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PERSPECTIVE

Steve Jobs had a high school GPA of 2.65.

Man arrested with two high-explosive grenades in Imphal East

IMPHAL

A 42-year-old man was arrested along with two high-explosive grenades in a cordon-and-search operation conducted at a house in Manipur's Imphal East district on Thursday night, officials said on Friday. Based on intelligence inputs from various sources that some anti-socials were trying to engage in criminal activities while in possession of illegal items, a joint team from the central and state police launched a flash operation.

The operation, which lasted approximately two hours, resulted in the arrest of Yumnam Chandra Singh (42), also known as Baby, a resident of Kontha Ahallup Makha Leikai under Heingang police station in Imphal East district. He was picked up from his residence. The following items were recovered from him: two No. 36 High Explosive Grenades, one mobile handset, and one Aadhaar card.

During the on-the-spot interrogation, the police demanded proper documents for possession of the explosive items, to which the arrestee refused to reply. Consequently, the police picked him up from his house. Police registered the case under the Arms Act, 1959, and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and further legal proceedings are underway.

WHO SAID WHAT



Bhagwan Shri Krishna teaches us the path of helping the poor. That very spirit inspires various initiatives of ours like Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana and more.
~ Narendra Modi, PM

Meghalaya Flags Growing HIV Crisis as Cases Cross 10,000; 500 Children Affected



SHILLONG

Meghalaya is facing an escalating HIV crisis, with health authorities confirming more than 10,000 infections statewide - including 500 children. East Jaintia Hills continues to record the highest concentration of cases, reinforcing concerns about persistent transmission in the region.

Officials say most of the infected children come from economically weaker sections, underscoring the intersection of poverty and public

health vulnerability. "More than 10,000 people have tested positive, and it's worrying that 500 of them are children," a senior official said.

According to the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society (MACS), unprotected heterosexual intercourse remains the primary mode of transmission. The agency also notes that fear and stigma continue to deter many from getting tested, delaying diagnosis and treatment. This reluctance, MACS warns, is a key obstacle in curbing further spread.

With World AIDS Day approach-

ing on December 1, MACS project director Dr. K.L. Iawbor called for a united response. "This virus is very dangerous, and it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to stop its transmission so we can make our state and country HIV-free by 2030," he said.

In recent screening drives, MACS tested 6,882 individuals, of whom 24 were confirmed HIV-positive. Officials said 87 per cent of new detections emerged from targeted outreach among high-risk groups and the general population - an indication of the effectiveness of community-focused interventions.

To mark World AIDS Day, MACS will organise a bikers' rally and other awareness events on December 1. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, cabinet ministers, MLAs from East Khasi Hills, nursing and paramedical students, and people living with HIV are expected to participate. The initiative aims to amplify awareness, encourage early testing, and reinforce shared responsibility in combating the disease.

Manipur Gov briefs IPS probationers on state situation, urges focus on peace solution



IMPHAL

Ten Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers who called on the Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, were briefed on the prevailing situation in the border state, with a focus on efforts to achieve a peace solution.

A Raj Bhawan communique on Friday stated that the IPS probationers met the Governor at Raj

Bhavan, Imphal.

The Governor welcomed the visiting IPS officers and urged them to perform their duties diligently in the interest of the public, particularly in Manipur.

The Governor also congratulated them on completing their training and called upon them to uphold integrity, professionalism, and the highest standards of duty.

He expressed confidence that they will serve the people with dedication and contribute effectively to strengthening law and order. In view of the state's current situation, the Governor briefed them on initiatives by his office to facilitate amicable solutions between the two conflicting communities.

He also advised the IPS probationers to familiarize themselves with the current situation in the state.

The Governor was referring to the ethnic violence that erupted on May 3, 2023, which has claimed over 260 lives to date.

'Oitharei' Screens at IFFI Goa, Puts Manipur's Conflict and Resilience in Global Spotlight



GOA

Manipuri feature film Oitharei, directed by debutant filmmaker Dinesh Naorem, was screened at INOX Panjim on Thursday evening as part of the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa.

Earlier in the day, the cast and crew walked the IFFI red carpet, using the prestigious platform to spotlight Manipur's ongoing conflict and its profound human toll.

Their presence drew global attention to the personal stories often overshadowed by headlines, urging international audiences to recognise the lived

experiences of those affected.

Selected for the Indian Panorama, the 102-minute feature Oitharei ("Save My Soul") marks a significant moment for Manipuri cinema, breaking a seven-year gap since the last Manipuri feature, Elgi Kona (Stallone, My Pony), was showcased at IFFI in 2019.

A stark and deeply emotional narrative, 'Oitharei' portrays the struggles of a widow navigating trauma amid the state's ongoing ethnic unrest. The film serves as a powerful reminder that socially conscious storytelling remains vibrant in Manipur—capturing both the suffering and the unwavering resilience of its people.

Assam Emerging as Major Air Pollution Hotspot, Finds New Satellite-Based Study

KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

GUWAHATI: Delhi's air pollution crisis often dominates national attention, but a new satellite-based assessment shows that Assam is rapidly joining the ranks of India's worst-affected regions.

According to a study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), eleven districts in Assam now feature among the country's fifty most polluted districts based on PM2.5 levels. Delhi also accounts for eleven districts on the list, followed by Bihar and Haryana with seven each. The remaining spots include districts from Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.

The report points to widespread non-compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards across several states. All monitored districts in Delhi, Assam, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Jammu and Kashmir exceeded the annual limits.

Assam's situation is particularly troubling. All thirty-four districts assessed in the state breached the national standards in 2024. CREA notes that Assam, Delhi, Punjab, and Tripura remain year-round pollu-



tion hotspots, even during the monsoon months when air typically improves across much of India. Assam recorded twenty-one districts above PM2.5 limits during the monsoon, suggesting that weather alone cannot dilute the region's underlying emissions.

The study highlights an emerging trend: the Northeastern states, long considered relatively clean, are now unexpected pollution hotspots. Assam and Tripura ranked among the top five most polluted regions

in three seasons—winter, summer, and monsoon.

CREA recommends that states prepare district-level air quality action plans, using satellite data to pinpoint pollution hotspots and direct resources where public exposure is highest. It stresses that persistent high PM2.5 levels across the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the Northeast will require sustained action on major emission sources, including power generation, industry, transport, and biomass burning.

India's tea sector must go beyond Darjeeling, Assam, Nilgiri teas: Piyush Goyal

GUWAHATI

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has called on India's tea sector to look beyond its traditional strengths and develop a new generation of signature blends that align with changing consumer tastes, global wellness trends, and premium lifestyle markets.

Addressing the Sankalp Foundation's National Conference on Safe Tea Production in New Delhi on November 28, Goyal said that, while India remains globally recognised for Darjeeling, Assam, and Nilgiri teas, it is time to widen the country's catalogue of internationally marketable products.

He stressed that sustainability, responsible labour standards, and innovation are critical to maintaining high quality and low MRL levels, adding that the government and industry must work together to ensure that every cup of Indian tea reflects quality, heritage, and trust.

Goyal urged scientists and researchers to harness India's diverse agro-climatic strengths to develop new varieties and high-value products that can drive exports and boost incomes, particularly



for small growers.

Innovation-led value addition, he said, would help India remain competitive and future-ready in a rapidly evolving global tea market.

India is among the world's largest tea producers and exporters, shipping nearly 255 million tonnes annually, he noted. Safeguarding this key sector, which plays a vital role in India's hos-

pitality and trade culture, is essential, he said, adding that insights from the conference would guide the Ministry and the Tea Board in strengthening the industry.

Goyal highlighted a range of government initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including the Rs 1,000 crore support package for tea growers and workers and the Chai Sahayog App, which helps small growers secure better prices.

Tea, he said, is deeply embedded in India's social fabric and continues to bring families and communities together.

The Minister underscored the need for complete supply-chain traceability, urging researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to explore technologies such as blockchain to ensure end-to-end transparency. Such systems, he said, can document every stage of production, prevent mixing with inferior or imported teas, and reinforce global confidence in Indian blends.

Goyal encouraged the wider adoption of sustainable farming practices, including drip irrigation and eco-friendly packaging. Environmentally responsible methods, he said, must guide cul-

tivation and processing as the industry adapts to new global expectations.

He reiterated the need to expand India's share of value-added, branded, and packaged teas in domestic and international markets, moving beyond commodity exports.

The Ministry and the Tea Board, he assured, will support global outreach efforts through international events, trade fairs, and buyer-seller meets.

Calling for collective action, Goyal emphasised improving opportunities for children in tea-growing regions and strengthening skilling initiatives, mechanisation, and modern tools to help farmers enhance productivity and income. He stressed the importance of technology-driven systems to predict weather fluctuations and pest risks, enabling timely decision-making for growers. Goyal also encouraged the industry to embrace storytelling in tea marketing, highlighting origin, process, and uniqueness, and urged stakeholders to identify advanced testing equipment to maintain the highest quality standards.

He assured that FSSAI, BIS, and EIC are ready to support the creation of world-class testing facilities across India.

Gaurav Gogoi slams Assam Ceiling Amendment Bill, questions timing and intent

GUWAHATI

Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi on Saturday sharply criticised the Assam government over the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holding (Amendment) Bill, which aims to provide land pattas to tea garden workers.

Speaking at a review meeting at Rajiv Bhawan with district presidents, secretaries and coordinators from 22 districts, Gogoi questioned the "timing, intent and practicality" of the legislation. He said the move may "remain only on paper." Gogoi asked why the government waited ten years to bring a law on a long-standing demand of tea workers. "Tea workers have struggled for generations for land rights. If the government truly cared, they would have passed this Bill during the Sarbananda Sonowal era or after Himanta Biswa Sarma took over as Chief Minister," he said.

He accused the BJP government of presiding over the decline of Assam's tea sector instead of strengthening it. Gogoi alleged that many gardens saw forced

sales, exits of major companies and transfers to inexperienced managers.

"Workers stopped receiving PF, bonuses and basic facilities. And today, before giving pattas, the government doesn't even have an official record of garden ownership," he added.

Gogoi also questioned the Chief Minister's transparency in land matters. He alleged that some tea gardens linked to the CM and his family have been converted into resorts and luxury projects. "If the CM is committed, he should first publish the list of gardens owned by his family. Let pattas be given there first," he said.

He added that the Congress may take tea workers to these gardens to independently document ownership records and "place the truth before the people of Assam."

Gogoi highlighted what he called a collapse of basic services inside tea estates. He claimed the Jal Jeevan Mission has made no progress in tea gardens despite being overseen by a minister close to the Chief Minister.



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G-20 IN JOHANNESBURG

The 20th G-20 meeting in the South African capital was marked by quite a few significant developments as well as a departure from its tradition: that was the leaders' Declaration issued after the Summit. It was overshadowed and was almost at the risk of being defined by the absence of the 'big three' – the US President Donald Trump, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump not only boycotted the Summit, he sent a charge of 'd' affairs at the last minute to collect the gavel at the closing handover ahead of its G-20 presidency in Florida. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa refused to accept this insulting gesture.

The other significant development was the assertive agenda set by South Africa underscoring Africa's problems and aspirations. It is to be noted that G-20 summit was taking place for the first time in the African Continent. However, South Africa managed to secure the desired outcomes despite half-empty seats at the top and the disruptive US interventions. South Africa claimed it, "African moment" reflecting the realities of Global South especially of Africa – shocks of climate changes, unsustainable debt, growing inequality and Africa's continuing desire to shift from mineral exports to securing greater value for their economies.

The Summit on 22 and 23 November 2025 was attended by 17 Heads of Member-States, two representatives of regional bodies (European Union and African Union), the latter became a full member in the New Delhi Summit. Two other member-countries, Argentina and Mexico downgraded their delegations. The international organisations which were invited as Guest Participants included African Continental Free Trade Area (AFTA), African Development Bank (ADB), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Financial Stability Board (FSB), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), New Development Bank (NDB), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), South Centre (SC), South African Development Community (SADC), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Bank (WB), World Customs Organisation (WCO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Reflecting the African realities and aspirations, South Africa articulated the theme of the Summit, Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability. It is being interpreted as solidarity referring to close cooperation across diverse economies, rich and poor, equality referring to promoting equal opportunities and fair practices between and within countries, and sustainability aiming at a long-term development agenda that does not compromise the security of future generations.

The G-20 presidency is basically managed by Sherpa Working Groups. They interact with different departments of the member countries and prepare the Summit agenda. They coordinate with the G-20 president's representatives to conduct the operations. The Sherpa Track in Johannesburg consisted of 15 working groups – agriculture, anti-corruption, culture, development, digital economy, disaster risk-reduction, education, employment, empowerment of women, energy transitions, environment and climate sustainability, health, research and innovation, tourism, trade and investment.

South Africa identified several areas of focus as agenda priorities and high-level priorities. Priorities included disaster resilience, debt sustainability, energy-transition finance (mobilising funds for renewable energy) and critical minerals. The high-level priorities were Priority 1 – inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment and reducing inequality; Priority 2 – food security, the summit sparked optimism for Mzansi agriculture in 2025. Mzansi is a colloquial name for South Africa, and its agriculture sector is optimistic, aiming at leveraging global opportunities, securing technology to overcome challenges. The key themes of the sector include climate-smart farming, financial sustainability for new farmers, the integration of advanced technology and above all, youth empowerment. There is a segment call Mzansi Youth Farmers. Priority 3 – artificial intelligence and innovation for sustainable development.

On artificial intelligence (AI), Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a Global Compact to prevent misuse of AI and emphasised the need for critical technologies to be 'human-centric' instead of finance-centric. He was addressing the third session on, "A fair and just future for all – critical minerals, decent work artificial intelligence." He suggested further that technology applications should be global not national, should be inclusive not exclusive. He cited India's experience which reflects this model in the India's technology ecosystem. He assured the audience that this model has resulted in significant benefits in high-tech areas like Space applications, AI or Digital payments where it is a world leader.

The Prime Minister underscored the point that AI systems impact human life, security and public trust, so, it must be 'responsible and auditable'. He underlined that "AI should enhance human capabilities, but the ultimate responsibility for decision making always remains with human beings". The Prime Minister announced that India would be hosting the AI Impact Summit in February 2026 with the theme 'SarvajanamHitaya, SarvajanamSukhaya' (welfare for all, happiness for all). Invoking India's Vedic scriptures like the one quoted here by the Prime Minister, he articulated India's message for global welfare, asserting that India stood for development that is sustainable, trade that is trusted, finance that is fair and progress in which everyone prospers.

Interestingly, the next Summit will be held by the US presidency which boycotted the Johannesburg Summit, rejected the key agreements under South African presidency, criticised South Africa for its alleged persecution of white farmers and called Pretoria, the capital of South Africa as anti-American. What is more, Trump's current ultimatum to Ukraine to accept the peace settlement by the Thanksgiving Day, 27 November divided the attention of those Group of Seven (G7) leaders who were attending the Johannesburg summit.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority.

- Booker T. Washington

INDIA PAYS THE PRICE FOR MIGRATION



DR BUSHAN KUMAR

There is a simple truth we all accept in our personal lives: if our home is small, imperfect or filled with problems, we do not abandon it and go to live permanently in someone else's house. We try to fix it, improve it, strengthen it, and make it livable. Yet the same instinct disappears when it comes to our country. The moment our income rises and we become comfortable, we start looking for ways to leave the nation that raised us, educated us, and gave us the foundation on which our success stands. What is more surprising is that people often leave not when they are desperate or struggling, but when they finally reach a point where they could meaningfully give back. Over the last decade, India has been one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. Despite global slowdowns, India's GDP growth has been around 7% on average. The country is expanding highways at a record pace, building airports, adopting 5G faster than many Western nations, and creating one of the world's strongest digital ecosystems. Yet, even in this moment of growth, India is witnessing a silent but significant trend: those who have benefited the most from the country's progress are increasingly choosing to settle abroad. According to the United Nations International Migration Report 2024, India has the world's largest diaspora – nearly 1.8 crore Indians are living outside the country. Every year, around 2 to 3 lakh highly skilled professionals permanently migrate to the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, and the Gulf. The World Bank estimates that India loses nearly \$17-20 billion every year in human capital due to the permanent migration of skilled, educated workers.

This includes doctors, engineers, scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs – people who could contribute significantly to India's growth but end up strengthening foreign economies instead. The irony becomes even deeper when we examine who exactly is leaving. A large percentage

of those who migrate studied in India's subsidized higher education system. Institutes like IITs, NITs, IIMs, and AIIMS spend lakhs of rupees per student, while students pay only a fraction of the real cost. The nation invests in their talent, but just when they become capable of giving something back, they pack their bags. It is like a family raising a child with love, discipline, and sacrifice, only to watch him use his abilities for someone else's home. And the reasons people give for leaving are often the same: better lifestyle, cleaner surroundings, safety, infrastructure, higher salaries. It is true that the salary gap is large – a software engineer in Silicon Valley may earn ₹1.2 crore a year, while the same job in India may pay ₹12-20 lakh. It is true that cities like Toronto, Sydney, and Amsterdam rank much higher on global quality-of-life indexes. But the question is not whether these countries are better today. The deeper question is: how will India ever reach those levels if everyone who can improve India decides to leave?

A study by Yale and Stanford researchers in 2023 pointed out an interesting psychological trend: migration from India is increasingly driven not by necessity, but by aspiration. As incomes rise, expectations rise even faster. Families want global exposure, branded lifestyles, and the social status that comes with saying "my son is in America." It is not poverty pushing people out; it is a mindset telling them that staying back is a sign of lower ambition. For many, leaving becomes an escape, not just a choice. But escape comes at a cost. Every time a skilled professional leaves, India loses more than just a worker. We lose innovation capacity. We lose future taxpayers. When a doctor trained in India serves in London or New York, it is the British or American taxpayer who benefits from our investment. When Indian scientists file patents abroad, it strengthens foreign industries. When Indian startup founders migrate to Silicon Valley, the next big company, the next breakthrough, the next job-creating

machine is lost not to the world, but specifically to India. Yet, the solution is not to stop people from going abroad. Migration itself is not the problem; migration without contribution is. Countries like China, Israel, South Korea, and Ireland have large diasporas too, but their overseas citizens remain deeply connected to their homeland. They invest, they mentor, they bring technology back, they spend time in their home country, and they help shape national policies. Their success abroad becomes an asset for their nation, not a loss. India's diaspora is talented, but the level of contribution is still far from its potential. Many Indians return only for weddings, festivals, or family visits. Few returns to work for even a year, start a business, mentor young people, fund research, or take part in policy dialogues. We expect India to grow, but we want it to grow without our time, without our effort, and without our involvement. The truth is, no nation becomes great because its people leave.

Nations become great because their people stay, build, contribute, and believe. Japan rebuilt itself after war because its young generation refused to leave. South Korea transformed from a poor agricultural country in the 1960s to a global tech powerhouse because its educated youth chose to stay and create. China's rise in manufacturing and technology was powered by the return of thousands of overseas Chinese professionals. Countries do not become strong because foreigners help; they become strong because their own people take responsibility. India today stands at a unique moment. The country is growing, changing, transforming – but the pace depends on us. If our best minds keep leaving, India will keep moving two steps forward and one step back. But if our best minds stay or at least stay connected with purpose, India's growth can accelerate in a way the world has rarely seen. Contribution does not always mean spending money or making huge sacrifices. It can begin with something as simple as sharing knowledge with Indian students, mentoring startups,

Pakistan's Silent Constitutional Coup — A Shift India Cannot Ignore

In Pakistan, power has often shifted through dramatic military takeovers. But what is happening now is something different: quieter, smoother, and in some ways far more permanent. Over the past week, Pakistan's Parliament rushed through the 27th Constitutional Amendment, and with President Asif Ali Zardari's approval, the amendment has fundamentally altered the country's power structure. Many analysts are calling it a "silent constitutional coup," because unlike tanks rolling into Islamabad, this one has been carried out in the name of legality and consensus.

At the centre of this shift is Army Chief General Asim Munir. He is set to retire on November 28, but the amendment ensures he won't really be stepping down. Instead, it creates a brand-new role: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). Munir is expected to transition straight into this position, where he will hold operational command over all three services: the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as control over Pakistan's nuclear command. Essentially, the most powerful man in Pakistan is being given even more formal power, but this time under constitutional cover.

The amendment also abolishes the office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and transfers those responsibilities to the new CDF. While Pakistan is presenting this as a structural reform similar to India's Chief of Defence Staff system, the comparison does not hold. India's CDS does not have direct operational command and functions firmly under civilian authority. Pakistan's version, however, hands sweeping military and strategic control to a single uniformed figure with very limited oversight.

What makes this shift even more striking is the lifetime immunity granted to five-star officers. This means General Munir once he becomes CDF cannot be tried or prosecuted for any action taken in office, now or in the future. Alongside this, Pakistan is setting up a new Federal Constitutional Court, which will take over the Supreme Court's role in constitutional matters. With judges likely appointed through an executive heavily influenced by the military, this development raises serious questions about the future of judicial independence.

What truly stands out is the political consensus behind the change. Both the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and

the Pakistan People's Party approved the amendment, effectively removing any possibility of political pushback. This is unlike previous eras Zia-ul-Haq in the 1980s or Pervez Musharraf in 1999, where military rulers had to overthrow elected governments. This time, Pakistan's elected leadership has willingly signed away significant civilian space.

For India, these developments are not just an internal reshuffle in a neighbouring country. They reshape the entire security landscape. With the military now formally entrenched at the top of Pakistan's constitutional structure, India's western front becomes more unpredictable. The Pakistan Army has always controlled the country's India policy, especially on Kashmir, terrorism, and nuclear posture. But now this control becomes constitutionally reinforced and highly personalised.

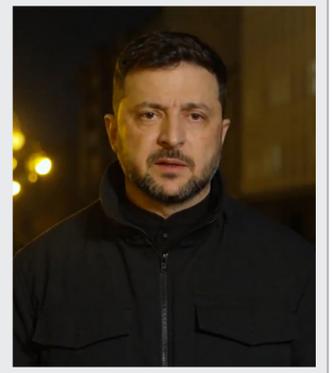
A single individual holding command of nuclear assets and strategic decision-making creates the risk of sharper escalation during crises. Pakistan has previously hinted at using tactical nuclear weapons when facing Indian conventional pressure. With the military further empowered, such state-

investing even a small amount in Indian enterprises, supporting research, participating in policy discussions, promoting local innovations, or returning for short-term work. Every bit matters. A nation is built not by one giant act of patriotism, but by millions of small acts of responsibility.

In the end, it comes down to one question: do we want to be beneficiaries of strong India, or do we want to be the architects of it?

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Russia is eager for Ukraine to make mistakes. We won't make any. Our work goes on. Our struggle goes on. We have no right to fall short, no right to retreat or turn on one another. If we lose our unity, we risk losing everything – ourselves, Ukraine, and our future. We must stand together. We must hold our ground. There is no other choice. There will never be another Ukraine. We defend Ukraine. Glory to Ukraine! ~ Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine



ments may carry even more credibility.

Domestically, Pakistan might also see increased reliance on anti-India rhetoric. Historically, the military has often used this narrative to strengthen its legitimacy during periods of political instability or economic crisis. With the amendment granting almost unchecked authority to the military leadership, this pattern could intensify.

There are implications beyond South Asia as well. Pakistan's growing outreach to major powers, including the United States and Gulf countries, gives it leverage to offer strategic assets like Gwadar or Parni to foreign militaries. If either Western powers or China gain deeper operational access to Pakistan's coastline, the balance of power in the Indian Ocean could shift in ways unfavourable to India.

In short, Pakistan's silent constitutional coup marks a major shift in its internal structure and its regional posture. It formalizes the military's dominance in a way that is unlikely to be reversed for years, if not decades. For India, this means recalibrating expectations, preparing for a more militarized neighbour, and recognizing that Islamabad's democratic façade has just grown thinner than ever.

Pawan Khera slams Assam CM Sarma's administration, alleging large-scale corruption and erosion of state's cultural identity

ASSAM CM WILL NOT RETURN TO POWER, HE WILL GO TO JAIL: PAWAN KHERA

GUWAHATI

Congress leader Pawan Khera on Friday criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's administration, alleging large-scale corruption and erosion of the state's cultural identity.

Addressing a press conference in Guwahati, Khera claimed that the BJP-led government has ignored the issues faced by tea garden workers and misused its power.

Khera said Assam's global reputation, built by icons like Zubeen Garg, was being tarnished under the current regime.

"Assam was once known for tea, culture and harmony. Today, it is being associated with drugs, cattle smuggling and corruption. Even the meaning of 'ABCD' has changed," he remarked.

Accusing the BJP-led government of ignoring long-pending issues of tea garden workers, Khera said the chief minister had "misused power instead of solving people's



problems."

Khera accused the government of manipulating the electoral process by bringing in outsiders and warned against a perceived threat to the indigenous Assamese identity.

"In the coming election, you may see buses and trains full of voters being mobi-

lised. This is a direct attack on indigenous Assamese identity," he warned.

Khera argued that Assam's democratic and political identity was at stake, urging people to "protect the state's future before it's too late."

The Congress spokesperson also projected APCC President Gaurav Gogoi as the face of a new generational shift in Assam's politics, drawing parallels with the development era under former chief minister Tarun Gogoi.

Sharpening his attack, Khera accused Sarma of being overly dependent on law enforcement agencies and the Election Commission.

"Without support from the police and EC, he cannot move freely," he alleged.

He further claimed that tribal lands in Assam were being handed over to corporate houses, naming the Adani and Ambani

groups. Demanding transparency, Khera asked the chief minister to disclose the wealth his family has accumulated over the past 5-7 years.

Referring to past ED and CBI cases against Sarma, Khera questioned how they were "magically cleared" after the chief minister joined the BJP. "This is classic washing-machine politics," he said.

Congress leader Pawan Khera on Friday said that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma won't be able to fulfil his promise of implementing the Uniform Civil Code in the state as he "won't be returning to power" and claimed that the BJP leader will go "directly to jail" after the conclusion of the Assembly polls.

Speaking to media, Khera said, "First of all, he will not return to power; he will go to jail. He knows it. This country is a collection of cultures and beliefs. You can't impose one belief on everyone."

Sarma has said that UCC will be implemented in Assam if he becomes the CM again after the Assam assembly polls next year.

Congress leader Pawan Khera further said that the Special Intensive Revision in Assam is a total attack on the rights of voters of India.

"We will not allow that to happen. As far as Bihar is concerned, we have raised many questions, not just after the results but also before the elections. Rahul ji launched the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' and raised many questions that went unanswered. He showed evidence from Haryana, Karnataka and Bihar of EC's wrongdoings," Khera said.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced a special revision of electoral rolls in Assam, where the assembly elections are scheduled to be held in 2026.

This 'special revision' is not the same as

the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) drive being carried out by the EC in 12 states and union territories, given Assam's distinct citizenship framework and the ongoing Supreme Court-monitored National Register of Citizens (NRC) process.

According to a letter addressed to the Assam Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), ECI Secretary Pawan Diwan said, "I am directed to convey that the Commission has directed a Special Revision (SR) u/s 21 of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1950, with reference to January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date, in the State of Assam." During the SIR drive being carried out in other states, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are tasked with conducting house-to-house verification using blank forms. However, according to EC, the BLOs in Assam will be given a pre-filled register to verify existing electors.

BTC Reshuffles Portfolios of Deputy Chief, EMs to Boost Administrative Efficiency

KHOKRAJHAR

The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) has issued a revised notification reassigning key portfolios among the Deputy Chief and Executive Members (EMs), partially modifying its earlier order from October 14. The reshuffle is aimed at streamlining governance and improving service delivery across the Bodoland Territorial Region.

BTC Chief Hagrama Mohilary retains charge of major departments, including PWD, Panchayat & Rural Development, Finance, Tribal Affairs (WPT & BC), IBA, GAD, MC-LAD and Soil Conservation, along with all unassigned portfolios.

Under the updated allocation, Deputy Chief Rihon Daimary will now head the Agriculture department. EM Mritunjoy Narzary has been assigned Transport, while Moon Moon Brahma will oversee Urban Development along with Industries & Commerce. Education remains with EM Rabiram Narzary, and Health & Family Welfare continues under EM Derhasat Basumatary.

Social Welfare stays with EM Prakash Basumatary, and Forest & Wildlife with EM Paniram Brahma. EM Dhiraj Borgoyary will take charge of Excise and Tourism, whereas EM Begum Akhtara Ahmed will manage PHE and Handloom & Textiles. EM Augustus Tigga has been given Animal Husbandry & Veterinary along with Dairy Development.

Irrigation and Library Services have been allocated to EM Ganesh Kachary. Land Revenue & Disaster Management and Sports & Youth Welfare go to EM Lwmshrao Daimary. EM Fresh Muchahari receives a wide-ranging portfolio covering Water Resources, Market & Fair, Cultural Affairs, and Cinema & Theatre.

Akhil Gogoi Stages Protest Outside Assam Assembly, Renews Push for ST Status for Six Communities

GUWAHATI

Rajior Dal chief and Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi led a demonstration outside the Assam Legislative Assembly on Saturday, renewing pressure on the government to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six long-pending indigenous communities. Accusing both the Centre and the state of dragging their feet, Gogoi said successive governments have failed to honour their commitments.

The six communities - Ahom, Chutia, Matak, Moran, Koch-Rajbongshi and the Tea Tribe - have been demanding tribal recognition for decades. Addressing supporters, Gogoi said the delay reflects what he described as "systematic neglect" of indigenous groups that have historically contributed to Assam's cultural and political identity.

"We are Ahom, but we embrace the Assamese identity. We sacrificed our distinct recogni-

tion for unity, yet we continue to remain deprived," he said, calling on the government to correct long-standing injustices.

Gogoi noted that a bill proposing ST status for the six communities was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 2019 but has seen no movement since. He alleged that ideological resistance within the BJP and RSS was stalling the process.

He also broadened his demands, seeking inclusion of the Kaiti, Nath-Yogi, Madahi and Saodang groups in the ST category. Gogoi further urged the government to consider declaring Assam a tribal state, arguing that such a step is essential to safeguard indigenous rights amid demographic and political shifts.

"This is not a demand for privilege; this is a demand for justice," he warned, vowing to escalate the agitation if the government continues to remain unresponsive.

Mass Resignation rocks Congress in Karbi hills 250 plus workers protest apex leadership change

SUSHANTA ROY

DIPHU: In a stunning blow to the Assam Pradesh Congress in hill districts, more than 250 party leaders and grassroots workers from all nine MAC constituencies of West Karbi Anglong tendered their resignations on Thursday at the West Karbi Anglong District Congress Committee (WKA-DCC) office in Dongkamukam, West Karbi Anglong.

The coordinated resignations were in direct protest against the appointment of Augustine Enghee, described as a "junior leader," as the new president of the WKA-DCC, a decision the workers branded as "completely non-transparent" and a deliberate sidelining of senior, long-serving members of Congress party.

Leading the mass exit, WKA-DCC General Secretary Chatro Teron told re-



porters that dedicated workers who had devoted decades to the party were being reapedly overlooked.

"When seniority and equal treatment are repeatedly ignored, what is the point of staying? Our efforts have gone unrecognized," Teron said, adding that the selection process amounted to "disrespect" toward experienced leaders.

Teron described Thursday's action as only the "first phase" of a larger resigna-

tion wave, stating that many more members are waiting for the ongoing paddy harvesting season to conclude before formally quitting. He revealed that frustration within the district unit has been building for months.

The 250 resigning members submitted individual resignation letters in the presence of several senior leaders who also expressed solidarity with the protesters.

The group has not yet de-

cid to join any other political party. Leaders said they will hold collective consultations once all pending resignations are completed and then align with a platform that "values and respects their contributions."

Another major grievance cited by the resigning members is the party high command's refusal to unconditionally rehabilitate former expelled MLA Dr. Mansing Rongpi, whose inclusion they have long demanded.

Political observers say the development signals a serious escalation of internal dissent within the Congress in Karbi Anglong and could significantly weaken the party's organizational strength ahead of future electoral battles in the autonomous council and upcoming assembly segments.

More resignations are expected in the coming days, leaders indicated.

Tripura Minister Urges Peaceful Settlement of Phuldungsei Land Dispute With Mizoram



AGARTALA

Tripura Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury has called for a peaceful

and mutually acceptable resolution to the long-standing Phuldungsei land dispute between Tripura and

Mizoram. Speaking at the fourth edition of the Unity Promo Fest 2025 at Vangmun Playground in Jampui Hills on Friday, the minister stressed that cooperation between both states - with support from the Centre - is essential to bring closure to the issue.

Chowdhury said the dispute should be resolved "amicably" and in a manner that strengthens fraternity and regional harmony. He reiterated that peace and stability are vital for the growth of tourism and overall development in the Northeast.

The minister also highlighted the growing popularity of the Unity Promo Fest, noting that strong public participation last year prompted organisers to expand the programme.

The festival has adopted a new format for 2025, with events sched-

uled for two days at every venue to engage larger crowds.

Emphasising the importance of unity for national progress, Chowdhury said, "Peace, tranquility and brotherhood are important for taking the tourism sector forward at the national level."

He credited improvements in Tripura's tourism infrastructure since 2018 to sustained efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Manik Saha.

Reaffirming Tripura's commitment to resolving the boundary issue, Chowdhury said cooperation with Mizoram - rather than isolation - is the only way to uphold the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat. "We must settle the dispute amicably," he said, adding that harmony and mutual benefit should guide the way forward, before the trial court.

Assam Land Bill marks historic breakthrough for tea garden workers, says state BJP

GUWAHATI

The Assam State BJP has emphasised that the passage of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025, during the Winter Session of the Legislative Assembly marks a historic turning point for the state's tea garden communities.

Claiming the legislation ends nearly two centuries of land deprivation faced by tea workers, the party hailed the move as a transformative step toward empowerment, dignity, and long-awaited land rights for over 3.33 lakh families across 825 tea estates.

"As part of this commitment, in the Winter Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma placed and passed the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for the comprehensive upliftment of the tea-garden communities of the state. With the passing of this land bill, the painful, dark era of nearly 200 years, during which our tea garden workers, who have strengthened Assam's economy and projected the state's distinct identity on the world map



through the tea sector, were deprived of land rights from British rule to the Congress regime, shall finally come to an end," the State BJP said in a press statement on Friday.

The party highlighted that, despite generations living in the tea estates, the farmers had no ownership of the land they inhabited.

"As a result, they required permis-

sion from the garden authorities even to repair or reconstruct their own homes. Moreover, if any member of their family did not work in the tea garden, they were forced to vacate the land, leaving them unable to pursue better or higher-paying jobs elsewhere, and compelling them to remain tied to the garden labour system. This land rights bill has opened the door to a new possibility for our tea workers and has liberated them from nearly two centuries of exploitation and deprivation, an oppression that persisted through both British rule and the Congress-governed era of Independent India," the statement read.

The Assam BJP also stressed that from now onwards, based on their education and capability, tea workers will be free to seek employment in sectors beyond the tea gardens.

"They will be able to build their houses according to their own choice and capacity, and the garden authorities will no longer have the power to obstruct or interfere. Although this law may appear ordinary to some, it shall remain etched in history as a historic legislation that has freed the tea workers from generations of exploitation and injustice. We firmly believe that for bringing forth this path-breaking reform, the BJP Government of Assam and Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma shall forever shine in the golden annals of Assam's history," the party said.

Sikkim CM expresses gratitude to President Murmu for releasing Constitution in nine regional languages

GANGTOK

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has expressed heartfelt gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu for releasing the Constitution translated into nine languages included in the Eighth Schedule, including the Nepali language. The official languages of the state are English, Nepali, Sikkimese (Bhutia) and Lepcha. In a post on social media, CM Tamang said, "On behalf of the people and the Government of Sikkim, I convey our heartiest gratitude to the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji, for graciously releasing the Indian Constitution translated into nine languages included in the Eighth Schedule, including the Nepali language." "The release, held as part of the 78th Constitution Day celebrations under the inspiring theme 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimani,' marks a historic milestone in strengthening the spirit of inclusivity and linguistic diversity in our great nation.

This significant initiative further enhances the accessibility of the Constitution, enabling citizens from diverse linguistic backgrounds to connect more deeply with its principles, values, and ideals," he said.

He further emphasised that the name of Sikkim, resonated within the august and prestigious forum on this proud occasion, is a matter of immense pride and joy for every Sikkimese

citizen. "We also extend our sincere appreciation and heartiest thanks, on behalf of the people and the Government of Sikkim, to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, and the Government of India for this visionary and momentous initiative," CM Prem Singh Tamang added. Earlier on Constitution Day, celebrated on November 27 at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, President Murmu released the Constitution of India in nine languages - Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Bodo, Kashmiri, Telugu, Odia, and Assamese. The President, in her address, underscored the Constitution's pivotal role in guiding India's democratic journey and called upon citizens to uphold its core principles - justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The President said that the all-inclusive vision enshrined in constitutional ideals provides direction to our governance system. She said that in 2015, the year of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary, it was decided to celebrate November 26th annually as Constitution Day.

That decision has proven to be really meaningful. On this day, the entire nation reaffirms its respect for our Constitution, the foundation of Indian democracy, and its makers. "We, the people of India," express faith in our Constitution, both individually and collectively.

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A study found that overall, Android users are more honest than iPhone users.

“It’s a very serious glitch,” Aviation Expert Harsh Wardhan on Airbus A320 global software issue



NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over safety risks posed by Airbus’s software, aviation expert Harshwardhan expressed relief that the glitch was detected, calling it a serious issue that could have led to a major catastrophe if left unnoticed.

The aviation expert also noted that with the upgraded software causing issues in the Airbus A320 fleet, the company is now focusing on reverting to the original version and asserted that the problem will be resolved soon. However, he emphasised the need to closely monitor the aircraft after the modification to observe its behaviour and check for any recurrence of similar issues.

“It’s a very serious glitch, and I’m glad it was detected in time, because it could have resulted in a serious catastrophe. It’s because the elevator and dial-tone control system, which is showing the problem due to this glitch, controls the

aircraft’s levelling. Altitude maintenance is performed by this control mechanism. And suddenly, if it becomes uncontrolled, it starts nose-diving. And a pilot sometimes doesn’t have control over it. Luckily, the incidents that were noticed were rectified on their own; otherwise, anything could have happened,” Harsh Wardhan told. “Given multiple instances, an immediate inspection was necessary. They then realised that it is a fleet problem, not an individual aircraft issue, so grounding is important and the right decision. It should be done as quickly as possible because, apparently, they upgraded the software that is causing this problem and are now reverting to the original version... This issue will be fixed soon, but it will still be monitored because this problem has recently reappeared, and we need to observe how the aircraft continues to behave after the modification if there is any repetition of this nature...”

added Harsh Wardhan.

Earlier today, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued an airworthiness directive banning the use of multiple models of Airbus aircraft following concerns about a safety risk posed by the company’s software update. “This is to be ensured that no person shall operation the product which falls under the applicability of this mandatory modification except those which are in accordance with the compliance to requirement of Mandatory Modification(s)/application Airworthiness Directive(s),” read the order issued Assistant Director (Airworthiness) Nishikant Sharma.

The Airworthiness directive is applicable for multiple other models of Airbus aircraft, including A319-111, A319-112, A319-113, A319-114, A319-115, A319-131, A319-132, A319-133, A319-151N, A319-153N, A319-171N, A319-173N, A320-211, A320-212, A320-214, A320-215, A320-216, A320-231, A320-232, A320-233, A320-251N, A320-252N, A320-253N, A320-271N, A320-272N, A320-273N, A321-211, A321-212, A321-213, A321-231, A321-232, A321-251N, A321-252N, A321-253N, A321-251NX, A321-252NX, A321-253NX, A321-271N, A321-272N, A321-271NX and A321-272NX.

Following Airbus’s directive to immediately repair thousands of aircraft globally from its A320 fleet, multiple airlines in India are experiencing flight disruptions. Around 6,000 aircraft worldwide are expected to be affected. The order followed an incident involving an A320 aircraft, which revealed a potential “solar radiation risk” that could corrupt data critical to flight controls.

CHENNAI

Cyclonic Storm Ditwah over the southwest Bay of Bengal and north Sri Lanka tracks north-northwest, triggering a red alert for north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh coasts, as heavy rains lash coastal and Cauvery delta districts Saturday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported the system moving slowly at 8kmph in the six hours ending 8.30 am, remaining nearly stationary over the same region.

Authorities have urged fishermen to stay ashore and issued warnings for strong winds, rough seas, and potential localised flooding along the coast. Preparations are underway in low-lying areas, with disaster management teams on alert.

A tourist van got stranded in an area marooned near a canal in Ramanthapuram district. The occupants, however, had a providential escape as they managed to step out through the rear door.

The district administration has warned people not to venture out unnecessarily due to the adverse weather conditions of strong gales and heavy downpour.

Tourists have been asked not to visit Dhanushkodi on the south-eastern tip of Pamban Island, which is west of Talaimannar in Sri Lanka, as a precaution. The town was destroyed in the 1964 cyclone in Rameswaram.

Several parts in the state, including Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Thiruvaimarur, Kumbakonam, Papanasam, Thiruvaiyaru, Pattukottai, Cuddalore and parts of Chennai, received heavy rain.

The rain forced the administration in the vulnerable districts to order closure of schools for the day.

Nearly 300 passengers, including around 150 Tamilians travelling from Dubai to India via Sri Lanka, have been stranded at Colombo’s Bandaranaike International Airport for the last three days after Cyclone Ditwah forced the cancellation of multiple flights to Chennai.

Passengers alleged they have been



left without adequate food, water, and basic facilities, as operations remain disrupted by severe weather.

Taking cognisance of the distress faced by those stranded, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin directed the Public Department Secretary to coordinate with the Indian Embassy in Colombo.

Officials have since held discussions with Indian High Commission authorities to ensure the safe return of Tamilians stuck in Sri Lanka. The government has also sought timely assistance for passengers facing hardship at the airport.

Strong winds and high tides, accompanied by rainfall, was reported in Ramanthapuram and Nagapattinam districts.

“The Cyclonic Storm Ditwah over coastal Sri Lanka and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal moved north-northwestwards with the speed of 8 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centered at

5.30 am today over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Sri Lanka,” the IMD said.

It lay 190 km south-southeast of Karaikal, 300 km south-southeast of Puducherry, and 400 km south of Chennai, and is very likely to continue to move north-northwestwards and reach over southwest Bay of Bengal near North Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts by early morning of November 30, the weather bulletin said.

Private weather bloggers said there was no change in the cyclone’s track and that it moved parallel to the Tamil Nadu coast, and it would bring more rain over Chennai, Cuddalore and Puducherry by tonight.

The name, ‘Ditwah’, referring to a lagoon, was suggested by Yemen. It is likely named after Detwah Lagoon, a large, saline lagoon on the northwest coast of the island of Socotra in Yemen. Meanwhile, India has expanded its

humanitarian outreach to Sri Lanka, which Cyclone Ditwah has severely impacted. An Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft carrying nearly 12 tonnes of relief material landed in Colombo on Saturday as part of the ongoing Operation Sagar Bandhu.

This support comes in addition to earlier consignments delivered by Indian Naval Ship Vikrant and Indian Naval Ship Udaygiri, which included 4.5 tonnes of dry rations, 2 tonnes of fresh rations, and other essential supplies for storm-affected families.

Reaffirming the country’s commitment to assisting its neighbour, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said that Operation Sagar Bandhu continues to deliver urgent Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

“In this challenging moment, India stands firmly with the people of Sri Lanka, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to the Neighbourhood First policy,” the mission stated.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump officials and judge face off over flights to El Salvador in rare, high-stakes contempt probe

WASHINGTON

Two planes carrying Venezuelan migrants out of the US were midair on March 15 when a federal judge in Washington ordered the Trump administration to turn them around.

Instead, the planes landed in El Salvador hours later, touching off an extraordinary power struggle between the judicial and executive branches of the US government over what happened and why the judge’s order went unexecuted.

That fight entered a critical phase on Friday when US District Judge James Boasberg relaunched an investigation to determine whether the Republican administration deliberately ignored his instruction, letting the planes continue onto El Salvador. The judge previously concluded it did and threatened to have the responsible official or officials prosecuted on a contempt charge. The administration has denied any violation.

But an appeals court threw Boasberg’s decision out. The contempt probe appeared dead until in yet another twist, a larger panel of judges on the same appeals court ruled on November 14 that the investigation could proceed. Here’s a look at what makes this case unusual and what could happen now:

They are a last resort, former federal judges Jeremy Fogel and Liam O’Grady told The Associated Press in an interview Monday conducted on Zoom.

“The judge has to believe that some line may have been crossed that you can’t ignore,” said Fogel, who spent 20 years on the bench in Northern California before retiring in 2018.

Fogel said the issues raised by Boasberg’s contempt probe — whether the migrants were deprived of their due process rights and whether the court’s authority was flouted — meet that standard.

“Whatever actually happened, I think it would be very hard for him to just let it go,” the judge said.

O’Grady, who served in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington, for 16 years, credited Boasberg for his efforts to determine the facts.

“He’s making sure that his record is absolutely clear,” O’Grady said.

On Friday, Boasberg ordered the administration to submit declarations by December 5 from all officials involved in the decision not to return the flights to the US. He said he will then decide whether to seek testimony from witnesses.

The declarations should detail the officials’ roles in the decision, the judge said in the brief order.

Justice Department attorneys had urged him to abandon the probe, but Boasberg said he must determine whether Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem or anyone else “should be referred for potential contempt prosecution.”

“In other words, the Court must decide if: (1) the court order was ‘clear and reasonably specific’; (2) ‘the defendant violated the order’; and (3) ‘the violation was willful,’” he wrote.

In a court filing on Tuesday, Justice Department attorneys said Noem decided the migrants aboard the flights could be transferred to El Salvador after receiving advice from the Homeland Security department’s acting general counsel, Joseph Mazzara.

Mazzara had received legal advice about the planes from Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche and Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, according to the filing.

The judge’s directive to return them was made verbally in court but not included in his written order, government attorneys said in the court filing on Tuesday.

That order blocked the administration from removing “any of the

individual Plaintiffs from the United States for 14 days,” but said nothing about the flights already airborne.

The two planes had already departed US territory and airspace, so the migrants aboard them had already been “removed” and therefore fell outside of the court’s order, Justice Department lawyers said in the court filing.

“Accordingly, the Government maintains that its actions did not violate the Court’s order — certainly not with the clarity required for criminal contempt — and no further proceedings are warranted or appropriate,” they wrote.

A federal appeals court judge said in August that the administration’s interpretation of Boasberg’s order was plausible. The order “could reasonably have been read” as only prohibiting the government from “expelling detainees from United States territory,” wrote Gregory Katsas, a judge on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. Katsas was appointed by President Donald Trump.

Trump officials have chafed at judicial oversight and repeatedly contested the power of judges to review executive branch policies, particularly on immigration.

“There is a deliberate effort to push the boundaries and try to curtail the authority of trial courts,” said David Noll, a Rutgers Law School professor who writes about the intersection of the law and politics.

Noll said he expects the Justice Department to fight the inquiry from the start, with “lots of appeals and chest thumping” that Boasberg is exceeding his authority.

Trump has already attacked Boasberg. After the March 15 ruling, Trump derided the judge as a “troublemaker and agitator” and called for his impeachment. Boasberg was nominated to the bench by Democratic

President Barack Obama and currently serves as the chief judge of the federal court for the District of Columbia.

In July, the Justice Department filed a misconduct claim against him, alleging he told Chief Justice John Roberts and other federal judges in March that the administration would trigger a constitutional crisis by disregarding federal court rulings.

Boasberg has framed the contempt inquiry as an effort to uphold the US Constitution, which he says requires compliance with judicial orders. Separately, he is considering a request to require the administration to give at least 137 of the migrants, who are now back in Venezuela, a chance to challenge their gang designation.

He has accused Trump administration officials of rushing the migrants out of the US and said significant evidence had surfaced indicating that many of them were not connected to the Tren de Aragua gang.

A survey of thousands of federal court opinions published in the Harvard Law Review in 2018 turned up 82 contempt findings against government officials and agencies since the end of World War II. Judges issued or tried to issue fines in 16 of those cases, but higher courts blocked them in all but three.

Prison time is even more uncommon. Judges locked up or credibly threatened to lock up a federal agency official in only four of the cases, and high courts similarly intervened to block the sanction, the study by Yale Law School professor Nicholas Parrillo found. Noll, the Rutgers Law professor, said if the inquiry moves ahead, it could influence public debate about whether the administration can carry out its mass deportation policy legally.

“A lot of a district court’s power just comes from the ability to get an issue in front of the public,” he said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

Military-run Myanmar plays host to goodwill visit by Belarusian leader



BANGKOK

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko arrived in Myanmar on a goodwill visit, state media reported Friday, becoming only the second foreign leader to visit the Southeast Asian country since it came under military rule in 2021.

The visit comes just a month before an election in Myanmar that has been criticized as neither free nor fair. Lukashenko’s visit is seen by critics as giving the appearance of support to the polls.

Since Myanmar’s military takeover, Belarus has been a major supporter and supplier of its government, along with China and Russia. It is one of only a few countries that have been visited by Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar’s military government, who traveled there in March and June. Like Myanmar, the government of Belarus is widely seen as authoritarian.

Myanmar’s military leaders have been shunned and sanctioned by many Western nations for ousting the elected

government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, and for committing major human rights violations in trying to crush the resistance to army rule.

The only other foreign leader to visit Myanmar since 2021 was Cambodia’s then-Prime Minister Hun Sen, in his capacity as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2022.

A report in the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said Lukashenko’s Thursday night arrival at the military airport in the capital Naypyitaw saw him welcomed by Myanmar’s Prime Minister Nyo Saw and other Cabinet members with full state honors and cultural performers.

Myanmar state television MRTV reported that Lukashenko held talks Friday with Min Aung Hlaing and other top officials, exchanging views on bilateral relations, electoral processes and the dispatch of Belarusian election observers, as well as enhancing cooperation in all sectors, including military.

The report said they

signed memorandums of understanding and contracts for cooperation in sectors including science, technology and economics.

During Min Aung Hlaing’s visit in March to Belarus, Lukashenko pledged to support the military-organized election and promised to send observers.

Critics say the planned election is a sham to normalize the military’s grip, and several opposition groups, including armed resistance forces, have said they will try to derail the polls.

Justice For Myanmar, a rights advocacy group that seeks to expose the financial underpinning of the military, said in a statement released Thursday that Belarus has provided Myanmar’s military with arms, equipment and training that builds the army’s technical capacity and domestic arms industry.

Transfers from Belarus include a Myanmar air defense operational command system, radar technology and ground-based missile systems, the group’s statement said.

Climate and Nature at a Crossroads: How COP30 and the IUCN Congress Could Reshape India and the Northeast

As two major global environmental events - COP30 in Belém, Brazil, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) 2025 in Abu Dhabi - draw to a close, they leave behind a clear and urgent message: the battles for climate stability and biodiversity conservation are inseparable. Together, they signal a historic convergence of agendas that have long run parallel but now demand unified strategies. And for India, particularly the ecologically fragile and culturally rich Northeast, this combined momentum could prove transformative.

A Tale of Two Venues: Symbolism and Irony
That the world gathered in Brazil's Amazon region for COP30 is symbolic in itself. The Amazon - one of the planet's greatest carbon sinks - has, in recent decades, also become one of its most threatened landscapes. Brazil's tightening environmental standards and Indigenous rights debates formed an unavoidable backdrop to climate negotiations.

Meanwhile, the IUCN Congress met in Abu Dhabi, a global hub built on oil wealth, at a time when the world is pushing harder than ever for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. The contrast is striking: discourse on conserving the natural world unfolding in a city that epitomises the fossil-fuel era. Yet both venues produced unexpectedly strong signals for climate-nature integration.

COP30: A Push for Implementation, Not Mere Pledges

COP30 has already been dubbed by many as the "Implementation COP" - a long-awaited shift after years of languishing promises. While the conference did not deliver a clear, time-bound fossil fuel phase-out that many had hoped for, it moved remarkably forward on several fronts.

The headline achievement was the commitment to mobilise nearly USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035 for developing countries, a step toward meeting the needs of climate-vulnerable nations that have long struggled with unpredictable or insufficient funding flows. Much of this is meant for adaptation - a crucial priority for India and the Northeast, where climate impacts are already severe.

Discussions on forests, Indigenous Peoples, biodiversity, and ocean protection gained unprecedented visibility. In particular, COP30 elevated the role of nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem restoration as central tools of climate action, not peripheral add-ons. This aligns closely with the global pivot toward restoration-led climate resilience.

The decision to triple adaptation finance from USD 40 billion to USD 120 billion, if implemented effectively, will directly support nations striving to build resilience against floods, droughts, and extreme weather - issues deeply felt in India's Northeast.

A Breakthrough for Forest Nations: The Tropical Forests Forever Facility

One of the most talked-about outcomes was the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), a new mechanism to ensure predictable compensation for countries and communities that preserve critical forests. This represents a major shift from the traditional carbon-market model, which often left Indigenous and forest communities without meaningful benefit.

For the Northeast - home to some of India's densest forests and most diverse Indigenous traditions - this could be a game-changer. States like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram could, for the first time, gain direct, stable financial support for community-led conservation. This is crucial in a region where nearly 70% of forests are under community or clan ownership, and where biodiversity-rich landscapes coexist with acute livelihood pressures.

WCC 2025: Strengthening the Conservation Pillars

While COP30 worked on the political and financial foundations of climate action, the IUCN Congress brought scientific, community-driven, and institutional priorities into focus. The Congress adopted a 20-year strategic vision for 2045, supported by the four-year implementation framework, Nature 2030: One Nature, One Future. Its resolutions reaffirmed:

" Indigenous stewardship as central to global conservation

" Wild animals as ecosystem engineers and climate allies

" The criticality of freshwater, marine, and forest ecosystems

" A call for a just and equitable fossil fuel phase-out

The Congress also underlined the need for nature-positive investments, echoing IUCN's vision to halt nature loss by 2030 and restore ecosystems to full health by 2050.

India's Dual Role: A Demanding Negotiator, A Committed Actor

India's presence at COP30 and WCC was marked by assertive diplomacy on one hand and ambitious domestic action on the other.

At COP30, India pushed back strongly against carbon border adjustment mechanisms - policies that penalize developing economies under the guise of environmental standards. It reiterated that global climate action must be both equitable and just, supported by predictable grants rather than repackaged loans or vague commitments.



Kill the weak man inside. He's your real enemy.



At the IUCN Congress, India showcased major conservation initiatives, including:

" The National Red List System (2025-2030) to assess the extinction risk of more than 11,000 species

" The creation of a Marine Reserve dedicated to dugong conservation, setting new standards for marine species protection

" Expanded commitments to wetland restoration, mangrove regeneration, and ecosystem-based adaptation

These interventions underscore India's intention to be not just a participant but a driver of global conservation agendas - even as it grapples with development demands.

Where Climate Meets Culture: Lessons from India's Northeast

Perhaps nowhere else in the country do climate, culture, and conservation intersect as deeply as they do in the Northeast. COP30 and WCC's messages resonate powerfully here because the region's communities have practised the principles of sustainability long before these became global buzzwords.

Some of these traditions include:

" Nagaland's community conservation areas, where village councils enforce hunting bans and protect forest patches.

" Meghalaya's sacred groves, preserved for centuries under customary law and now crucial biodiversity refuges.

" Sikkim's Gumpa forests, protected by monasteries and local committees.

" The Apatani paddy-fish farming system in Arunachal Pradesh, a precision-engineered agroecological model of global interest.

" Assam's dong water channels, traditional hydrological systems that manage seasonal flows.

" Manipur's Loktak Lake phumdis, floating biomass systems that double as wildlife habitat and community resource.

" Mizoram's tuikhur spring-based water harvesting, a key climate adaptation practice.

These examples represent what the world is now trying to rebuild through "nature-based solutions". The Northeast does not need to reinvent sustainability - it needs support to defend, scale, and modernise what already exists.

Progress, but Still Not Enough

Despite strong outcomes, both COP30 and the IUCN Congress leave crucial gaps. Fossil fuel phase-out - central to any meaningful climate trajectory - remains clouded by geopolitics. Financial pledges, however ambitious, still face skepticism about disbursement and transparency.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres acknowledged that COP30 "delivered progress" but stressed the widening gap between current action and scientific necessity. UN Climate Chief Simon Stiell warned of the growing threat of "denial, division, and geopolitics" undermining real-world impact.

The IUCN Congress, too, while adopting ambitious frameworks, must translate them into enforceable action. Its success hinges on countries and communities choosing nature-positive development pathways over extractive models.

The Road Ahead for India and the Northeast
For India, especially for states across the Northeast, the convergence of climate and biodiversity agendas opens unprecedented possibilities - but also presents stern tests of political will and governance.

To leverage the gains from COP30 and WCC, India must:

" Put nature and climate at the centre of development planning

" Expand community-based forest and wildlife conservation

" Restore wetlands, rivers, and degraded forests at landscape scale

" Mainstream Indigenous knowledge systems into policy

" Ensure equitable climate finance reaches frontline communities

" Build institutional capacity for adaptation and resilience

" Transition energy systems without compromising rural livelihoods

For the Northeast, the challenges are sharper, but so are the opportunities. The region sits at the frontline of climate change, experiencing more intense rainfall, landslides, erosion, biodiversity loss, and agricultural stress. But it also holds India's highest density of climate-resilient traditional practices and community governance models.

COP30 and IUCN WCC 2025 have jointly signalled that the world is moving away from siloed environmental strategies. Climate without biodi-

versity is incomplete; conservation without climate resilience is unsustainable.

For India - and particularly for the Northeast - this moment offers a unique chance to shape a development pathway that honours both people and planet. But seizing this opportunity requires commitment, innovation, and above all, implementation.

If this momentum is sustained, India could emerge not only as a climate leader but as a global model for nature-linked resilience. If not, the country risks widening the gap between international ambition and domestic reality.

The crossroads is clear. What India chooses next will determine whether this decade becomes one of restoration - or of irreversible loss.

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THE HISTORIC MANAS NATIONAL PARK



the park are as important as the wildlife inside it. Bodo, Adivasi, Assamese, Nepali, and Rajbongshi communities live around the edges, shaping and being shaped by the forest.

Many of them work as guides, guards, or conservation volunteers. Some participate in community tourism. Some help monitor wildlife. Their relationship with the park isn't ornamental. It's economic, cultural, and deeply personal. They've seen the forest in its worst days. They've helped rebuild it. They know

that if Manas thrives, the region thrives.

That connection is what gives the park its resilience. Conservation here is not a top-down command. It's a shared responsibility.

A Different Kind of Safari

A safari in Manas doesn't overwhelm you with activity. It works in rhythm. You move through sun-warmed tracks, scanning the edges of the grasslands for signs of movement. The silence isn't empty. It's alive with insects, distant calls, rustling branches,

and the anticipation that something—anything—might emerge.

Elephants appear without warning. A herd steps out of the grass, pauses, and stares at you with calm authority. A mother shields her calf. A young tusker predicts your next move. They decide how long you stay, not the other way around.

If you get lucky, you might see a rhino grazing, its armour catching the late afternoon light. Or a tiger's tracks on soft mud, sharp and recent enough to make you realise how close you came with-

The NEIR-2026 will hold its programmes at the historic Manas National Park on January 11. Manas National Park doesn't announce itself with spectacle. It reveals itself slowly, the way real wilderness does. You enter expecting a forest, a safari, maybe a few animals. What you discover instead is a landscape with its own pulse, shaped by floods, grasslands, tribal memory, and a history of resilience that most parks never have to carry.

A Forest Born From a River
Manas sits at the foothills of the Himalayas, where Assam meets Bhutan. The river that gives the park its name flows straight down from the mountains, cold and restless, cutting through gravel beds and grass plains until it reaches the forest depths. You feel the river before you see it. The air turns lighter. The sound shifts from birdcalls to a rushing, steady hum.

That river is the park's lifeline. Every monsoon it rearranges the land. Banks collapse. New sandbars appear. Grasslands regenerate. This constant reshaping keeps the ecosystem alive. Predators depend on it. Herbivores depend on it. The forest guards depend on it. And in a strange way, the river teaches you that nothing in Manas stays static.

A Wilderness With Layers, Not Postcards

The first thing you notice once you're inside is the diversity of the landscape. Tall elephant grass. Warm forests. Sal patches. Clearings that look like untouched meadows. Streams that vanish into bamboo thickets. It's not a showpiece forest. It's a functional one.

If you've been to Kaziranga or other famous parks, Manas feels different. Less choreographed. Less crowded. More unpredictable. You don't sit on a jeep expecting to be handed a tiger sighting. You watch the road ahead with quiet curiosity, knowing anything may appear: a herd of elephants, a wild buffalo, a golden langur leaping between trees, or a sudden flash of a clouded leopard if you're impossibly lucky.

The animals here aren't props. They behave as if the forest belongs entirely to them—and it does.

The Species That Define Its Soul
Manas is not just another protected area. It's one of the rare places on Earth where so many endangered species still hold on.

The golden langur—one of the most striking primates in South Asia—moves through the canopy with an elegance that makes you stop whatever you're doing. The pygmy hog, the smallest and most threatened wild pig in the world, survives here after being wiped out from almost everywhere else. The Bengal tiger and the Indian leopard share overlapping territories. The wild water buffalo—massive, powerful, and far more impressive than the domesticated cousins you see on the plains—commands the grasslands with quiet authority.

Then there are the birds. Hun-

dreds of species. Raptors circling overhead. Hornbills crossing the sky like slow, beating shadows. Small forest birds flicking between branches with bursts of colour you can miss if you blink.

Manas is a refuge for all of them, and they repay the place by showing you what a functioning ecosystem looks like.

A Park That Survived More Than Poachers

Manas carries scars most parks don't talk about. It lived through decades of conflict, political agitation, and instability in the Bodoland region. For years, insurgent groups operated in and around the park. Tourism collapsed. Poaching surged. Forest camps were abandoned. Manas lost animals, infrastructure, and reputation.

What this really means is that the park's revival is not an accident. It's a deliberate, sustained effort by forest guards, local communities, conservationists, and the Bodo people who consider this land part of their identity.

Walk into one of the forest camps and you'll meet guards who have spent years protecting the place through every kind of threat. They know the elephants by behaviour. They know where the buffalo herds wander. They know which grass patches grow after floods. This isn't just their job. It's a duty they carry on their shoulders.

A Landscape That Depends on Its Communities

To understand Manas, you have to look beyond its core forest. The villages surrounding



out knowing. But even without a single large sighting, Manas gives you something many bigger parks fail to: a feeling of raw, unscripted wilderness.

The River at Sunset

If you want to understand why Manas stays with people long after they leave, take a walk near the river at dusk. The light turns gold. The water glows. Birds settle. Elephants sometimes come down to drink. The temperature dips just enough to remind you that the mountains aren't far.

It's a quiet moment, but the quiet is full of meaning.

The river has shaped kingdoms, communities, forests, and species. And in that fading light, you feel yourself becoming part of that story. Manas National Park is not just a wildlife destination. It's a living argument for why conservation cannot survive without community, politics, and patience. It's a place that has lost more than most forests and yet stands strong today because people refused to let it fade.

To understand India's ecological future, you need to look at places like Manas—where recovery is ongoing, where wilderness is still wild, and where the future depends on balance, not spectacle.

Manas teaches you that forests don't need perfection. They need protection. And sometimes, they just need time to heal.

Spend a day here, and the park leaves its mark—not with drama, but with depth.



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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, College, University Department, Individual & Group Competition.



11 JAN
Adventure Sports
 Trekking & Canoe, Obstacle Navigation, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Technique, Water Sports.



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
 Potential, Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley by different youth organizations. Includes KOCs, and D groups and can register for free. Registration: 5000/-, seats are limited, and reservation is required. Participation through invitation only. Different rewards are provided.



12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave
 Climate Change will influence on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, technical 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. Present in Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.



10 JAN
Media Conclave
 Media Conclave: Media Conclave, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Welcome your ideas, stories, proposals, queries & contribute for our sponsors, guides, speakers, members.

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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



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Barak Festival

Band Night 10 JAN
Musical Night 11 JAN

10-12 JAN
E-Sports
 Full Blasted Demos | CASH PRIZES | Trophy



11 JAN
film festival
 Award-Giving Ceremony | Film from Member Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, Ws. Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet.

10-12 JAN
Book Bank
 #NoOneLeftBehind Campaign | Book Bank | Donate | Reuse | Recycle

Book Club
 Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books

Painting Carnival
 Water Colour and Oil and Saw Paper Campaign



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