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PERSPECTIVE

Respect yourself enough to walk away from anything that no longer serves you, grows you, or makes you happy.

Tourist footfalls in Manipur plunge from 1.79 lakh to 17,000 amid ethnic unrest, costly airfares

IMPHAL

Tourist arrivals in Manipur have nosedived to around 17,000 in 2024-25 from 1.79 lakh in 2019-20, as ethnic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities continue to grip the state for over two years, according to an official statement.

The statement noted that, apart from the prolonged unrest, exorbitant airfare has also discouraged travellers from visiting Manipur.

During a review meeting with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar in Imphal on Monday, state government officials raised the issue of rising airfares. Kumar was informed that the number of tourists had fallen sharply—from over 1,79,000 (1,67,000 domestic and 12,000 foreign) in 2019-20 to just about 17,000 (15,700 domestic and 1,300 foreign) in 2024-25.

Officials urged the minister to take up the matter with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, citing that high travel costs combined with the prevailing security situation have severely hit the tourism sector.

The Union Minister also reviewed ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and assessed the progress of various central schemes implemented by state departments.

WHO SAID WHAT



The life and message of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji continue to guide humanity with timeless wisdom. His teachings of compassion, equality, humility and service are very inspiring. Greetings on his Parkash Purab. May his divine light keep illuminating our planet forever.
~ Narendra Modi, PM

India needs doctors, engineers, NOT MULLAHS: Himanta

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stirred controversy while campaigning in Bihar's Siwan district after he drew a parallel between RJD candidate Osama Shahab and global terrorist Osama bin Laden. Addressing a rally at Raghunathpur, Sarma remarked, "This is the land of Ram and Sita, not Laden. All Osamas in this country must be eliminated one by one."

The statement, made during an election rally in support of the NDA candidate, quickly gained traction on social media and drew sharp political reactions. Speaking to reporters later, CM Sarma said, "Madrasas should be closed across the country. India needs doctors, engineers, scientists, and soldiers — not mullahs. Our Muslim brothers and sisters should aspire to become doctors and engineers. I take Osama bin Laden seriously — America once threw him into the sea, and Raghunathpur will do the same again."

Continuing his attack on the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the family of former MP Mohammad Shahabuddin, Sarma accused them of spreading terror in Siwan and urged voters to reject what he termed as a "legacy of



fear." "The Shahabuddin family has set a Guinness record for murders in this area. It's time to wipe away this stain by supporting the NDA and Nitish Kumar," Sarma said.

Without naming the RJD candidate directly, Sarma reiterated that "all Osamas will be eliminated from Bihar and the country," asserting that India belongs to "Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Mother Sita, and Lakshman."

He also invoked the Ram Temple movement, alleging that former leaders Lalu Prasad Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav had created obstacles in its path, while crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for fulfilling the long-pending promise.

The Raghunathpur seat has turned into a high-profile, three-cornered con-

test with RJD fielding Osama Shahab, son of late Shahabuddin; JD(U) nominating Vikas Kumar Singh; and Jan Suraj putting up Rahul Kirti as its candidate. Meanwhile, in Samastipur's Mohiuddin Nagar, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also made headlines with a bold political pitch. Addressing an NDA rally, he declared that Mohiuddin Nagar would be renamed as Mohan Nagar if the NDA returns to power in Bihar. "Just as we changed Allahabad to Prayagraj and Faizabad to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, similar steps will be taken here," Yogi said.

The UP Chief Minister reiterated his government's model of action against the mafia, stating that confiscated properties of criminals in Bihar would be distributed among the poor. Targeting the RJD and Congress, he accused them of presiding over "jungle raj" and claimed they had once opposed the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Throughout his nearly 20-minute address, Yogi invoked Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman, while taking a dig at former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, saying, "Those who once embraced criminals are now talking about fighting them."

Prof Dr. Sumpam Tangjang honoured with 'Scientist of the Year Award 2025'

ITANAGAR

Prof. (Dr.) Sumpam Tangjang of the Department of Botany, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), has been conferred the prestigious "Scientist of the Year Award-2025" by the Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS).

The honour marks a significant achievement for the university and the state, celebrating Prof. Tangjang's outstanding contributions to botanical research and academia.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu congratulated Tangjang on his remarkable achievement.

Khandu said, "This remarkable achievement is a moment of immense pride and inspiration for all. As the first from the Nocte tribe to earn a Ph.D. and rise to the position of Professor, Prof. Tangjang has set a shining example for the younger generation." "Wishing him continued success in his pursuit of knowledge, research, and academic excellence," he added.

His journey stands as an inspiration for aspiring researchers and stu-

dents across the region.

University officials and colleagues extended their congratulations, describing the recognition as a proud moment for RGU and a testament to Prof. Tangjang's commitment to knowledge, research, and academic excellence.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein lauded Prof. Tangjang's accomplishment, saying his achievement as the first from the Nocte community to earn a Ph.D. and become a Professor is truly commendable. He added that Prof. Tangjang's contributions to research and higher education will continue to inspire young scholars across the state. The Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS) is a professional scientific organization dedicated to promoting research, innovation, and collaboration in the field of plant sciences. Established in 1988, it serves as a global platform for botanists, biotechnologists, environmental scientists, and researchers working in various disciplines of plant biology.



Biplab Kumar Deb pushes for ropeway projects to boost tourism



AGARTALA

Member of Parliament and former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb held a detailed discussion with Rajesh Mallik, Chief Executive Officer of National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), at his Delhi residence regarding the expedited completion of three proposed ropeway projects in Tripura.

The proposed ropeway projects include - Maharani to Chhabimura, Udaiपुर Railway Station to Tripurasundari Temple, and Tripurasundari Temple to Chhabimura.

According to officials, a technical team from the NHLML will soon visit Tripura to initiate the necessary steps for establishing these ropeways.

It is noteworthy that MP Biplab Kumar Deb had originally taken the initiative for these tourism-oriented ropeway projects. However, due to various rea-

sons, the implementation process had slowed down. The recent discussion marks a significant step toward realizing this long-awaited plan.

MP Deb expressed optimism that the completion of these ropeways will fulfill a long-cherished dream of the people of Tripura, while boosting local tourism, connectivity, and employment opportunities. Once established, the ropeways are expected to not only enhance leisure tourism but also add a new dimension to the state's tourism infrastructure, creating substantial avenues for local livelihood generation. Meanwhile, Tripura Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu conducted a series of visits and interactions on the international border of Tribal Autonomous region in Dhalai district.

On Monday morning, the Governor visited Boalkhali ADC village under Raishyabari R. D Block of Gandacherra sub-division and interacted with villagers, Self-Help Group members, and progressive farmers at the Boalkhali Higher Secondary school ground.

He inquired about the progress of various central and state government schemes and emphasized the need for their completion within the stipulated time. Later, Governor Nallu visited Nitya Kumar Para, the remotest and last border village under Boalkhali ADC village in the Raishyabari R.D. Block of Gandacherra Subdivision. He interacted with the villagers to understand their problems and grievances and directed the concerned officials to complete all development work in a timely manner.

Arunachal: Eight students apprehended in Sainik School Niglok death case

ITANAGAR

In a major development in the Sainik School Niglok case, where a Class VII student was found dead allegedly due to ragging by senior students, police have apprehended eight students in connection with the incident. The arrests followed a fresh FIR lodged by the victim's father on November 3.

The case, initially registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), has now been upgraded to Ruksin PS Case No. 20/25 under Sections 108/106(1)(3)(5) of the BNS. The eight apprehended students, identified as Children in Conflict with Law (CCLs), were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in Pasighat on November 4.

The Principal Magistrate of the JJB has sent the CCLs to the custody of the Vice Principal of Sainik School Niglok for a week. Guardians of the accused students have also been directed to execute an undertaking or bond in Form 8 under Rule 11(6) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules.

Police sources confirmed that the investigation is ongoing to gather more evidence and ensure that the case reaches its logical conclusion.



Meanwhile, the Apatani Students' Union (ASU), in collaboration with the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAP-SU), All Lower Subansiri District Students' Union (ALSDSU), and All East Siang District Students' Union (ESDSU), visited Sainik School Niglok to inquire into the tragic incident involving the 12-year-old student, who was found dead on November 1.

During their visit, the unions expressed deep concern and is-

sued a two-week ultimatum to the district administration and police, demanding a fair and transparent investigation. They warned that failure to deliver justice within the stipulated time could lead to democratic agitation.

The unions also appealed to authorities to ensure accountability and deliver justice to the bereaved family, stressing that those found guilty must face strict punishment.

Former MP Rajen Gohain slams BJP's 'Hitler-Like' rule in Assam

GUWAHATI

In a blistering attack following his formal entry into the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP), former MP Rajen Gohain accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of turning Assam into a "police-run state" and running a "Hitler-like, authoritarian rule."

The veteran leader said the people of Assam had effectively handed over the state's control to Delhi, losing their own voice and autonomy.

"I have seen the rule of many national parties. It feels as if we have handed our own state over into Delhi's hands," Gohain said, adding that the BJP, instead of strengthening Assam's social fabric, had become its "biggest enemy."

Gohain lamented that the BJP government had imposed a dictatorial style of functioning. "The entire administrative machinery has been used by the BJP for its own interests," he alleged. Invoking the late singer Zubeen Garg, Gohain said, "Zubeen had said Assam's fields and markets must come into our hands. We will move forward with his



ideals. No community can advance by abandoning the fields." He accused national parties of allowing outsiders to take control of Assam's land and resources.

Also Read: 'Rahul Gandhi is a symbol of bad luck': Himanta Biswa Sarma

at Bihar rally

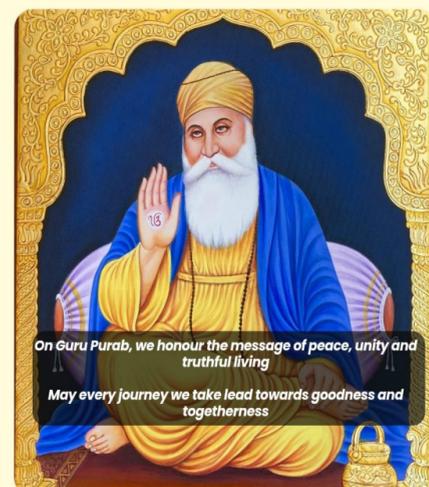
The former BJP MP, who had represented Nagaon in the Lok Sabha, said the party had "shamed its long-standing workers" and that those with self-respect should leave and "join regional forces like the AJP and AGP."

Although expressing his differences with the Congress, Gohain said he was open to an alliance "out of respect for the call of the times." "Not everyone in Congress is bad. Those who did bad things in Congress are now leading the BJP," he remarked.

He also claimed that the BJP had appointed his son, Nabarun Gohain, to a post "thinking they can control his father," and urged his son to leave the party.

Gohain further criticised Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his treatment of the late singer Zubeen Garg. "If the Chief Minister had shown even a little goodwill toward Zubeen, then when Zubeen protested the tree-felling, he would have cancelled that project. Zubeen was driven to the brink of death because of the upper-caste people around him," he said.

Gohain's remarks came shortly after he joined the Assam Jatiya Parishad, signalling his complete break from the BJP and aligning himself with regional forces ahead of the next election cycle.





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TRUMP-XI MEETING

The much-awaited meeting between the US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, finally took place last week in Busan, South Korea. Reportedly, the two adversaries reached a wide-ranging trade and economic agreement at the meeting. The deal addresses fentanyl precursors, rare earth export controls, tariffs, and semiconductor trade restrictions, signalling a possible stabilisation in US-China ties.

The Busan meeting between US President Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, happened after a gap of six years, though as pointed out by President Xi they spoke on phone thrice. The meeting was supposed to handle many tricky issues between the two largest global economies. While one party tried to hammer out an agreement by promises of a brutal power response the other acted much subtly assured of its position as the global manufacturer.

Overall, the summit could be described as just optics for the American public, as it may not translate into any real gain for the American taxpayer. Further, as announced the Trump visit to China may not have happened due to other issues muddying the atmosphere, may crop-up.

Relations between the two world powers have been strained in recent years, with Washington and Beijing imposing tit-for-tat trade tariffs topping 100 percent against each other earlier this year, the US restricting its exports of semiconductors vital for artificial intelligence (AI) development and Beijing restricting exports of critical rare-earth metals which are vital for the defence industry and the development of AI, among other issues.

Officials from Washington and Beijing were locked in trade talks since August to de-escalate trade tensions, and they also came up with a framework for a trade deal during meetings in Malaysia over the weekend, but how much of it was adhered to in reality is yet to be known.

On the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, Trump said an expected trade deal between China and the US would be good for both countries and "something very exciting for everybody".

The discussions were expected to cover: Trade tariffs -These included trafficking of fentanyl, a drug responsible for tens of thousands of deaths in the US each year. In addition, China's export controls on critical rare-earth metals and its purchase of US soybeans, and the US export controls on semiconductors.

Amongst the geopolitical and security issues, the ongoing Russia's war in Ukraine and Washington's position on Taiwan, and port fees on Chinese ships docking in US ports, besides finalising a deal to buy TikTok, the social media platform, from its Chinese owners.

The meeting was also supposed to calm the ongoing uneasy trade spat between the two nations. Washington, wanted to show that its tough line on China has delivered results. While Beijing, wanted to project calm and endurance. Xi Jinping also wanted to show that despite Western pressure its focus is on growth and domestic stability.

As usually assumed the tension between the two nations did not implode during Trump 2.0, but were initiated by Trump in 2018, and in fact former US President Joe Biden restricted exports of US semiconductors, which are crucial for the development of AI, much to China's annoyance. Then, early this year, Trump compounded this with 145 percent tariffs on Chinese goods.

China retaliated with 125 percent tariffs on US goods, escalating a trade war, until the two sides agreed in May to pause tariffs to allow for trade talks. But that was not before China placed export restrictions on seven rare-earth metals in April. In October, China restricted exports of five more rare-earth metals, and Trump threatened 100 percent tariffs again in retaliation.

In October, Trump responded by threatening to impose 100 percent tariffs on China from November 1, citing Beijing's strict export controls on critical rare earths as the reason for the tariffs. Trump added that the US would also impose export controls on "any and all critical software".

Further, Washington blacklisted hundreds of Chinese tech firms, claiming they posed a risk to national security. The US has also restricted companies such as Nvidia from exporting advanced chips, important to manufacture key equipment used for the development of AI, to China, claiming that Beijing would use it to advance its global power.

Beijing has been irked by Washington's restrictions and has launched antitrust investigations into Nvidia and Qualcomm, and has also increased its export controls on rare-earth elements. At the same time, both Beijing and Washington have been trading accusations that the other side's economic coercion is wreaking havoc on the global economy.

President Trump declared victory soon after meeting President Xi Jinping. He claimed he offered to reduce tariff on Chinese goods by only ten percentage points bringing the overall US tariff on Chinese goods to 47% from the earlier 57%.

But as per the details which emerged after the summit. It could be only described as a lull between the two nations, before the next storm blows over. As per the statement of President Trump, China agreed to postpone implementation of its rare earth export controls, but it is for just one year, whereas the US would take at least ten years, according to experts, to reduce its dependence on rare earth. Beijing also has offered to buy millions of tons of soybean from the United States and control the export of fentanyl.

But there was no word on the crucial Taiwan issue being discussed during the summit. Further, Trump was unable to get China agree to stop buying Russian oil and this was not a success of Trump's goal to end the Ukraine war.

Further strangely, just before the summit Trump announced on his social media platform that he had instructed his Department of War to resume nuclear tests. But soon after the summit, China advised the Trump Administration to abide by the nuclear test moratorium agreed upon after the signing of the CTBT. This announcement basically baffles the analysts because of its timing, and shows that Trump failed to rope in China to any nuclear arms control efforts.

Overall, China appears to have emerged a winner after the summit, as the actual implementation of the agreements may not transform into reality. Further the Trump's announcement on nuclear arms control may create new tensions, in the near future, as it is an issue which may lead to a global end.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work

- Thomas A. Edison

Towards Dignified Work: Why India Must Implement Its Labour Codes Now



S.P. TIWARI

India's world of work stands at an inflection point. India's workforce must increasingly find place in formal employment, supported by written contracts, adequate wages, and comprehensive social protection, so that the gains of growth translate into secure and dignified livelihoods for all. The persistence of older regulatory frameworks has, in part, limited the pace of formalisation and the ability of enterprises to generate secure and quality jobs. The four labour codes enacted by Parliament between 2019 and 2020, on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, represent the long-pending reform envisioned by the Second National Commission on Labour chaired by Ravindra Varma in 2002 with a mission to codify, simplify & modify then existing labour frame work. The Codes offer a comprehensive framework to modernise India's labour landscape and correct structural imbalances. Their uniform implementation across all States has now become an urgent national priority.

The new codes simplify and modernise 29 central labour laws, many dating back to the mid-twentieth century. They seek not merely to merge statutes but to make multiple definitions of workers/workmen employee into simple definition. Each code strengthens the rights and welfare of workers while providing clarity and predictability for employers.

Fair wages and dignity of labour The Code on Wages, 2019 marks a historic step towards ensuring that every worker receives a wage that respects the dignity of labour. By introducing universal minimum wages and a national floor wage, it guarantees that no worker, regardless of occupation or location, is left without a basic standard of income. Elimination of schedule of industry pave the road for universal wages.

Timely payment provisions have been strengthened, eliminating delays that once pushed families into debt. Workers can now claim unpaid wages or bonuses more easily, and the burden of proof in such disputes rests with the employer, creating greater accountability.

At the same time, the Code streamlines compliance for enterprises. Electronic record-keeping, a single registration, and unified returns reduce paperwork, rationalise chances of manipulation.

Extending the social security net The Code on Social Security, 2020 represents one of the most inclusive expansions of welfare in independent India. By

consolidating nine major laws, including the Employees' Provident Fund Act, Employees' State Insurance Act, and Maternity Benefit Act, it establishes a unified system that covers both traditional and future of work.

For the first time, gig workers, platform workers, and those in the unorganised sector are explicitly recognised as part of the national workforce. Every worker is to be registered and issued a unique social security number through the e-Shram portal, enabling direct delivery of benefits such as health insurance, pensions, and maternity support. Central and State Social Security Funds will be created to ensure that workers like app-based delivery partners or construction labourers are no longer left outside the safety net and funds are managed in holistic manner.

The Code also introduces career centres, digital and physical platforms that will provide vocational guidance, counselling, and employment services. This institutional support links welfare with multiple employability, helping workers transition from insecurity to opportunity. Safety, dignity, and equality at work The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code) is a statement of care and responsibility towards those who build the nation. By broadening the definition of "establishment," the Code extends protection to millions previously uncovered by safety legislation.

It mandates free annual health check-ups for workers and requires employers to maintain safe, hygienic workplaces without any financial burden on employees. The formation of a National Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board ensures that safety standards evolve with changing industrial conditions.

The OSH Code makes important strides in gender equality. Women workers are permitted to work in all establishments and night shifts, provided adequate facilities and security arrangements exist, empowering more women to join and remain in the labour force. Migrant workers, too, gain recognition through a national registration system, enabling access to welfare schemes and mobility benefits and monitoring legal framework to ensure recent live and livelihood.

Facilities such as canteens and restrooms are now mandatory at lower thresholds, and contract workers are counted for determining such provisions. These measures reflect a shift from minimal compliance to genuine concern for worker welfare.

Dialogue and industrial harmony The Industrial Relations Code, 2020

brings clarity to the relationship between employers and employees, replacing three earlier Acts with a unified framework. It requires establishments with twenty or more workers to set up Grievance Redressal Committees, ensuring that disputes are resolved promptly at the enterprise level rather than festering into strikes or litigation.

Trade unions gain recognition through the concept of a negotiating union or council, strengthening collective bargaining and giving workers an effective voice in shaping their workplace. Workers facing retrenchment are now entitled to 30 days' notice and adequate compensation, a humane reform that respects livelihood security. The establishment of a re-skilling fund for retrenched workers signals a forward-looking approach that values learning and adaptability in a changing economy. The provisions related to strike rights need to be revisited. Upgradation of workers limit for the industry upto 300 to get easier clearance for closure or lock outs should also be reconsidered.

Fixed-term employment, formally recognised by the Code, offers flexibility to industry while guaranteeing parity in wages and other social security provisions including gratuity in tandem with regular employees. It balances the needs of a modern economy with fairness and security for those who work within it.

Why implementation matters now Evidence from several developing nations shows that labour reforms have played a key role in driving economic growth. In the face of a shifting global economy marked by rising tariffs and changing trade patterns, India must urgently implement its new labour codes. Simplified and transparent laws will attract investment, promote formal employment, and uphold worker dignity. Timely notification will pave the way towards India reaching developed nations tag.

In a time when automation and digitalisation threaten to displace traditional jobs, the codes provide a framework for balanced growth, one that preserves human dignity even as technology advances. Implementation across all States would create uniform standards, reduce ambiguity, and easy access to jobs.

The way forward The four codes form the backbone of India's ambition for a Viksit Bharat, a developed, self-reliant nation that combines economic dynamism with social justice. They transform inspectors into facilitators, replace outdated and overlapping laws with clear, consistent ones, and place work-

er welfare at the centre of economic policy. The spirit of these reforms with some riders lies not merely in consolidation but in compassion, ensuring that every worker, from the factory floor to the digital platform, enjoys dignity, safety, and security. For workers, they promise fairness and opportunity. Implementing these codes swiftly and uniformly is therefore not only a matter of administrative urgency but of national commitment, to build an economy where growth is shared, work is respected, and every hand that contributes to India's progress is protected and avails ease of living.

The author is the National General Secretary, Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC)

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

If the audio tape is found to have been tampered with multiple times and deliberately distorted, it is imperative that a counter-investigation be initiated against those responsible for presenting the manipulated material before the Hon'ble Court. The investigation must thoroughly trace the source and chain of custody of the fabricated tape to uncover its true origin. Particularly, the role of KOHUR (Kuki Organization for Human Rights) and their counsel, who submitted the manipulated tape to the Court must be subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Their actions appear to constitute a deliberate attempt to mislead the judiciary and deceive the people of the country during one of the most volatile phases of the crisis. Such deceitful conduct, intended to distort facts and strengthen a fabricated narrative, not only undermines the integrity of the legal process but also aggravates public tension. Holding these individuals accountable is essential to restore truth, uphold justice, and expose those who weaponized misinformation in the midst of a humanitarian and security crisis. ~ Khurajam Athouba, Social Entrepreneur & Indigenous People's Rights Activist

Manipur Audio Tapes Tampered, Can't Say If Voice Matches With Ex-CM Biren Singh : NFSL To Supreme Court

Don't manipulate history

K N PANDITA

Apropos news item "Despite Nehru's persuasion, Maharaja of J&K delayed decision: Kharge" (DE Nov 02, 2025). Kharge asserts that Nehru and Patel were both interested in the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union. Still, Maharaja Hari Singh delayed it, and thus the Kashmir imbroglio ensued. It is the typical Congress way of distorting history and absolving itself of the onus. We have some questions for the Congress president: Sardar Patel was the Home Minister. He peacefully integrated about 560 princely states into the Indian Union. Why did Nehru take away only the J&K portfolio from the Home Minister and retain it for himself? The reason for doing so, given by Nehru himself, was that "Only I know how to handle Kashmir". The Sardar integrated 560 states without hassle, but the one and only one which Nehru handled has brought untold suffering to the people of the State and the nation as well.

Kharge says Nehru knew as early as September that Pakistan was planning an attack on India. Why did he not take action to forestall the conspiracy, but instead referred the matter to Sardar? He thought Sardar was competent to meet the challenge from Pakistan, but not competent enough to handle Kashmir.

As early as the first week of September 1947, Nehru had come to know of the Pakistani army's plan to attack Kashmir. When Major Kalkat, who had escaped from Pakistan and reported to the Indian army headquarters the plan of Pakistan, was brought before Nehru in Tin Murti, Nehru listened to him and then scolding the Indian army high-ranking officers for disbelieving Major Kalkat, swept away a bunch of papers on his table and angrily told the army officers accompanying Major Kalkat, "Search in these papers, you will find a letter revealing the conspiracy hatched in Pakistan." The question we put to Kharge is what action Nehru took to forestall the attack which actually happened on October 22, nearly 50 days later? None, except that he wrote a letter to the Sardar. Nehru was the prime minister and also held the charge of foreign affairs. Two inferences can be drawn. Either Nehru wanted to overlook Pakistan's perfidy or he lacked courage.

It is a fact that Maharaja Hari Singh did send signals to New Delhi that he wanted to accede to India. But Nehru refused to oblige every time, arguing that unless the request came from Sheikh Abdullah, he would not budge. For the Maharaja, the Sheikh was a secessionist drawing strength from the mosques in Kashmir. No historian has been able to explain the source of Nehru's fascination with the Sheikh. In his biog-

raphy Atash-e-Chinar, the Sheikh writes: "After all, I have a blood relation with Nehru." While Nehru had blood relations with the Sheikh, he called Pandit Premnath Dogra, the outstanding leader of Jammu and representing the Dogra history, culture and ethos — the same valiant Dogras who under the command of Maharaja Gulab Singh and Ranbir Singh, conquered the Northern Areas of Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan, Hunza, Nagar, Chitral etc, and formed the present State of Jammu and Kashmir — a secessionist and communalist for leading Praja Parishad movement.

How come Nehru's "democratic and secular" ideology evaporated in thin air when, just after five years of independence, the Sheikh shifted the goal post from pro-Indian to pro-independence ideology? Nehru managed to arrest and depose him, not directly but through two proxies, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Rafi Ahmad Qidwai, while he was on an excursion in London.

Maharaja was promised by Nehru that he would be given fair treatment if he only agreed to be away from Kashmir for six months. The Maharaja agreed and left. Just a month and a half after his departure, the Sheikh demanded that Nehru remove the Maharaja. The Maharaja, a soldier in terms of spirit, kept his word while his handlers, the men of straw, behaved perfidiously. Nehru opposed monarchy, which he removed

but replaced with the dictatorship of his brand. Assuming that Nehru was right in what he thought and did about Kashmir, as Kharge thinks, how does history look at it? It speaks of nearly eight decades of acrimonious relations between Srinagar and New Delhi, eight decades of animosity and bitter fighting with Pakistan, alienating the entire western and Islamic countries on the issue of Kashmir and immeasurable loss in terms of life and property. The slogan of azaadi is embedded deep in the minds of Kashmiris, old and young. Was Maharaj Hari Singh wrong if he had asked for azaadi? Did not his Prime Minister, R.C. Kak, say that the Maharaja was negotiating with the concerned for the independent state of J&K? Did Nehru take cognisance of Kak's statement?

When, for the first time, the formal request of the Maharaja for military support was discussed in the Defence Committee in New Delhi presided over by Lord Mountbatten as Governor General and attended by Nehru, Patel, the British army commander, General Cariappa and others, the British commanders strongly spoke against dispatching Indian troops to Srinagar. They argued about problems of connectivity, supply line, winter, snowfall and other logistics. For one hour, Nehru kept listening without refuting their argument. Patal waited to know what Nehru had to say.

Assam CM meets PM Modi, invites him to inaugurate Guwahati airport terminal and lay foundation stone for Rs 10,601-crore Namrup fertiliser plant

NEW DELHI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and extended an invitation to inaugurate two major development projects in the state.

During the almost 20-minute meeting at his official residence, the Chief Minister invited the Prime Minister to dedicate to the nation the new terminal of Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport and to lay the foundation stone for the 10,601-crore brown-field Ammonia-Urea complex at Namrup.

The new terminal at LGBI Airport, described as a state-of-the-art facility, is expected to significantly boost connectivity in the Northeast by transforming Guwahati into a major aviation hub. The terminal will be equipped to handle over 1.3 crore passengers annually, substantially easing air traffic in the region.

The Namrup Ammonia-Urea complex, once completed, will play a key role



in ensuring a steady supply of fertilisers to the entire Northeast, thereby support-

ing the region's agricultural sector.

Expressing his gratitude, Chief Minister Sarma said, "Grateful that Adarniya Modi Ji has kindly consented. We eagerly await his visit."

Later, taking to X, the Chief Minister wrote, "Had the privilege to call upon Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji in New Delhi today. We have invited him to dedicate two major transformative projects to the people of Assam. First, is the brand new terminal of Guwahati's LGBI Airport. This state-of-the-art project will catapult Guwahati into a major aviation hub and will equip the city to handle over 1.3 cr passengers. Second, is the foundation stone of the 10,601 cr brown field Ammonia-Urea complex at Namrup. This project will secure critical fertiliser supply for the entire North East."

The Prime Minister's visit to Assam for these landmark events is expected to take place soon, marking another major milestone in the state's infrastructure and industrial growth.

5,000 Voices Pay Tribute to Bhupen Hazarika in Cachar



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

SILCHAR: The Cachar District Administration will commemorate the death anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the legendary "Bard of Brahmaputra," with a grand tribute at the Police Parade Ground today. The event will be graced by Kaushik Rai, Minister of FPD and CA, Government of Assam, as the chief guest.

In a heartfelt gesture to keep alive the spirit and legacy of Dr. Hazarika, the programme will feature a collective rendition

of his timeless song "Manush Manusher Jonno"—a melody that captures the universal message of humanity, compassion, and unity. At 3:00 PM, voices from across the district—students, artists, officials, and citizens—will come together in chorus, symbolizing one of the largest mass musical tributes ever held in Cachar.

With five thousand voices singing one song, the event stands as a powerful reminder of Dr. Hazarika's enduring message that music can unite hearts beyond all divides.

Media vital for transparency and accountability: Tripura CM

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on November 4 underscored the vital role of the media in promoting transparency and strengthening the link between the government and the public.

Speaking at the inauguration of a three-day media workshop at the Agartala Press Club, Saha said truthful and objective journalism builds public trust and enhances good governance. "The media plays an indispensable role in connecting the government with the people. With their active participation, we can ensure a more transparent and reliable system of governance," he said.

The event, jointly organised by the Information and Cultural Affairs (ICA) Department and the Agartala Press Club, brought together journalists from print, electronic, web and photo media across the state. Reiterating his government's commitment to press freedom, Saha said he avoids interference in media functioning. "Whenever I come across breaking news—especially on law and order—I immediately seek information and take necessary action," he noted, adding that a strong monitoring system helps resolve issues more efficiently.

He urged journalists to uphold professionalism, objectivity and sensitivity in their work, pointing out that "journalists shoulder greater responsibility and accountability than ordinary citizens."

Highlighting the importance of effective law enforcement, Saha said strong monitoring ensures better implementation of existing laws. He referred to a recent Defence Department seminar on cyber-crime awareness, describing such initiatives as crucial for building a secure and informed society.

Kohima court sentences man to one-year rigorous imprisonment for assaulting woman

KOHIMA

The Principal District and Sessions Court, Kohima, has convicted one Zasiitou Tsukru under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for assaulting a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty.

The court sentenced him to one year of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹10,000. In default of payment, he will serve an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

The judgment was delivered by Principal District and Sessions Judge Smt. Meziwolu T. Therieh, NJS, on November 3. The case was prosecuted by Special Public Prosecutor L. Sashimongla, who successfully established the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt based on oral and documentary

evidence.

The investigation, led by Sub-Inspector Levinuo Nyuwi of the Women Police Station, Kohima, involved the collection of key evidence and examination of ten prosecution witnesses. The charge sheet was subsequently filed before the court.

Additional Public Prosecutor Abraham stated that the conviction was a result of coordinated efforts among the police, prosecution, and witnesses. He reaffirmed the prosecution's commitment to upholding justice for women and ensuring their safety and dignity in society.

Abraham also commended the courage of the victim for standing firm throughout the trial and expressed gratitude to the investigating team for their effective work in bringing the case to justice.

Protests Over Land Transfer to Adani Group Near End as Compensation Settlements Reached in Umrangshu

HAFLONG

The year-long dharnas protesting the alleged transfer of nearly 9,000 bighas of land to the Adani Group in Chhota Lakhindong and adjoining areas of Umrangshu appear to be drawing to a close. Reports indicate that the company has reached a compensation agreement with most of the affected villagers, effectively ending the prolonged agitation.

With the disputes seemingly resolved, several major cement projects—including the proposed Ambuja Cement plant—are now expected to move forward in the region. Signs of this development became evident during a public hearing held by the Assam Pollution Control Board (APCB) on Wednesday. Observers noted that



following the settlement of compensation payments, the hearing and clearance process seemed more procedural than substantive.

It is alleged that both the Assam government and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council had long planned the land transfer to the Adani Group. The move initially faced stiff resistance from

local organisations and political groups backing the villagers' opposition. Court battles ensued, and protests intensified throughout the past year. However, after compensation payments began, most villagers reportedly accepted financial settlements rather than continue the confrontation.

Former Council member and chief convener of the Sixth Schedule Protection Committee, Daniel Langthasa, expressed sharp criticism over the process, calling it opaque and irregular.

"We are not against development," he said, "but why were the legal procedures of land acquisition not duly completed? The entire exercise in Umrangshu on Wednesday was a mere show. How can compensation be paid before the Assam Pollution Control

Board grants clearance?"

Langthasa warned that the unchecked expansion of mining and cement industries across thousands of bighas could severely harm Umrangshu's fragile environment.

"When such large-scale industrial units come up, even the air we breathe will become heavy, and there's no assurance that the drinking water will remain safe," he cautioned.

He also condemned allegations made during the public hearing that his organisation was "inciting" villagers. "Such statements are deeply unfortunate," Langthasa said, reiterating that the Sixth Schedule Protection Committee stands for lawful, transparent, and environmentally responsible development in the hill district.

Chumoukedima forms monitoring committees to regulate riverbed mining

DIMAPUR

In a decisive move to ensure sustainable management of riverbed resources and curb illegal mining activities in the district, the Chumoukedima district administration has formed district-level monitoring committee (DLMC) and sub-division level enforcement committees for the Chathe river and its tributaries.

The initiative follows growing concerns over the environmental degradation caused by indiscriminate riverbed mining and the use of heavy machinery for extracting sand, gravel, and boulders in the district. Chumoukedima DC Polan John, in an order on Tuesday, said such unregulated practices have led to erosion, pollution, destruction of



aquatic habitats, and threats to public safety and livelihoods.

Under the new directives, the Chumoukedima district administration has completely banned the use of heavy machinery for extracting riverbed materials within the district's jurisdiction, unless operators obtain proper

licenses and permissions under the Nagaland Ownership and Transfer of Land and its Resources Act, 1990, and the Nagaland Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004.

The order said violators will face stringent penalties, including arrest, seizure of machinery, fines, and prosecution.

The DLMC will be led by the DC, and will include members from key departments such as geology & mining, police, forest, water resources, PHED, and agriculture, as well as representatives from the Chakhroma Public Organisation.

The committee will also oversee and periodically review compliance with the regulatory order and ensure effective coordination between agencies.

To strengthen enforcement at the grassroots level, the adminis-

tration has formed sub-division level enforcement committees for Medziphema and Seithekema.

These committees, headed by respective administrative officers, will include representatives from the police, forests, geology & mining, local councils, and the Chakhroma public organisation. Their responsibilities include regular inspections, prevention of illegal extractions, awareness creation, and reporting compliance to the DLMC.

The DC further said the cooperation of local communities, village councils, and civil society organisations is vital for protecting and preserving the district's river resources.

The administration urged citizens to support the initiative and work collectively toward environmental conservation and sustainable resource management.

World's tallest pier railway bridge at Noney inspected



IMPHAL

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Tuesday visited Noney District Headquarters in Manipur and had an interaction and review program with concerned high officials, and also inspected the construction works of the world's tallest pier railway bridge.

The minister, on the second day of his three-day official visit to the state and inspected the ongoing construction works of the world's tallest pier railway bridge, part of the Jiribam-Imphal line in Manipur's Noney district, reaching a height of 141 meters and spanning 555 meters. The bridge was constructed using advanced techniques like hydraulic augers and the slip-form method to build its record-breaking piers. This bridge is to be commissioned by 2027.

The MoS, who took a helicopter tour, was received by the Noney District Commissioner Dr Sharath Chandra Arjoju, IAS, Noney Superintendent of Police, Namsadai Peter Kamei,

along with other officials from the Longmai Common ground around 10:20 am, which was used as a temporary Helipad.

After reaching the Noney DC office complex, the MoS inspected various stalls displayed at the counter by different line departments under Noney District, after which the Hon'ble MoS had a face-to-face review meeting with the DC, SP, and different DLOs in regards to various schemes and projects undertaken in the district.

During the review meeting, officers of various line departments shared their grievances and challenges faced by them while implementing any developmental projects sponsored both by the center and the state, stating different reasons and appeals to the MoS to intervene from the Home Ministry for the successful implementation of every project in the district.

An interaction hour with the public leader, Shelf Helf Group's and the local community, followed by saplings plantation and a visit to the world's highest railway pier bridge at Noney, were part of the MoS visit to the district.

Tuesday's MoS review meeting and interaction program was attended by the District Level Officer and staff from different lines of departments under Noney and Tamenglong districts.

Assam CM pays tribute to Bhupen Hazarika in Guwahati on his 14th death anniversary



GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday paid tribute to Bhupen Hazarika on his 14th death anniversary.

sary.

The Assam government is observing the 14th death anniversary of Bhupen Hazarika across the state today.

The Chief Minister stated that over two lakh people will sing Hazarika's famous song, "Manuhe Manuhor Babe," and form a human chain to honour his legacy.

Speaking to the reporters, CM Sarma said, "We have organised special programmes in 35 districts, 27 Sub-districts. Nearly 5000 students, youths and people will perform the "Manuhe Manuhor Babe" song in each district. Today, more than 2 lakh people will perform the "Manuhe Manuhor Babe" song with a human chain. We have decided to urge the UN to recognise "Manuhe Manuhor Babe" song as humanity song."

The Chief Minister said that the state government has begun several initiatives to honour Bhupen Hazarika during his birth centenary celebrations.

He announced a plan to build a 100-foot-tall statue of the music legend near the Bhupen Hazarika Setu, and

dedicate a road in his name in every district.

"The Assam Government has started the process on this. We have been celebrating the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the inaugural programme. We will organise the closing ceremony at Bharat Mandapam... We have decided to construct a big statue of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, more than 100 feet tall, at the Zero point of Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola-Sadiya bridge). One road will be dedicated to Dr Bhupen Hazarika in each district. On December 10, we will inaugurate Swahid Smarak and Swahid Pronamu Tumak will be performed across the state on that day," he said.

Bhupen Hazarika, popularly known as the "Bard of Brahmaputra" and "Sudhakantha" (the Nightingale), was one of the doyens of the Assamese cultural space. Born on September 8, 1926, in Tinsukia district, Assam, he made an indelible mark as a musician, singer, composer, and poet.

Quest!

Sloppy handwriting by doctors are responsible for over 7,000 deaths every year.

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India 2nd in consumer demand of gold globally, RBI reserves rise to 880 tonnes



NEW DELHI

Total consumer demand of gold in India increased to 802.8 tonnes in 2024, which is 26 per cent of the global gold demand taking India at second rank, next just to China with consumer demand of 815.4 tonnes, according to an SBI Research report on Wednesday.

Domestic supply of gold is only a fraction of the total supply of gold in India, with imports contributing around 86 per cent of the total supply in 2024 (the World Gold Council estimate). Gold imports increased around 31 per cent in FY24 and 27 per cent in FY25.

However, higher prices have led to lower demand of gold in 2025. In Q3 2025, consumer demand of gold declined by around 16 per cent year-on-year, driven by reduced jewellery demand, said the report by Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief

Economic Advisor, SBI. Higher prices have reduced gold imports by 9 per cent to \$26.5 billion in the April-September period in FY26, from \$29 billion during the same period in FY25.

"Another interesting trend visible is the increase in gold reserves by the central banks. The RBI gold reserves rose to 880 tonnes in 2025 as part of strategic reserve management," said Dr Ghosh. Return on gold has been comparable to equity market (Sensex) over a 5, 10 and 15-year period; however, it far exceeds market return over 1 year and 3 year period.

"Furthermore, the recent discoveries of new gold mines in various districts of Odisha as Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj (with an estimated 1,685 kg of gold ore detected by the GSD) among others, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh (estimated quantity could run into lakhs of

tonnes) and Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh (India's first large private gold mine expected to produce 750 kg of gold annually) could help ease the pressure on imports and are positive for our current account balance," the report noted.

The government started issuing Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) in November 2015 and continued issuing 67 tranches, with the last one issued in February 2024.

As of October 23, outstanding SGBs stand at 125.3 tonnes. Taking into account the redemption price of Rs 12,704 announced for 2017-18 Series IV the total cost to the Government would be Rs 1.59 lakh crore.

"When the issue of these units is taken into account it amounted to Rs 65,885 crore. Thus, it amounts to Rs 93,284 crore loss to the Government on account of increase in gold price," the report noted.

India-Israel pledge deeper cooperation on counter-terrorism, trade, and regional connectivity

NEW DELHI

India and Israel have decided to intensify cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, infrastructure, and regional connectivity following talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Gideon Sa'ar, who is on his first official visit to India.

The discussions highlighted shared commitment to a "zero-tolerance" approach toward terrorism, with Jaishankar emphasising that the two countries face "a particular challenge" from the menace.

"It is essential that we work towards ensuring a global approach of zero tolerance towards terrorism, in all forms and manifestations," Jaishankar said during his opening remarks.

Sa'ar echoed these sentiments, describing "radical terror" as a common threat. He reiterated Israel's condemnation of the April terror attack in Pahalgam and detailed the ongoing fight against Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, labelling them as "radical terror states."

Stressing the need to uproot such forces, Sa'ar said: "The eradication of Hamas' terrorist state is at the heart of President Trump's plan. Hamas must be demilitarised. We will not compromise on it."

The evolving situation in Gaza and the recently revived US-brokered peace plan featured prominently in the talks. Jaishankar spoke about India's support for the peace process, saying New Delhi hopes it will "pave the way for a durable and lasting solution."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister Gideon Sa'ar and others during a meeting, in



New Delhi.

He also welcomed the release of hostages and the return of remains of those killed in the conflict.

The meeting came against the backdrop of the first phase of the US-backed 20-point peace plan between Israel and Hamas, which led to a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of captives on both sides.

The truce ended months of bloodshed following Hamas's October 2023 attacks that killed 1,200 Israelis. Israeli offensives since then have resulted in the deaths of more than 67,000 Palestinians, including 20,000 children, according to international estimates.

Sa'ar, who is the fifth Israeli

minister to visit India this year, highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's early show of solidarity with Israel after the October 7 attacks.

"We remember he was the first world leader to call Prime Minister Netanyahu after Hamas' massacre, and we won't forget it," he said.

Beyond security issues, both sides discussed deepening collaboration under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and expanding economic engagement. Sectors such as trade, technology, innovation, and mobility of professionals were on the agenda.

Jaishankar noted that Indian workers at present are

in growing numbers in Israel, estimated at around 40,000, mainly in caregiving and construction. "They have some issues which need attention, and I hope we can take that dimension of our ties forward," he said. The talks also built on earlier economic cooperation, including a bilateral investment agreement signed in September between India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Israeli counterpart Bezalet Smotrich.

Describing the India-Israel partnership as one with "real meaning," Jaishankar said that both nations have "stood together in testing times" and built a relationship marked by "trust and reliability."

INTERNATIONAL

Zohran Mamdani elected New York's first Indian-American Muslim mayor

NEW YORK

Indian-origin Democrat Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of New York City on Tuesday, defeating former Governor Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa in a historic victory.

With the victory, the democratic socialist will etch his place in history as the city's first Muslim mayor, the first of South Asian heritage and the first born in Africa. He will also become the city's youngest mayor in more than a century when he takes office on January 1. He succeeds Eric Adams, who withdrew from his reelection campaign in September but remained on the ballot.

Entering the general election as the clear favorite after a decisive 12-point win in the ranked-choice Democratic primary, Mamdani ran a digitally savvy campaign centered on tackling New York's soaring cost of living.



Yorkers cast ballots in the contest, the largest turnout in a mayoral race in more than 50 years, according to the city's Board of Elections. With roughly 90% of the votes counted, Mamdani held an approximately 9 percentage point lead over Cuomo.

Mamdani's unlikely rise gives credence to Democrats who have urged the party to embrace more progressive, left-wing candidates instead of rallying behind centrists in hopes of winning back swing voters who have abandoned the party.

He has already faced scrutiny from national Republicans, including President Donald Trump, who have eagerly cast him as a threat and the face of what they say is a more radical Democratic Party. Trump has repeatedly threatened to cut federal funding to the city — and even take it over — if Mamdani won.

At his victory party in Brooklyn, Mamdani supporters cheered and embraced, some tearfully, after The Associated Press called the race. Campaign posters flew through the air, as one person hoisted the official flag of New York City and Bad Bunny played from the speakers.

Mamdani's X account posted a video of a subway train pulling up to City Hall station, with an announcement that said, "The next and last stop is City Hall."

Mamdani's win marks a significant shift in New York City politics, underscoring growing progressive momentum in America's largest city amid a series of key local elections offering the first public verdict on Trump's turbulent second term in the White House.

"My friends, we have toppled a political dynasty," Mamdani declared to a roaring crowd at his victory party. "I wish Andrew Cuomo only the best in private life, but let tonight be the final time I utter his name as we turn the page on a politics that abandoned the many and answers only to the few."

He cast his win as a victory for blue-collar workers struggling to get by. "New York, tonight you have delivered a mandate for change," he said, vowing to "wake up each morning with a singular purpose: To make this city better for you than it was the day before."

More than 2 million New

Indian Sikh pilgrims enter Pakistan, first major crossing since Operation Sindoor



ATTARI

A group of 2,100 Indian Sikh (Jatha) pilgrims crossed into Pakistan via Attari-Wagah on Tuesday, marking the first people-to-people contact between the two countries since Operation Sindoor. The clashes in May closed the land border between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

The pilgrims will gather on Wednesday at Nankana Sahib, Guru Nanak's birthplace, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Lahore by road.

They will then visit Gurdwara Panja Sahib Hasan Abdal, Gurdwara Sacha Sauda Farooqabad, and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, before returning to India on November 13.

The Pakistani government granted visas to 2,150 Indian Sikh devotees

to attend a 10-day festival marking the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

The Union government has permitted only Indian citizens to participate in the pilgrimage. Palwinder Singh, in charge of the Yatra Vibhag of the SGPC, said that he was unaware of the reasons behind the government's decision to not allow Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The Indian government had earlier declined permission for the pilgrimage, citing security concerns following Operation Sindoor. However, the decision was later reversed after appeals from Sikh organisations to allow at least a symbolic Jatha to uphold the long-standing tradition.

Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee President

and Punjab Minorities Minister Ramesh Singh Arora, Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) chief Sajid Mahmood Chauhan and Additional Secretary Shrines Nasir Mushtaq received the devotees from India at the check post. Shrimoni Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee delegation led by Gurinder Kaur and Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee's Ravinder Singh Sweeta were among those who crossed into Pakistan.

ETPB spokesperson Ghulam Mohyuddin said that around 2,100 Sikhs arrived in Lahore via Wagah and after completing immigration and customs formalities, the pilgrims departed for Gurdwara Janamasthan, Nankana Sahib, by special buses.

From Rs.1,000 a Match to Equal Pay: The Long Arc of Women's Cricket in India



When Mithali Raj spoke about earning 1,000 per game during the 2005 Women's World Cup, it wasn't nostalgia—it was a reminder of how far women's cricket has come, and how much it once demanded of those who played it. Nearly two decades later, as India's women lift the 2025 World Cup, her words hit differently. They aren't just about money; they're about what it took to get here.

Back in the early 2000s, women's cricket in India survived on grit and goodwill. The Women's Cricket Association of India, running on little more than enthusiasm, had no sponsors, no media attention, and no financial muscle. Players travelled in general compartments, lugged their own gear, and sometimes returned home with barely enough to cover expenses. Passion wasn't a slogan—it was the only fuel available.

Mithali's generation played for pride, not paychecks. Their struggles built

the foundation for the professionalism that today's players inherit. When the BCCI took women's cricket under its wing in 2006, it didn't just reorganize a sport—it legitimized it. Payments became structured, contracts were introduced, and for the first time, women could think of cricket as a career, not a costly hobby.

The real turning point came in 2022, when the BCCI announced equal match fees for men and women. It wasn't charity; it was recognition. A Test match now brings 15 lakh, an ODI 6 lakh, and a T20I 3 lakh—the same across genders. That one decision placed India among the few nations that treat women cricketers as equals in the most tangible way possible. What this journey shows is that progress in sport isn't just about winning titles; it's about changing structures. It's about making sure that the next generation doesn't have to choose between talent and livelihood.

Mithali Raj's story has come full circle—from counting rupees after a World Cup to watching a team of full-time professionals lift one. The women who once played for nothing now play for everything.

The victory belongs to the players on the field, but the respect belongs equally to those who came before them, who played in silence so that today's cheers could be this loud.

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BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ACTIVITY PROGRAM



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

11 JAN
Adventure Sports
 Trekking | Canyoneering | Sport Climbing | Disaster Management Technique | Water Sports

11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
 Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley by different stakeholders.
 Includes: MOUs, and Dignitaries can register for panel discussion, awareness, awareness, awareness, and awareness through participation through invitation only. Different awards are provided.



BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ADVERTISING PARTNER

Barak Festival: Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion

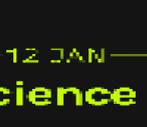
10 JAN
Online Global Fest
 All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs, and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.

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.

11 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".
 Media Conclave: Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences are part of the Barak Festival 2025. Theme: "One for All, All for One".

10 JAN
Media Conclave
 Media Conclave: Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences are part of the Barak Festival 2025. Theme: "One for All, All for One".

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



BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ADVERTISING PARTNER

Barak Festival: Band Night | Musical Night

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.

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

10-12 JAN
Book Bank
 #NoOneLeftBehind | Book Bank | Donate | Buy | Sell

10-12 JAN
Book Club
 Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books

10-12 JAN
Painting Carnival
 Water Colour and Oil and Soap Plate Campaign

10 JAN
Photography
 Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture
 Real-Time Photography Contest of "Barak Festival 2025"

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