend MMS.

On October 3, the government formed a one-man judicial commission headed by Gauhati High Court Justice Soumitra Saikia (expanded to five members on October 16) to oversee the probe, marking the first such panel under a sitting judge.

It will examine negligence, conspiracy, and event sequences, inviting public affidavits until November 21.

Garg's cremation on September 23 at Kamarkuchi village near Guwahati drew lakhs, with full state honors including a 21-gun salute.

Biren Singh's leaked audios doctored, NFSL informs SC



NEW DELHI

The National Forensic Science Laboratory (NFSL) in Gandhinagar told the Supreme Court that the audio clips allegedly linking former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to the 2023 ethnic violence were tampered with and unfit for voice comparison.

The findings were submitted to a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe during the hearing of a plea seeking a court-monitored probe into the recordings. After examining the NFSL's sealed report, the Court directed that its final report be furnished to both parties and listed the matter for further hearing on December 8. Reading

of the same person. Justice Kumar said the petitioner would be given access to the NFSL report to enable a detailed response. "We will give you the report so you can respond to it," the Bench told Bhushan. The Court directed that the NFSL's final report, dated October 10, 2025, be provided to both sides through the Registrar. The Court was hearing Kuki Organization for Human Rights Trust v. Union of India, seeking a court-monitored probe into the audio recordings allegedly linking the former Chief Minister to the 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur. In August 2025, the Supreme Court had directed the NFSL, Gandhinagar, to determine whether the clips were edited or tampered with, after an earlier report from the Guwahati Forensic Sciences Laboratory proved inconclusive. Previously, on February 3, 2025, the Court had sought a report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) on the same recordings. Bhushan had relied on the Truth Labs' private report indicating a 93% voice match, while the State, represented by the Solicitor General, argued that an FIR was already registered and verification requests had been sent to social media platforms that circulated the clips. In May 2025, the Bench had expressed dissatisfaction over delays in the forensic process, observing that the examination "cannot go on endlessly."

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ALARMING UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

The revelation that over 3.61 lakh educated unemployed youth are registered with employment exchanges across Jammu and Kashmir is deeply unsettling. The number of unemployed, underemployed, and those who have stopped registering is far higher. The problem is not new, but what makes it alarming is its deepening nature and the Government's apparent inability to implement a comprehensive, time-bound strategy to counter it. The data points to a distressing reality: Kashmir Division accounts for over 2.08 lakh unemployed youth, while Jammu Division has 1.52 lakh. The gender divide, too, is visible, with over 1.27 lakh educated women still awaiting meaningful employment.

The most distressing factor, however, is the stagnation in Government recruitment. The cancellation of multiple recruitment exams due to paper leaks and procedural irregularities has severely eroded trust in the system. This cycle of hope and heartbreak has severely impacted thousands of aspirants who have been preparing for years. Many meritorious candidates have now crossed the upper age limit for Government jobs—a tragedy of bureaucratic inefficiency that can't be overstated.

Traditionally, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Education Department have been the largest recruiters. But the police have not conducted any major recruitment drives in recent years. At the same time, the Education Department—especially higher education—has resorted to ad hoc and contractual appointments, often bypassing proper selection mechanisms. The High Court has now objected to such temporary arrangements, further complicating the situation. Meanwhile, thousands of sanctioned posts across engineering, healthcare, and administrative departments remain vacant for years, with no systematic vacancy audit or referral to selection boards.

Ironically, even as industrial activity has picked up in parts of Jammu Division, the benefits have largely bypassed the local population. Employers often prefer workers from outside the Union Territory, citing the lack of requisite technical skills among local youth. This glaring mismatch between education and employability lies at the heart of the problem. J&K's education system continues to churn out graduates poorly aligned with market needs. The gap between what industries demand and what institutions supply has never been wider.

The Government's response—promoting self-employment through Mission Youth, Mission YUVA, Startup initiatives, and skill development schemes—is commendable in spirit but weak in implementation. Payments to many skill development centres remain pending, and post-training employment levels are abysmally low. The focus has been more on quantity of training than on quality or placement outcomes. Without ensuring that training aligns with real market demand, such programmes risk becoming statistical exercises rather than employment solutions. Some sectors highlight the depth of neglect: qualified dental surgeons remain unemployed for over a decade, and thousands of engineers and postgraduates wander from one recruitment notification to another, with no certainty of opportunity. Clearly, piecemeal policies or ad hoc interventions cannot solve what is now a structural crisis.

What is urgently needed is a scientific, data-driven employment strategy. The Government must immediately conduct a comprehensive vacancy audit across all departments—many of which haven't updated their manpower needs for nearly two decades. All identified vacancies should be promptly referred to recruitment agencies, and a mechanism must be established to ensure the timely filling of posts. Simultaneously, the education system needs a complete reorientation. Courses must be tailored to match emerging market requirements. Separate strategies should be designed for different categories of unemployed youth—undergraduates, postgraduates, and those with technical or vocational training. For rural J&K, the Government should extend financial and technical support for farm-based and agro-industrial ventures, allowing educated youth to create livelihoods within their communities.

The challenge before the administration is monumental, but so are the stakes. Unemployment in J&K is not just an economic concern—it is rapidly evolving into a social and psychological crisis. Disillusioned youth, with degrees but no direction, are losing faith in institutions. Unless addressed urgently and holistically, this unemployment bubble may soon erupt into a full-blown socio-economic emergency.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I much prefer the sharpest criticism of a single intelligent man to the thoughtless approval of the masses.

- Johannes Kepler

Bihar: A trial by poll for NDA, I.N.D.I.A



ANIL ANAND

The Bihar assembly elections-2025 will be a test case both for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Congress-led Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A) which for electoral purposes is baptised as 'Mahaghatbandhan' (greater alliance). Given the fact that Bihar is the land of political movements has been a trend setter for the rest of the country whenever there has been a political upheaval or a yearn to protest against the wrong policies of an incumbent government. Under the circumstances current round of polls in Bihar is significant.

The fact that the contest is between two alliances anchored by two national political parties, it is another matter that the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Janata Dal (U), due to their local strength and proficiency in caste-politics, are the mainstay of the rival combines. The outcome hinges strongly on how the RJD and JD(U) perform but that does not take away significance of Congress, BJP and other smaller parties, in the rival camps, as they have also to perform as strong supporting actors.

The NDA and 'Mahaghatbandhan' initially started on an even keel with both facing familiar sets of problems including first identifying the potential allies with an eye on caste combinations followed by distribution of seats. The contrast is that while BJP lorded over as a boss over the NDA, at times overriding JD(U) supremo and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who seemed to be playing second fiddle, on I.N.D.I.A bloc front RJD leader and chief ministerial candidate of the combine, Tejashwi Yadav emerged as the one dictating the terms. At times, it gave an impression that the Congress leader and a mainstay of the opposition alliance's campaign, Rahul Gandhi has been pushed to the corner.

The one battleline seems to be very clear. It is Kumar versus Tejashwi on the battleground with a corresponding Narendra Modi versus Rahul Gandhi dual unfolding, as ever in the past, in the backdrop. It clearly reflects the local as well as national significance of the Bihar assembly elections. No doubt,

the poll outcome, if, will decide the length of Mr Kumar's political future as he is already in the twilight of his career, it will also set course for 35-year-old RJD leader who has the advantage of age on his side.

More importantly, from the national perspective, the election has an added significance both for the BJP (Modi) and Congress (Rahul). The former which is surviving on crutches in the aftermath of failing to secure even a simple majority in 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and JD(U) becoming a significant pivot for Modi government's survival, should be looking at victory in Bihar and continuation of Mr Kumar as chief minister in the context of Modi dispensation's survival at the Centre. In the event of I.N.D.I.A combine managing to dethrone NDA, a tricky situation will emerge for not only the Modi government but also Nitish and his JD(U) which will become vulnerable to BJP's poaching tactics.

After overcoming initial hiccups and some self-installed roadblocks, biggest one being Congress's reluctance in agreeing to Mr Tejashwi as the combine's chief ministerial candidate, the Rahul-Tejashwi duo hit the road in right earnest. It was to overcome the disadvantage on account of this delay (CM nominee) and Mr Gandhi's ill-advised 15-day sojourn to far-off South America. In order to stay in contention, they will have to equally if not more active to match the carpet bombing of the BJP-headed NDA with Mr Modi spearheading the carpet bombing.

In some ways, it should be a must win battle for Mr Gandhi who has even bigger stake than Mr Yadav. A victory, though being junior alliance partner, will boost Mr Gandhi's own political career and could set Congress on course to an upward trajectory provided the party takes right measures to tone up its set up and weed out the deadwood and the thriving BJP-sleeper cells. A loss will further push Mr Gandhi to a tight corner and Congress in a more difficult situation.

Apart from the usual factors which determine electoral victory or loss, an additional and more significant issue which has come into play in Bihar is the hurriedly carried out Special Intensive Review (SIR) of voter lists by the

Election Commission of India leading to deletion of large number of voters. The fact that Mr Gandhi successfully brought this issue to limelight, after having lost assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra on account of same factor (as alleged by him), through his 'Vote Adhikar Yatra', has raised Congress's electoral stakes. An I.N.D.I.A defeat will provide Modi-brigade a handle to further target Mr Gandhi and his vigorous campaign against vote-manipulation.

The second round in this extremely important battle of political one-upmanship seems to have gone the I.N.D.I.A way after its initial failure to seize big a psychological advantage by declaring Mr Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate before Mr Gandhi's foreign visit. That interregnum gave NDA some advantage and ammunition to expose chinks in the opposition combine. However, the NDA also faltered, to a great extent, by not clearly announcing Mr Kumar as the chief ministerial nominee of the ruling bloc. The repeat mention by the BJP leaders including Home Minister Amit Shah that the elected NDA MLAs will elect the chief minister, took some sting out of the ruling alliance's attack on the rivals.

The advantage in the next round clearly went to the 'Mahaghatbandhan'. The Congress realizing its folly backed Mr Tejashwi as the chief ministerial nominee of the combine. As a result, it gave significant elbow space to the Gandhi-Tejashwi duo to launch a counter-offensive against the NDA in questioning who was their CM candidate.

Firstly, Mr Gandhi's campaign against SIR which grabbed considerable traction among people, put pressure on the NDA and its leaders and took some steam out of their attempts to take a high moral ground from the very beginning. Secondly, by declaring its CM candidate, the I.N.D.I.A bloc showed a positive intent to take on the BJP's propaganda machinery thereby forcing the Modi-Shah duo in finally declaring Mr Kumar as the chief minister nominee.

Despite a well-oiled and resourceful machinery at its command, BJP had been setting the agenda and forcing the opposition (read Congress) to react

and most of the time fall in the former's track since 2014. However, this trend had changed after the last Lok Sabha election with a dependent Modi government and BJP faltering in public discourse aimed at setting agenda rather than reacting to a situation.

Bihar is the latest example wherein the BJP has been forced to react to a situation rather than act. Certainly, advantage at this juncture goes to I.N.D.I.A combine which still has many bridges to cross to ultimately emerge victorious. First and foremost, they must keep their flock together and the poll campaign should be issue based and focused, and caste combination in proper denomination. The offensive started by them and cornering the BJP on the issue of CM candidate, should be continued with the same vigour.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

I've noticed some girls put on the hijab with a lot of excitement. Then, after about a year, the excitement faded, the emotion calmed down, the arguments for the hijab began to seem hollow, so they stopped wearing it. Many girls want to take off the hijab but can't because of shame. They worry about what people will say. They think people will assume they no longer believe in Islam. No — there is nothing shameful or fearful about that. There are thousands of reasons for not wearing the hijab. Know those reasons yourself, tell others. Abandon the hijab. It is good for physical and mental health. The hijab is not just a piece of cloth; it is a misogynistic custom. This custom is like a chastity belt. The chastity belt has disappeared. The hijab will disappear too. Congratulations to the girls who are throwing off the hijab — congratulations to the Iranian ones. The struggling women of Iran know how many thousands of girls are being forced to give their lives just to win the right not to wear the hijab.

~ Taslima Nasreen, Author



M factor in Bihar election

PROF. M. K. BHAT

Who will rule Bihar? This will be answered by the verdict of 7 crore voters of Bihar on 6 and 11 November, 2025 but the start of the show at the ground level has made things quite fascinating for everyone. Every political party blames the other and keeps itself in the highest moral bracket, voter is silent but quite aware about things, caste politics is emphatically being played by all political parties but no caste is too dominant to form the government on its own, every leader has pocket of influence so every faction is important, assurances of getting moon from the blue sky are given to the voters. The frantic political churning has led to the formation of two main political Coalitions: one named as 'Maha Ghatbandhan' with Tejashwi Yadav as chief minister face and the other group will fight under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. The former is haunted by his past jungle rule and the latter has been ruling Bihar for 20 years and bears age factor. Tejashwi Yadav has traditional support base of Muslims and Yadavs (MY), Yadav comprise 14.3% of Bihar population and Muslims count for 17% of the population both put together contain more than 31% of the state population. Nitish Kumar on the other has support of extremely backward class (EBC) which comprises of 36% of the population and contains 113 castes (62 Hindu and 31 Muslim). Among higher castes BJP has domination followed loosely by congress and others. The election has become charming with the

arrival of certain other parties in the political battlefield mention can be made of Janshakti Janta Dal of Tej Pratap Yadav, the forlorn son of Lalu Prasad Yadav. Jan Suraj Party led by a former poll strategist Prashant Kishore and AIMIM led by Asaduddin Owaisi. Out of these three the former may not perhaps make much difference to the political scene of the state but influence of the latter two can't be ruled out. AIMIM in 2020 assembly election had won five seats in the Seemanchal area—this area contains nearly 47% Muslim population far above the state average of 17%.

In this area Kishanganj has 68%, 45% in Katihar and in Araria and Purnia it stands at 39%. It is worthwhile to point out here that any success of Owaisi in convincing Muslim voter scan damage RJD and congress severely on nearly more than 40 seats and fodder for his Muslim politics has been provided by Maha Ghatbandhan itself by not declaring any Muslim candidate as deputy chief minister.

Prashant Kishore has been making his voice known among youth from last three years and youth comprise more than 50% of the total population of Bihar, secondly, new faces attract disillusioned voters and it worked for Kejriwal in two subsequent terms. Thirdly, Prashant Kishore is appealing people against both the factions but how much mileage he will get in transforming youth to votes is not certain. There are 14 lakh first-time voters who can go to any side. In this melee 'M' factor has emerged as a dominant

issue in the election campaigning at present. This M factor comprises of Mahila (Women), Muslim and Migrant. Let us deal with the three in detail;

Mahila (Women)

There are around 3.5 crore women voters in Bihar elections which is nearly 50% of the total voters. The focus on women voters coincides with women turnout being consistently greater than men in previous election. In 2020 Assembly elections, 60% of women electors voted compared to 54% of men. Out of Bihar's 243 constituencies, women out-voted men in 167 constituencies.

Their number and participation has made them significant for both political Coalitions and they try to woo them in their own favour by giving lucrative offerings.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has found favour among women voters ahead of the assembly election due to the 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana'. In September Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar disbursed the first instalment under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana of Rs 10,000 each to 75 lakh women entrepreneurs, for a total outlay of Rs 7,500 crore. Under the scheme, the state government has promised to provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to women entrepreneurs after assessing their business initiatives.

It may not be out of context to point out here that NDA under Nitish Kumar has cultivated women

voters ever since the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana that gave high school girls bicycles to improve education access in 2006. Jeevika programme to create self-help groups in 2007. In 2018, the JD(U)-led government launched a financial assistance programme to provide Rs 25,000 each to girls who complete high school education.

In 2020, the party manifesto further promised Rs 50,000 to unmarried women upon completing their graduate degrees. In the last elections, in 2020, the JD(U) promised a similar scheme, of loans up to Rs 5 lakh with interest waivers for women-led enterprises. BJP also promised a micro-financing push for women entrepreneurs through self-help groups.

Both Nitish Kumar and PM Narendra Modi have cultivated a strong appeal among women voters with their generous welfare schemes like free foodgrains and pension for widows. Under PM Kisan Nidhi scheme, a total of 228,000 crore has been transferred to farmers' accounts in Bihar. Maha Ghatbandhan led by RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has promised one government job for every family which is taken as a distant dream by an average voter because it means creation of 3 to 4 crore jobs. Jeevika didis to be made permanent with a pay of 30,000. He has also promised increased pension for widows etc. Amid these assurances the court summons in land for job scam has made things suspicious for the voters.

Akhil Gogoi doubts SIT probe into Zubeen's death, flags 'legal lapses' and bias

SIVASAGAR

Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi has raised serious questions about the legality and effectiveness of the ongoing investigation into the death of Assam's music icon Zubeen Garg, claiming that the way the probe is being conducted will "never deliver justice."

In a detailed video message shared on social media, Gogoi directly challenged the Assam Home Department and SIT head Munna Prasad Gupta, asserting that critical lapses in the legal process have made the evidence collected from Singapore inadmissible in court.

"I challenge the Home Department and the SIT chief Munna Prasad Gupta. The way the investigation is going, Zubeen Garg will never get justice," Gogoi said.

The Sivasagar legislator, while addressing the public and Garg's family, said it was his duty as an MLA to question the process.

"Being a legislator, my work is to

make and implement laws, and to critique them when amendments are made. I currently have 166 cases against me, including the defamation case filed by Riniki Bhuyan. I know the law, and I'm here to tell the people and the state heads why Zubeen Garg will not get justice," he stated.

Gogoi explained that under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) between India and Singapore, any cross-border investigation must comply with both countries' domestic laws.

Referring to Section 112 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), he said a "letter of request" or letter rogatory must be issued by an Indian court to the competent authority in Singapore to gather evidence, record witness statements, or obtain documents.

He alleged that the Assam government and investigating officers had bypassed this process. "The letters sent or associates visiting the country via the MHA are not eligible to gather evidence,

and even if they get evidence, it won't be admissible in the court of law," Gogoi claimed.

He said he had consulted legal experts who confirmed that evidence collected without a proper letter rogatory would not stand in court.

To support his claim, Gogoi cited the 2002 judgment related to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha's corruption case, where the court ruled that using evidence collected in violation of letters rogatory would render a trial unfair and the evidence inadmissible.

He added that while some may argue that India's MLAT with Singapore was signed in 2005 — after that ruling — the principle still applies, as the earlier case referred to J. Jayalalitha involved the UK, with which India had an MLAT since 1995.

"I think after this, no one can question my stance," Gogoi said, adding that he had personally discussed the issue with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sar-

ma. "The Assam Home Department, with the help of the MHA, went directly to Singapore. But the way they went, Singapore will never provide any information or evidence," he said.

Gogoi also drew a comparison with the Louis Berger scam, in which the US-based company was accused of bribing officials in Assam to secure a water project contract.

"In that case, when India sought evidence from the American court, they said it could only be shared via MLAT and through letters rogatory. Only after that did the Indian court issue the necessary letters," he pointed out.

Criticising the SIT's work, Gogoi said, "Our SIT head Munna Prasad came back from Singapore with a big zero. They claim to have brought back the final post-mortem and toxicology reports. When a person dies abroad, the country of occurrence must send those reports to the family — which cannot be called

evidence. It becomes legal evidence only when it comes through a proper court process, and the person who conducted the post-mortem must appear before the court."

He warned that unless the SIT obtains evidence, witness statements, and documents via letters rogatory, the entire chargesheet could collapse. "If this is not done, all accused in judicial custody will get bail even before charges are framed. And if charges are somehow framed, the court will reject them in the first trial itself. Even if a murder charge is included, nothing will happen," Gogoi asserted.

"I guarantee you that Zubeen Garg will not get justice unless, under BNSS Section 112, an Indian court submits a duly signed letter of request to the Singapore court or competent authority," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on October 31 confirmed that the Special Investigation Team

(SIT) probing Garg's death has made "substantial progress" and will file the chargesheet within the 90-day deadline. "When our SIT visited Singapore, the authorities there had assured full cooperation. Today, they have formally sent the post-mortem and toxicology reports, along with guidelines under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)," Sarma told reporters.

The 52-year-old singer and composer died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19. The 10-member SIT has so far arrested seven individuals, all currently in judicial custody.

Sarma, who also holds the Home portfolio, expressed confidence in the probe. "The SIT is absolutely confident about ensuring justice for Zubeen. When it submits the chargesheet by December 17, people will appreciate their work," he said, reaffirming that the state government remains committed to a thorough investigation while continuing to focus on other key issues.

ECI to examine poll code violation complaints against CM Lalduhoma

GUWAHATI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will review complaints against Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma and his adviser, Lorraine Lalpeli Chinzah, for allegedly violating the election model code of conduct.

This was confirmed by the state joint chief electoral officer Ethel Rothangpui. Rothangpui said the case was based on a complaint filed by the opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), which accused the two leaders of breaking election rules during the Dampa assembly bye-election campaign. Both Lalduhoma and Chinzah were issued show-cause notices, and the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) has already submitted its explanation to the Chief Electoral Officer's office.

"The CEO's office will study the explanation and send the case to the Election Commission of India on Monday for a final decision," Rothangpui said. According to the complaint filed by advocate Zothansangi Hmar on behalf of the MNF, the Chief Minister announced a new Rs 770 crore water supply project at West Phaileng village on October 21. The project aims to build a dam at Reiek to provide water to Reiek and 14 nearby villages.

The complaint also states that Chinzah held free medical camps at Parvatui and Phulpui West villages on October 17, where medicines were distributed free of cost.

Hmar claimed these actions violated specific sections of the Election Model Code of Conduct, including Chapter II (j) and Chapter VIII, clauses (3) and (14).

The case has been sent to the district election officer (DEO) of Mamit district.

Outrage at Tezpur University after students receive anonymous threats; authorities urged to act

TEZPUR

Tensions escalated at Tezpur University on Sunday, November 2 after several students participating in the ongoing protest movement against the Vice Chancellor, reportedly received anonymous threat messages on their mobile phones.

The messages, allegedly sent from unidentified sources, contained personal information about the students and their families, and in some cases, even included monetary offers to withdraw from the movement.

According to student community, the threats appear to be a calculated attempt to instill fear, disrupt the peaceful agitation, and undermine their demand-driven campaign that has now entered its 42nd consecutive day.

Strongly condemning the in-

cident, the Tezpur University student fraternity, backed by the Tezpur University Teachers' Association (TUTA) and the Tezpur University Non-Teaching Employees' Association (TUNTEA)—described the threats as a "brazen assault" on democratic rights, freedom of expression, and the sanctity of campus safety.

In a joint statement, the fraternity urged law enforcement agencies to initiate a thorough investigation, trace the origin of the threats, and bring the culprits to justice. "Such cowardly acts will not deter us. We stand united in our pursuit of justice and transparency," the statement read. The university community reiterated its commitment to continue the movement peacefully, asserting that intimidation, coercion, or bribery will not silence their collective voice.

Tripura Youth Congress demands immediate arrests in Rs 5.4 crore banned cough syrup haul at Jirania

AGARTALA

The Tripura Pradesh Youth Congress Committee demands immediate action against those involved in smuggling banned cough syrup at Jirania railway station, highlighting a growing threat to the state's youth. Security personnel seized 1.07 lakh bottles of banned cough syrup worth Rs 5.4 crore, raising concerns about the expanding narcotics trade in Tripura and the need for stronger law enforcement. The Youth Congress criticizes the slow investigation pace, suggesting possible political interference and demanding transparency in uncovering the smuggling network.

The Tripura Pradesh Youth Congress Committee has demanded the immediate arrest of all individuals involved in the large-scale smuggling of banned cough syrup



recently seized at Jirania railway station in West Tripura.

According to reports, security personnel intercepted a consignment of 1.07 lakh bottles of banned cough syrup worth approximately Rs 5.4 crore, which was being transported via goods train, triggering widespread concern over the growing

IMPHAL

A disturbing video from Manipur showing a group of men assaulting transgender women has triggered widespread condemnation across social media and activist circles. The footage, which went viral on social media platforms, show several men forcing the victims to raise their hands while repeatedly beating them with sticks.

According to local sources, the individuals subjected to the attack were allegedly members of the transgender community who were making reels on Hindi music during Diwali celebrations. The group reportedly refused to stop recording when confronted by a group of men who objected to their activity, leading to an altercation.

Among those assaulted was Konjengbam Malemnganba, a well-known transgender actor recognized for portraying female roles in Manipur's traditional Shumang Leela theatre.



He is also a prominent makeup artist, salon owner, and Potloi designer for Manipuri weddings. Known for his charitable work during recent crises in

the state, Malemnganba and his friends were allegedly targeted while making reels on Diwali eve.

Prominent transgender

rights activists have voiced strong condemnation of the incident. Activist Thangjam Santa expressed grief in a social media post, stating that the attack on his "Nupi Manbi sisters" was heartbreaking. Another activist and actor, Bishesh Huirem, also denounced the violence and called for justice.

The viral video has sparked outrage among netizens, with many describing the assault as a reflection of deep-rooted societal intolerance. One social media user wrote that true progress begins when people acknowledge their wrongs and choose kindness and respect over cruelty.

Authorities are yet to identify the perpetrators, and local police have not released an official statement regarding the investigation. Calls for accountability and stronger protection for the transgender community in Manipur continue to grow as the video circulates widely online.

Millionaire businessman from Hailakandi booked for attempted murder

HAILAKANDI

The Barak Valley has been rocked by serious allegations of attempted murder against Rupan Modak, a well-known trader and reputed stockist of the region. The incident has sent shockwaves through the local business community and ignited widespread public concern. According to reports, Rupan Modak allegedly attacked his wife, Anuradha Modak, with the culmination of what she describes as two decades of relentless domestic violence.

In a video message that has gone viral on social media, Anuradha accused her husband and several of his family members Meena Modak, Bonashree Modak Paul, Ritushree Modak Paul, and their cousin Balaram Roy of continuous mental and physical abuse. She claimed that both she and her children have been victims of cruelty for years.

The situation reportedly escalated on October 19, when Rupan Modak allegedly made a deliberate attempt to murder her. However, when Anuradha approached the Lala Police Station to

lodge a complaint, officers allegedly refused to register her FIR. The alleged police inaction has raised troubling questions about the influence of wealth and power over justice.

It was only on October 29, after she reached out directly to the Superintendent of Police (SP), Hailakandi, that her FIR was finally registered and Rupan Modak was arrested. The other accused family members, however, are reportedly still absconding. In her social media post, Anuradha further alleged that the Modak family is now issuing threats to her and her son, writing:

"They are using money and influence to destroy the case. My husband is trying to get bail, and if released, he might kill me and my child." Currently, Anuradha is struggling with severe emotional and financial distress. She said she is unable to hire a capable lawyer to represent her case. In her appeal for justice and protection, she has sought immediate intervention from the DGP Assam, the Assam State Commission for Women (NCW), and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

One-Day Seminar on Sustainable Energy Development Held at IEEI Tripura State Centre

AGARTALA

The Institution of Engineers (India), Tripura State Centre, hosted a one-day seminar on "Recent Trends on Sustainable Energy Development" on Saturday at its Seminar Hall in Agartala. Organized under the aegis of the Electrical Engineering Division Board, IEEI, the event brought together faculty members and students from the National Institute of Technology Agartala, Tripura Institute of Technology Narsingarh, and The Techno College of Engineering, Agartala.

The seminar opened with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Chief Guest Shri Jeetendra Lal Das, Head of Project, Agartala Gas-Based Power Station, NEEPCO Ltd., Ramchandranagar. Prof. (Dr.) B.K. Upadhyaya, FIE, Principal, Tripura Institute of Technology, attended as Guest of Honour. The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Kaberi Majumdar, AMIE, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, TIT, who underlined the importance of innovation and sustainability in India's power sector.

Er. Paramananda Sarkar Banerjee, FIE, Chairman, IEEI Tripura State Centre, welcomed the gathering and introduced the seminar's theme. Prof. (Dr.) P.N. Das,



FIE, Honorary Secretary, IEEI Tripura State Centre, proposed the Vote of Thanks. In his address, Dr. Das spoke about the region's current power landscape, renewable energy potential, and the need for strategic approaches to ensure long-term sustainability

in Tripura's energy sector.

The technical session, chaired by Dr. Gitanjali Saha, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Tripura Institute of Technology, featured three invited lectures.

The first talk was delivered by Er. Sub-

endu Chaudhuri, FIE, Former Superintending Engineer, Power Department, Tripura, on "Sustainable Technology Using Hydro Power for Peak Load Management." He discussed how hydro-based generation can play a crucial role in grid balancing and managing peak demand.

The second presentation, "Blue-Green Infrastructure: A New Trend Towards Sustainability," was given by Mr. Somdeep Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Department of Architectural Assistantship, TIT, who highlighted the integration of natural systems in urban infrastructure to promote ecological balance and resilience.

The final lecture was delivered by Dr. Sajal Debbarma, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, TIT, on "Congestion Management in Deregulated Power Systems." He outlined modern strategies for efficient grid operation and maintaining system stability.

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session where Dr. Gitanjali Saha summarized the key takeaways from the technical discussions. Er. Paramananda Sarkar Banerjee, FIE, offered his closing remarks, while Prof. (Dr.) P.N. Das, FIE, extended a formal Vote of Thanks. Certificates of participation were distributed to all speakers and attendees.

The seminar provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and fostering awareness about sustainable energy practices, reinforcing the collective goal of advancing renewable and efficient power solutions in Tripura.

Quest!

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the alphabet.

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24 killed as truck rams into passenger bus in Telangana's Ranga Reddy, PM Modi announces compensation



HYDERABAD

At least 24 people were killed and several others injured in a horrific road accident in Ranga Reddy district on Monday morning.

The mishap occurred when a speeding lorry carrying a heavy load collided with the Telangana Road Transport Corporation (RTC) vehicle, resulting in the gravel falling on the bus. The impact was so severe that the front portion of the bus was completely mangled.

Both the RTC bus driver and the tipper lorry driver died on the spot, along with several passengers.

Rescue teams and local police rushed to the site. As gravel fell onto the bus, many passengers were trapped inside, and officials carried out relief operations using earthmovers.

The injured were first taken to the Chevella Government Hospital, while those in critical condition were later shifted to Gandhi and Osmania Hospitals, where special arrangements were made on the instructions of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Following the Chief Minister's directions, the Chief Secretary alerted officials of all departments concerned and set up a control room at the Secretariat to monitor the situation. Police have launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the crash.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock and sorrow over the tragedy. He directed officials to reach the accident site immediately and take up all necessary relief measures. The Chief Minister also instructed them to keep him updated on the rescue

operations.

Transport Minister Ponnampalapati spoke with RTC Managing Director Nagi Reddy to ascertain the cause of the accident. He also directed the Ranga Reddy District Collector to ensure that the injured receive proper medical treatment. The minister asked RTC officials to visit the spot and oversee the relief and rescue operations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the tragedy.

"My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," the PMO wrote on X.

The Prime Minister also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased, while the injured would receive Rs 50,000.

India no longer consumer of technology, but pioneer in technology-driven transformation: PM Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India has transitioned from being a consumer of technology to a global pioneer in technology-driven transformation, crediting the country's advancements in digital infrastructure, indigenous innovation, and research for this evolution.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025, Prime Minister Modi asserted that India has the world's first and most successful digital public infrastructure.

"India is no longer a consumer of technology, but a pioneer in technology-driven transformation. During COVID, we developed an indigenous vaccine in record time. We launched the world's largest vaccination program. It became possible because today we have the world's first and most successful digital public infrastructure," the Prime Minister said.

Highlighting the government's focus on promoting innovation and research, Prime Minister Modi said that the impact of the policies and decisions made over the past few years to transform India into an "innovation hub" is clearly visible.

"The impact of the policies and decisions made over the past few years to transform India into an innovation hub is now clearly visible. I would like to present some statistics with great satisfaction. Our R&D expenditure has doubled in the last decade. The number of patents registered in India has increased 17-fold. India now has the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. Today, over 6,000 of our deeptech



startups are working in areas like clean energy and advanced materials. India's semiconductor sector has also taken off," the PM stated.

PM Modi also lauded ISRO scientists for successfully launching the country's heaviest communication satellite a day earlier.

"Yesterday, India also hoisted the flag in the world of science and technology. Yesterday, Indian scientists successfully launched India's heaviest communication satellite. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the scientists involved in this mission, including ISRO," he said.

In a major milestone for India's space and defence capabilities, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched and injected into orbit the Indian Navy's GSAT-7R (CMS-03) communication satellite. The indigenously developed satellite is India's heaviest communication satellite to date, weighing around

4,400 kg. Emphasising the need for global collaboration in innovation, the Prime Minister said the 21st century demands that experts from around the world come together to chart a common direction for science and technology.

He stated, "Today is also a big day in the world of science and technology. In the twenty-first century, there was a great need for experts from around the world to come together to brainstorm on emerging science, technology, and innovation, and to show direction together. This need gave birth to an idea. And from this idea, the vision of this conclave was formed. I am happy that this vision is taking shape in the form of this conclave. Several ministries, private sector, startups, and students are all together in this. It is matter of pride that a Nobel Laureate is also present with us. Warmest welcome to all."

Prime Minister Modi noted

that the era of 21st century is time of profound change and India is advancing in all aspects of emerging science, technology, and innovation.

"The 21st century is a time of profound change. Today, we are witnessing a new shift in the global order. This pace of change is not linear, but exponential. With this vision, India is advancing in all aspects of emerging science, technology, and innovation and continuously focusing on it. One example in this is research funding. You've all long been familiar with the vision of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. Focusing on research, we've added 'Jai Vigyaan' and 'Jai Anusandhan' to it. We've established the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to help scale up research in our universities," the PM added.

INTERNATIONAL

At least 20 killed, 320 injured as powerful 6.3-magnitude quake jolts Afghanistan



MAZAR-I-SHARIF

A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck northern Afghanistan overnight killed more than 20 people and injured around 320, the health ministry said Monday.

In the Balkh and Samangan provinces "around 320 countrymen have been injured and more than 20 have been killed," ministry spokesman Sharafat Zaman said in a video message shared with journalists, specifying that this was a preliminary toll.

National Disaster Management

Authority (NDMA) spokesman Mohammadullah Hamad earlier today said that five people had been killed and 143 wounded in the Samangan province.

"Most of the injured have returned home after receiving treatment," he said in a statement.

The Blue Mosque of Mazar-i-Sharif, a 15th-century landmark famed for its vibrant tiles and one of the country's prominent tourist sites, was also damaged in the quake.

Pieces of the ornate structure,

particularly from one of its minarets, broke off and lay scattered across the mosque's grounds.

Poor communication networks and infrastructure in mountainous Afghanistan have hampered disaster responses in the past, preventing authorities for hours or even days from reaching far-flung villages to assess the extent of the damage.

The quake sent residents of Mazar-i-Sharif, one of Afghanistan's largest northern cities, running into the streets due to fears their homes would collapse,

an AFP correspondent observed.

Correspondents in the capital Kabul, around 420 kilometres to the south, also said they felt shaking.

It is the latest natural disaster for the Taliban government, which has faced three major deadly earthquakes since taking over Afghanistan in 2021, even as the foreign aid that formed the backbone of the country's economy has dramatically dropped.

In August, a shallow 6.0-magnitude quake in the country's east wiped out mountainside villages and killed more than 2,200 people.

Large tremors in western Herat, near the Iranian border, in 2023, and in eastern Nangarhar province in 2022 killed hundreds and destroyed thousands of homes.

The United Nations and aid agencies have warned hunger is rising among the Afghan population.

The isolated country is suffering from a humanitarian crisis compounded by drought, economic restrictions on the banking sector, and the pushback of millions of Afghan citizens from neighbouring Iran and Pakistan.

Earthquakes are common in Afghanistan, particularly along the Hindu Kush mountain range, near where the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates meet. Many homes in the predominantly rural country - devastated by decades of war - are shoddily built.

It often takes hours or days to travel by steep roads and paths to remote villages, which are often cut off from help during disasters or poor weather.

Trump says Russia, China have secretly tested nuclear weapons



WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump alleged Sunday that countries including Russia and China have conducted underground nuclear tests unknown to the public, and that the United States would follow suit.

"Russia's testing, and China's testing, but they don't talk about it," he told CBS's "60 Minutes" program, in an interview released Sunday.

"I don't want to be the only country that doesn't test," he said, adding North Korea and Pakistan to the list of nations allegedly testing their arsenals.

Confusion has surrounded Trump's order that the United States begin testing, particularly if he meant conducting the country's first nuclear explosion since 1992.

The 79-year-old Republican first made his surprise announcement by social media post on Thursday, minutes before entering a summit

with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea.

The announcement came in the wake of Russia saying it had tested a new nuclear-powered cruise missile, the Burevestnik, and a nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone.

Asked directly if he planned for the United States to detonate a nuclear weapon for the first time in more than three decades, Trump told CBS: "I'm saying that we're going to test nuclear weapons like other countries do, yes."

No country other than North Korea is known to have conducted a nuclear detonation for decades. Russia and China have not carried out such tests since 1990 and 1996 respectively.

Pressed on the topic, Trump said: "They don't go and tell you about it."

"As powerful as they are, this is a big world. You don't necessarily know where they're testing." "They test

way underground where people don't know exactly what's happening with the test. You feel a little bit of a vibration," he added.

Trump's energy secretary on Sunday however downplayed that the United States was planning to set off a nuclear explosion.

"I think the tests we're talking about right now are system tests. These are not nuclear explosions," Chris Wright said in a Fox News interview on Sunday.

"These are what we call 'non-critical explosions,' so you're testing all the other parts of a nuclear weapon to make sure they deliver the appropriate geometry and they set up the nuclear explosion," he said.

The United States has been a signatory since 1996 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which bans all atomic test explosions, whether for military or civilian purposes.

India's Golden Moment: Deepti and Shafali Lead India to Their First Women's World Cup Title



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

NAVI MUMBAI:

A roar erupted across the Dr. DY Patil Stadium on Sunday night as Deepti Sharma uprooted the final South African wicket. The scoreboard read 246 all out. India had done it. After years of heartbreaks and near-misses, the Indian women's cricket team finally lifted their maiden ICC Women's Cricket World Cup trophy — defeating South Africa by 52 runs in a match that will be remembered as a defining moment in Indian sport.

This was not just a win. It was the culmination of persistence, growth, and belief — carried on the shoulders of two all-rounders who refused to blink under pressure: Deepti Sharma and Shafali Verma.

The Dawn of a Dream

When Harmanpreet Kaur lost the toss and India were asked to bat, there was a brief silence in the dressing room. It didn't last long. Out walked Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana, two players whose contrasting styles often set the rhythm for India's innings. What followed was an exhibition of clean hitting and crisp running between the wickets as the pair stitched a 100-run opening stand that silenced the South African fielders.

Mandhana's elegant 45 ended with a mistimed pull, but Shafali kept the momentum alive. Her 87 off 94 balls was a mix of control and courage, peppered with trademark lofted drives and clever placement. Every boundary she hit carried the electricity of a home crowd willing her on.



Avoid forcing connections.

South Africa clawed back through Ayabonga Khaka's disciplined spell, her 3 for 58 pegging India back just as they seemed poised to break free. Wickets of

Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues in quick succession left India at a crossroads. But where nerves could have crept in, Deepti Sharma brought calm.

She batted with maturity beyond measure — rotating strike, finding gaps, and ensuring India didn't lose momentum. Her 58-run knock wasn't flamboyant; it was foundational. With Richa Ghosh's late cameo of 34, India reached 298 for 7 — a total that, while short of 300, carried the weight of belief.

South Africa's Steady Start and Sudden Fall Chasing 299, South Africa began with purpose. Openers Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits looked assured against India's seamers, adding fifty runs with little fuss. But it took a moment of brilliance from Amanjot Kaur — a direct hit from mid-off to run out Brits — to ignite India's defense.

From there, the game became a tug of nerves. Wolvaardt, calm and composed, kept her team in the chase with an innings of rare quality. Her 101 was a captain's knock — every shot measured, every run hard-earned. Yet, around her, wickets kept tumbling.

Sree Charani struck early to remove Anneke Bosch. Shafali Verma, introduced mid-innings, changed the complexion of the game. Bowling with surprising accuracy, she dismissed Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp in consecutive overs — both vital wickets that halted South Africa's progress.

Still, Wolvaardt and Annerie Dercksen tried to rebuild, guiding their side past 200. For a brief moment, it seemed possible. Then Deepti returned.

Deepti's Spell That Defined a Final What followed was sheer theatre. Deepti Sharma's spell of 5 for 39 will go down as one of the great World Cup final performances. She out-thought batters, controlled lengths, and never let the pressure slip. Her double strike in a single over — dismissing Wolvaardt and Chloe Tryon — broke South Africa's spine.

The scoreboard, once stable at 209 for 5, crumbled to 246 all out. The final wicket

brought pandemonium. Players sprinted, hugged, cried. The crowd's chant of "India! India!" rolled like thunder across the stadium.

A New Chapter for Indian Cricket

For a generation of players who grew up dreaming of this day, it was more than a trophy. It was redemption. From the heartbreak of 2017 at Lord's to the near misses in T20 World Cups, India had lived this story before — always close, never crowned.

On Sunday, everything changed. Deepti Sharma's all-round brilliance, Shafali Verma's fearless strokeplay, and Harmanpreet Kaur's steady leadership converged to produce a moment that transcended sport.

The numbers told one story — India 298/7, South Africa 246 all out — but the emotions

told another. This was about history rewritten, ceilings shattered, and a team that finally turned promise into glory.

As fireworks lit up the Navi Mumbai sky, Harmanpreet Kaur lifted the trophy high. The Indian tricolour shimmered in the stands, and the women who had carried a nation's hopes finally stood at the summit.

The wait was over. India were World Champions.

Score Summary:

India 298/7 (Shafali Verma 87, Deepti Sharma 58, Ayabonga Khaka 3/58)

South Africa 246 all out (Laura Wolvaardt 101; Deepti Sharma 5/39, Shafali Verma 2/27)

Result: India won by 52 runs — clinching their maiden ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title.

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AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER MAHESHANA RAJKUMAR EXTENDS SUPPORT TO NORTH EAST INTEGRATION RALLY 2026

2026
NEIR UPDATE

Author and researcher Maheshana Rajkumar Extends Support to North East Integration Rally 2026



Monument: Footfalls of Manipuri History (2021). It was published by EBH Publishers (India). He has presented research papers at national seminars and participated as a resource person in academic discussions, including those hosted by Manipur University.

He currently serves as President of the International Tai Meitei (Kassay) Association and is an active member of global Tai cultural forums.

His articles are regularly featured in Manipuri English dailies and journals such as Imphal Review of Arts and Politics.

Maheshana Rajkumar's latest work, Vedic Imprint in South-

east Asia: With Special Reference to Manipur (2024), is his solo authorship. The book was released by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in January 2025 at Dibrugarh, Assam.

His earlier publication (third book), The Manipuri (Meitei Kathe) Settlements in Myanmar (2023), features an introduction jointly written by him and L. Memo Singh. The book was also published by EBH Publishers (India).

A state-level basketball player, Maheshana Rajkumar, continues to work toward promoting academic, cultural, and social integration across the region.

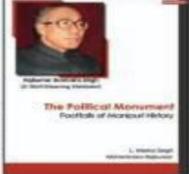
The book

a study on the socio-political-cultural history of Manipur along the movement of Indo-Aryan civilization towards Southeast Asia and the formation of the Burmese empire, the kingdom of Manipur and the Ahom dynasty as well as the advent and consolidation of the British imperialism in South Asia and Southeast Asia and the ultimate fates of Myanmar (Burma), Assam and Manipur, and the politics of free India.

The Authors

Shri Lalishram Memo Singh of Liwa Road, Jagannatha Achouba Leirak, Imphal West, B.A., LL.B. 1977 (Guwahati University), practising as an Advocate under Guwahati High Court since 1978, working as a staff reporter of the Prajatantra (a leading Manipuri Daily) from 1974-1977 with the entry into professional journalism, joined politics in 1980, since then being devoted to the ideology of Congress (I) of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, being appointed President of Manipur Pradesh Youth Congress Committee-I by Shri Mukul Wazank KMP (IS), President, Indian Youth Congress in 1989 during the time of Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and holding the post till 1993, and at the same time the post of Vice-President of North Eastern Youth Congress Coordination Committee-I (NEYCCI), contested the 5th Manipur Legislative Assembly elections as a Congress (I) candidate from 20 Langthabal Assembly Constituency in 1990. Working as a freelance writer, critic, political analyst and columnist with the regular contributions to the Manipuri and English local daily papers, namely the Poknapham, Imphal Free Press and Sangal Express (English), participating in several literary and social seminars, literary and political discourses, and carrying on writing of books (literary and social) and translation works from English to Manipuri and vice versa, namely the translation work, the History of Indian National Congress from English to Manipuri which was published and released by the then Chief Minister, Shri O. Ibobi Singh and Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Gaikhangam and MPCC President, Shri T.N. Haokip in 2016, and the biography, "Svetlana: The Incredible Story of Stalin's Daughter", 1967, written by American Author, Martin Ebon, from English to Manipuri, etc.

Shri Maheshana Rajkumar alias R.K. Monty Singh of Moirangkhom, Sougajam Leikai, Imphal West, youngest son of late R.K. Dorendra Singh, completed his schooling from APS Dhasula Kuan, New Delhi 1992-1993, graduated in B.A. Political Science Major, St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai 1995-1996, and pursued MBA from University of Technology, Sydney, Australia 2004. He lived in U.K. and has been successful in the market entry particularly into Nepal and Myanmar in the Hydro and Renewable Energy space. He is a state level basketball player and freelance research scholar.



The Political Monument
Footfalls of Manipuri History



Rajkumar Dorendra Singh
(A Well-Meaning Mediator)

The Political Monument
Footfalls of Manipuri History

L. Memo Singh
Maheshana Rajkumar

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IMPHAL:

Noted author and researcher Maheshana Rajkumar has extended his best wishes to the upcoming North East Integration Rally 2026, scheduled to be held from January 4 to February 4, 2026.

Praising the initiative, the author said the rally would serve as a powerful platform to showcase the beauty, cultural diversity, and scenic landscape of the North-Eastern region. He commended managing trustee Biswadeep Gupta for his efforts in bringing people together through the event, adding that such ini-

tiatives promote unity and greater understanding among communities.

Maheshana Rajkumar, a resident of Moirangkhom Sougajam Leikai in Imphal West, is the youngest son of former Chief Minister of Manipur, late Shri R.K. Dorendra Singh. An alumnus of St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai, and the University of Technology, Sydney, he has worked in the hydro and renewable energy sector in the Nepal and Myanmar.

A prolific writer and researcher, Maheshana Rajkumar co-authored The Political

The book

a study on the Vedic imprint of the late Vedic period (1100-500 BCE) impacting Southeast Asia and ancient Manipur by the movements of Kshatriyas and Brahmanas, the possessors of the Vedas, the Brahmanising effect on the pre-Rig-Vedic tribes of Manipur, an ancient land route and gateway to Southeast Asia from mainland India, the Buddhism in Manipur, the spread of Buddhism into Myanmar (Burma), Tai polity and the religious syncretism or dual worship of traditional Meitei Gods and Hindu Gods.

The Author

Shri Maheshana Rajkumar alias R.K. Monty Singh is a resident of Moirangkhom Sougajam Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur. The book "The Political Monument: Footfalls of Manipuri History" is joint authorship of Shri Maheshana Rajkumar and Shri L. Memo Singh, published by EBH Publishers (India) and released at Imphal in April 2021. The Introduction of the book "The Manipuri (Meitei Kathe) Settlements in Myanmar", 2023, published by EBH Publishers (India) are the joint writes up of Shri Maheshana Rajkumar and Shri L. Memo Singh. He presented a Seminar Paper on the topic Ancient Manipur and Brahmanism at the Two-day National Seminar on the Dialogue between Hinduism and Buddhism in the Northeast India, held at Manipur University on 19th-20th September 2022. He participated as a Resource Person on the topic Queen from Manipur in Myanmar/Burma in the Round Table Discussion on Queens from Manipur Kingdom: Tracing the matrimonial connections in erstwhile kingdoms of Asia jointly organized by: Intellectual Forum of North East- Manipur; and Manipur University held on 5 March, 2023 at Manipur University. He is a columnist, independent researcher, and scholar. His articles are regularly featured in Manipuri English dailies, online news platforms and Manipur magazine i.e. Imphal Review of Arts and Politics. He is the President of International Tai Meitei (Kassay) Association. He is one of the admin members of Tai World Wide (TWW) and International Tai Meitei Kassay Association Groups on Facebook. He is the youngest son of former Chief Minister of Manipur late Shri R.K. Dorendra Singh, completed his schooling from APS Dhasula Kuan, New Delhi 1992-1993, graduated in B.A. Political Science Major, St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai 1995-96, and pursued MBA from University of Technology Sydney, Australia 2004. He lived in U.K. and worked in the Hydro and Renewable Energy space and has been successful in the market entry particularly Nepal (2009-12), and Myanmar (2013-16). He is a state level basketball player.



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Maheshana Rajkumar

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