

Barak Festival
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025
www.krctimes.com
Phone: 8721838313

North East Integration Rally 2026
Peace | Progress | Prosperity

Registrations OPEN

www.northeastintegrationrally.in

Get all the latest and updated news of today in the evening. For subscribing to this e-paper contact at -8721838313

SUBSCRIBE
₹300 / year

WhatsApp payment details : 8721838313
info@krctimes.com

PERSPECTIVE

A great relationship is about two things: First, appreciating the similarities and second, respecting the differences.

Global Roundtable in Nagaland Focuses on Boosting Diplomatic and Economic Ties

KOHIMA

Nagaland brought together international diplomats, policy leaders and industry stakeholders for its inaugural Roundtable and Networking Dinner with Country Partners on November 30 in Kohima, signalling a major push to expand the state's diplomatic footprint and economic partnerships ahead of the Hornbill Festival.

Organised by the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), the event at Hotel Vivor saw participation from foreign envoys, senior government officials and business representatives. The gathering served as a policy platform to deepen cooperation and explore new avenues for collaboration with Nagaland across key sectors.

The roundtable followed Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's announcement naming Austria, France, Ireland, Malta, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as official country partners for the 2025 Hornbill Festival, with Arunachal Pradesh designated as the State Partner. The partnerships, officials said, aim to boost regional integration and position Nagaland as a gateway for global engagement in the Northeast.

Ambassadors from France, Ireland and Switzerland, along with Malta's High Commissioner, attended the event and indicated growing interest from international missions in forging cultural, economic and strategic ties with Nagaland. Their presence underscored the state's rising visibility as an emerging player in regional diplomacy.

WHO SAID WHAT



Greetings to the people of Nagaland on the occasion of their Statehood Day. The glorious Naga culture, rooted in service, courage and compassion, is widely admired. The people of Nagaland have distinguished themselves across many fields. May the state keep moving ahead with prosperity and progress in the years ahead.

- Narendra Modi, PM

Indian Army holds health screening camp for students in Moirang

KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

MOIRANG: The Indian Army organised a school health screening camp at Moirang Multipurpose Higher Secondary School, extending medical support to children as part of its Civil-Military Fusion initiative.

More than 350 students, aged between 8 and 17, were examined by a team of 12 doctors and 7 healthcare workers. Specialists from the Army Medical Corps, RBSK teams, and local health departments carried out checks in eye care, ENT, dental health, and pediatric well-being, including mental and behavioural assessments.

The Deputy Commissioner of Bishnupur, the Commander of 59 Brigade, the Chief Medical Officer, and several local figures attended the event. Their presence signalled the administration's backing for the Army's outreach efforts.

The camp also marked World AIDS Day. Students took part in a poster-making competition built around the idea of prevention and awareness. Winners were felicitated during the programme.



Officials said the initiative aims to strengthen cooperation between the Army, district administration, and



health agencies while ensuring that children in remote areas receive timely medical attention. The Army noted



that such programmes help deepen trust and expand healthcare access in communities across the region.

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha witnessed continuous disruption on Monday as Opposition MPs intensified their protest demanding an immediate debate on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Their repeated sloganeering and demonstrations eventually forced the Speaker to adjourn the House for the day.

Despite the chaos, the government managed to push through key legislation. The House passed the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 after a short discussion. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the bill earlier in the day to replace the ordinance issued on October 7, 2025. Since Manipur remains under President's Rule, Parliament has assumed the responsibility of enacting the amendment.

The day's proceedings were marked by disorder from the start, with the Winter Session's opening day—scheduled for 15 sittings—seeing repeated interruptions. The Lok Sabha faced two adjournments during Question Hour in the morning and another in the afternoon before the final adjournment at around 2:20 pm.



Opposition MPs stormed into the Well multiple times, raising slogans demanding a debate on the SIR process. The Election Commission recently announced the revision in Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Of these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and

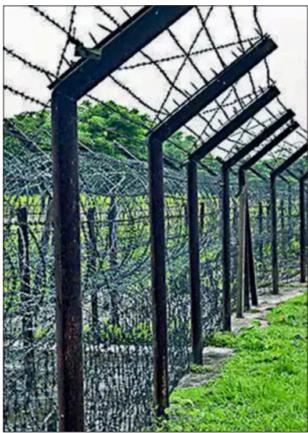
West Bengal will vote in 2026. Assam, which also goes to polls next year, is conducting a separate "Special Revision".

During the brief Zero Hour, Finance Minister Sitharaman introduced three bills and tabled the supplementary demands for grants for 2025-26. Two of the bills seek to impose a fresh excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products, along with a new cess on pan masala manufacturing. These are titled the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Health Security and National Security Cess Bill, 2025.

Earlier in the morning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a pointed attack on the Opposition while addressing the media outside Parliament. He accused Opposition parties of converting Parliament into a "warm-up arena" for upcoming elections and a "pressure outlet" following electoral defeats. Modi urged MPs to prioritise constructive debate over theatrics, emphasising that Parliament must function as a platform for "delivery, not drama."

"We need to work with a sense of responsibility," the Prime Minister said, even offering to give the Opposition "tips" on fostering positive politics.

India-Bangladesh Border May Get New Barbed-Wire Fencing



AGARTALA

The proposal for a newly designed barbed-wire fencing along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura is under active consideration by the Union Home Ministry, BSF Tripura Frontier Inspector General (IG) Alok Kumar Chakraborty said on Sunday. Tripura shares 856 km of the 4,096-km international border with Bangladesh.

Officials said much of the existing fencing has deteriorated due to age and heavy rainfall, prompting the need for upgraded border infrastructure. "Barbed wire fencing in most places

along the India-Bangladesh border has outlived its life," IG Chakraborty told. "Weather conditions in Tripura have also affected the fencing. We are in the process of replacing the old fencing." He added that the Centre is examining the proposal for a new, improved design. "We are hopeful that the erection of a new design of fencing will start very shortly to enhance border management," he said.

The IG described the overall situation along the border as "normal," with no major disruptions reported. Border management operations, he said, are progressing according to plan.

Chakraborty also emphasised the strong cooperation between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB). Relations between the two sides, he said, remain "very cordial," enabling regular communication, joint patrolling and operational coordination. "Being the first line of defence, the BSF is always alert... There has been no change in the relationship between the border guards of the two sides," he added.

Scheduled and special joint patrols, border contacts, and casualty contacts are being conducted routinely, even as a higher-level meeting between the forces is pending.

On cross-border cattle smuggling, the IG said the BSF is maintaining dominance along the zero line and border haats. Recovered cattle are usually handed over to Dhyani Foundation, and when space runs out, to local police for disposal.

GUWAHATI

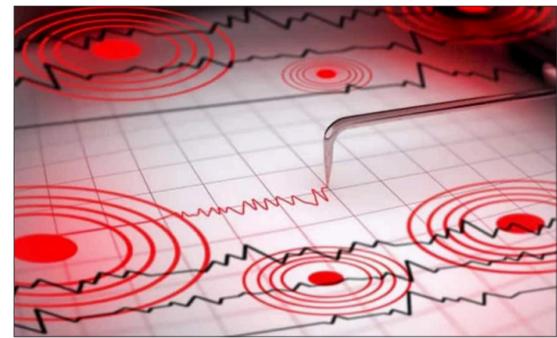
India has introduced a major overhaul to its earthquake safety rules, and the message is clear—much of the country, especially the Northeast, must brace for stronger seismic preparedness.

The updated national code, IS 1893:2025, now divides the country into five seismic zones, and a striking 61% of India's land area is classified as being at moderate to high earthquake risk. In simple terms, most Indians live in places where strong tremors are a real possibility.

The biggest change comes with the creation of a new top-risk category, Zone VI. The entire Northeast—already known for its frequent tremors—now falls under this highest hazard zone. This upgrade follows a detailed scientific study of the region's faults, past quakes, and how seismic waves move through the ground. The new map finally puts data and lived experience on the same page.

But the update isn't just about renaming zones. The code transforms how engineers design buildings in India. Moving away from older models, the new system uses advanced probabilistic methods—approaches followed in earthquake-prone countries world-

Entire Northeast Placed in India's Highest Earthquake Risk Zone (Zone VI)



wide—to assess how powerful future shaking could be.

The fresh guidelines also push for stronger and smarter construction. Builders must consider not only horizontal shaking but also vertical jolts, soil behavior, and the possibility of ground liquefaction during severe earthquakes. The rules also highlight a commonly ignored danger: unsecured architectural elements and equipment that can topple, causing injury even when buildings remain structurally sound. Urban planners say the new norms will have major consequences for rapidly growing cities like Guwahati, Imphal, Shillong, and Aizawl. BIS has

made one point very clear—earthquake-resistant detailing is mandatory for buildings in Zones III to VI, no matter what other design forces may appear more dominant.

"With the entire Northeast placed in Zone VI, the region must adopt tighter seismic design standards, better detailing, and strict monitoring of all construction activities," an expert noted. As India continues its fast-paced growth, the revised earthquake code aims to ensure that homes, schools, offices, and public infrastructure are built to withstand stronger shocks—making communities safer and more resilient in the decades ahead.

Arunachal's Rupa Bayor Wins Bronze in Austria



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

ITANAGAR: Rupa Bayor has earned a bronze medal at the World Taekwondo President Cup, Europe (WT G3), held in Innsbruck, Austria. The event ran from 29 to 30 November and brought together 48 athletes from several countries.

The tournament was hosted by the Austrian Taekwondo Fed-

eration and offered competitors a strong international stage to test their skills. Bayor's podium finish adds another solid result for India in a field known for tough matchups and high technical standards.

Her win marks a proud moment for Arunachal Pradesh, which has seen a steady rise in young athletes competing at the global level.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 636

IMRAN KHAN AND A FAILED STATE

Imran Khan's journey from cricket legend to jailed former prime minister reflects the chronic failures of the Pakistani state. It is the story of a state that has never learned to separate power from the military, truth from propaganda, and democracy from managed elections. It is the story of Pakistan.

Today, Imran Khan, once Pakistan's most celebrated cricketer, a global celebrity, and later the self-declared crusader against corruption, has been in detention for over two years. His legal cases span everything from corruption to espionage to rioting. He has not been allowed to meet his lawyers for more than a month. His party is fractured, his commanders are jailed or hiding, and his political future is uncertain. But to understand how Imran Khan landed in this crisis, one must first understand the nature of the state that both manufactured and destroyed him.

Imran Khan's political ascension began long before he stepped into the Prime Minister's Office in 2018. Pakistan's military, with its long history of manipulating electoral outcomes and engineering governments, needed a third force after public fatigue with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Imran appeared to be the perfect product. Popular, clean-image, articulate, and capable of mobilizing urban youth.

Before politics, he was known worldwide for cricket and for his glamorous life. His relationships with some of the most famous women of his time, British heiresses, Indian celebrities, socialites, earned him a reputation as one of the biggest playboys of the sporting world. This fame became a powerful asset when Pakistan's military establishment began projecting him as the modern face of Pakistani politics. A "sadiq" and "amin" leader, clean, honest, and untainted, that was the narrative crafted for him.

When the 2018 elections arrived, multiple observers, including international think tanks, local analysts, and opposition parties, alleged unprecedented interference by the security establishment. Candidates were pressured, journalists were silenced, judiciary felt the heat, and results trickled in with controversial delays. Despite the noise, Imran Khan emerged victorious. He moved into the Prime Minister's House with the support of the same powerful institution that had previously created and then dismissed many leaders before him.

Almost immediately, attention shifted to his third wife, Bushra Bibi. A spiritual guide, she arrived with stories of "tauweez," black magic, numerology, and influence on state decisions. These stories were dismissed as gossip at first, but they grew louder when bureaucrats began quietly confirming her role in transfers, postings, and personal grievances.

Reports emerged that Imran consulted his wife on critical decisions, from the timing of meetings to the colours he would wear. Some bureaucrats claimed that flights were delayed because his wife advised him against travelling at certain hours. Videos surfaced of him wearing spiritual threads on his wrists, supposedly for protection.

In a country battling economic collapse, rising terrorism, and diplomatic isolation, this added to the perception of a government not fully in control of itself.

Imran's early months in power saw a dramatic string of arrests targeting the Sharif family and the PML-N leadership. For his supporters, this was long-awaited accountability. For others, it was selective justice, driven by the establishment's agenda. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) worked overtime, arresting opposition politicians, opening fresh cases, and summoning leaders repeatedly.

But while the Sharifs were dragged through courts and jails, Imran's own allies remained untouched. This selective application of accountability further strained his relationship with the opposition and widened Pakistan's political divide.

The turning point came in 2021. The ISI Chief, a crucial position in Pakistan's power pyramid, was due for a routine transfer. Imran Khan, however, hesitated. The general in question, Faiz Hameed, was a close associate, widely believed to be the architect of Imran's rise. His transfer should have been a simple administrative decision, but Imran resisted for weeks.

This sparked the first serious rupture between Imran and the military leadership. For the military, this was insubordination. For Imran, it was an existential threat. The matter escalated internally. Meetings dragged. Statements were released. Confusion spread.

Within weeks, the military withdrew its political umbrella.

The opposition sensed vulnerability and moved swiftly with a no-confidence motion. What followed was a chaotic political saga. Allegations of foreign conspiracies, midnight court sessions, constitutional breakdowns, and last-moment dramas. Eventually, Imran Khan fell. His party lost the majority. Imran refused to vacate the Prime Minister's House for several hours, calling the entire process an "international conspiracy" backed by the U.S. and executed by Pakistan's generals.

It was the beginning of the end. On 9 May 2023, after Imran's brief arrest at the Islamabad High Court, nationwide riots erupted. PTI supporters attacked military buildings, torching the Corps Commander's residence in Lahore, storming cantonments, and clashing with troops. It was unprecedented. No civilian group had dared attack military installations on this scale in Pakistan's history.

The military responded with full force. Thousands were arrested. Women activists were jailed. Senior PTI leaders were forced, on camera, to resign. Hundreds of cases, including terrorism charges, were filed against Imran Khan.

The military vowed to "teach a lesson." When General Asim Munir took over as Chief of Army Staff, he brought a personal grievance. Years earlier, when he served as DG ISI, he had reportedly briefed Imran Khan about the political interference of Bushra Bibi in Punjab's governance. Imran responded not by addressing the issue, but by removing Asim Munir from the intelligence post.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Time is more value than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time." - Jim Rohn

Beyond the Red Ribbon: Why India's Fight Against HIV Must Stay Human



MANORAMA BAKSHI

When India diagnosed its first case of HIV in 1987, it was met with silence, fear, and judgment. The virus was poorly understood, and those living with it were often treated as outcasts—denied care, employment, or even the dignity of empathy. Hospitals hesitated to admit them, schools refused their children, and neighbours withdrew in fear. It was a time when HIV was not just a virus—it was a social sentence.

Nearly four decades later, as the world observes World AIDS Day 2025, India's journey stands as a remarkable story of transformation. We have moved from fear to awareness, from discrimination to inclusion, and from despair to determination. Yet this progress, though hard-won, remains fragile—and demands that our response stay as human as it is scientific.

A Journey of Progress and Resilience At the turn of the millennium, India was confronting one of the fastest-growing HIV epidemics in the world. More than five million people were living with HIV. Awareness was low, treatment scarce, and stigma all-pervasive. Families were often torn apart—not by the infection, but by discrimination, rejection and shame.

Two and a half decades later, the picture has changed profoundly. According to the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), new HIV infections have declined by 46% since 2010, and AIDS-related deaths have fallen by over 76% since 2004. Today, more than 1.78 million people in India are receiving free, life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART).

This transformation did not happen by chance. It was built on sustained public health efforts, multi-sector collaboration, and the courage of people living with HIV—many of whom, once shunned, are now leading the very programmes that changed their lives.

The Numbers Tell a Story — of Progress and Persistence Before understanding where we stand, it helps to know how progress is measured. Globally, UNAIDS uses what is known as the 95-95-95 target—meaning:

95% of people living with HIV should know their status,

95% of those diagnosed should be on treatment, and

95% of those on treatment should have viral suppression (meaning the virus is undetectable and cannot be transmitted).

India's current standing — 87-77-73 — comes from the India HIV Estimates 2022 report. It means:

87% of people living with HIV in India know their status,

77% of those diagnosed are receiving ART, and

73% of those on treatment have achieved viral suppression.

These numbers show remarkable progress—but also remind us that the last mile is always the hardest. Each gap in this chain represents a life that could be healthier, longer, and stigma-free.

Globally, 40.8 million people are living with HIV, including 1.4 million children. Of them, 77% receive treatment, and 73% have achieved viral suppression—an unimaginable reality just two decades ago. The numbers tell us where we are; the people behind them tell us how far we've come.

The Jammu & Kashmir Lens — Local Realities, Shared Hope In Jammu & Kashmir, HIV prevalence stands at 0.06%—the lowest in the country, far below the national average of 0.21% (India HIV Estimates 2021). The Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) has played a central role in achieving and sustaining this progress through its focused, community-based interventions.

Since its inception in 1998, JKACS has registered 6,305 HIV-positive cases, with more than 4,000 people currently on lifelong ART. The region's achievements include expanded Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs), greater awareness in schools and colleges, and strengthened linkages to free treatment and care.

Yet, challenges persist. Difficult terrain, migration, and stigma still hinder early testing and adherence. Many women in remote areas continue to hide their diagnosis out of fear of discrimination. But the tide is changing.

Through its partnerships with NGOs, community workers, and peer educators, JKACS is promoting inclusion, awareness, and compassion—showing that progress is not only possible but sustainable when people are placed at the centre.

Science Offers Hope — But Access Defines Justice The science of HIV prevention has never been more promising. New long-acting injectables such as Lenacapavir, which provide protection for up to six months in a single shot, could redefine HIV prevention and treatment.

For people struggling with adherence or stigma linked to daily medication, this could be life-changing.

India has begun introducing long-acting injectables in six states—a hopeful start. But access must be equitable. These innovations should reach not only patients but also frontline healthcare workers who face occupational risks. As the "world's pharmacy," India has both the moral and practical responsibility to ensure that affordability does not become a new

form of exclusion.

ART: Treatment, Prevention, Empowerment

It bears repeating: ART is not just treatment—it is prevention, protection, and empowerment. When a person achieves viral suppression, they cannot transmit HIV. Each person on ART is one less possible transmission—and one more life lived with dignity. Ensuring universal ART access is not merely a medical goal; it is a moral one.

The Social Side of the Epidemic Science alone cannot end AIDS. Stigma still deters people from testing. Gender inequality still limits access to care. Transgender persons, sex workers, and other key populations continue to face systemic barriers.

That's why we must continue to emphasise the ABCD of prevention—Abstinence, Behaviour change, Condom use, and "Don't do drugs." These are not moral dictates but health principles rooted in empowerment and respect.

Communities at the Centre This year's World AIDS Day theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response," reminds us that our greatest strength lies in communities. During the pandemic, when clinics were closed, community networks ensured the uninterrupted supply of ART medicines and psychosocial support. Their dedication reaffirmed a timeless truth: the power to end AIDS lies not only in science, but in solidarity.

The Road Ahead — Policy, Compassion, and Courage To sustain this progress, India must:

- Expand access to long-acting injectables under NACO's national plan.
- Integrate HIV care with mental health, gender-based violence, and reproductive health services.

- Strengthen the response to HIV-TB co-infection, which remains one of the leading causes of death among people living with HIV. Integrated screening, early diagnosis, and joint treatment under a "One Health" approach are essential to breaking this deadly synergy.

- Ensure routine screening and timely management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which increase both the risk of HIV transmission and disease progression. Sexual health clinics must move from stigma to service—offering testing, counselling, and care without judgment.

- Invest in community-led programmes that build trust, reduce stigma, and ensure retention in care.
- Champion equitable funding across regions, so no one is left behind because of geography or gender.

And above all, we must never return to silence. Silence was the epi-

demical's first ally. Dialogue, empathy, and inclusion remain our strongest vaccines.

The Human Heart of Public Health Public health is not about numbers or targets—it is about people, dignity, and hope.

As PLHIV community member once told me, "Madam, medicine helps us live—but dignity helps us live fully."

Ending AIDS is not just a biomedical challenge; it is a social promise—a commitment to compassion and courage. Because the fight against HIV is, at its heart, a fight for equality—and a promise that no one, anywhere, will ever be left behind again.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Let's see if @Grok 5 can beat the best human team @LeagueOfLegends in 2026 with these important constraints: 1. Can only look at the monitor with a camera, seeing no more than what a person with 20/20 vision would see. 2. Reaction latency and click rate no faster than human. Join @xAI if you are interested in solving this element of AGI. Note, Grok 5 is designed to be able to play any game just by reading the instructions and experimenting. ~ Elon Musk, American Entrepreneur



The half-built ladder of India's labour codes

ANAND NEELAKANTAN

India loves grand reforms the way it loves grand weddings—loud, glittering, photo-ready, and utterly confusing. The new labour codes, stitched together from 29 older laws and unveiled as the biggest labour reform since Independence, fit perfectly into this tradition. They promise a new social contract for workers in the world's fastest-changing labour market. But the more one reads, the more it feels like a contract written in invisible ink. The government hails them as the dawn of a modern India: universal minimum wages, simplified compliance, social security for gig workers, and broader formalisation. All true. All admirable. And yet, something about the whole structure feels like a house built on uneven ground—impressive from outside, unstable once you step in.

Let's begin with the good news, for there is some. The most striking reform is the statutory recognition of gig and platform workers. For years, these delivery riders, app-based drivers, freelance technicians and digital piece-workers lived in a legal no-man's land, invisible to the welfare net. Now, aggregators must contribute a portion of their turnover towards social security funds intended to insure and protect them.

The second major win is the National Floor Wage—a baseline below which no state may go. Unlike the old system that covered

only "scheduled employments," this establishes a universal floor, theoretically protecting even workers in sectors the old laws forgot. Together with mandatory appointment letters and strengthened rules for timely wage payment, the codes do bring seriousness to labour rights, at least on paper.

Then there is the long-promised simplification. The old labyrinth of laws—some dating back to the British Raj—has been replaced by four consolidated codes. Fewer ambiguous clauses, fewer opportunities for inspectors to shake down employers, and fewer excuses for companies not to comply. If implemented honestly, this could, in fact, reduce corruption and improve predictability. But reforms in India tend to shine brightest from the podium and dull the moment they encounter the everyday life of an Indian worker. This is where the problems begin.

Recognition without clarity is a familiar Indian trick. Yes, we have named gig workers in law. But what benefits will they actually receive? How will contributions be calculated? Who will enforce compliance? What happens when a worker is "deactivated" by an algorithm that acts as judge, jury and executioner? Details are pushed into rule-making—the place where industry lobbying is strongest and worker representation weakest. Labour law is only as strong as the rules drafted.

And then we come to the biggest blind spot:

domestic workers. Millions of homes employ maids, cooks, nannies, drivers, gardeners and watchmen. Their work is indispensable, yet their rights are fragile, their pay frequently below minimum wage, and their bargaining power almost zero.

The codes promise universality, but provide no practical machinery to enforce labour protections inside private homes. There is no inspectorate for kitchens, no payroll system for living rooms, no grievance forum for a worker dismissed because "madam doesn't like talkative people."

Some states have welfare boards for domestic workers, but these are patchy, underfunded and uneven. Without a national mechanism, household workers will continue to fall into the oldest category of Indian labour—"workers whose rights exist only in the brochure."

The other elephant in the labour room is enforcement. Raising thresholds for layoffs and easing contract-labour norms might attract investment, but they also weaken job security.

For large corporations, compliance is manageable. For MSMEs, already gasping after Covid-19 shocks, stricter wage definitions and increased social security contributions may push them to the informal side of the fence. India already has the world's most informal labour market; these codes may unintentionally deepen that informality.

Workers themselves may find that the celebrated reforms leave their pockets lighter. Higher statutory deductions—provident fund, insurance contributions—can reduce take-home pay even as long-term benefits increase. For a delivery rider struggling to pay rent and EMIs, a promise of future pension does little to solve the hunger of the present. This is the eternal Indian development dilemma: policy looks noble in the long run; workers live in the short run.

The biggest question, however, is not in the fine print. It is in the political will to enforce any of this.

India's labour ecosystem has operated for decades on informal understandings, occasional compliance, and a collective shrug. Inspectors are underfunded, unions are weakened, and workers in new-gen sectors have no collective voice. Without enforcement, even the best-designed welfare nets become museum pieces.

Will the new laws uplift gig workers? Possibly—if the rules are honest, if platforms cooperate, if regulators stay awake. Will they protect domestic workers? Not unless the government confronts the inconvenient truth that rights inside private homes require politically risky enforcement. Will they make India more competitive? Perhaps—but competitiveness built on cheaper, more insecure labour is the oldest trick in the capitalist playbook.

Assam Cabinet approves rise in ex-gratia amount from 5 lakh to 7.5 lakh for kin of NHM employees

GUWAHAT

The Assam Cabinet has accorded approval of the enhancement of ex-gratia amount from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh for the next of kin (NoK) of deceased National Health Mission (NHM) employees.

The decision was taken on Sunday during the state Cabinet meeting held at Lok Sewa Bhawan in Guwahati under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Announcing the cabinet decisions, the Chief Minister said that the cabinet discussed the inauguration programme of the Swahid Smarak constructed at Paschim Boragaon, Guwahati, in memory of the martyrs of the Assam Movement.

"Accordingly, on 9 December, earthen lamps will be lit in memory of every martyr of the Assam Movement, along with naam-prasanga. On 10 December, the day of the inauguration of the Swahid Smarak Bhawan, the family members of the martyrs of the Assam Movement will be invited. Simultaneously, every district of Assam will observe Swahid Divas on the same day. During these programmes, the song 'Swahid Pronamo Tomak' will be performed ceremonially in front of gatherings ranging from around 1,000 to 10,000 people, depending on the population of the respective districts. The cabinet has also appealed to the people to light an earthen lamp in their homes on 10 December to pay homage to the martyrs," the Chief



Minister said. The state Cabinet decided to increase the salaries of employees working at the five Mini ITIs in Dudhnoi, Pathsala, Rangia, Biswanath Chariali, and Titabor by approximately 35 per cent. It further approved the restructuring and enhancement of their fixed pay structure by revising their basic remuneration with an annual increment of 3 per cent, effective from 1st January of the coming year. The cabinet also approved the issuance of an ordinance to amend Section 58 of the North Lakhimpur University Act, 2023. This amendment will allow the current Registrar to continue in office for a period of three years, or until a regular Registrar is appointed, whichever is earlier.

This measure will ensure the

smooth and uninterrupted functioning of the university's administrative and academic activities.

The state Cabinet approved the settlement of land pattas for 660 applicants in Dhubri, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Golaghat, Nalbari, and Barpeta, and 712 applicants in Sonitpur, Barpeta, and Golaghat under Mission Basundhara. The state Cabinet decided that the three-member Cabinet Committee comprising Ministers Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Keshab Mahanta, and Pijush Hazarika will invite the Co-ordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam (CCTOA) to explain the report related to the proposal for granting tribal status to six communities. If required, the Chief Minister will also hold discussions with them.

Dimasa Students' Union Calls December 3 Rally in Haflong Against GoM Report on ST Expansion

HAFLONG

The Dimasa Students' Union (DSU) has called for a mass rally in Haflong on December 3 to oppose the Group of Ministers' (GoM) recent report recommending Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for six additional communities in Assam. The announcement comes amid rising apprehension among existing tribal communities over the potential reshaping of reservation and constitutional safeguards.

The GoM report, tabled in the Assam Assembly on Saturday, proposes a new three-tier classification of tribal communities, including the creation of a separate 'ST (Valley)' category. It recommends the inclusion of the Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Matak, Koch-Rajbongshi (excluding Gopalpar) and Tea Tribe communities in the ST list—a move the state government says will ultimately require a Parliamentary amendment.

DSU leaders argue that the changes threaten long-standing reservation structures and could diminish education and employment opportunities for existing ST groups, including the Dimasas.

They maintain that their concerns were not adequately considered before the finalisation of the report.

The December 3 mobilisation is expected to draw significant participation from student bodies and tribal organisations across Dima Hasao. The programme will feature protest marches and public meetings demanding the withdrawal of the proposal and wider consultations with current ST communities.

Murmu, Modi Extend Statehood Day Greetings to Nagaland

NEW DELHI

Nagaland marked its 62nd Statehood Day on December 1, with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the nation in extending greetings and acknowledging the state's cultural richness and development strides. In a message shared on social media, President Murmu praised Nagaland's "rich culture and boundless natural beauty," noting that the state has continued to make "commendable strides in sustainable development." She lauded the people of the state for preserving their unique heritage while embracing progress. Prime Minister Modi also congratulated the people of Nagaland, highlighting the contribution of Naga citizens across various fields and expressing hope for the state's continued advancement and prosperity.

Nagaland, which attained statehood on December 1, 1963, is widely recognised for its diverse tribal traditions, vibrant festivals, and scenic landscapes. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma joined nation-

al leaders in extending warm wishes, describing Nagaland as a land of "vibrant cultures and proud traditions." He expressed hope that the state continues to progress in harmony and economic growth. Greetings from leaders across the country reflected a shared message of appreciation for Nagaland's resilience and its efforts toward peace, development, and inclusive prosperity. Speaker Biswajit Daimary intervened and asked Ahmed to specify the rule under which he sought to raise the issue. Ahmed offered no clear response and kept speaking despite repeated instructions to follow the procedure. His continued defiance prompted the Speaker to order a brief suspension.

On the opening day of the session, both Ahmed and Congress MLA Nurul Huda had been suspended for the entire Winter Session on the recommendation of the Privilege Committee over alleged misconduct toward Deputy Speaker Numal Momin. The suspension was withdrawn on Friday after appeals from leaders across party lines.

GUWAHATI

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi on Sunday accused Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of fuelling tensions between the six communities seeking Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and the state's existing ST groups, following the tabling of the Group of Ministers' (GoM) report in the Assembly.

Gogoi, who also serves as the Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, said the report failed to provide convincing assurances that the rights of current ST communities would remain protected if the Tai Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Matak, Koch-Rajbongshi and Tea Tribes (Adivasis) were added to the ST list. He said the Congress has historically supported the inclusion of these groups but not at the cost of existing reservation entitlements.

He recalled that during former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi's tenure, the Assembly

Gogoi Accuses CM Sarma of 'Stoking Conflict' Between Six Communities and Existing ST Groups



had passed a resolution supporting ST status for these groups without altering the existing quota structure. "Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while bringing a report to grant category-wise ST status, has been unable to show that the rights of the existing ST communities remain intact," Gogoi wrote on X.

Tensions flared on Saturday when students from Bodoland University stormed the As-

sembly hall at the BTC Secretariat, vandalising property in protest against the Cabinet's approval of the GoM report. The Bodo community—one of Assam's largest ST groups—has expressed anxiety over potential implications for their reservation safeguards.

Gogoi accused the government of resorting to "divide-and-rule politics," claiming that the chief minister was creating fresh divisions among

indigenous groups. "As an indigenous community, we want the best for our tribal brothers and sisters. But it seems the chief minister is stoking another conflict... People are tired and want to live as one 'Bor Axom'," he said.

The GoM report proposes a three-tier classification of STs in Assam to accommodate the six communities while attempting to preserve existing quotas. It recommends creating an 'ST (Valley)' category for Ahom, Chutia, Tea Tribes and Koch-Rajbongshi (excluding undivided Goalpara), and including Moran, Matak and Koch-Rajbongshi (Goalpara) under 'ST (Plains)', noting limited opposition within that group.

The report calls for continued dialogue with all stakeholders. Any final decision on revising the ST list will ultimately require parliamentary approval through a constitutional amendment.

Arunachal: PPA dominates with 33 unopposed wins in Mebo panchayat polls, BJP gets 9

PASIGHAT

Out of the 125 total Gram Panchayat Member (GPM) seats under the 39th Mebo (ST) Assembly Constituency in Arunachal Pradesh, 45 seats were declared elected unopposed on Saturday after the deadline for withdrawal of candidature closed.

Of the 45 elected unopposed, the Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) secured 33 seats, while the BJP won 9 and Independents won 2 seats.

A total of 80 GPM seats will now be contested among various parties, with both BJP and PPA fielding candidates in all seats. Other parties like the INC, NPP and Independents are also eyeing opportunities to win several seats.

No candidate was elected unopposed in the ZPM seats, mak-

ing the election tougher and more competitive, as all candidates and their parties have intensified campaigning after the withdrawal deadline.

After the withdrawal of two candidates for the ZPM seat under Monggu Banggo-II, four candidates—Nangkong Pangging (PPA), Neema Megu (BJP), Raja Yirang (NPP), and Sinador Perme (Independent)—are putting in extensive efforts to win the seat.

At Monggu Banggo-I, a seat reserved for women, only two candidates—Bapiyang Tayeng (PPA) and Gegul Perme (BJP)—are contesting directly.

At Mebo Banggo-I, four candidates are in the fray: Amping Ratan (PPA), Aili Borang (BJP), Mukseng Megu (NPP), and Oti Tayeng (Independent).

While at Mebo Banggo-II,

Bomken Tayeng (PPA), Gongkom Tayeng (BJP), and Apaying Perme (INC) are vying for the seat.

With the strong wave of support the PPA enjoyed in the last assembly election against the BJP, the unopposed wins on Saturday have given the party a significant boost, which may impact the results of the remaining 80 GPM and 4 ZPM seats.

However, some locals not directly associated with the election believe the PPA's earlier momentum may have limited impact on the ZPM contests, particularly at Mebo Banggo-I and Monggu Banggo-II. They feel BJP candidates in these segments may outperform the PPA candidates due to better candidate selection.

PPA, on the other hand, is trying to bridge the gap, as the third and fourth ZPM candidates

were originally from the party but dissented over ticket allocation. At Mebo Banggo-II and Monggu Banggo-I, PPA is still considered likely to win due to strong candidate selection.

In a circular issued on Sunday, the ADC-cum-Returning Officer, Mebo, directed all uncontested candidates to collect their respective election certificates on Monday at 3 PM from the ADC-RO office in Mebo.

Meanwhile, Mebo MLA Oken Tayeng expressed deep appreciation to party leaders, workers, and candidates for securing 33 out of the 45 unopposed seats.

He also conveyed heartfelt gratitude to the people, supporters, and well-wishers of the 39th Mebo Assembly Constituency for their continued support to him and his leadership.

NEIR 2026 OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

AUS Research Scholars' Forum to host advanced landscape photography workshop on December 5



OUR CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR: The Assam University Research Scholars' Forum is set to host an advanced landscape photography workshop on December 5 at Assam University, Silchar. The session, titled EARTHLEOS, will be conducted by noted photographer Dibyendu Das.

The event is being organised in collaboration with KRC Foundation, KRC Times, Hope for Gems, and Voice of Needy. It is part of the North East Integration Rally 2026 outreach cam-

paigns on skill development. Registration is free and has opened on a first-come, first-serve basis through an online form. Organisers say the workshop aims to offer aspiring photographers a chance to refine their skills under expert guidance.

The programme will be held on the university campus from 11.30 AM onwards and participants from across the region are expected to attend.

One can register in this link:

<https://forms.gle/dwHDoCdbWgyoa8v7>

Manipur Sangai Festival Concludes, Showcases Unity and Cultural Pride Amid Ongoing Challenges

IMPHAL

The 12th edition of the Manipur Sangai Festival drew to a close on November 30 at the Bhagyachandra Open-Air Theatre, with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla highlighting the event's growing stature as a major national and international cultural outreach platform.

Addressing a diverse audience that included tourism stakeholders from across India and abroad, Governor Bhalla said the festival had concluded "on a note of unity and cultural pride despite the challenges faced," stressing its role in reaffirming Manipur's resilience and cultural vibrancy.

Bhalla underscored the state government's continued push to strengthen Manipur's tourism sector through focused promotion, strategic investments and infrastructure development. "This edition of the festival served as an important outreach platform, bringing together tourism stakeholders from across the country and abroad," he said, noting that such exchanges are crucial for expanding Manipur's tourism footprint.

Quest!

Listening to music while working creates a positive mood and makes you more productive.



This year's programme featured a wide array of events, including a film festival and traditional sports competitions, offering visitors an immersive tour of Manipuri art, culture and indigenous games. Bhalla said these elements helped reinforce a strong sense of community, pride and cultural expression.

The Governor also acknowledged

the coordinated efforts of various government departments, tourism bodies and local communities, whose collaboration ensured the festival's smooth conduct.

Their contributions, he noted, strengthened the festival's message of unity at a time when Manipur continues to confront significant social and logistical challenges.

The successful conclusion of the Sangai Festival reaffirms the organisers' ability to preserve cultural heritage while advancing the state's economic and tourism priorities. It also marks a renewed effort by the government to use cultural platforms to bring communities together through shared celebration and collective resilience.

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

@ NEIR 2026

- We are looking for volunteers across Northeastern India and West Bengal.
- Interested candidates (College students, youths)

CAN REGISTER AT

https://northeastintegrationrally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspx
 or send an email: neintegrationrally@gmail.com
www.northeastintegrationrally.in

Mamata to scale up anti-SIR campaign with rallies in Malda, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar



KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will intensify her offensive against the EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls with rallies in Malda and Murshidabad this week, followed by a major mobilisation in Cooch Behar next week, TMC sources said.

This marks Banerjee's second phase of anti-SIR mobilisation after her Bongaon rally last week in the refugee-dominated Matua belt, where she alleged the revision drive was being misused to intimidate borderland families.

The TMC is positioning her district-wise campaign as a counter to the BJP's "infiltrator-cleansing" narrative.

The TMC leaders said the decision to hold consecutive rallies in Malda, Murshidabad on December 3, 4 and Cooch Behar on December 9, in three politically sensitive border districts with sizeable minority, migrant and displaced pop-

ulations, signals a deliberate attempt to reclaim the narrative ahead of 2026, especially as the SIR exercise fuels unease over scrutiny of documents, identity and citizenship.

The Malda rally is scheduled at Gajole and Murshidabad's at Beharmpore stadium.

The Cooch Behar rally, scheduled for December 9 at the historic Rash Mela Maidan, is being projected as Banerjee's biggest mobilisation in the north this winter.

District leaders expect a large turnout from Dinhat, Sitai, Sitalkuchi and Mekhliganj, where the SIR has triggered fear among poor rural households.

Announcing preparations, district TMC president Abhijit De Bhowmik said an emergency meeting with block presidents will be held on December 1, followed by a district-level preparatory session at Rabindra Bhavan on December 2, with ministers, MPs, MLAs, councillors

and panchayat functionaries finalising mobilisation plans for the chief minister's visit.

Party insiders said Banerjee's rallies in Malda and Murshidabad this week will serve as narrative-setting platforms before the Cooch Behar show of strength.

Local units have already begun booth-level campaigns stressing that the SIR's "errors and excesses" are disproportionately affecting border residents, minorities and families with historically fluid cross-border linkages.

The BJP, however, has accused the TMC of shielding illegal migrants and opposing a legitimate clean-up of electoral rolls for political gain.

With both parties leveraging the SIR to consolidate narratives ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, Banerjee's Cooch Behar rally is expected to escalate Bengal's charged political confrontation over identity.

Bangladesh says Hasina's extradition issue 'alone' won't deter ties with India



DHAKA

Bangladesh on Sunday said it expects the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India at the "earliest", but stressed that the "issue alone" would not stand as a barrier in bilateral ties with New Delhi.

The interim government's Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain made the remarks while talking to diplomatic reporters based in Dhaka.

"I think our (bilateral) relations won't (be) stuck on one issue alone," he said, when asked if better relations with New Delhi could be expected unless India repatriates

the disposed Bangladesh premier.

Hossain, however, said that since Hasina was now a declared convict, Bangladesh "expects her repatriation from India at the earliest possible time."

The former premier was sentenced to death in absentia on November 17 by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

The student-led violent street protest termed the July Uprising toppled Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5, 2024, following which she took refuge in India.

She was earlier declared a fugi-

tive by a Bangladeshi court.

In response to another question about Dhaka's ties with New Delhi under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, Hossain said, "India needs some time to adjust to the new realities."

The adviser, however, said he was hopeful the two countries would witness better ties. "We would like to have better working relations with India based on interest," he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hossain said India gave "no reply" to Bangladesh's earlier request seeking the extradition of Hasina, but Dhaka now expected a response from New Delhi as the "situation

is different now" with the judicial process completed and the former premier convicted.

Bangladesh's foreign office last week had sent an "official letter" to India seeking the extradition of 78-year-old Hasina after the special tribunal sentenced her to death.

Two days later, Hossain told reporters that the government awaited India's reply to the latest request.

Hossain said the formal extradition request was conveyed through the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi following the special tribunal's verdict under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries.

Bangladesh had earlier sent a note verbale in December last year seeking Hasina's extradition, to which India acknowledged receipt without further comment.

On November 20, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said the interim government is also considering moving the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague to bring back the "fugitive convicts".

Reiterating the stance three days later, he said, "We believe India has an added responsibility to return them."

Following the recent judgment, India said it "noted" the verdict concerning the former prime minister.

"As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL

Death toll from Sri Lanka floods, landslides rises to 334

COLOMBO

The death toll from floods and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah rose sharply to 334 on Sunday, Sri Lanka's disaster agency said on Sunday, with many more still missing.

It is the worst natural disaster to hit the island in two decades, and officials said the extent of damage in the worst-affected central region was only just being revealed as relief workers cleared roads blocked by fallen trees and mudslides.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said the death toll had risen to 334, up from 212 earlier on Sunday, with nearly 400 missing and more than 1.3 million people across the island affected by the record rains.

The losses and damage are the worst since the devastating 2004 Asian tsunami that killed around 31,000 people and left more than a million homeless.

Rain had subsided across Sri Lanka but low-lying areas of the capital were flooded on Sunday and authorities were bracing for a major relief operation.

A Bell 212 helicopter carrying food for patients stranded at a hospital just north of Colombo crashed into a river on Sunday evening. An Air Force spokesman told AFP all five crew members were rescued and taken to a nearby hospital.

Another helicopter sent from India rescued 24 people on Sunday, including a pregnant woman and a man in a wheelchair, marooned in the central town of Kotmale, about 90 kilometres (55 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Pakistan was also sending rescue teams, the Sri Lankan Air Force said, while Japan will also send a team to assess Sri Lanka's immediate needs and has pledged assistance.

The air force said two infants and a 10-year-old child had also



been rescued from a hospital in the northern town of Chilaw, which was submerged on Saturday.

Authorities said flood levels in the capital would take at least a day to recede, while dry weather was also forecast. Cyclone Ditwah moved north towards India on Saturday.

Landslide survivors cross a section of a road that is blocked by debris in Hanguranketha, Sri Lanka, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025.

Selvi, 46, a resident of the Colombo suburb of Wennawatte, left her flooded home on Sunday, carrying four bags of clothes and valuables.

"My house is completely flooded. I don't know where to go, but I hope there is some safe shelter where I can take my family," she told AFP.

Receding water levels in the town of Manampitiya, 250 kilometres (155 miles) northeast of Colombo, revealed massive destruction.

"Manampitiya is a flood-prone town, but I have never seen such a volume of water," said 72-year-old resident S. Sivanandan.

He told the local News Centre portal that businesses and property had been extensively damaged. A car had flipped upside down in front of his shop, he said.

A woman in central Wellawaya said she heard a loud noise and went outside to see boulders rolling down a mountainside before stopping near her home.

"I saw trees falling and moving with the boulders. We are afraid

to go back to our homes," she told reporters after moving to a shelter on safer ground.

The National Blood Transfusion Service said supplies were short even though there have been relatively few injuries.

The National Building Research Organisation, which monitors the stability of hills, said there was a high risk of further landslides because mountain slopes were still saturated with rainwater.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declared a state of emergency on Saturday to deal with the aftermath of the cyclone and appealed for international aid.

The worst flooding since the turn of the century occurred in June 2003, when 254 people were killed.

'US benefitted immensely from talented Indians': Musk backs H-1B programme



WASHINGTON

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has said that the United States has "benefitted immensely" from skilled Indians who have moved there over the years.

Speaking on Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath's "WTF is" podcast, released on Sunday, Musk said that Indian engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs have been instrumental in advancing American innovation. He described the contribution of Indian talent as significant in strengthening the US tech industry.

Kamath began the conversation by pointing out that the US has long attracted "really smart people" from across the world, a trend that many in India have characterised as a "brain drain." He cited

the high number of Indian-origin CEOs leading major global companies.

Elon Musk agreed with this observation, emphasising that Indian professionals have played a pivotal role in driving technological and business excellence.

Addressing concerns that foreign workers may displace local employees, Musk said, "I don't know how real that is. My direct observation is that there's always a scarcity of talented people."

We have a lot of difficulty finding enough talented people to get difficult tasks done, and so more talented people would be good."

He added that his companies, Tesla, SpaceX, X, and xAI prioritise hiring "the most talented people in the world," regardless

of nationality.

While acknowledging instances of misuse by certain outsourcing firms, Musk opposed shutting down the programme. "Some companies have gamed the system on the H-1B front, and we need to stop the gaming of the system. But shutting it down would actually be very bad," he said.

Musk's comment followed Trump's remarks earlier this month defending the H-1B visa system, which allows US employers to hire highly skilled foreign professionals, particularly in technology and engineering.

Trump said that while America must develop its own workforce, it also needs to "bring in talent from around the world" to fill critical skill gaps.

NORTHEAST TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT IFFI 2025 CLOSING CEREMONY WITH GRAND CULTURAL SHOWCASE

SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

PLACEMENT

Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krccplacements> Apply here: <https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm>

VOLUNTEERS REGISTERS @ NEIR 2026

We are looking for volunteers across NE & West Bengal Interested candidates (College students, youths) can register at https://northeastintegrationrally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspx, send an email: neintegrationrally@gmail.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to InfoCom Solutions at: infocom.krc@gmail.com Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krccstudentinternship> or www.krccfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation certificate. Send articles at: info@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest> www.krccfoundation.org/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest

CONNECT@ KRC TIMES



KRC TIMES

To engage with KRC TIMES, please use the following e-mails and WhatsApp Nos: For News: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: info@krccfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313



NEW DELHI

The Closing Ceremony of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025 presented a powerful celebration of India's cultural diversity, bringing together iconic folk traditions, classical heritage, and contemporary artistic excellence on a global stage. This year's cultural showcase has been curated to represent the entire expanse of India, from the deserts of Rajasthan and the coastal traditions of Karnataka to the vibrant Northeast and India's devotional music traditions reflecting the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the Northeast Cultural Showcase, curated by Ranjit Gogoi, marking one of the most extensive representations of the region ever featured at the IFFI stage. The Northeast segment is designed as a two-part presentation celebrating both the region's contribution to Indian cinema and the cultural

distinctiveness of its eight states.

The first segment brought a high-energy dance presentation on the iconic works of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, S.D. Burman, R.D. Burman, Zubeen Garg, and Papon.

This programme highlighted the Northeast's foundational contribution to India's cinematic soundscape.

The second segment featured a panoramic folk showcase from all eight Northeastern states.

It included the Nyapa Cham and Zya Cham from Arunachal Pradesh, Bihu of Assam, Cheraw or Bamboo Dance of Mizoram, Wangala of Meghalaya, Pung Cholom of Manipur, Tripura's Sangrain, Warrior Dance of Nagaland, and Singhi Chaam of Sikkim.

This segment captures the region's music and rhythm, colour and cultural distinctiveness, reinforcing India's unity through artistic diversity. The ensemble stood out as one of the major folk events of the Closing Ceremony.

With artists from Rajasthan, Karnataka, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, and Meghalaya, the Closing Ceremony stood as a comprehensive national showcase at one of the world's prominent film platforms.



Your life is a gift.



North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026

Registrations OPEN



Whatsapp only  +91 933 083 0083

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



Travel & Outreach Partner, NEIR 2026



www.northeastintegrationrally.in



Beverage & Snacks Partner,
NEIR 2026



www.northeastintegrationrally.in



Climate Action Partner, NEIR 2026



Peace, Progress, Prosperity—
where nature meets life.

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



Academic Partner, NEIR 2026



www.northeastintegrationrally.in

