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PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes, the thing you most want, doesn't happen. And sometimes, the thing you never expect to happen, does.

Centre, Kuki-Zo armed groups hold talks in Delhi on demand for Union Territory with legislature

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) held a two-day round of talks with representatives of the Kuki-Zo armed groups under the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreements — the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF) — on November 6 and 7 in New Delhi.

The discussions primarily focused on the community's core political demand for the creation of a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly.

The KNO and UPF delegations, representing the Kuki-Zo political and armed leadership, were led by senior leaders from both umbrella groups, while the Centre was represented by A.K. Mishra, Advisor (North East), MHA.

The first day of the talks reviewed the implementation of the September 4 tripartite agreement signed between the MHA, the Government of Manipur, and the SoO groups. Kuki-Zo representatives highlighted the breakdown of governance and law and order in Kuki-Zo inhabited areas following the ethnic conflict, calling for an alternative administrative arrangement to ensure security and development.

On the second day, deliberations centred on the Kuki-Zo demand for a Union Territory with Legislature. The delegations reiterated that "coexistence under the present Manipur state administrative structure is no longer possible" following what they described as "ethnic cleansing" beginning on May 3, 2023, in Imphal.

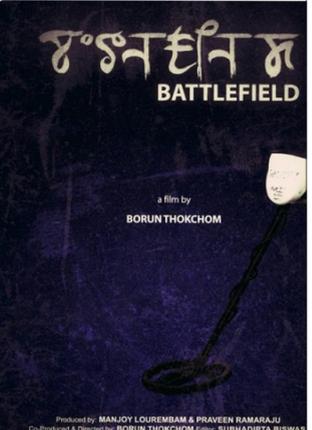
WHO SAID WHAT

The Miti Café at Rashtrapati Bhavan stands as a symbol of inclusion, equality, and limitless possibilities. A matter of pride for all, especially Divyangjan and their families, the Café welcomes visitors with warmth and smiles. It inspires everyone to build a more inclusive and compassionate society. Do remember to visit the Miti Café when you are at Rashtrapati Bhavan. — President of India

Borun Thokchom's Documentary "Battlefield" to be world premiere at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025



BISWADEEP GUPTA
IMPHAL: The Ministry of Information &



Broadcasting has announced the Indian Panorama Official Selection for the 56th International Film Festival of India

(IFFI) 2025, and the Manipuri documentary film "Battlefield" has made it to the prestigious list. IFFI, organised by the Government of India, is the only film festival in South Asia accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF) among international festivals in the Competitive Feature Films category.

The film, directed by Borun Thokchom, will have its world premiere at the festival, scheduled from November 20 to 28, 2025, in Goa. The film is produced by Manjoy Lourembam, Dr. Radhesyam Oinam and Viswamithra universals, a Hyderabad based production firm. Manjoy Lourembam is a multifaceted professional leading a real estate corporate company in Hyderabad. He has now ventured into filmmaking, making his debut as a producer. Meanwhile, Dr. Radhesyam Oinam, Proprietor of Network Services, Imphal, has been mentoring and nurturing filmmakers from the state for many years. "Battlefield" is a powerful documentary that sheds light on the

during impact of World War II on Manipur, through the voices of survivors and those affected. The film also exposes the stark contrast between the commemoration of war heroes in distant lands and the silence surrounding the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Manipur. War researcher Rajeshwor Yumnam has been featured in the documentary film that has been shot over 10 years.

The Indian Panorama selection committee has chosen 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films for the festival. Borun Thokchom, a renowned filmmaker and video journalist, has brought attention to a crucial aspect of Manipur's history through his documentary. Significantly, "Battlefield" was incubated, developed at MSFDS' "Imphal documentor", a 5-day documentary project development lab, jointly realised with support from Documentary Resource Initiative (DRI), Kolkata and Television Cine Foundation Manipur in 2022. The 56th IFFI promises to be an exciting celebration of cinema, with "Battlefield" being one of the highlights.

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Nirmala Sitharaman lays foundation for Assam's First Technical University



GUWAHATI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday laid the foundation stone for the Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University, Assam's first institution dedicated exclusively to technical and vocational education and training (TVET). "Where she (Kanaklata) became the martyr for this country, gave her life for India's independence, nothing better than building a university in her name. I congratulate the Chief Minister and his entire cabinet," Sitharaman said during the programme.

The landmark project aims to boost skill-based higher education and foster innovation-driven growth in the region. The university will be constructed at a cost of ₹415 crore over 241 acres of land at Bholaguri in Gohpur, Biswanath district. With a built-up area of 7 lakh square feet, the campus will feature academic blocks for 2,000 students, hostels accommodating 1,620 students, residential quarters, a guest house, and a modern student facility centre.

Designed to align with Assam's vision of nurturing a skilled and future-ready workforce, the university will offer advanced courses in artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, blockchain, drone and navigation technology, quantum computing, brain-computer interface, Internet of Things (IoT), and smart city and smart environment systems.

Sitharaman, who is on a two-day visit to Assam, said the project marks a major leap toward creating opportunities for youth in emerging technology sectors and strengthening Assam's position as a hub for skill-based education. "Shaheed Kanaklata Barua gave her life for the country. Constructing a university in her honour is a befitting tribute," she said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed gratitude on social media platform X, noting that the establishing the university in memory of the young freedom fighter reflects the state's commitment to both education and patriotism. Swahid Kanaklata Barua, fondly remembered as Birbala, was one of Assam's most revered freedom fighters. Born in 1924 in Barangbari village of Gohpur, she became a symbol of courage and sacrifice during India's freedom struggle. At just 17, she led the Quit India Movement procession in 1942, carrying the Tricolour and chanting "Vande Mataram" before being shot dead by British police. Her martyrdom continues to inspire generations in Assam and across India.

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla inaugurates MANITEX 2025

IMPHAL
Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla inaugurated MANITEX 2025, aiming to showcase Manipur's handloom crafts globally, with a focus on sustainable practices. The expo distributed 3,000 frame looms to local weavers and provided financial aid to artisans, supporting grassroots weaving initiatives. Governor Bhalla emphasized MANITEX as a celebration of Manipur's cultural identity, highlighting the unity in diversity of its weaving traditions.

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla inaugurated the Manipur International Textile Expo (MANITEX) 2025 at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi, Imphal, marking a significant step toward promoting Manipur's rich handloom and textile traditions on the global stage.

Organised under the theme "Weaving a Sustainable Future: Manipur's Handloom Heritage to Global Fashion," the event has been hosted by the Department of Textiles, Commerce & Industry and the Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Government of Manipur.

The Expo aims to highlight Manipur's diverse handloom, handicraft, and textile products with a strong emphasis on eco-friendly materials, natural dyes, and sustainable weaving practices rooted in indigenous culture.

As part of the inaugural function, 3,000 frame looms and accessories were distributed to local weavers under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP). Additionally, financial assistance was extended to 60 ex-trainee artisans to support the purchase of toolkits. The Governor also released the Data Book of National and State Awardees of Manipur and unveiled the Handloom & Textiles Calendar 2026.

In his keynote address, Governor Bhalla stated that MANITEX 2025 is more than a textile exhibition—it is a celebration of Manipur's cultural identity, artistry, and craftsmanship. "Each weave tells a story of our people, our land, and our traditions. From the hills to the valleys, every community adds its unique colours and patterns, symbolising the unity in Manipur's diversity," he said.

The Governor praised the event for successfully bridging tradition with innovation, connecting local artisans especially women to national and international markets. "MANITEX transforms skill into opportunity and heritage into livelihood. It stands as a shining example of how tradition can embrace modernity without losing its soul," he added. Highlighting the economic importance of the handloom sector, the Governor remarked that it forms the heartbeat of Manipur's economy, driven largely by women weavers. He emphasised that initiatives such as One District One Product (ODO), PM Mitra Parks, and Digital India e-commerce integration are empowering artisans with innovation and market access, thereby strengthening the "Made in Manipur" brand.

"When we uplift our weavers, we uplift entire communities, ensuring that Manipur's legacy continues to inspire the world," the Governor noted.

The inaugural event was attended by the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Textiles, Commerce & Industry and Transport), Padma Shri awardees, senior officials, artisans, weavers, and members of the public, marking a vibrant beginning to the state's most prestigious textile event of the year.

'Vande Mataram' a powerful expression of love for motherland: Manipur Guv

IMPHAL
Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said on Friday that country's national song "Vande Mataram", composed by the great patriot and writer Bankim Chandra Chatterjee 150 years ago, is not merely a song but a powerful expression of love and reverence for the motherland.

Addressing the commemoration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" at the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) at Palace Compound in Imphal, the Governor said that "Vande Mataram", composed in 1875, is not merely a song but a powerful expression of love and reverence for the motherland.

He recalled how it became the lifeblood of India's freedom movement, a call that awakened the spirit of nationalism across the country.

Governor Bhalla, former Union Home Secretary, noted that when the Constituent Assembly adopted "Vande Mataram" as the national song in 1950, it acknowledged its unmatched contribution in shaping the soul of the nation.

The Governor reflected that even after 150 years, the spirit of "Vande Mataram" continues to unite all Indians beyond barriers of region, language, and faith.

He urged everyone to uphold its message of unity, peace, and progress and to draw inspiration from its sacred words in building a strong and prosperous nation.

The Governor also spoke about Manipur's rich legacy of patriotism and sacrifice, saying that the courage, resilience, and devotion of the people of Manipur reflect the very essence of "Vande Mataram".

From the state's historic heroes to its present-day achievers in sports, arts, and culture, Manipur continues to make the nation proud, he noted.

The Governor appreciated the mass singing and choreographic presentations on "Vande Mataram" by Shri Shri Balmukunda Dev Music College, the Government Dance College, and the Jawaharalal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, whose performances beautifully captured the patriotic fervour of the song.

He commended the Department of Art and Culture for its efforts in organising the commemorative event with such dignity and grandeur.

Governor Bhalla called upon all citizens to let "Vande Mataram" be not just a song we sing, but a pledge we live by, to dedicate ourselves to the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047", a developed, united, and inclusive India.

Several MLAs, Manipur Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel, senior officers, and distinguished guests attended the commemorative event.

Hailakandi court declares police cannot demand GST, enhanced fee for decree

HAILAKANDI

In a significant pronouncement protecting the rights of decree-holders, particularly those from financially weaker backgrounds, the Court of the Civil Judge (Senior Division) of Assam's Hailakandi, has declared that the demand for police cost at an "enhanced rate" along with GST for executing a civil court decree is illegal and unsustainable in law.

The ruling, delivered by Civil Judge (Senior Division) Shakti Sharma in Misc. Case No. 197/2025 (Ref: Title Execution Case No. 21/2025) came in response to a plea challenging the refusal of the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Hailakandi, to provide police assistance for decree execution on the grounds of non-payment of "enhanced police cost."

The Court observed that the SSP had misconstrued the government memorandum regarding police cost, clarifying that it applies only in situations where an individual seeks police protection for personal security, not for assisting in the enforcement of court decrees.

Holding that maintenance of law and order is a sovereign and statutory duty of the State, the Court stated: "The police help in execution cases is sought for overcoming unlawful resistance



offered by judgment debtors and for maintaining order. To levy an enhanced rate or GST for such assistance is unjustified when the police are not engaged in any commercial service."

Judge Sharma further remarked that forcing decree-holders to bear such costs could deprive poorer litigants of the benefits of decrees passed in their favour, thereby resulting in a "failure of the judicial system."

The Court urged the Senior Superintendent of Police to ex-

tend necessary assistance in executing decrees by accepting only reasonable diet and mobility allowances, as per past practice.

Referring to a 2025 Supreme Court directive in Periyammal (Dead Thr. Lrs) vs V. Rajamani & another, the Court also emphasized the need for all civil courts to dispose of pending execution cases within six months.

The next date for compliance and necessary action has been fixed for November 10, 2025.

Welcome Tapash Roy

Member, Organising Committee, NEIR 2026

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



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OIL'S QUIET FLOW TO THE MARKET

The mass of voters chose Kejriwal and Mamdani for the simple reason that they were sick and tired of the stale promises and repetitive speeches belted out for long by mainstream political personalities, notes M R Narayan Swamy.

The two cities and the two unlikely politicians are separated by thousands of miles but there is something incredibly similar between the politics of Zohran Mamdani and Arvind Kejriwal.

True, Mamdani's victory in New York's mayoral race between a Democrat-turned-independent and a Republican opponent may not look as emphatic numerically as the Aam Aadmi Party leader's win in 2015 but it is probably much more significant politically, and not just for himself.

And unlike Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, despite being shocked by the scale of his BJP's 2015 rout, did congratulate Kejriwal after the AAP scooped an astounding 67 of the 70 seats in the Delhi assembly, US President Donald Trump has already declared war on Mamdani.

There are many remarkable similarities in the manner Mamdani, 34, and Kejriwal, who was 46 when he took oath as chief minister, pursued political power.

Both began as virtual nobodies – Mamdani at the start of the election campaign for New York's top post (despite a political past) and Kejriwal in 2013 when he became chief minister for the first time, albeit only for 49 days.

Shedding the normal talking points in electoral battles, both scripted a new and bold political path, focussing primarily (but not solely) on the day-to-day issues affecting the common man.

Mamdani's populist agenda focussed on improving the affordability and quality of life for working and middle class New Yorkers.

His specific promises include rent control, tenant protection, building new affordable housing units, government-run grocery stores, free bus rides and free childcare facilities.

Kejriwal too pledged to make a difference to the people of Delhi. He promised subsidised water and electricity which could even be free depending on the usage, vastly improved government schools, better health and transport facilities, and an end to endemic corruption.

Like Kejriwal a decade earlier, Mamdani kept his campaign theme concentrated on the bread-and-butter issues, making it clear that his aim was to clean up the system within a democratic framework and not focus on specific individuals.

Trump dubbed Mamdani a 'communist' (which he is not), Modi called Kejriwal a 'Naxalite' (which he was certainly not). But unlike Kejriwal who refused to get into a right-versus-left narrative, Mamdani proudly calls himself a socialist – a daring and politically risky thing to do in America, more so in New York, a hub of global capitalism.

Both in New York and New Delhi, the voters had to choose between an untested Kejriwal and an equally inexperienced Mamdani. This was the main talking point of their well-established and far richer opponents.

Yet, in both cases, the mass of voters chose Kejriwal and Mamdani for the simple reason that they were sick and tired of the stale promises and repetitive speeches belted out for long by mainstream political personalities.

In both cities, the mass of voters, more so the underprivileged, wanted a new experiment and a fresh face at the helm of affairs. They hungered for direct benefits that would, even if marginally, improve the lives of their families.

Forgetting for a moment all that happened later (and how), Kejriwal delivered remarkably well.

Millions in Delhi got free or virtually free potable water, subsidized electricity that was the cheapest in India (and free for a large number of families), a dramatic overhaul of the widely despised government schools to the extent that they began to outperform private schools, the widely appreciated Mohalla Clinics where one got basic medicines free, Delhi government-run hospitals where treatment was free, cheaper compressed natural gas for vehicles, curbing industrial emissions, a majorly improved bus transport, and free bus ride for women.

I know for a fact that the Aam Aadmi Party government wanted to eventually make bus ride free for everyone in the city – a promise Mamdani has made in New York.

The aim was to make a U-turn, transforming the trickle-down economics to trickle-up economics.

Like in New York today, there were any number of sceptics in India who warned that Kejriwal would never be able to implement his promises because these would cost money which the Delhi chief minister would not be able to generate.

But the Kejriwal government's budgets were deficit-free, year after year, despite the various promises being implemented almost simultaneously.

Such was the popular perception that Kejriwal rode to another thumping victory in 2020, bagging 62 of the 70 assembly seats.

What was the most important message of Delhi in 2015 – and of New York in 2025?

The most unknown, untested and supposedly inexperienced political actor can put established giants in their place if the promises they make carry a touch of honesty – and people believe the men making the promises can be trusted.

This is why despite Trump's threats and Republican insinuation of a Muslim taking over New York, both Muslims and non-Muslims voted for Mamdani.

Even sections of Jews (notwithstanding Mamdani's pro-Palestine noises) and the corporate world became soft towards him by the time the campaign ended.

And this is why despite an aggressive Hindutva at play, both Hindus and Muslims (and others) voted en masse for Kejriwal.

It is only after Kejriwal's 2020 enviable triumph that the Bharatiya Janata Party brass concluded that the AAP had cemented itself so much in Delhi that it could never be defeated in the normal course of play.

What happened later and how the Modi government unleashed all its might against Kejriwal is another story.

So, will Mamdani succeed in New York? For one, he has already defeated Trump politically in New York, America's most important city.

Recall that the US president has expressed his admiration for the North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and says he too wants Americans to salute him similarly. Yet the majority of voters in New York rejected Trump and embraced Mamdani.

A lot will depend on how Mamdani lives down some of his radical past (he has already apologised for some of his comments about the New York Police Department), how he manages to keep the business class on his side, and how he negotiates the contradictions between Trump and his own politics.

Like Kejriwal in 2015, Mamdani has promised that he will work for everyone, including those who did not vote for him.

Having seen Kejriwal from close quarters during his political journey, I am sure he would have watched the hip-hop musician-turned-activist Mamdani closely even if the New Yorker may not have paid much attention to the Indian bureau-

NATIONWIDE SIR RESTS ON FLAWED LEGAL REASONING



MANISH TEWARI

The Constitution enshrines the Rule of Law as the inviolable foundation of the Republic—an idea elegantly expressed in the French phrase le principe de légalité: that every act of governance must be rooted in, and restrained by, law. This doctrine establishes a sacred boundary—no institution, however powerful its mandate, may act beyond the limits of authority bestowed by the Constitution or statute.

No institution, therefore, regardless of the puissance of its mandate, can operate beyond the four corners of the authority constitutionally conferred upon it. When the credibility of the Election Commission of India (ECI) is already under a cloud of profound scepticism from a significant spectrum of the political opposition, the initiation of the proposed pan-India special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral, ostensibly under a flawed and unsound interpretation of its powers, risks undermining not merely public trust, but the very constitutional edifice that is the grundnorm of our Republic.

A forensic deconstruction of the constitutional and statutory provisions reveals that the case for a nationwide SIR is not merely tenuous; it is a constitutional misadventure lacking any legitimate sanctuary in law.

The constitutional scheme disperses electoral authority across several provisions, with Article 324(1) placing the preparation of rolls and the conduct of elections under the Election Commission's superintendence, direction, and control. But this is no blank cheque.

In Mohinder Singh Gill (1977), the Supreme Court noted that Article 324 was meant to fill gaps "which enacted law has not provided for", since legislators "are not prophets but pragmatists". Yet it also drew a firm boundary: the Commission's discretion cannot be exercised arbitrarily, capriciously, or in disregard of law—it must remain anchored in the Rule of Law and consistent with statutory constraints.

This constitutes the first and most critical boundary: Article 324 is not a carte blanche to override statutory regimes;

it operates primarily in the interstices, in areas 'left unoccupied by legislation'. Concurrently, Article 327 empowers Parliament to make laws with respect to "all matters relating to... elections", which unequivocally includes "the preparation of electoral rolls". The primary statute enacted under this power is the Representation of the People Act, 1950. It is within the framework of Section 21 of this Act that the Commission's proposal must be tested and, ultimately, found wanting.

Section 21(2) requires that electoral rolls be revised for every constituency before each general or bye-election, unless the ECI, for recorded reasons, decides otherwise. It also envisages annual revision at the Commission's discretion. This forms the regular, statutory rhythm of revision. The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, through Rule 25, adds procedural texture—allowing such revision to be done "intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily".

Yet it is Section 21(3) that the ECI now seeks to rely upon for its proposed pan-India SIR. A close reading of this clause reveals three constitutional and jurisprudential principles that squarely oppose its nationwide application.

First, Section 21(3) is an exceptional clause—a narrow, surgical remedy meant for rare disruptions, not a broad instrument of overhaul. It was designed as an emergency provision for localised contingencies, not as a substitute for the regular, nationwide revision process. To wield this power for a pan-India reconstitution of electoral rolls is to invert its purpose and let an exception consume the rule itself.

Secondly, the provision's invocation is expressly contingent upon "reasons to be recorded". This requirement is not a procedural formality but a substantive constitutional safeguard against arbitrariness.

In Mohan Lal Capoor (1973), the Supreme Court defined the legal essence of "reasons", calling them "the links between the materials on which conclusions are based and the conclusions themselves". They must show how the decision-maker's mind engaged with the facts and reveal a rational bridge between evidence and out-

come. Where this bridge is missing, the so-called reasons collapse into no reasons at all.

To justify a nationwide SIR, the ECI would need to show that the country's electoral rolls are so fundamentally compromised that the system—despite regular, statutory revisions—has lost its integrity. Vague claims of improving accuracy or "cleansing" the rolls are no substitute for evidence. Only concrete, verifiable proof of systemic failure in every constituency could support such an extraordinary measure. Else, the exercise becomes ultra vires—a leap of conjecture, not a step grounded in jurisdictional fact.

Thirdly, the textual architecture of Section 21(3) militates against a blanket, nationwide application. The provision uses the phrase "any constituency or part of a constituency"—a deliberate legislative choice.

Had Parliament intended to empower the Commission to order a special revision across all constituencies, it would have used the phrase "each constituency", as in Section 21(2). The very purpose of a "special" revision is to address a specific, localised pathology in a particular constituency or a group of constituencies, where the regular or annual revision process is insufficient to address an emergent and demonstrable crisis.

Moreover, the 2021 amendment to the RPA, which increased the number of qualifying dates for revision from one (January 1) to four (January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1), has further diminished the circumstances in which such an exceptional power under Section 21(3) might legitimately be invoked.

A nationwide SIR under these circumstances would amount to a constitutional transgression—a veritable felony against the spirit and structure of the RPA, 1950. The Commission's discretion under Section 21(3) extends only to determining "the manner as it may think fit" for a special revision. Any "manner" of revision that imposes unnecessary hurdles for the citizens, presumes inclusion to be suspect rather than a right to be facilitated, or risks large-scale disenfranchisement through a dis-

ruptive, nationwide procedural overhaul, would be patently contrary to the constitutional scheme.

The ECI must, therefore, reconsider its course and adhere to the established statutory processes for maintaining the electoral roll. Its extraordinary powers must remain reserved for truly extraordinary circumstances and for geographically confined situations. To act otherwise would be to wound the very democracy the Commission was constituted to serve and it claims to serve.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Major Jetly was a dedicated Special Forces officer of 3 Para SF. He served the country with Honour and courage for almost 2 decades. He was an IIT grad and in the Signals. He volunteered for the Special http:// forces. One was shocked to learn that HE WAS ABDUCTED in Dubai last year and now reportedly is in a Qatar detention center. This is outrageous and unacceptable. He Has lost his parents and his sole surviving Blood relation is his sister who is understandably distraught. What exactly is going on? Why are Indian former soldiers being targeted in The Middle East? I suspect an ISI hand. I am amazed so far nothing was done and his Distraught sister had to move the courts in India. He must be given consular access Right away and legal aid at once. I hope the MeA will now swing into action and defend our veterans. WE MUST GET HIM BACK!!! was moved to see his Sister in tears. ~ Maj Gen (Dr) GD Bakshi, SM, VSM



Is Air India becoming Tatas' Achilles heel?

GURBIR SINGH

The sale of the collapsing government-owned Air India to the Tata Group on 27 January 2022 was greeted with some fanfare. Though there was grumbling at the under pricing of Air India's massive assets at just Rs 18,000 crore, the Tata acquisition had popular support. The group is known for efficiency and good consumer ethics, and there was guarded hope Air India will emerge as a good, competitive airline.

More than 3 years after the Tata takeover, Air India is struggling. It has not been able to shed its poor, sarkari record. Passenger services attract a litany of complaints, losses have mounted and all those promised ramp-ups in the form of new and refurbished aircraft can hardly be seen.

The crisis is evident. A Friday, 31 October report of Bloomberg says Air India is seeking a minimum of Rs 10,000 crore in financial support from its owners Tata Sons, which owns 74.9% in the airline, and minority owner Singapore Airlines (SIA). This infusion will fund overhauling Air India's systems and services.

Though Air India's revenue increased 15% to Rs. 78,636 crore for the year ended 31 March, 2025, (combining revenues of Air India, Tata SIA Airlines and other subsidiaries), its losses widened by 48% to Rs 10,859 crore from Rs 7,356 crore in the previous year. This is significant as Air India now is among the largest contributors

to the Tatas' topline.

Three years into flying Air India, and the Tatas have not been able to dent Indigo Airlines dominance. For FY2025, Interglobe Aviation, Indigo's parent company, turned in a marginally higher revenue compared to Air India of Rs.80,802 crore, but notched up a net profit of Rs 7,258 crore. In market share, IndiGo is strides ahead at 64%, followed by the Air India at around 27%. In volume, the total number of passengers Air India carried declined 11% year-on-year in July and 8% year-on-year in August.

We have to consider headwinds in the form of external factors have been buffeting the airline. In recent days, Air India executives have been going public on why the turnaround has been proving to be difficult. A couple of days ago, speaking at a conclave, AI's chief executive Campbell Wilson said the closure of Pakistan's airspace had cost the airline Rs 4,000 in extra jet fuel.

"We were hit by a few ... almost Black Swan events. Aside from the A171 accident, there was the war with Pakistan, closure of Middle East airspace, 50% tariff on India by Mr Trump, and constraints on H-1B visas. All of these are quite unprecedented shocks," conceded Campbell Wilson.

But it is recovering from the tragic 12 June Dreamliner crash that killed 260 passengers that is the airline's biggest challenge. The toll it has taken on Air India is not just compensation

costs, credibility and reduction in the number of international routes. The crash was not an external factor as Campbell Wilson suggests. Though the causes are still being investigated, the needle of suspicion is limited to pilot error or aircraft maintenance issues. Endemic faults in the Boeing Dreamliner is an outlier. Recovering from this blow – the loss of lives and credibility – may take years.

Though details are still hazy, the airline seems to beset with operational stress, maintenance and training issues. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has warned AI over issues such as pilot duty timings and fatigue management. Nine show-cause notices related to 5 safety violations have been issued in recent months. In July itself, DGCA found 51 safety lapses involving inadequate training for pilots.

Air India is also struggling to upgrade its fleet. Stuck with fraying 67 legacy planes from the government days, the much touted USD 400 million refurbishment plan is going slow. The airline claims it is hampered by global supply chain issues. Overall, the airline has committed a massive USD 70 billion investment which includes buying 570 new aircraft from both Airbus and Boeing.

After the 2022 takeover, AI's chief Campbell Wilson had announced an ambitious five-year turnaround plan. From all the anecdotal evidence, it is clear, the airline's targets are far

behind plan. After the first two year's of 'taxi' and 'take-off' phases, the third year was to be the 'climb' phase. This was to include operational break-even, fleet expansion and improving passenger experience. As we have seen all these parameters are in reverse gear.

The merger of Vistara with the flagship Air India brand in 2024 was also a logistical mistake the Tatas might have to rue. Vistara Airlines represented everything Air India is not. It was the preferred carrier of business flyers, its new aircraft, good customer service, and livery – introduced and trained by Singapore Airlines – made it a 'luxury' brand, a cut above the others. Keeping it flying as a premium airline rather than pulling it down to the Air India's level did not make business sense.

Tata Sons and minority partner Singapore Airlines, have reportedly pumped in fresh capital of Rs 9,558 crore last fiscal with SIA providing the lion's share of Rs 6,333 crore. This represents the largest single-year capital infusion in the history of Indian aviation. But analysts say the airline will need much more, an injection of Rs 20,000-25,000 crore every year for the next few years.

Decades of airline collapses have proven it is a difficult business. Turning around a legacy airline carrying huge losses is a herculean task. Add to that an air disaster at the time Air India is at an inflection point, and we have an unenviable business proposition.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Far too many people are looking for the right person, instead of trying to be the right person." - Gloria Steinem

Assam leads India in utilisation of special central fund: Sitharaman

GUWAHATI

Assam has recorded the highest utilisation of the Centre's Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) fund, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Friday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Brahmaputra Riverfront project in Guwahati, Sitharaman praised the state government for effectively using the 50-year, interest-free central loans meant for building capital assets such as hospitals, roads and key infrastructure.

"The way Assam is planning to create assets, it is utilising the central fund to the maximum level. Assam tops the list," she said, noting that while all states are creating assets, "nobody is doing it like Assam is working."

The Finance Minister inaugurated two major urban projects in



the state capital — the Gateway of Guwahati, including a terminal and jetty on the Brahmaputra riverbank built at a cost of ₹305 crore, and the Brahmaputra Riverfront project at Sati Radhika Udyan, developed for ₹327 crore.

Highlighting the balance between infrastructure growth and local live-

lihoods, Sitharaman said, "I heard there was a fish market beneath this riverfront project. The Chief Minister told me that it still exists and people can still go to the river to catch fish. This is a good blend between livelihood and development."

She stressed that urban development must progress "without dis-

placing people," adding, "Bringing in changes by not disturbing the livelihood of people is an example of good governance."

Sitharaman arrived in Guwahati on a two-day visit to Assam, during which she is scheduled to inaugurate multiple projects across the state. On Friday afternoon, she inspected the upcoming Tata Electronics Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Jagiroad in Morigaon district.

Calling the Rs 27,000-crore semiconductor plant a milestone project, Sitharaman said it would place Assam "in the driver's seat of the engine for developed India."

On Saturday, the minister will travel to Gohpur in Biswanath district to lay the foundation stone of the Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University, which was approved by the Assam Cabinet in June at an estimated cost of Rs 400 crore.

AGARTALA

Tripura Motha Party founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha held a crucial meeting on November 7, describing the discussions as "positive" and "moving in the right direction."

Speaking after the meeting, Debbarma said the conversation was productive and centred on the overall development of the state. "I placed my points, and he shared his views. We are hopeful that the talks will continue in a cordial and constructive manner for the benefit of Tripura," he said. He added that several key issues were discussed and that both sides were focused on "moving forward, not backwards."

Debbarma clarified that the meeting did not touch upon electoral matters. "We did not talk about elections; the discussion was positive, and we want a solution. The talks regarding the Tripura Accord process are ongoing," he stated.

Before the meeting, Debbarma had



emphasised that any discussion with the Chief Minister would focus on Tripura's welfare and the harmony between tribal and non-tribal communities.

"Not everything is about politics. We want to work for the people and the development of the state," he said, reaffirming that the dialogue aimed to advance the rights and development of all communities in Tripura.

Tezpur University teachers' body condemns 'defamatory' remarks by senior official

TEZPUR

The Tezpur University Teachers' Association has strongly condemned statements made by a senior university official, Prof Debendra Chandra Baruah, calling them misleading and defamatory.

According to a local media report published on October 10, Prof Baruah, who serves as Director of IQAC, allegedly claimed that two faculty members—Dr Pranjali Kumar Gogoi from the School of Engineering and Dr Pankaj Barah from the School of Sciences—were "the masterminds behind the on-going protest" at the university.

In a statement dated November 7, TUTA described the remarks as deeply regrettable, asserting they "undermine the dignity of the faculty and university community, and attempt to malign individuals who have been peacefully advocating for transparency, accountability, and institutional integrity."

The teachers' association clarified that the ongoing protests were not orchestrated by any particular group. Instead, they characterised the movement as spontaneous, involving students, teachers, and non-teaching staff across the university.

TUTA said the agitation stems from widespread concerns about corruption, administrative irregularities, and what it termed the "autocratic functioning" of Vice-Chancellor Prof Shambhu Nath Singh and his associates.

Assam Rifles Celebrates 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram' Across Cachar, Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney

KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

SILCHAR: Marking 150 years of India's national song Vande Mataram, the Assam Rifles organized mass singing events across Cachar, Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney districts to celebrate the spirit of patriotism and unity.

The commemorative programme, conducted under the aegis of Srikona Battalion, saw enthusiastic participation from around 1,500 citizens, including students, teachers, local residents, and dignitaries. Events were held at NIT Silchar, Kendriya Vidyalaya Masimpur, and several government schools across Manipur's hill districts.

The collective rendition of Vande Mataram resonated through campuses and community spaces, symbolizing India's

enduring unity in diversity. Participants joined voices to honour the timeless anthem that has inspired generations during the freedom struggle and continues to evoke deep national pride.

Officers of the Assam Rifles said the initiative aimed to reconnect citizens, especially the youth, with India's cultural and patriotic roots. The event also served to strengthen the bond between the security forces and local communities. By organizing such initiatives, the Assam Rifles reaffirmed its commitment to fostering national integration and promoting pride in India's heritage. The Force continues to play an active role not only in ensuring security but also in nurturing the spirit of unity and nationhood across the Northeast.

Biren Singh seeks support for IDPs, urges restoration of elected govt in Manipur

IMPHAL

Former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Friday expressed deep concern over the hardships faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and reiterated that restoring a popular government in Manipur is essential to effectively tackle the ongoing humanitarian and administrative challenges.

Speaking to reporters, Biren Singh said the IDPs were enduring immense suffering in relief camps.

"IDPs are facing a lot of inconvenience. We understand your situation. Just yesterday, I spoke to some IDPs who told me that six people are living together in a small room. They came to me crying, complaining that even their toilets are not working," he said.

He appealed to local clubs and civil organisations to ex-



tend assistance and urged the Deputy Collector to inspect

every relief camp on a weekly basis.

"I have also contacted the Medical Department regarding the issue. We MLAs are consulting each other on what more we can do to help," he added.

Commenting on the functioning of the administration under President's Rule, Biren Singh said that while the Governor and bureaucrats were working, governance remained slow and procedural.

"The difference between a popular government and President's Rule is that, in an elected government, we are ready to take risks in the interest of the people. But under bureaucratic administration, files take time to move, and the system becomes sluggish. Bureaucrats fear being questioned, while ministers in a popular government take decisions on the spot," he remarked.

40% of Tripura budget to boost tribal welfare, Bru resettlement efforts

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said that his government has kept 40 per cent of the total budgetary outlay during the 2025-26 financial year for tribal welfare.

The state's budget for the current fiscal stands at Rs 32,000 crore.

While speaking at a programme at Challengia in Dhalai district on Thursday, the chief Minister said the development of the northeastern state is not possible without upliftment of the tribal people.

"Driven by this reality, the state government has kept over 40 per cent of the budget for tribal area development during the 2025-26 financial year. The government is also focusing on skill development of the tribal, especially the resettled Bru people," he said.



Several thousand Bru families, who were living in Tripura since late 1990s because of ethnic violence in their home state Mizoram, were rehabilitated in several districts of this state following an agreement

signed in 2020.

"Under the PM Kaushalya Yojana and Mukhyamantri Dakkhata Yojana, the government provides skill training to these Bru people," the chief minister said.

Saha said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during a visit to a Bru resettled village in Ambassa, had asserted that providing houses, water, and other benefits would not be enough for sustainable livelihood for them.

"The Skill Development Department is providing training to them. The Bru people have said that they are happy and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We must provide skills to the Bru people to ensure their employment," he said.

The chief minister claimed that no political party or government had raised a voice for a permanent

solution to the Bru people for the past 23 years.

"The BJP-led government, on humanitarian grounds, solved their issues by signing an agreement. Our government is with you and working for your development. The government is working to make people self-reliant," he said.

Saha said when the agreement was signed in 2020 for the Bru people, a series of talks were held, and finally they were resettled in 12 locations in the northeastern state.

"We have provided toolkits to 895 people and driving licences to 200, for which Rs 1.45 crore was spent," he said.

Earlier, the chief minister distributed toolkits for skilled Bru candidates and virtually inaugurated new buildings of a school and several government departments.

Prime suspect in SBI robbery surrenders to Kohima police



DIMAPUR

Following a relentless and intensive manhunt operation by the Kohima police, the prime accused in the October 31 attempted armed robbery case at the Chedema branch of the SBI surrendered at the North police station in Kohima, the Kohima police PRO said in a release on Friday.

The sustained pressure applied by the Kohima police left the suspect, Vitoulu Domeh (35), with no escape route, compelling him to surrender, according to the release.

He is now in the custody of the Kohima police.

The accused, who had terrorised bank staff using a pistol and a body-worn explosive device, was

identified and pursued based on credible intelligence and public support. The release stated his surrender is a direct result of the unwavering resolve of the Kohima police to bring perpetrators to justice.

It further stated that the investigation is ongoing to uncover all facets of the case. Kohima police expressed gratitude to the public and the media for their crucial cooperation in the case.

Earlier, the police said the swift and courageous intervention of the on-duty bank security guards prevented the robbery.

The bank guards also recovered the entire amount and seized the pistol from the miscreant. However, the suspect managed to escape from the scene after the incident.

Manipur to boost local makhana cultivation with new central scheme

IMPHAL

K. Debadutta Sharma, Director of the Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation (DH & SC), Government of Manipur, announced that a Central Scheme on Makhana (fox nut), locally known as Thangjing and scientifically named Euryale ferox, is soon to be implemented in the state.

In an official statement, the Director stated that the scheme will be implemented by the DH & SC and invited interested farmers to participate in the programme.

He pointed out that there has been limited research and development on Thangjing in the state and encouraged scientists to take advantage of this upcoming scheme to initiate research in this area.

The Director added that a specific central scheme is about to be launched in Manipur to boost local Thangjing (makhana) cultivation, and noted that a state-level "Makha-



na Vikas Yojana" is already implemented in certain districts of Bihar.

Thangjing (fox nut) is a seasonal edible product of an aquatic plant

available in summer.

Though the outer layer is quite thorny, the inner portion, once peeled, is visually appealing and packed with starchy seeds.

It is usually used in spicy preparations such as ametpa and eromba, which are delicacies in Manipuri cuisine. Its edible seeds are a popular food source in Manipur and are commonly used in various dishes.

The plant itself is a rooted aquatic herb that grows in ponds and other freshwater bodies. Its seeds are the most consumed part, though the leaves and fruit are also edible.

Additionally, the primary central initiative supporting makhana cultivation is the National Makhana Board, established to promote and formalize the makhana industry by improving production, processing, value addition, and exports.

Other schemes supporting makhana cultivation and processing include the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPA-DA Yojana, which provide financial and technical support to food processing enterprises, including those in the makhana sector.

Quest!

A Millionaire is someone who has little to no money. The 'Nil' is from Latin, meaning nothing.

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Hindustan Aeronautics inks pact with General Electric for supply of 113 engines for LCA Mk1A fighter jets



NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over the depleting number of combat squadrons in the Air Force, India and the United States have inked an agreement for the supply of engines for the LCA Mk1A fighter jets.

"Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has entered into an agreement with M/s. General Electric Company, USA, on 7th November 2025 for the supply of 113 Nos of F404-GE-IN20 engines and support package for execution of 97 LCA Mk1A programme," said HAL on its social media handle.

"The engine deliveries would be from 2027 to 2032. The contract for 97 LCA Mk 1A was signed in September 2025," it added.

The New Indian Express earlier reported that negotiations with GE for the engines were completed in September.

In August, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) gave the go-ahead for 97 LCA Mk1A jets to be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at a cost of around Rs

67,000 crore. The new engines to be procured will be used for these combat jets.

In the meantime, the Mk-1A has completed weapons integration trials, including the firing of Astra and Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAM).

Giving the timeline of the deliveries, sources said the advanced LCA Mk2 is scheduled to be rolled out in 2027, while 83 Mk1A fighters are now expected by 2029, after a reported delay of four quarters.

The Tejas Mk1A is the newer and improved version of India's single-engine, 4.5 generation delta wing multirole combat aircraft designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency. It will play an important role in mitigating the decrease in the quantity of combat jets and the overall fall in combat squadrons.

As earlier brought out by The New Indian Express, the IAF had ordered 83 LCA Tejas Mk 1A at a cost of Rs 46,000 crore in 2021. Once this new order is completed in the stip-

ulated 15 years, the IAF will have 40 LCA, over 180 LCA Mark-1A and at least 120 LCA Mark-2 planes.

The fast dwindling combat fighter strength has resulted in anxiety in the IAF leadership. The 23 Squadron of the MiG-21 was number plated in September, bringing the current number of fighter squadrons below 30.

Officially, the IAF is supposed to have 42 squadrons of combat squadrons. A squadron comprises 16-18 aircraft. In September, The New Indian Express noted the need for more combat squadrons than the sanctioned numbers to meet the contingency of a two-front conflict. Tejas is a single-engine, lightweight multi-role fighter, originally meant to replace the MiG-21. The first indigenous LCA was inducted in July 2016. The first IAF Squadron to induct the Tejas was the No 45 Squadron, the 'Flying Daggers'. Forty LCA Tejas Mk 1 fighters were ordered initially, of which 35 have been inducted till now.

'No one in India believes Ahmedabad plane crash was pilot's fault': SC

NEW DELHI

A two judge bench of the Supreme Court on Friday said "nobody in the country believes it was the pilot's fault" that resulted in the crash of Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad in June this year, killing 260 people.

The bench headed by Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joyymalya Bagchi made this remark while hearing the plea filed by Pushkaraj Sabharwal, the 88-year-old father of late Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, who served as the Pilot-in-Command of the Air India flight which crashed at Ahmedabad.

"It's extremely unfortunate that this crash took place, but you (Pushkaraj) should not carry this burden on yourself that your son is being blamed. Nobody can blame him (Pilot) for anything. No one in India believes it is the pilot's fault," the court said. The court also issued notice to the Centre, DGCA, and others after hearing the plea of Pushkaraj and the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) seeking direction for the constitution of a panel for a judicially monitored probe into the horrific accident.

During the course of the hearing on Friday, the apex court observed that the preliminary report makes no insinuations against the pilot. It added that if the father was worried about the WSJ report, then he should move to the US Court.

A writ petition running into 267 pages was filed on October 10 in the Supreme Court against the Union of India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Director General of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

TNIE is the first newspaper to report on October 16 that Pankaj Sabharwal and FIP had moved the apex court seeking direction for the constitution of a panel for a judicially monitored probe into the horrific accident.



88-year-old Sabharwal, a resident of Mumbai, is the first petitioner while the FIP is the second petitioner. They have requested the committee be headed by a retired SC judge, along with independent experts from the aviation industry to ensure a fair, transparent and technically sound probe.

The Boeing 787-8 crash on June 12 resulted in the death of 260 people. The preliminary report released on July 12 by the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Board (AAIB), came in for massive criticism from pilot bodies and the families of the victims as it held 'human error' on the part of the cockpit crew responsible for the mishap.

The petitioners submitted that the AAIB report was "profoundly flawed." The investigation team had predominantly focused on the deceased pilots, who are no longer able to defend themselves, while failing to examine more plausible technical and procedural

causes of the crash, they said.

"Selective disclosure against crew impedes root cause discovery and threatens future flight safety, calling for a neutral judicial lens," it added.

The report contains perversity and critical inconsistencies, they charged, adding that it lacked credibility and transparency. The deployment of the emergency generator, the Ram Air Turbine (RAT), before the crash is a direct indicator of an electrical or digital malfunction and contradicts the report's inference that pilot actions initiated power loss.

"Yet, the investigation fails to provide time-stamped correlation between RAT deployment and crew inputs, and ignores the possibility that faults in the Common Core System (CCS), integrating avionics, flight controls, power distribution, and software, may have triggered the sequence of failures. The omission of this line of inquiry demon-

strates bias and technical incompleteness," the petitioners charged.

The petition pointed out that the report had claimed that both fuel control switches moved from RUN to CUTOFF within one second and reverted shortly thereafter. "Such near-synchronised manual actuation is implausible under take-off conditions, especially if the RAT had already deployed before any crew action. This strongly suggests an automatic or corrupted digital command, not human intervention," the petition stated.

To treat this as a deliberate pilot error, without first excluding electronic malfunction, is procedurally unjust and logically unsound. It reverses causation, blaming the pilots for what could be a symptom of system failure rather than its trigger, they added.

The top court stated that another plea on the issue is pending, so we will take up both matters on November 10.

INTERNATIONAL

Ex-jihadist leader Sharaa heads to White House for talks with Trump on Syria's future



DAMASCUS

President Ahmed al-Sharaa will become Syria's first leader to pay an official visit to the White House on Monday, a crowning achievement for the ex-jihadist who since taking power has ended his country's isolation.

Sharaa, whose rebel forces ousted longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad late last year, will meet President Donald Trump during the unprecedented visit.

US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said earlier this month that Sharaa will "hopefully" sign an agreement to join the international US-led alliance against the Islamic State (IS).

The United States plans to establish a military base near Damascus "to coordinate humanitarian aid and observe developments between Syria and Israel", a diplomatic source in Syria told.

Just days before the visit, the United Nations Security Council

voted on Thursday to lift sanctions on Sharaa, who until now had needed a UN exemption for every trip abroad.

The resolution was drafted by the US, whose ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz said Sharaa's government was "working hard to fulfil its commitments on countering terrorism and narcotics".

In May, the interim leader met Trump for the first time in Riyadh during the US president's regional tour. Formerly affiliated with Al-Qaeda, Sharaa's group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), was delisted as a terrorist group by Washington as recently as July.

Since taking power, Syria's new leaders have sought to break from their violent past and present a moderate image more tolerable to ordinary Syrians and foreign powers.

Sharaa's trip to Washington will be "the first in modern Syrian history for a Syrian president to the White House", historian Sami Moubayed told AFP.

It will also be Sharaa's second visit to the United States after a landmark trip in September, where he became the first Syrian president in decades to address the UN General Assembly.

"Sharaa's visit to the White House is a declaration of a new chapter in US policy on the Middle East," said Nick Heras, an analyst at the New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy.

"Trump is bringing Sharaa to the White House to make a big statement that Sharaa is not a terrorist anymore," he said. "The Trump team sees Sharaa as a pragmatic, and importantly pliable, leader who under American and Saudi guidance will secure Syria as a strategic bulwark in the region for decades to come."

Sharaa for his part is expected to seek funds for Syria.

"Sharaa wants Trump's blessing to unlock billions of dollars... both to kickstart the rehabilitation of Syria and to cement his control over the country indefinitely," Heras said.

Reconstruction is one of the most significant challenges facing Syria's new Islamist authorities after 13 long years of brutal civil war.

In October, the World Bank put a "conservative best estimate" of the cost of rebuilding Syria at \$216 billion.

A diplomatic source in Syria told AFP that the United States "intends to establish a military base at the Mazzeah military airport near Damascus to coordinate humanitarian aid and observe developments between Syria and Israel".

Another Syrian diplomatic source said "the question of Syria joining the anti-jihadist coalition will be at the top of the agenda" for the White House meeting.

The majority of US troops deployed in Syria are based in areas controlled by Kurdish forces in the north-east.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) played a vital role in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria, which ultimately led to the jihadist organisation's territorial defeat in the country in 2019.

The SDF are currently negotiating their integration into Syria's military.

Trump and Sharaa will also discuss the direct negotiations that Syria and Israel, which remain technically at war, opened after Assad's overthrow.

Trump has expressed hope that Syria will join other Arab countries that have normalised ties with Israel under the so-called Abraham Accords. In September, Sharaa said he hoped for a security deal to ease tensions with Israel but played down the prospect of recognition.

Since December, Israel has deployed troops in a UN-patrolled buffer zone that separates the countries' forces and has launched hundreds of strikes in Syria. Damascus has not retaliated.

For Heras, "Trump's vision for Syria includes significant Israeli influence over a strategic swath of the country for years to come".

Musk could become history's first trillionaire as Tesla shareholders approve giant pay package

NEW YORK

The world's richest man was just handed a chance to become history's first trillionaire.

Elon Musk won a shareholder vote on Thursday that would give the Tesla CEO stock worth \$1 trillion if he hits certain performance targets over the next decade. The vote followed weeks of debate over his management record at the electric car maker and whether anyone deserved such unprecedented pay, drawing heated commentary from small investors to giant pension funds and even the pope.

In the end, more than 75% of voters approved the plan as shareholders gathered in Austin, Texas, for their annual meeting.

"Fantastic group of shareholders," Musk said after the final vote was tallied, adding "Hang on to your Tesla stock."

The vote is a resounding victory for Musk showing investors still have faith in him as Tesla struggles with plunging sales, market share and profits in no small part due to Musk himself. Car buyers fled the company this year as he has ventured into politics both in the U.S. and Europe, and trafficked in conspiracy theories.

The vote came just three days after a report from Europe showing Tesla car sales plunged again last month, including a 50% collapse in Germany.

Still, many Tesla investors consider Musk as a sort of miracle man capable of stunning business feats, such as when he pulled Tesla from the brink of bankruptcy a half-dozen years ago to turn it into one of the world's most valuable companies.

The vote clears a path for Musk to become a trillion-

aire by granting him new shares, but it won't be easy. The board of directors that designed the pay package require him to hit several ambitious financial and operational targets, including increasing the value of the company on the stock market nearly six times its current level.

Musk also has to deliver 20 million Tesla electric vehicles to the market over 10 years amid new, stiff competition, more than double the number since the founding of the company. He also has to deploy 1 million of his human-like robots that he has promised will transform work and home — he calls it a "robot army" — from zero today.

Musk could add billions to his wealth in a few years by partly delivering these goals, according to various intermediate steps that will hand him newly created stock in the company as he nears the ultimate targets.

That could help him eventually top what is now considered America's all-time richest man, John D. Rockefeller. The oil titan is estimated by Guinness World Records to have been worth \$630 billion, in current dollars, at his peak wealth more than 110 years ago. Musk is worth \$493 billion, as estimated by Forbes magazine.

Musk's win came despite opposition from several large funds, including CalPERS, the biggest U.S. public pension, and Norway's sovereign wealth fund. Two corporate watchdogs, Institutional Shareholder Services and Glass Lewis, also blasted the package, which so angered Musk he took to calling them "corporate terrorists" at a recent investor meeting.

Critics argued that the board of directors was too

behind to Musk, his behavior too reckless lately and the riches offered too much.

"He has hundreds of billions of dollars already in the company and to say that he won't stay without a trillion is ridiculous," said Sam Abuelsamid, an analyst at research firm Telemetry who has been covering Tesla for nearly two decades. "It's absurd that shareholders think he is worth this much."

Supporters said that Musk needed to be incentivized to focus on the company as he works to transform it into an AI powerhouse using software to operate hundreds of thousands of self-driving Tesla cars — many without steering wheels — and Tesla robots deployed in offices, factories and homes doing many tasks now handled by humans. "This AI chapter needs one person to lead it and that's Musk," said financial analyst Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities. "It's a huge win for shareholders."

Investors voting for the pay had to consider not only this Musk promise of a bold, new tomorrow, but whether he could ruin things today: He had threatened to walk away from the company, which investors feared would tank the stock.

Tesla shares, already up 80% in the past year, rose on news of the vote in after-hours trading but then flattened basically unchanged to \$445.44.

For his part, Musk says the vote wasn't really about the money but getting a higher Tesla stake — it will double to nearly 30% — so he could have more power over the company. He said that was a pressing concern given Tesla's future "robot army" that he suggested he didn't trust anyone else to control given the possible danger to humanity.

Vande Mataram: The Eternal Song That Binds a Nation's Soul

Long before the tricolour was raised over a free India, before the Constitution was written, and even before Mahatma Gandhi's salt march stirred the conscience of a subcontinent, India had already found her voice - not in a speech or a manifesto, but in a song. Vande Mataram.

Those two words, first penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in the late 19th century, were far more than a literary creation; they were a revelation. When they appeared in Anandamath in 1882, they resonated with something primordial - the cry of a civilisation awakening from centuries of subjugation. Vande Mataram was not composed merely to inspire rebellion; it was written to consecrate it. Through it, Bankim gave a colonised people not a slogan of defiance, but a sacred incantation of faith, love, and courage.

In those verses, the soul of India - weary yet unbroken - found its anthem. It was as if the land itself had begun to sing through the voice of her son.

A Hymn Born of Devotion

To understand Vande Mataram is to recognise that it was born not of politics, but of bhakti - devotion. The mother invoked by Bankim was not a mere metaphor for geography; she was the embodiment of Shakti, the divine feminine energy that creates, nurtures, and protects the universe. The Mother was not limited by borders or by faith. She was eternal, cosmic, and sacred - her soil sanctified, her rivers divine, her children bound by her love.

At a time when British rule sought to drain India not only of wealth but of self-worth, Bankim's hymn restored dignity. It reminded a conquered people that their land was not a colony but a consecrated temple. Each utterance of Vande Mataram became a form of sadhana - spiritual discipline - a way to merge one's personal destiny with the destiny of the Mother.

To chant Vande Mataram was to say: I belong. Not to an empire or a ruler, but to a moral universe defined by reverence and duty.

The Revolutionary's Prayer

From the pages of Anandamath, Vande Mataram leapt into the streets, the prisons, and the gallows. It became the heartbeat of India's awakening. The revolutionaries who carried bombs in their satchels and the ascetics who carried only conviction in their hearts both drew strength from it.

When they went to their deaths, they did not cry for vengeance - they whispered Vande Mataram. It was not anger that gave them courage, but surrender - surrender to the Mother's call, surrender to the sanctity of sacrifice.

During the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, Bengal's young men and women sang Vande Mataram in defiance of British bans. Meetings began and ended with its chant; police lathis and bullets could not silence it. Across the subcontinent - from Punjab to Tamil Nadu, from Calcutta's streets to Bombay's mills - the song became synonymous with the struggle itself.

The British feared Vande Mataram not because it was seditious, but because it was sacred. They could outlaw pamphlets and arrest protestors, but they could not imprison faith.

The Song's Spiritual Interpreter
Among those who grasped the deeper meaning of Vande Mataram was Sri Aurobindo Ghosh. For him, the song was no mere patriotic cry; it was a mantra - a spiritual formula awakening a nation's consciousness.

He wrote:
"The Mother is not a piece of earth or a mass of matter; she is a Power, a living consciousness."

To sing Vande Mataram, therefore, was to invoke that Power - to align oneself with the divine energy that sustains the nation's soul. This interpretation transformed the political struggle into a spiritual one. The fight for freedom was not merely against foreign rule; it was for moral renewal, for self-realisation as a civilisation.

It was this sense of sacred duty that gave India's national movement a moral gravity unique among the anti-colonial struggles of



the 20th century. The Indian freedom struggle, guided by such spiritual understanding, remained largely rooted in ahimsa (non-violence), in restraint, and in the pursuit of truth - principles born not of weakness, but of reverence. A Song for All Children of the Mother

The beauty of Vande Mataram lies in its universality. In its earliest years, the song transcended religious and regional identities. Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, and Muslims sang it alike, bound by a shared emotion that defied doctrinal boundaries.

The divisions that later arose - over religious interpretation or political expediency - were not inherent to the song. They were the product of misunderstanding, of failing to perceive that the "Mother" in Vande Mataram was not sectarian. She was Bharat Mata - the land itself, the living embodiment of all its children, regardless of creed.

Even Rabindranath Tagore, who later penned Jana Gana Mana, saw no contradiction between the two. One was the nation's spiritual invocation; the other, its formal anthem. If Jana Gana Mana expressed the unity of the people under divine providence, Vande Mataram expressed their adoration of that divine presence in the form of the land itself.

In truth, the two songs complete each other - one official, the other eternal.

After Independence: The Heartbeat of a Free Nation

When India attained freedom in 1947, a debate arose over which song should serve as the national anthem. Eventually, Jana Gana Mana was chosen for its inclusivity and ease of rendition. Yet Vande Mataram was not displaced; it was given a place of honour as the National Song - an acknowledgment that some sentiments are too sacred for ceremony.

While the anthem is sung in formal gatherings, Vande Mataram remains the spontaneous cry of the heart. It surfaces in moments of collective pride and anguish - when soldiers march to battle, when citizens unite in disaster relief, when a child learns the meaning of patriotism in school.

For every Indian, regardless of generation, the song evokes the same emotion - a sense that life gains purpose only when it contributes to the larger life of the Motherland.

Beyond the Temporal: A Song of the Spirit

In the 21st century, as India strides forward in science, technology, and global stature, Vande Mataram remains the invisible thread that connects progress to purpose. It reminds us that nationalism is not a performance for the world's stage but a quiet integrity of being - the ability to see one's work, one's conduct, and one's compassion as service to the Mother.

Globalisation may have blurred boundaries, but it cannot erase belonging. Vande Mataram reawakens that sense of belonging, teaching that patriotism is not possession but participation - participation in the moral and cultural rhythm of a civilisation that has endured for millennia.

To say Vande Mataram today is to reaffirm an ancient covenant: that we are trustees of a sacred inheritance. The rivers we pollute, the forests we destroy, the injustice we tolerate - all are affronts to the Mother whose blessings we invoke. The song, therefore, is not only a call to emotion but to action - to live with gratitude, responsibility, and harmony.

The Song's Moral Vision
What sustains a nation through centuries of turmoil? Not merely armies or

participate in an unbroken tradition that stretches from Bankim's quill to the nation's conscience - a reminder that devotion to the Mother is measured not by words but by deeds.

To serve the Mother is to serve her children - to heal division, to uphold fairness, to act with compassion. The moral power of Vande Mataram lies precisely here: it turns patriotism from rhetoric into responsibility.

A Legacy Beyond Time

Perhaps this is why Vande Mataram endures when so much else fades. Political slogans come and go, but sacred songs do not die; they evolve with the people who carry them.

In the villages where independence is still a work in progress, and in the cities where modernity often breeds amnesia, the song continues to echo - sometimes in music, sometimes in silence.

It reminds India that progress without gratitude is arrogance, and that no nation can stand tall without bowing first to its source of strength.

Vande Mataram thus remains India's spiritual constitution - unwritten but undeniable. It affirms that true freedom is not license but discipline, not rebellion but reverence. To live by its spirit is to balance tradition with transformation, to be modern yet mindful, powerful yet pure.

The Eternal Call

In the end, Vande Mataram is not just the story of a song; it is the story of a people learning to see their land as divine, their freedom as duty, and their identity as sacred trust.

When millions rise to sing it today, they are not simply recalling history; they are renewing faith - faith in the endurance of India's civilisation, in the unity of her people, and in the moral order that binds them beyond time.

In a world noisy with division, Vande Mataram offers silence filled with purpose - a silence in which the heart can still hear the Mother's whisper: Serve, love, protect.

For as long as those words are spoken, India will remain more than a nation - she will remain a prayer. Vande Mataram.

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Doinik Batorikakot (Assamese). Guwahati edition. 20 Oct 2025.

সাংস্কৃতিক বন্ধন আৰু আঞ্চলিক সংযোগ সুদৃঢ় কৰাৰ লক্ষ্যৰে উত্তৰ-পূব সংহতি ৰেলী



গুৱাহাটী, ১৯ অক্টোবৰঃ অসম তথা অসমীয়া উত্তৰ-পূবৰ পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ সাতখন ৰাজ্য সামৰি মেঘালয়ৰ বি-ই-ভি জিলাৰ মেৰাই বিজটত অনুষ্ঠিত হোৱা এক বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠানত উত্তৰ-পূব সংহতি ৰেলী ২০২৬ মুকলি কৰাৰ কথা অনুষ্ঠানিকভাৱে ঘোষণা কৰে। সমগ্ৰ উত্তৰ-পূব সংহতি সাংস্কৃতিক বন্ধন আৰু আঞ্চলিক সংযোগ শক্তিশালী কৰাৰ লক্ষ্যৰে এই অনুষ্ঠানটোৱে এক উল্লেখযোগ্য পদক্ষেপ গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। অনুষ্ঠানত মুখ্য অতিথি হিচাপে উপস্থিত থাকে মেঘালয়ৰ পৰ্যটন মন্ত্ৰী টিমথি গুপ্তাই। তেওঁ এই সমাৰোহৰ আনুষ্ঠানিক শুভাৰম্ভ কৰাৰ কথা ঘোষণা কৰে। লগতে এই অনুষ্ঠানত উপস্থিত থাকে মেঘালয়ৰ বিধায়ক এ এল হেককে ধৰি অসম, মণিপুৰ আৰু মেঘালয়ৰ অন্যান্য

বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিৰ লগতে অঞ্চলটোৰ অন্যান্য প্ৰান্ত তথা দিল্লী আৰু কলকাতাৰ আয়োজক সমিতিৰ বিষয়ববীয়াসকল উপস্থিত থাকে। এই অনুষ্ঠানে আন্তৰাজ্যিক সম্পৰ্ক শক্তিশালী কৰাৰ লগতে উত্তৰ-পূব ভাৰতৰ এক সুকীয়া তথা অনন্য পৰিচয় বিস্তাৰ আৰু প্ৰান্তত দাঙি ধৰাৰ বাবে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি সম্পন্ন নোতা, পৰিকল্পনাকাৰী অংগ আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক প্ৰতিনিধি হিচাপে কাম কৰি আহিছে। বেঙ্গল জৰিয়তে উল্লিখিত আঠখন ৰাজ্যৰ মাজত সহযোগিতা গঢ়ি তোলাৰ লগতে অঞ্চলটোৰ বৈচিত্ৰ্য, ঐতিহ্য আৰু সম্ভাৱনাক উজ্জ্বল কৰি তোলাৰ লক্ষ্য ৰখা হৈছে। এই সমাৰোহে চৰকাৰী সংস্থা, শৈক্ষিক প্ৰতিষ্ঠান আৰু স্থানীয় সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ সৈতে অংশীদাৰিত্বৰে পৰ্যটন, সাংস্কৃতিক বিনিময় আৰু আঞ্চলিক উন্নয়নৰ পদক্ষেপক প্ৰসৰিত কৰাৰ বাবেও এক মঞ্চ হিচাপে কাম কৰিব। উল্লেখ্য যে, কিছুদিন পূৰ্বে নতুন দিল্লীত অনুষ্ঠিত এক বৈঠকত উত্তৰ-পূব সংহতি ৰেলীৰ মুখ্য কাৰ্যবাহী বিষয়া বিশ্বদীপ গুপ্তাই কলকাতাত কেন্দ্ৰীয় পথ পৰিবহণ জকা ফাইলপথ মন্ত্ৰী নীতিন গাডকাৰীক আনুষ্ঠানিকভাৱে আমন্ত্ৰণ জনাইছিল আৰু কলকাতাত এই ৰেলী শুভ উদ্বোধন উদ্বোধন কৰি অঞ্চলটোত সংযোগ আৰু আন্তঃগাঁথনি বৃদ্ধিৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত বিশেষ অলোচনাব জৰিয়তে অনুমতি আদায় কৰিছিল। মেঘালয়ত অনুষ্ঠিত হোৱা এই প্ৰাৰম্ভিক শুভ উদ্বোধন অনুষ্ঠানে উত্তৰ-পূবৰ সংহতি আৰু প্ৰগতিৰ এক উল্লেখযোগ্য দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰ প্ৰতি প্ৰদান কৰা প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতিৰ সুৰ আৰু ৰূপৰেখা নিৰ্ধাৰণ কৰে। উত্তৰ-পূব সংহতি ৰেলীৰ জনসংযোগ বিষয়া সঞ্জীৱ বৈশাই জনোৱা মতে কে.আৰ.চি. ফাউণ্ডেশ্বাৰন উদ্যোগত আয়োজন কৰিবলগীয়া নৰ্থ ইষ্ট ইন্টিগ্ৰেচন ৰেলী দুচকীয়া আৰু চাৰিচকীয়া বাহনেৰে ৩০ দিনৰ বাবে এক দীঘলীয়া পথৰ যাত্ৰা অনুষ্ঠিত হ'ব। এই যাত্ৰা পথত বিভিন্ন স্থানত বিভিন্ন বাবে ৰেলীয়া অনুষ্ঠান সম্পন্ন হ'ব। যিয়ে বাৰসায় আৰু সম্ভাৱনাক উদগনি দিয়াৰ লগতে স্থানীয় সংস্কৃতি আৰু পৰ্যটন বিকাশত সহায়ক হ'ব। এই ৰেলীত অংশগ্ৰহণৰ বাবে পঞ্জীয়ন <http://northeastintegrationrally.in> ইতিমধ্যে মুকলি কৰা হৈছে বুলি তেওঁ মন্তব্য প্ৰদান কৰে।

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Eastern Chronicle (Kolkata, Guwahati & Silchar Editions) 20th Oct 2025

North East Integration Rally pre-launch ceremony held in Shillong

SHILLONG: The pre-launch ceremony of the North East Integration Rally (NEIR) 2026 was held in Shillong on Friday evening, marking the beginning of a movement aimed at strengthening cultural and regional integration across the north eastern states.

The event, organised by the NEIR 2026 organising committee, witnessed enthusiastic participation from dignitaries, policymakers, and members of civil society who came together to celebrate the spirit of unity in the region. Speaking at the ceremony, Meghalaya tourism minister Timothy D. Shira lauded the organisers for initiating such an ambitious and meaningful programme. "It is important for all of us to work together to bring prosperity and development to our region," he said, commending the efforts of KRC Foundation founder Biswadeep Gupta for conceptualising and leading the initiative.

The minister highlighted the vast potential of the people of the Northeast, emphasising the need to nurture skills and channel collective energy toward progress. He also assured support from the Tourism Department for the



upcoming rally, which is scheduled to be held in January 2026. "I hope many people from across the Northeast will participate and make this rally a grand success," he added.

MLA and NEIR Patron A. L. Hek, who also addressed the gathering, wished the organisers success and underscored the importance of such movements in fostering mutual understanding and solidarity among

the states of the region. Other speakers included Joydeep Gupta, co-chairman of FICCI's Assam State Council, Prof. (Dr.) Sukamal Deb and Col. Shanti Singh (Retd) shared their perspectives on regional cooperation, economic empowerment, and the role of youth in nation-building.

Delivering the keynote address, Biswadeep Gupta outlined the concept and vision of NEIR, along with its upcoming campaigns, cultural activities, and outreach programmes designed to promote unity and collaboration among the north-eastern states.

A message extending best wishes to NEIR 2026 from the Prof Ashok Kumar Nagawat, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University, was also shown during the event. The VC also stated that they are

happy to collaborate with NEIR 2026. The evening also featured a cultural segment that captured the essence of the movement. K. Bobin from Imphal performed the NEIR theme song, drawing applause from the audience and symbolising the emotional and cultural bonds that tie the region together.

Earlier in the day, the NEIR organising committee met Timothy D. Shira at the Meghalaya Secretariat to brief him about the initiative and its planned activities. During the meeting, the minister reiterated his appreciation for the effort, calling NEIR a "meaningful step toward building stronger bonds among the people of the Northeast."

The North East Integration Rally, scheduled for January 2026, aims to serve as a unifying platform that celebrates shared heritage, promotes inter-state collaboration, and highlights the collective aspirations of the region. MEBAAI Group also presented a detailed program for the Meghalaya chapter. Youths from the Meghalaya Grassroots Music Project (MGMP) also entertained the crowd with their talents.

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



The Sentinel. Guwahati, Jorhat edition. 20 Oct 2025.

पूर्वांतर में सांस्कृतिक बंधन और क्षेत्रीय संपर्क को मजबूत करने के लिए पूर्वांतर एकीकरण रेली का पूर्व-उद्घाटन समारोह आयोजित

गुवाहाटी, 19 अक्टूबर (एस)। पूर्वांतर एकीकरण रेली 2026 (एनईआईआर26) का प्री-लांच समारोह 17 अक्टूबर को मेघालय के री-भोई स्थित मेबाई रिसोर्ट में आयोजित किया गया। यह रेली 4 जनवरी से शुरू होकर 4 फरवरी,



सांस्कृतिक प्रतिनिधियों के एक समागम के रूप में कार्य किया। अपनी यात्रा के माध्यम से, पूर्वांतर एकीकरण रेली का लक्ष्य उत्तर पूर्व के आठ राज्यों के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा देते हुए क्षेत्र की विविधता, विरासत और क्षमता को उजागर

2026 तक जारी रहेगा। यह आयोजन आगामी रेली की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है जिसका उद्देश्य पूर्वांतर में सांस्कृतिक संबंधों और क्षेत्रीय संपर्क को मजबूत करना है। समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में मेघालय के पर्यटन मंत्री टिमोथी शिरा उपस्थित थे और रेली के आधिकारिक शुभारंभ की घोषणा की। समारोह में मेघालय के विधायक ए.एल. हेक, असम, मणिपुर और मेघालय के अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति और क्षेत्र के अन्य भागों, दिल्ली और कोलकाता से आई आयोजन समिति के सदस्य भी उपस्थित थे। यह समारोह अंतर-राज्यीय संबंधों को मजबूत करने और पूर्वांतर भारत को साझा पहचान का जश्न मनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध नेताओं, योजनाकारों और

करना है। यह रेली सरकारी निकायों, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और स्थानीय समुदायों के साथ साझेदारी में पर्यटन, सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान और क्षेत्रीय विकास पहलों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक मंच के रूप में भी काम करेगी। कुछ दिन पहले, नई दिल्ली में एक बैठक में, एनईआईआर26 के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी विश्वदीप गुप्ता ने केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री नितिन गडकरी को कोलकाता में रेली का उद्घाटन करने और हरी झंडी दिखाने के लिए औपचारिक रूप से आमंत्रित किया था, तथा इस क्षेत्र में कनेक्टिविटी और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास को बढ़ावा देने में उनकी भागीदारी के प्रतीकात्मक और व्यावहारिक महत्व को रेखांकित किया था।

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Shillong Ignites a Movement: NEIR 2026 Pre-Launch Sets the Stage for Unity, Culture, and Adventure in Northeast India

MEGHALAYA

Source: Waari Singbul Network
10/20/2025 - 2 min read

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BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ACTIVITY PROGRAM





10 JAN
NE Cultural Fest
 Any Form of Art and Cultural showcase can be showcased here.
 The Top performances will be invited to perform in the Main Event.
 Schools, Colleges, University Department, Individual & Group Competition.



11 JAN
Adventure Sports
 Trekking | Canyoneering | Sport Climbing | Disaster Management Technique | Water Sports
www.krcfoundation.org



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
 Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley by different sector stakeholders.
 Includes: KCCs, and D'governance as a platform for regional planning, awareness, capacity building, and awareness campaigns. Participation through invitation only. Different awards are provided.



12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave
 Climate change will accelerate on Global Change, climate and water planning. The Conclave will focus on the modeling, assessment and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competitive and certification. River Barak, Climate Change.



JAN'25
Online Global Fest
 All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs, and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.



10 JAN
Media Conclave
 Media Conclave: Media Experts, Webinars, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'.
 Webinars: Journalism, Marketing, Design & Content Creation, Sports, Games, Analytics, Webinars.

Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



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Contact:
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11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave
 The 4th Annual Success Conclave is going to be held at the theme: 'From School to Campus to Corporate'. Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors.
 Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & Colleges, Extension, Seminars, Public Speaking (College).
 In an online event, various students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate.



10 JAN
Media Conclave
 Media Conclave: Media Experts, Webinars, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'.
 Webinars: Journalism, Marketing, Design & Content Creation, Sports, Games, Analytics, Webinars.

10-12 JAN
Science Studio
 Get a glimpse of Science to its new heights. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, Administrators | Parents.
Raw science out of textbooks into real-life experiences of students.

DEC'24-JAN'25
Photography
 Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture.
 Real-Time Photography Contest of 'Barak Festival 2025'.

Barak Festival

Band Night | 10 JAN
 Musical Night | 11 JAN



10-12 JAN
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