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PERSPECTIVE

Some Brutal Truths of Life: 1. Nobody is coming to save you. 2. Time waits for no one. 3. Most people only care when they need something. 4. Comfort zones kill growth. 5. You can do everything right and still fail. 6. Not everyone will like you, no matter what you do.

- Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG Enterprises

Top ULFA-I leader Arunodoy Dohutia surrenders

GUWAHATI

A top leader of the banned militant organisation United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) on Sunday surrendered before the security forces along the Indo-Myanmar border, police said.

A senior official of Assam police told over the phone that Arunodoy Dohutia, a top leader of Paresh Baruah-led ULFA (I), on Sunday morning surrendered before a joint team of Assam Police and Assam Rifles in a remote place of the Indo-Myanmar border.

"Arunodoy Dohutia, along with another ULFA (I) cadre, surrendered before the security personnel, and they deposited war-like stores," a senior police official of Assam police said.

On the other hand, sources said that the top ULFA (I) leader will be taken to Delhi for further investigation.

Earlier in October, Assam Rifles under Spear Corps, based on specific intelligence inputs and in coordination with Arunachal Pradesh Police, launched a follow-up operation in the general area of Manfeisang, Namsai District, South Arunachal Pradesh, a press release said.

During the extensive search and tracking operation, multiple columns were employed, including aerial reconnaissance, tracker dogs, drones, and technical surveillance. Troops have apprehended one ULFA (I) cadre near Hanthi Camp, Manfeisang.

WHO SAID WHAT



Canada, Australia, and India just formed a new trilateral partnership on technology and innovation. We'll work more closely together on clean energy, critical minerals, and AI to unlock new research, more opportunities, and greater prosperity. - Mark Carney, Prime Minister, Canada

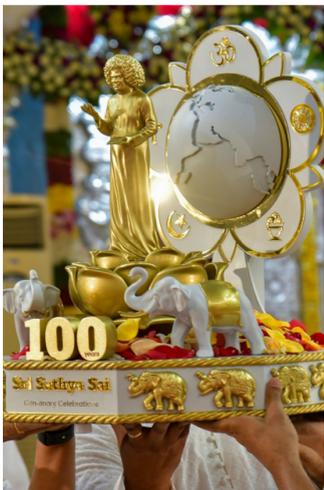
100th Birth Anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Baba Celebrated With Global Devotion and Large-Scale Service Activities

KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

SILCHAR: The 100th birth anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Baba is being observed today (November 23) with devotion and wide participation across India and abroad. The day has turned into a collective tribute to a spiritual figure whose message of love, unity, and selfless service continues to influence millions.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba was born on November 23, 1926, in Puttaparthi, a small village in Andhra Pradesh that later grew into a major spiritual center because of his presence. Over the course of several decades, he became a global voice for interfaith harmony, urging people to see the common thread that binds all religions. His simple teachings on truth, right conduct, peace, love, and nonviolence shaped a movement that spread to more than a hundred countries.

Across these countries, Sai centers are holding bhajans, meditation



sessions, satsangs, and community activities ranging from food distribution to blood donation drives. Many groups have also taken up week-long service programmes in hospitals, orphanages, and rural communities as an offering in his memory.

The most elaborate observance is underway in Puttaparthi, where thousands of devotees have gathered at Prasanthi Nilayam.

The ashram has lined up special rituals, cultural presentations, spiritual discourses, and exhibitions chronicling Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life and work. Volunteers are running large community kitchens and service stalls, reflecting the spirit of seva he championed.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba is widely remembered for major humanitarian initiatives that set benchmarks in free healthcare and education. His super-speciality hospitals in Puttaparthi and Bengaluru offer ad-

vanced medical treatment without any cost to patients.

His educational institutions, from primary schools to a university, continue to provide value-based learning. One of his most impactful contributions remains the series of drinking water projects in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, which brought clean water to millions.

For followers, the centenary is not only a commemoration but a reminder of the values he placed at the center of spiritual life: love for all, service without expectation, and the constant effort to recognise the divine in oneself and others. Many devotees say the best way to celebrate this milestone is to carry those principles into daily life and community work.

Events and service activities will continue through the week in several countries as part of the centenary observance.

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STAY-ENRICHED

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Assam to Launch New 'Babu Scheme' for Male Students From January 1: CM Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the state government will introduce a new welfare initiative, the 'Babu Scheme', from January 1, 2026, aimed at providing financial assistance to male students.

The announcement comes after the rollout of the Nijut Moina scheme, which offers support to girl students across the state. Sarma said the government now plans to extend similar benefits to boys to ensure equal access to education-linked support.

The Chief Minister made the declaration while attending a cheque distribution programme under the Chief Minister's Women Entrepreneurship Mission at Abhayapuri's Abhayeswari Higher Secondary and Multi-Purpose School playground. Speaking to the media after the event, he addressed several ongoing political and administrative issues.

On the controversy surrounding the phrase "suspicious Miya," Sarma clarified that the term was originally used by Congress leader Ripun Bora.



"There is no prohibition on speaking against suspicious Miya individuals. Only those who fall in the suspicious category will feel targeted," he said.

Targeting the Congress, Sarma claimed that the party had failed to deliver meaningful reforms for Assam's minority communities during its long tenure. "Congress ruled for 60 years but did nothing. Had they given land pattas earlier, today's evictions would not have taken place," he remarked.

Commenting on a recent case in-

volving an alleged threat to journalist Rana Deka by a retired ACS officer, Sarma urged both parties to maintain cordial relations. He added that the government would provide a Personal Security Officer if the journalist required protection.

The Chief Minister also dismissed Congress allegations that non-residents were being added to Assam's voter list through the SR system. "If outsiders are added, who will feed them? Where will they stay? Congress made similar false claims during the CAA protests," he said.

Sarma further hinted at a welfare initiative for media professionals, saying the government would consider a special scheme for journalists.

Responding to questions on the removal of Tipu Sultan and Babur from the NCERT curriculum, he supported the decision. "This is a good step. Figures like Tipu and Babur should be removed completely," he said.

Taking a swipe at Congress MLA Pradip Kumar Sarkar, the Chief Minister added, "It seems he has fallen asleep."

Assam Minister Reviews East-West Corridor Work, Harangajao Stretch Targeted for January 2026 Opening



HAFLONG

Assam Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs and Mines and Minerals Minister Kaushik Roy on November 22 reviewed the progress of the Silchar-Saurashtra East-West Corridor, inspecting the ongoing construction along the Harangajao-Jatinga stretch of National Highway 27.

Roy held discussions with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials on construction quality, maintenance plans and pending work. A review meeting was later convened at the Haflong Circuit House, where issues related to connectivity, infrastructure upgrades and commuter convenience

were examined in detail. The minister stressed the need to adhere to deadlines to ensure safer and smoother travel.

Rajya Sabha MP Konak Purokayastha, MLAs Mihir Kanti Shome and Nihar Ranjan Das, NCHAC Executive Member Donpainen Thasoen, Council Principal Secretary Partha Sarathi Johari, Deputy Commissioner Munindra Nath Ngate, Superintendent of Police Ripunjay Kakati and senior officials attended the meeting.

Roy informed that the 49-km Nirim Bungalow-Harangajao stretch is scheduled to open to the public on January 31, 2026. The section includes about 7.8 km of partially four-lane and partially two-lane roadway. According to the minister, 85.3% of the construction has been completed.

Addressing concerns raised by civil society groups over compensation delays, Roy directed NHAI officials to expedite the process to keep it aligned with the corridor's completion schedule.

TIPRA Motha announces 'one north east' rally in Agartala

AGARTALA

The TIPRA Motha Party (TMP), an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura, on Friday announced that a 'One North East' rally of the regional parties of the North East will be held here on November 27. Also Read - Global spotlight shifts to South & Southeast Asian storytelling, says Booker winner TMP supremo Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma said that Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, who is also the president of the National People's Party (NPP), and several other prominent leaders of the regional parties in the North East are set to join the rally. The NPP, too, is an ally of the BJP.

"We had a very good meeting on the concept of One North East, a common platform of the regional parties of the North East to speak in one voice. We are making significant progress in the process," Debbarma told reporters. Also Read - Tension at Manipur buffer zone as Meitei IDPs march for resettlement. Claiming that the Centre has no time to hear the voices of 10 parties, he said the bargaining capacity of the North East would be enhanced if the leaders and people of the region came together and spoke in one voice.

The TMP founder's assertion came days after leaders from various States of the North East jointly declared on November 4 in New Delhi that they would form a single political entity in the next 45 days to raise issues of the region. Sangma of Meghalaya, Debbarma of Tripura, and Nagaland leader Mphohlum Kikon, who is a former BJP

spokesperson, were part of the proposed entity. On Saturday, Debbarma said that the leaders of the regional parties want to create a new idea for the entire North East to speak in one voice for the common cause of the people of the region. "Different organisations need to be amalgamated to create a common platform without losing their identity. We are working on how we can speak in one voice because the people of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and Arunachal Pradesh will come together," he said. Debbarma said the rally of the leaders of regional parties would be held at Swami Vivekananda Ground on November 27 to define the mission of 'One North East'. On the recent violence in Khumulung and Jampuijala in Tripura, the TMP leader said their party office was burned down, and leaders and workers were beaten up by miscreants. "Miscreants have no political ideology. They sometimes take up TIPRA Motha's flags and someday the BJP's festoon. If they get an opportunity, they will not hesitate to work for the Congress or the CPI(M). We want the police to take strong action against the miscreants who are involved in violent activities in Khumulung and Jampuijala," he said. Workers of the BJP and TMP were engaged in clashes at Khumulung in West Tripura and Jampuijala in Sepahijala district, leading to panic among the people. Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha and Forest Minister Animesh Debbarma of the TMP visited the violence-hit areas separately on Friday.

The TMP, which used to be the main

Tension at Manipur buffer zone as Meitei IDPs march for resettlement

IMPHAL

Tension flared up at the Torbung-Kangvai 'buffer zone' along the border of Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts when internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Meitei community attempted to march towards Churachandpur. Security forces blocked the protesters along the National Highway-2 (Tiddim Road), preventing further escalation of the situation.

The displaced families, sheltered at the Kwakta relief camp, held a demonstration, demanding immediate resettlement in their original homes.

They criticised the Government's decision to go ahead with the Sangai Festival at a time when thousands were languishing in relief camps. Also Read - Air India express launches Tsungkotepu-themed aircraft in Nagaland Advertisement "If the Sangai Festival means peace is restored, why cannot we go home?" questioned a protester, Kojam Sarat, expressing frustration over prolonged displacement from home. The Sangai Festival - Manipur's premier tourism event returned this year after a two-year gap following the ethnic conflict that erupted in May, 2023.

Meanwhile, the Kuki-Zo Council issued a release, condemning the march, accusing the IDP protesters of attempting to breach the



'buffer line' and provoke the Kuki-Zo community. The council said that the "pro-testers' coordinated movement" despite restrictions led Central forces to use tear gas and smoke shells to control the situation.

"This reflects a recurring pattern of provocation and intimidation," said Ginza Vualzong, secretary (information and publicity) of the council.

He added that normalcy cannot prevail "when one community continues to break the peace while the other is forced to remain in constant vigilance". Reasserting its demand, the KZC stated that "a Union Territory with Constitutional safeguards" is the only viable solution to ensure lasting stability and security for the Kuki-Zo people. The protest against the Sangai Festival continued on Saturday, a day after Governor

Ajay Kumar Bhalla inaugurated it at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal East district. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) taking shelter at a relief camp located at the Sericulture complex in Kwakta, about 50 km south of Imphal, staged a rally against holding of the festival, from Kwakta to Phougakchao Ikhai in Bishnupur district. However, they were prevented from proceeding to Churachandpur by security forces stationed at Phougakchao Ikhai. Earlier in the day, a sit-in demonstration against the festival was held at Kwakta. On Friday evening, tension erupted at Phougakchao Ikhai after a large number of IDPs hailing from different places including Phougakchao Ikhai, Torbung Bangla, Waikhurok and parts of Churachandpur, attempted to return to their abandoned villages. Some IDPs were injured in a confrontation after security forces prevented them from continuing the onward march.

Supporting the move of the IDPs, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, a joint body of civil society organisations, appealed to the public to abstain from attending the Sangai Festival. Amid the ongoing protest, the Manipur Governor had inaugurated the Sangai Festival in Imphal East district on Friday with only department officials and security personnel being present at the venue.

Biswadeep Gupta
Founder & CEO
North East Integration Rally

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



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WHERE THE AIR BEGINS AGAIN



It feels like the clock has been set back, like we are in a different dimension: the city is covered in a soupy pall. The smog blocks out the sun at one of the nicest times of the year. I hold my breath.

As the hour ascends, the sky is a solid blue, smooth lacquer, like a handmade Persian tile on a monument. The air fills all my senses, in the manner of sparkling champagne. I breathe fully and deeply.

Back in North India, I think about our collective predicament: bad air is a public interest issue, but it increasingly forces so many of us to get hermetically sealed—in our own air bubbles, so to speak. We turn in to protected, purified cars, homes and offices, away from each other, away from the outdoors. Runners postpone their sport, birdwatchers delay their excursions. The poor suffer yet another indignity heaped on to their lives. And it is not just cities—it is entire regions in various parts of the country that exhaust themselves with poor air quality.

Meanwhile, the humour, like our air filters, is black. Politicians have various gimmicks and explanations. Air data goes missing. My air purifier says 'FO' to me. Stepping out without a mask feels like an endurance sport.

When we watch movies with animal characters, people often ask: does the animal know he is in a movie? Like animals (unknowingly) starring in horror films, the very old and the very young live in an air dark with the lack of consent.

There are many bold political moves that are needed, which need to be decisive—electrification of transport, moving industry, postponing construction (and marathons). At the moment, environmentalism feels expensive, almost like a luxury commodity. Just like biodegradable plastic bags are expensive (as compared to regular plastic garbage bags), costly electric vehicles may make you feel the polluting familiar, the regular car, is an easier choice. Perhaps an aggressive exchange offer for electrified vehicles is the place to start.

At this clouded time, I think of the personal. There are new cultures of care and new vocabularies that have emerged. Do you have your mask? A friend asks. Can I order you a new HEPA filter, I am getting some for myself, says another. Everyone brings indoor plants as gifts. Somebody checks if we are still drinking kaadha, a concoction for the throat. Someone else suggests drinking not plain water, but glasses of water with tulsi (basil) and slices of amla. It is like everything needs an extra shot of immunity, like Covid never went away and our faces will forever be sheathed in masks.

How far does one have to travel before the air is clean enough for breathing to feel invigorating, and not diseased? It is like searching for the spot in the mountains where one finally, exhilaratingly, views the snowline.

A hundred kilometres from Delhi is where the air is clean, I told my friend. Right into the sea, on a boat (off Mumbai's coast) is where you can really feel the sea air, she responded to me. We were tallying our personal 'snowlines'—the places where nature felt more powerful and more moving than everything we had done to it. The week trundled on, and we waited for our snowlines.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"But remember, this power of the people on top depends on the obedience of the people below. When people stop obeying, they have no power."

- Howard Zinn

Allegations of Nepotism Spark a Political Storm-RJD vs. NDA Clash



KISHAN BHAWNANI

Following the surprising results of the Bihar Assembly elections, Bihar politics has once again begun to revolve around allegations of nepotism. Following the formation of the new government late in the evening on November 21, 2025, the RJD sharply questioned the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister of India, and the BJP retaliated with equal intensity, shifting the entire political discourse in a new direction. With every phase of power transition in Bihar, the issue of nepotism has surfaced like a burning ember, sometimes quiet, sometimes flaring. Advocate Kishan Sanmukhadas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this debate is not merely a political strategy but part of a larger debate within Indian democracy about nepotism versus merit, which has been unfolding in different forms in different states for decades. The aggressive manner in which the RJD targeted Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Modi after the swearing-in of the new government made it clear that the coming political season will focus not just on development or administrative issues, but also on the all-too-sensitive question of "who holds power and why." The RJD said that those who make the most noise about nepotism are now themselves promoting that trend, and therefore, they should answer their own allegations. This attack was considered sharp because the RJD directly placed the two top positions of Prime Minister and Chief Minister at the center of this debate. The RJD's argument is clear: if our party has been accused of nepotism for years, then why shouldn't the same criteria be applied to those who claim to view this issue through the lens of morality and political purity? The mere raising of this allegation naturally heated up the political atmosphere in Bihar.

Friends, if we consider the controversy surrounding the cabinet formation, the list of who is whose son, and the intensity of the rhetoric, then as soon as the new cabinet of the Nitish government was sworn in, new layers of allegations began to surface. The RJD released a list of ministers, which showed that many of the new cabinet members came from the next generation of political families—some the son of a former chief minister, some the heir of a former minister, some a member of a powerful district-level family. The RJD argued that this was precisely

ly the very element the NDA had been challenging on election platforms by calling it anti-nepotism. The release of this list further escalated the political temperature. The accusations and counter-accusations deepened to such an extent that the debate moved beyond political equations to the broader realm of political ethics and principles. The RJD said that those who used to talk about a revolution against dynasty politics during elections are now giving families the most important role in their governance.

Friends, if we consider this nepotism list and the satire, proverbs, and political sarcasm that characterize Bihar's evergreen political landscape, we can consider: (1) Santosh Suman - son of former Chief Minister and MP from Gaya and current Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, son-in-law of current MLA Jyoti Manjhi, and husband of current MLA Deepa Manjhi. (2) Samrat Chaudhary-Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, son of former Minister Shakuni Chaudhary and former MLA, the late Parvati Devi. (3) Deepak Prakash - son of former Union Minister and current Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha and current MLA Snehlata. (4) Shreyasi Singh - daughter of former Union Minister Digvijay Singh and former MP Putul Kumari. (5) Rama Nishad - daughter-in-law of former Union Minister Captain Jai Narayan Nishad and wife of former MP Ajay Nishad. (6) Vijay Chaudhary - son of former MLA - Jagdish Prasad Chaudhary. (7) Ashok Choudhary - Son of former minister Mahavir Choudhary and father of current Samastipur MP Shambhavi Choudhary. (8) Nifin Nabin - Son of former MLA Naveen Kishore Sinha. (9) Sunil Kumar - Son of former minister Chandrika Ramand brother of former MLA Anil Kumar. (10) Lesy Singh - Lesy Singh, wife of late Bhutan Singh, former district president of Samata Party. Satire, proverbs, and political sarcasm is the evergreen style of Bihar politics - Satire has always been a major weapon of debate in Bihar politics. The RJD used famous proverbs and couplets to sharpen its attack on nepotism. "They carry the palanquins of their descendants in all directions, then how can they impart wisdom on the policies of others?" Similarly, the RJD invoked a familiar proverb: "Those whose sieve has a thousand holes in it, how can they question the sieve?" These lines were not merely a verbal sarcasm, but also a signal that political debate had moved from the level of logic to the level of emotional

and cultural symbols. In a state like Bihar, where folk tales and proverbs are part of social consciousness, such satire multiplies the political impact.

Friends, if we consider the NDA's counterattack the "new definition" of nepotism, and the changing language of politics, as soon as the RJD's allegations gained momentum, the NDA leaders' responses also emerged swiftly. Senior BJP leader Dilip Jaiswal bluntly stated that the opposition has yet to grasp the definition of nepotism. According to him, nepotism isn't limited to a minister or MLA's son becoming a minister; the true meaning of nepotism is when a Prime Minister's son becomes Prime Minister, a Chief Minister's son becomes Chief Minister, and power becomes completely inherited. His reference was clearly directed towards the Congress, Samajwadi Party, and RJD. He was saying that nepotism has no place in the leadership of Narendra Modi, Nitish Kumar, or the BJP, and therefore the RJD's allegations are baseless. This "new definition" by the NDA has emerged as a new discourse in the political debate. Now the question became not just about attaining office, but about the birthright of the top dynasty to power versus the legitimacy derived from the election of the people's representatives.

Friends, if we consider the debates, support and political polarization on social media, every political issue instantly becomes a trend on social media, and the issue of nepotism is no exception. As soon as RJD supporters released a list of "faces of nepotism" included in the cabinet, many users called it "the double face of the NDA." They argued that the BJP only points fingers at parties with which it has ideological opposition, but when it comes to allies or ministers within its own government, those standards disappear. On the other hand, NDA supporters described this entire controversy as "despair after defeat." They argued that parties that have repeatedly been rejected by the public are now trying to regain lost ground by raising issues that the public no longer trusts. This dual response on social media indicates that Bihar politics is not limited to the stage of the Assembly or Parliament; it has become an issue on every mobile screen and a part of every voter's emotional world.

Friends, if we consider the deeper aspects of the debate on nepotism, democracy, opportunity, and a changing political society, the debate on nepotism isn't limited to Bihar politics; it's a larger question of India's political culture. Democracy is based on equal opportunity and merit, while nepotism limits this. However nepotism in Indian politics also has another aspect: the social reach, networks, and years of experience of political families sometimes make them natural players in electoral politics. This is why political families maintain their role in almost every state in India, be it Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, or Punjab. Bihar is no different. The current debate raises the question: is nepotism inherent in politics or does it need to be challenged? Is the existence of political families a problem in itself, or does the problem arise when decisions are made solely on the basis of nepotism and merit is ignored? The current dispute between the NDA and the RJD is a microcosm of this larger question.

Friends, if we consider the mention of the Indian PM and the national scope of the debate, whenever nepotism is discussed, the Indian PM is specifically mentioned because he has described nepotism as the biggest disease of national politics in several elections. The RJD's claim that examples of nepotism exist in the Bihar cabinet, and that the PM should answer for it, immediately brought this debate to the national political level. The PM has always maintained that his family represents "130

crore Indians." This is why the BJP argues that allegations of nepotism under Modi's leadership are meaningless. However, according to the opposition, the term "nepotism" is used politically only to discredit opponents, not to apply within one's own coalition.

Therefore, if we study and analyze the entire above account, we will find that the political storm sparked by allegations of nepotism—the clash between RJD and NDA—is not limited to Bihar politics; it is a major question of India's political culture. Nepotism limits the foundation of democracy, equal opportunity, and merit.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

BIGGEST CRASH IN HISTORY STARTING In 2013 I published RICH DADS PROPHECY predicting the biggest crash in history was coming. Unfortunately that crash has arrived. It's not just the US. Europe and Asia are crashing. AI will wipe out jobs and when jobs crash office and residential real estate crashes. Time to buy more gold, silver, Bitcoin and Ethereum. Silver is the best and the safest. Silver is \$50 today. I predict silver will hit \$70 soon and possibly \$200 in 2026. The good news is while millions will lose everything.... if you are prepared...this crash will make you richer. I will have more ways to get richer even as markets crash in future Tweets or Xs. Take care

~ Robert Kiyosaki, Author, Investor, Entrepreneur



Pakistan's constitutional plunge into military dominance

B. S. DARA

Pakistan has crossed a line that even many dictators hesitate to cross. Its recent constitutional amendment, which elevates the serving Army Chief to a Field-Marshal-like lifelong power centre, extends his tenure until 2030, and grants him sweeping legal immunity, is nothing short of a full constitutional surrender to military rule. It is not an internal political adjustment, as Islamabad would like the world to believe. It is a brazen, deliberate transformation of Pakistan into a uniform-run state where democracy survives only on paper and the constitution bends to the will of one institution. As Reuters reported, the amendment was passed with shocking ease, despite senior judges resigning in protest and warning that the constitution has been mutilated beyond recognition. Their message was stark that Pakistan's legal order now protects the powerful from the law itself.

This is not a coup by force, it is a coup by legislation, far more dangerous because it carries the illusion of legitimacy. Pakistan has effectively written military supremacy into its constitution. For a country that has been teetering between fragile democracy and overt dictatorship for decades, this amendment finally settles the question of who rules Pakistan. It is not parliament. It is not the judiciary. It is not the people. The military, long unaccountable, is now legally untouchable.

Why did Pakistan's political class allow this? The answer reveals a broken political culture. Pakistan's civilian leaders have historically operat-

ed not as defenders of democracy, but as temporary tenants in a house owned by the army. They bend, compromise, and negotiate not with voters but with the military establishment. Political parties in Pakistan rarely challenge the uniforms because they know the consequences. Dismissal, exile, arrest, and disappearance. Instead, they willingly trade away constitutional authority in exchange for brief, fragile years in government. They do not defend democracy, they bargain with it. This amendment did not pass despite Pakistan's political parties, it passed because of them.

The tragedy is that Pakistan's military dominance was not imposed overnight. It has been cultivated for decades with deliberate precision. The military inserted itself into foreign policy, internal security, national ideology, the economy, the media and the intelligence apparatus. It built business empires, manipulated elections, toppled prime ministers and silenced journalists. And now, having conquered every institution through practice, it has sought to formalise that control in the constitution itself. The term 'failed state' is often used carelessly, but Pakistan is dangerously close to embodying it, a nuclear-armed nation where military power thrives while civilian authority collapses.

The amendment strikes at the heart of whatever remained of Pakistan's democratic fabric. It cripples the judiciary, which was already struggling to maintain independence. Two senior Supreme Court judges resigning the very day the amendment passed tells its own story. They believed the constitution

had been assaulted so severely that the judiciary could no longer defend it. This is the deepest institutional humiliation Pakistan has inflicted upon itself in decades. When a state grants lifetime immunity to a military ruler, it announces that accountability is dead. When it extends his command over all branches of the armed forces, it announces that power is centralised in a single, unelected man. And when it legalises this arrangement, it announces that democracy is not merely weak, it is irrelevant. India cannot afford to take this development lightly. A Pakistan governed openly by the military is not a stabilising neighbour. It is a volatile one. Every major conflict between India and Pakistan, from Kargil to terror attacks to proxy insurgencies, has roots in decisions taken not by civilians but by the Pakistani military establishment. Now that the military has formally absorbed constitutional power, the chances of policy moderation diminish even further. Pakistan's civilian leaders, however flawed, at least carried some electoral accountability and economic considerations. The military does not. Its worldview is shaped by hostility, threat perceptions and ideological rigidity. A military that faces no internal challenge is more likely to act adventurously, especially when its domestic failures demand external distractions.

This is particularly dangerous because Pakistan is a nuclear state. The global community often assumes that nuclear command-and-control structures are insulated, professional and secure. But when political oversight disappears and absolute

authority lies with one institution, protected by lifetime immunity, the margin for miscalculation narrows. A nuclear-armed Pakistan ruled entirely by the military is a geopolitical nightmare, not only for India but for the entire region. South Asia has witnessed enough cycles of escalation due to Pakistan's security establishment, with constitutional licence now added to military dominance, those cycles could become more frequent and more dangerous. This amendment also sends a deeply troubling message to the Global South. At a time when democracies are fighting to survive disinformation, authoritarian temptations and institutional weakening, Pakistan has chosen the opposite path. It has codified authoritarianism as national policy. It has told the developing world that civilian rule is expendable, that courts can be side-lined, that constitutions can be rewritten to protect the powerful rather than the people. No country that claims democratic credentials should remain silent about this precedent. Pakistan is damaging itself and poisoning the democratic environment of the region. For India, this is a moment of strategic clarity. New Delhi must recognise that the Pakistan it faces today is not a divided hybrid democracy but a uniform-controlled system with no civilian counterweight. Vigilance along the borders, strengthened intelligence, and a recalibrated diplomatic posture are necessary. But equally important is India's responsibility to uphold and project democratic stability, because the contrast between the two nations has never been sharper.

Assam BJP Says 2026 Election Will Be Framed Around 'Indigenous vs Miya Muslim' Narrative



GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on November 22 said the 2026 Assembly elections are likely to be defined by what it described as a political contest between the state's indigenous communities and Muslims of East Bengal origin.

In a press release issued from Vajpayee Bhawan, BJP media panelist Dilip Kumar Sharma said the state's "se-

crete future" is tied to this electoral dynamic and credited Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with taking "unprecedented steps" to protect indigenous Assamese interests.

The party listed several initiatives undertaken during the current government's tenure, including the recognition of Assamese as a classical language, efforts to bring the historic Vrindavani Vastra back to Assam, the establishment of Sukapha University and a university named after Kanaklata Barua, the installation of a grand statue of Ahom commander Bir Lachit Borphukan in Jorhat, and the UNESCO World Heritage recognition for the Charaideo Maidams.

The BJP also accused previous Congress governments of prioritising the "appeasement" of Muslims of East Bengal origin while failing to advance indigenous concerns. It further cited the government's actions against child marriage, "love jihad," and "land jihad" as major steps that it said reinforce Assamese identity.

On infiltration and land encroachment, the party claimed that illegal migrants were being pushed back to Bangladesh daily and that government, sattrra, forest, VGR/PGR, and waterbody lands had been secured. More than 1.3 lakh bighas of encroached land had been cleared, the statement said.

Sharma added that these issues are expected to weigh heavily on voter sentiment ahead of the 2026 polls, with the BJP preparing to campaign on its twin priorities of rapid development and the protection of indigenous communities. The release also noted a series of high-level strategy meetings held over the last two days, attended by BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, State BJP President Dilip Saikia, Assam in-charge Harish Dwivedi, Union Minister Pabitra Margherita and senior office-bearers. The party said the meetings formally launch its preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections.

OIL achieves successful capping of Well 76 at Kharsang Oil Field



DIBRUGARH

Oil India Limited (OIL) has successfully completed the capping operation at Well KSG#76 in the Kharsang Oil Field, operated by GeoEnpro Petroleum Ltd (GEPL) in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district.

The blowout occurred on 30 October 2025 during service operations, causing an uncontrolled gas release.

OIL's Crisis Management Team

(CMT), with support from Cudd Well Control, USA, and GEPL, took charge on 1 November and began safely removing the damaged Blowout Preventer (BOP) from the wellhead.

After the BOP was removed, the pre-positioned capping stack was installed on the wellhead, successfully redirecting and containing the gas flow.

Once secured, the BOP was closed, stopping the gas discharge from Well KSG#76.

OIL credited the operation's success to careful planning, technical expertise, and strong collaboration between global specialists and local teams.

The company thanked the Arunachal Pradesh administration, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and the local community for their support.

OIL affirmed its commitment to safe, sustainable, and efficient operations while proceeding with the next phases of the well control roadmap.

'Miyas Vote Unitedly': Himanta Biswa Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that Bengali-speaking Muslims - commonly referred to as "Miyas" - tend to vote as a unified bloc, a pattern he believes has amplified their political influence across several regions of the state.

Speaking to reporters during a series of official engagements, Sarma contrasted this with what he described as a fragmented voting pattern among "our people," urging greater political consolidation ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

"The Miyas vote together, in one chunk. That is why they are progressing politically," Sarma said. "Our votes are scattered. Therefore, I appeal to our people to vote unitedly - for whichever party or candidate they choose."

The term "Miya," once used derogatorily for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam and often linked to perceptions of Bangladeshi ancestry, has in recent years been reclaimed by sections of the community as a marker of cultural identity.

Commenting on demographic changes in Lower Assam - where Bengali-speaking Muslims form majorities in several districts - Sarma remarked, "Lower Assam cannot be taken back from them. We must ensure they do not expand further. We have to keep them under pressure and create difficulties so that, if not today, they have to leave after 10-15 years."

Sarma also targeted previous Congress governments, accusing them of neglecting both indigenous communities and Muslim settlers by failing to resolve long-standing land issues despite decades in power.

"The Congress ruled for 60 years. They could have issued land pattas but did not," he said. "People settled on forest and government land.

Meghalaya CM inaugurates CFI Centre at Umroi, announces foreign language training for students

GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma inaugurated the Care For India (CFI) Centre at Nonglum, Umroi, in Ri Bhoi District on November 22 and announced plans to introduce foreign language training at the organisation's nursing college.

The new retreat centre is designed to offer visitors a space to relax and reflect, while the nursing college continues to provide quality education to students from Meghalaya and the wider northeast.

At the inauguration, Sangma highlighted the state government's plan to collaborate with CFI to offer foreign language courses at the institute.

The initiative aims to help young people access overseas employment opportunities in the healthcare sector and sup-

port their families financially. "We look forward to partnering with them to introduce foreign language training, enabling our youth to explore overseas job opportunities and support their families," Sangma said in a statement on social media. He noted that nursing and healthcare services are generating significant employment prospects for young people in the region and expressed appreciation to CFI for creating these opportunities.

He added that the collaboration would strengthen their shared goal of empowering youth and serving the community.

The Umroi nursing college has been training students for careers in healthcare, a sector that continues to expand employment opportunities in Meghalaya and the northeast.

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on November 22 responded to the controversy surrounding a retired IAS officer allegedly threatening a journalist over the phone, saying the viral audio clip suggested that the two "seemed to be old friends." Sarma added that the government would provide protection to any journalist who genuinely felt unsafe.

The Chief Minister made the remark while interacting with reporters after attending a cheque distribution ceremony under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhijan in Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon district.

"If protection is needed for a journalist, I can provide it. Do you want a PSO?" Sarma quipped, drawing laughter from those pres-



ent. His comments came after widespread circulation of an audio clip in which retired bureaucrat Hiteswar Dev Sharma purportedly threatened a journalist.

Sarma, however, suggested that the exchange in the clip indicated personal familiarity rather than a serious threat. "It sounds like they are old friends," he said.

The Chief Minister also

weighed in on the ongoing debate over reported NCERT textbook updates that remove the word "Great" from Mughal emperor Akbar and exclude references to Tipu Sultan from certain sections.

Although he noted that he had not personally verified the changes, Sarma welcomed the move if implemented.

"Very well done. If they have

done this, then many thanks to NCERT from my side," he said.

Reiterating his long-held position on revising how certain historical figures are portrayed in school education, Sarma again used strong language while referring to Tipu Sultan. "Tipu-Ipu ko maro ek-dum... Samundar mein phok do," he said, arguing that such figures should not be glorified in textbooks.

NCERT has defended the revisions as part of its ongoing rationalisation exercise, while opposition parties and academic groups have criticised the changes as politically motivated.

Sarma, however, maintained that removing what he considers unwarranted glorification of "controversial" historical figures will help present students with a more accurate understanding of India's past.

Public Deserves Answers: Former CM Biren Singh Questions Manipur's Progress on Illegal Immigrant Detection

IMPHAL

Former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has raised concerns over what he described as a growing diversion from the core issue of illegal immigration, asserting that the problem remains central to Manipur's ongoing unrest.

In a strongly worded statement on Friday, Biren Singh warned that "powerful groups" were attempting to shift attention away from the alleged influx of illegal immigrants from neighbouring countries. He said the state must remain focused on the issue and



avoid becoming "trapped in secondary narratives" linked to ethnic violence.

Recalling his tenure under the NDA government, the former Chief Minister said Manipur was the first state in the Northeast to initiate a systematic identification

process for illegal immigrants and refugees. "At that time, we were criticised by leaders of neighbouring states. But today, every nearby state, including Nagaland and Mizoram, has realised the gravity of the problem and taken strict action," he said.

Singh pointed to Mizoram's ongoing verification campaign, noting that the state has completed around 58 percent of biometric verification of suspected illegal immigrants. "How much has Manipur done till now? The public deserves this answer," he said, questioning the current administration's progress.

He further alleged that efforts to shift the narrative were deliberate. "Some powerful groups want the state and Centre to focus on secondary issues under the name of ethnic violence, so that the primary threat is forgotten," he said.

Biren Singh urged both the state government and the Centre to "stay firm" and continue detection and deportation drives. "We must not allow anti-national and anti-state elements to distract us. The safety, stability and future of Manipur depend on keeping our attention on the core issue that started this entire crisis," he added.

CM Neiphiu Rio unveils Nagaland-themed Air India Express flight at Dimapur airport



DIMAPUR

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio flagged off Air India Express plane, a newly inducted Boeing 737-8 aircraft featuring a livery Tsungkotepu warrior shawl, at Dimapur airport on Saturday. CM Rio, while inaugurating the selfie point at Dimapur airport, stated that Nagaland is pleased to welcome Air India Express with a special Tsungkotepu-themed livery as the tourist partner for Nagaland tourism and Hornbill Festival.

"This collaboration marks an important step in strengthening connectivity, enhancing the visitors' experience and showcasing Nagaland to the rest of the country and also to the world," he said.

Rio stressed that it is an endeavour undertaking and a corporate partnership that will provide greater

opportunities for tourism, cultural exchange and economic growth. Alope Singh, MD, Air India Express, said his organisation was honoured to partner with the Nagaland government for the Hornbill Festival 2025. He said Tsungkotepu livery on the new aircraft VT BWD is a tribute to Nagaland's artistic legacy. "Today's ceremony reflects the state's creativity, energy and cultural pride. We look forward to welcoming guests from across India to explore more of Nagaland and participate in the Hornbill Festivities this year," he added. The Air India Express has decided to offer 15% discount for bookings from or to Dimapur made till December 10, 2025, applicable for travel till December 15, 2025, using the promo code 'HORNBILL' on the airline website and mobile app to encourage travellers to visit Nagaland during the festive season.

Manipur's 'Abnormal' Crisis Is Being Misrepresented as Normal, Says Congress MP Bimol Akoijam

IMPHAL

Congress MP Angomcha Bimol Akoijam on Saturday criticised efforts to portray the current situation in Manipur as normal, saying the state continues to face severe humanitarian and administrative challenges more than a year after violence first erupted.

Addressing the media, Akoijam said people remain "segregated in terms of their community," with many still unable to return to their homes or access essential public facilities. He noted that thousands continue to live in relief camps, and several localities remain restricted based on community identity.

"People have been trying to normalise what is essentially an abnormal condition," he said, adding that movement restrictions



persist around hospitals, highways and even the Imphal airport for certain communities.

The MP also raised concerns over the ongoing State Identification Revision (SIR) process, alleging that the government was misleading the public about the procedures. He said earlier exercises such as the 2003 revision in Manipur and similar processes in Bihar followed different and more transparent protocols.

"They have been telling a lot of lies about procedures to be followed," Akoijam alleged. "The revision may be part of a normal process, but the intention, the procedures they have adopted - these are against constitutional propriety. It is clearly politically motivated."

He urged the government to acknowledge that Manipur continues to function under "extraordinary, abnormal circumstances," and emphasised that restoration of free movement, access to public services and basic rights must come before any claims of normalcy.

Quest!

Scientists have accidentally found a new method to convert carbon dioxide to ethanol, which could help in the fight against climate change.

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Prashant Kishor claims Bihar polls 'rigged' but admits he has no proof



PATNA

Election strategist and Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor broke his silence on Sunday following his party's poor performance in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly elections, claiming that the polls appeared "rigged," although he admitted he currently had no proof to substantiate the allegation, he was speaking in an interview.

Kishor described the party's defeat as "crushing" but insisted that the Jan Suraj campaign had generated significant traction on the ground. He argued that the actual voting trends did not align with the feedback his team had gathered during months of the Jan Suraj yatra, suggesting that "something went wrong" in the process.

He also alleged that some "invincible powers" influenced the results, not-

ing that unknown parties ended up securing lakhs of votes. Kishor said he was being urged by people to claim that electronic voting machines (EVMs) had been manipulated, but he stressed that these were only allegations without evidence at this stage.

According to Kishor, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had distributed money to thousands of women voters in Bihar to sway the election outcome. He claimed that from the announcement of elections until polling day, women were handed an initial installment of Rs 10,000, with promises of further amounts totaling Rs 2 lakh if they voted for the NDA and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Kishor remarked that he had never witnessed a government distributing money to such an extent in Bihar or elsewhere in India.

He further pointed to

the lingering fear of Lalu Prasad Yadav's "Jungle Raj" as a factor that worked against Jan Suraj. Kishor noted that many voters assumed his party was unlikely to win and feared that voting for it could inadvertently aid the return of Lalu's rule, which reportedly discouraged support.

Responding to critics who prematurely declared his political career over, Kishor dismissed such claims, asserting that public attention on him only indicated he remained a significant player in politics. He said the narrative of his career was "far from over."

The Jan Suraj Party, which contested 238 of the 243 Assembly seats, failed to win a single constituency. Preliminary party estimates suggested it secured only 2-3% of the vote, with most candidates losing their deposits.

PM Modi attended 12 G20 Summits from 2014 to 2025



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended 12 G20 summits since taking office in 2014, a record the Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday described as a testament to his leadership and the vision that has shaped the grouping's global agenda.

The party said the Prime Minister's consistent participation reflects India's growing influence in world affairs and highlights the country's role in steering discussions on finance, security, sustainability, and technological advancement.

Modi first represented India at the G20 in 2014 at Brisbane,

Australia, where talks centred on financial transparency. He called for a global crackdown on black money, marking India's early push towards greater financial accountability. The following year, at the Antalya summit in Turkey, he pressed for a coordinated international strategy to tackle terror financing, as the G20 focused on issues of security and global finance.

In 2016, attending the G20 in Hangzhou, China, Modi emphasised structured economic reforms, innovation, and a united global approach to counter terrorism. He also spoke about equality, sustainable lifestyles, and the need for collective action against climate challenges. The 2017 summit in Hamburg,

Germany, saw him propose deeper cooperation on technology and global health security, as world leaders discussed health and development priorities.

At the 2018 G20 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Modi presented a nine-point agenda to address fugitive economic offenders and stressed the importance of strengthening infrastructure through innovative financing tools such as the Global Infrastructure Hub. In Osaka, Japan, during the 2019 summit focused on digitisation, he advocated for a global framework on digital governance and secure data flows, underscoring India's rapid digital transformation and the country's success in expanding digital pay-

ments.

During the 2020 G20 hosted by Saudi Arabia, Modi urged world leaders to adopt Ease of Living as a guiding principle of development, linking it to human-centric growth. In 2021, at the Rome summit in Italy, he promoted the 'One Earth, One Health' vision and highlighted India's commitment to making Indian Railways carbon neutral by 2030. He also proposed a Clean Energy Projects Fund and pushed for global standards for green hydrogen—proposals that, according to government sources, received wide support.

Modi's 2022 participation in Bali, Indonesia, focused on climate action and sustainability, where he announced the global launch of Mission LiFE and the Arogya Maitri Project.

The following year, at the New Delhi G20 hosted by India, he played a crucial role in securing permanent membership for the African Union, promoting a digital public infrastructure framework, and unveiling initiatives such as the Global Biofuels Alliance and the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. He also floated ideas for a G20 talent visa and a satellite mission for climate and environmental monitoring.

At the 2024 summit in Brazil, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of fully implementing the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and advancing the integration of the Global South in decision-making platforms. In 2025, currently attending the G20 in South Africa, Modi has focused on technology and the needs of the Global South, calling for inclusive AI governance and pressing for debt relief mechanisms for vulnerable nations.

INTERNATIONAL

G20 declaration calls on countries to refrain from 'using force' against 'political independence' of another state



CAPE TOWN

Leaders from the G20 group of top economies endorsed Saturday a declaration at a summit in South Africa that highlights issues related to access to critical minerals and measures to cope with climate change.

South Africa chose "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" as the theme of its presidency of the G20, which comprises 19 countries and two regional bodies, the European Union and the African Union and accounts for 85 percent of global GDP.

Here are some highlights from the declaration from the first G20 summit on the African continent which was boycotted by the United States.

The declaration addressed major global conflicts underway by calling for a "just, comprehensive,

and lasting peace" in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It called on countries to "refrain from the threat or use of force ... against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state."

While Ukraine was only mentioned once in the 30-page document, Western leaders attending the summit also scrambled on the sidelines to respond to a unilateral plan pushed by US President Donald Trump to end the war in Ukraine on terms favouring Russia.

Leaders said they would seek to protect the global value chain of critical minerals from "disruption", whether due to geopolitical tensions, unilateral trade measures inconsistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, pandemics, or natural disasters.

Many countries are intensifying efforts to secure access to these minerals, which are abundant in Africa and essential to the transition to green energy, used in electronics from phones to solar panels and electric cars.

China's dominance of critical mineral supply chains has emerged as growing area of concern for the world's industrialised democracies.

The declaration also supported "increased exploration of critical minerals, particularly in developing countries" for which they said the resource should be a driver of development and value-addition "rather than just raw material exports".

South Africa placed the fight against inequality as one of its main G20 priorities, with President Cyril Ramaphosa commissioning an expert report on the problem and supporting a call to establish

an international panel on wealth disparities.

While the declaration did not specifically mention the report's recommendation, it underlined the "imperative" to address "disparities in wealth and development both within and between countries".

The leaders also called for efforts to reform international financial systems to help low-income countries cope with their debt, which was hindering development and eating into investments into infrastructure, disaster resilience, healthcare and education.

They called for more transparency from lenders, including in the private sector, and backed a review of the International Monetary Fund as well as work to establish global minimum taxes.

The declaration's language on taxation of the super-rich was less robust than in the previous G20 declaration in Rio de Janeiro where leaders agreed to ensure the world's billionaires "are effectively taxed".

Endorsed on the same day that the COP30 UN climate talks concluded in Brazil, the declaration recognised the need to "rapidly and substantially" scale up climate finance "from billions to trillions globally from all sources".

It highlighted inequalities in access to energy, particularly in Africa, and called for increasing, de-risking and diversifying investments for sustainable energy transitions.

The leaders said they would promote the development of early warning systems for people at risk of climate-linked disasters, recognising that some of those most impacted were from least developed countries.

The text, however, fell short of mentioning a phaseout from fossil fuels.

US denies pushing Russian 'wish list' as Ukraine plan



WASHINGTON

Washington insisted Saturday that its Ukraine proposal is indeed official US policy, denying claims by a group of senators that Secretary of State Marco Rubio told them the document under discussion is just a Russian "wish list."

The dispute over the 28-point plan, which cedes Ukrainian territory long sought by Moscow, threw an extraordinary element of confusion into efforts to negotiate an end to the war.

US President Donald Trump has pushed the plan, pressuring the Ukrainians to accept it within days. Negotiators will meet in Switzerland on Sunday.

However, after a storm of criticism that the proposal is almost entirely favorable to Moscow, several US senators spoke out, holding a press conference at the Halifax International Security Forum in Nova Scotia, Canada on Saturday.

The senators -- Republican Mike Rounds, independent Angus King, and Democrat Jeanne Shaheen -- said Rubio told them the current Ukraine proposal is not the official US position, but instead lays out a "Russian wish list."

"What he (Rubio) told us was that this was not the American proposal. This was

a proposal that was received by someone... representing Russia in this proposal. It was given to Mr Witkoff," Rounds said, referring to Trump's diplomatic envoy Steve Witkoff. "It is not our recommendation. It is not our peace plan."

King corroborated those comments, saying "the leaked 28-point plan -- which according to Secretary Rubio is not the administration's position -- it is essentially the wish list of the Russians that is now being presented to the Europeans and to the Ukrainians."

The plan would require Kyiv to cede territory, cut its military, and pledge never to join NATO.

Trump said Saturday it was not his final offer and he hoped to stop the fighting "one way or the other."

President Donald Trump meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, in New York. "It is offered as a strong framework for ongoing negotiations. It is based on input from the Russian side. But it is also based on previous and ongoing input from Ukraine," he said Saturday.

But Shaheen said she and Rounds spoke to the top US diplomat while he was en route to Geneva for the latest negotiations with Ukrainian

officials.

Rounds said Rubio was "very frank" during their call.

"It doesn't look like normally something that would come out of our government, particularly the way it was written. It looked more like it was written in Russian to begin with," Rounds said.

King noted that the plan should not reward Moscow for its invasion.

"Everyone wants this war to end but we want it to end on a fair and just peace that respects the integrity and the sovereignty of Ukraine and does not reward aggression and also provides adequate security guarantees," he said.

Earlier Saturday, other US senators including some in Trump's Republican party criticized Washington's plan.

"We will not achieve that lasting peace by offering (Russian President Vladimir) Putin concession after concession and fatally degrading Ukraine's ability to defend itself," the group of senators wrote in a statement.

Senator Mitch McConnell, a veteran Republican, said "rewarding Russian butchery would be disastrous to America's interests."

Writing on X, he said that Putin has "spent the entire year trying to play President Trump for a fool."

Since the Russian invasion began in 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed to keep Kyiv's territory intact. In a Friday address to the nation, Zelenskyy said Ukraine faces one of the most challenging moments in its history, adding that he would propose "alternatives" to Trump's proposal.

Beyond Contesting Pasts: Why Manipur's Story Is Larger Than Its Communities

Manipur's history is long, layered, and more complex than any single narrative of ancestry, demographic shifts, or political demands. It is a story shaped by battles and migrations, kings and commoners, devastating invasions and remarkable recoveries. But above all, it is a story of continuity - a kingdom that endured repeated attempts at erasure but survived through collective resilience.

Yet today, as Manipur faces new pressures of demographic change, political polarisation, and competing historical claims, its most pressing challenge may be the struggle to remember that its identity was not built by one group alone, nor defended by population numbers, but by a civilisational coherence forged over centuries.

Long before the boundaries of modern India were drawn, long before the word "tribal" or "majority" had political relevance, Manipur existed as one of Asia's oldest continuous kingdoms. Under the Ningthouja dynasty's sixty-seven rulers, the kingdom saw more than two millennia of cultural evolution, military clashes, and territorial expansion.

This was not a fragmented land stitched together by colonial administrators. Manipur had its own script, its own diplomacy, its own military organisation, and its own political structure. Its boundaries once stretched into Kabaw Valley, down to the plains of Cachar, and toward the foothills of the eastern Himalayas. These were territories recognised in treaties and recorded in chronicles long before imperial powers mapped their administrative units.

Much of Manipur's past was shaped by the Meitei kings, whose armies bore the brunt of foreign invasions and whose administrative system knit the valley and hill regions into a functioning kingdom. But this did not mean that other communities were passive spectators.

Hill groups - Nagas, Kukis, Zeliangrongs, and others - lived within the kingdom's frontiers under varying degrees of autonomy. Their populations were small, but their relationship with the kingdom was not one of opposition by default. Many provided refuge to valley survivors during devastating invasions; others fought jointly when threats loomed large. Their oral histories, too, are filled with memories of war, displacement, and survival.

The point often forgotten in today's debates is that Manipur's identity did not emerge from demographic weight but from shared vulnerability. When the Burmese invasions came in waves - particularly during the catastrophic Seven Years Devastation (1819-1826) - communities across the hills and valley were uprooted. Some sheltered the fleeing Meiteis; others suffered their own losses. The valley emptied, but the kingdom did not vanish because its social fabric extended beyond a single population centre.



If you're up late doing homework, listen to Hans Zimmer Pandora. It has no distracting lyrics, and the scores are intended to motivate.

From the 18th century onward, Manipur faced repeated external pressures: "Burmese invasions under

Hsinbyushin in 1765, "the Tripuri-Ava pincer attack in 1723, "the Anglo-Manipuri conflict of 1891, "towering armies and razed capitals, "tens of thousands marched off as captives.

These wars did not target one community - they targeted the kingdom itself.

Historical records clearly show that the Meitei monarchy organized the defence, led the diplomatic negotiations, and rebuilt the state after successive devastations. But as the kingdom weakened or collapsed, the suffering was shared by all communities living within its fold. Hill populations might have been small, but they formed part of the kingdom's human landscape: sheltering refugees, resisting invaders in the terrain they knew best, and surviving the same upheavals.

Demographic change is a relatively modern phenomenon in Manipur's long history.

Populations that were recorded as mere thousands in the 19th century now number in the lakhs. Cross-border migration from the late 19th century, post-independence mobility, and uneven growth rates have dramatically altered the demographic composition of the hills.

But demography, on its own, cannot tell the full story of sovereignty.

A community that was small during the kingdom's defining centuries cannot retroactively claim a past it did not possess - but neither can growth in the last hundred years diminish its dignity or stake in the present. Conversely, the Meiteis - who bore the historic responsibility of kingship, administration, and defence - cannot be reduced to just another "majority community," as if their historical role were a matter of arithmetic rather than civilisational continuity.

The real challenge is recognising that history is not the same as modern politics. Population figures from 1951 or 2011 cannot rewrite what happened in 1723, 1819, or 1891, just as ancient chronicles cannot dictate contemporary governance. Both must be read together, not in opposition.

The 1951 Census, taken immediately after Manipur's merger with India, provides clear figures:

"Meiteis formed the largest group at around 3.39 lakh. "Many Naga tribes numbered in the tens of thousands. "Kuki-Zo groups, most of whom migrated between 1840 and 1900 due to upheavals in the Chin Hills, were still recorded in small numbers - some under five thousand, some under ten thousand.

These numbers matter in historical debates because they show that current population strength does not necessarily reflect historical presence or political role. But these same records also tell us something else: communities that were small survived because the kingdom - largely powered by Meitei administration - provided protection, refuge, and structure. Their survival is itself evidence of a shared landscape.

Today, demands for separate administration, ethnic homelands, or even political division are often framed as the continuation of "ancestral rights." Yet most of these claims rest on present-day demography rather than historical patterns of

settlement, sovereignty, or political continuity.

The Meitei argument - that the kingdom survived because they bore the primary burden of defence and state-building - is historically sound. But the leap from that truth to a narrative of exclusive ownership risks narrowing Manipur's heritage into a single dimension.

Likewise, the counterclaim that any community's present numbers entitle it to exclusive territorial rights disregards the historical context in which different groups entered, lived, migrated, or expanded within the kingdom.

Both positions, when hardened, turn history into a weapon rather than a guide.

Manipur endured because its political centre held firm, because its monarchy maintained cohesion, because its society allowed for coexistence, and because its geography made interdependence inevitable.

The Meiteis built and defended the kingdom, yes - but the hills formed its shield, its lifeline during invasions, its source of refuge during devastation.

Communities that arrived later contributed to the cultural and demographic diversity that defines present-day Manipur.

Demography may shift, but identity forged over two thousand years does not change with the census.

The question facing Manipur today is not: Who owns the past?

It is: Who will shape the future without tearing the past apart?

If history teaches us anything, it is that Manipur survived because the kingdom remained whole. Fragmentation - whether military, demographic, or political - always preceded catastrophe.

The lesson is clear: "Unity preserved this land. "Division nearly destroyed it - multiple times.

"Survival depended not on numbers, but on structure, leadership, and shared fate.

When Manipur merged with India in 1949, it did so as a single, coherent political entity. The boundaries were drawn by centuries of shared history, not by population counts.

The debates of 2025 must not lose sight of this.

Communities may argue, disagree, or demand greater autonomy - all valid in a democracy. But dismantling the unity of a land whose identity predates the modern nation-state is neither historically justified nor politically sustainable.

Manipur was born united. Manipur was defended united. Manipur entered India united. The most responsible course - for every community - is ensuring that it remains united.

If you'd like, I can also create: "A more neutral academic-style rewrite, "A sharper editorial version, "A valley-hill reconciliation-centric perspective, or "A historically annotated version with clear citations.

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Edu Nation Summit 2025 Brings Together Top Educators and Industry Leaders at IIT Guwahati

The vision behind the North East Integration Rally, articulated in the Summit by Founder Biswadeep Gupta, highlights the '5E for Success' Campaign of NEIR 2026



GUWAHATI

The Edu Nation Summit 2025, organised by Veecap Eduventures Pvt. Ltd., brought an impressive line-up of educators, industry leaders, government officials, entrepreneurs and young innovators to the Conference Hall of IIT Guwahati today. The day-long summit focused on the future of Indian education, with discussions on technology adoption, employability, and academic transformation.

The event opened with registration, ceremonial lamp lighting and the felicitation of guests. The presence of 93-year-old scholar and veteran educationist Prof. Bhabani Prasad Goswami lent a special sense of gravitas to the inaugural session.

In his welcome address, Director Simanta Goswami greeted participants and shared the purpose of the summit. This was followed by a presentation from Sidhartha Dutta, Founder and CEO of Veecap Eduventures, who outlined the organisation's vision and stressed the importance of skill-based learning, global exposure and stronger academic-industry partnerships.

The summit drew several senior academic leaders, including Dr Ranjan Kalita, Principal of Rangapara College (Autonomous); Dr Saumarjyoti Mahanta, Principal of Sibsagar Commerce College; Dr Bhavani M.



R., Professor at Chanakya University; and Prof. Manjit Das, Registrar of Bhattadev University. Their contributions highlighted the directions needed to modernise higher education.

Industry participation was equally strong, with insights from experts such as mathematician Dr Surajit

Borkotokey of Dibrugarh University, Abhishek Lahkar of SPM IAS Academy, Prashant Mishra and Edward Seo Yong Hyeok of Kukje India Group, Dr Vijay Arora of IK SPL, North East Integration Rally Founder Biswadeep Gupta and investment consultant Manno Agarwala. Their perspec-

tives spanned defence leadership, finance, tourism, entrepreneurship, staffing and strategic development.

One of the most anticipated sessions of the day was the address by Bob Chopra, the youngest CEO of IvySchool AI. His talk on encouraging children to become creators of technolo-

gy rather than passive users drew wide praise for its clarity and vision.

Two panel discussions shaped the intellectual heart of the summit. The academic panel examined the National Education Policy and its impact on employability, while the industry panel explored the gap between corporate expectations and academic outcomes, emphasising the value of early skill exposure and closer academia-industry collaboration.

Biswadeep Gupta, Founder & CEO of North East Integration Rally, spoke on 5E for Success, highlighting the need for developing industry-ready graduates. He also echoed the view that our youth need to understand the true meaning of integration, as Government jobs are less, and one should be ready to travel out of their home town for jobs. Thus, the North East Integration Rally is a movement to create an evolved society for peaceful co-existence and progress in the region.

A scholastic award ceremony recognised emerging scholars and achievers, celebrating academic excellence and student potential.

The summit concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Abdul Hasib, Head of Marketing and Public Relations at Veecap Eduventures, who expressed gratitude to all speakers, delegates, partners and participants for their support in making the event a success.



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 & Canoe, Obstacle Navigation, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Technique, Water Sports.



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
 Potential, Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley by different stakeholders. Includes: KCCs, and D'gongal and can register for free. Registration: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and program will be started. 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 exhibition on 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.



Barak Festival
 Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave
 The 4th Annual Success Conclave is going to be held on the theme: "From School to Campus to Corporate". Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors.



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".



Barak Festival 2025
 PAINTING CARNIVAL
 NE CULTURAL FEST
 E-SPORTS

10-12 JAN
Science Studio
 Real 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
E-Sports
 Full-Blown Demos | CASH PRIZES | Trophy

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



Barak Festival
 Student Internship

10-12 JAN
Book Bank
 #NoLike Campaign | Book Bank | e-books | e-audio | e-video

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

Painting Carnival
 Water Colour painting and Draw-Paint Campaign





5E SUCCESS
STUDENT INTERNSHIP
 Discover valuable experience and learn more about the Industry.