

**Barak Festival**  
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,  
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025  
www.krctimes.com  
Phone: 8721 838313

# KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

**North East Integration Rally**  
Peace | Progress | Prosperity  
2026

Registrations OPEN

www.northeastintegrationrally.in

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 637 | SILCHAR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2025. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com , www.krctimes.com

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**

Happiness is contagious. When you're positive, people are naturally drawn to you

## Suspected HPC(D) militant killed

**GUWAHATI**

A suspected Hill People's Convention (Democratic) [HPC(D)] militant was shot dead in a gunfight with Assam Police late Monday night in the Jinamveil area of Dima Hasao district.

According to police, the incident occurred around 11 pm near Chillei village, under Mahur Police Station. Earlier, at about 10 pm, a group of HPC(D) militants intercepted a vehicle, fired two rounds into the air, and threatened the driver.

Hearing the shots, personnel from a nearby Assam Police Command Battalion camp rushed to the scene.

As the police approached, the militants opened fire, prompting a retaliatory response. In the exchange, one suspected militant, identified as Modi Hmar (also known as Memo) from Boro Arkap village in Jinam Valley, was killed.

His body has been sent to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for postmortem examination.

Police noted that Jinam Valley, though under Mahur Police Station, is difficult to access, with the route passing through Harinagar in Silchar, highlighting the challenging terrain in the region.

### WHO SAID WHAT



Our Govt has consistently worked towards boosting growth of Tai Ahom community & developing infra in the region. Today, as we honour Swargadeo Chaolung Sukapha, we reaffirm our commitment to work for the welfare of the community and build a Bor Assom as envisaged by Swargadeo.

- Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM Assam

## To Curb Illegal Entry, MHA Makes Biometric Registration Compulsory in Manipur

**NEW DELHI**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed the Manipur government to enforce mandatory online biometric registration for all foreign nationals entering the state, tightening surveillance along the sensitive international border amid rising concerns over illegal immigration.

According to officials, the updated guidelines require all non-citizens and "outsiders" to complete digital registration through the Foreigners Identification Portal, shifting the process from earlier physical biometric collection to a centralised online system. The move comes after multiple instances in which illegal immigrants were detected during physical verification drives in Chandel and other border districts.

The MHA, citing heightened instability in neighbouring countries and the associated risk of increased cross-border movement, has asked the state to step up its monitoring apparatus. The advisory warns that unchecked influx could exacerbate



the already fragile law-and-order and demographic situation in Manipur.

However, authorities in Imphal acknowledged that poor internet connectivity in several border regions continues to hamper seamless online registration. Many remote locations along the Indo-Myanmar border lack reliable digital infrastructure, posing a challenge to the full rollout of the new system.

Under the latest directive, all Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police have been instructed

to put in place a "robust mechanism" to curb illegal entry. They are to maintain heightened vigilance across international, inter-state, and inter-district boundaries, and report any unauthorised movement immediately.

Officials have also been told to ensure that both biographic and biometric data of detected individuals are captured without exception, and that online registration is completed at the earliest, regardless of field constraints.

## Nagaland celebrates 63rd Statehood Day with renewed call for unity

**KOHIMA**

Nagaland celebrated 63rd Statehood Day with a renewed call for unity, peace, and inclusive development at Secretariat Plaza, Nagaland Civil Secretariat in Kohima on Monday.

Greeting the people of the state on the occasion, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio reflected on Nagaland's journey since statehood, calling upon citizens to work together to build a prosperous, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable future.

Honouring the leaders and visionaries who laid the foundations for a progressive and resilient society, Rio said Nagaland is the most peaceful state in the country without any incident of serious law and order and no major security challenge. While appreciating the Government of India's decision to relax the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime for the Hornbill Festival following the state's request, he urged the Centre to consider permanently withdrawing it from Nagaland to boost tourism and economic growth.

Reiterating the state govern-

ment's commitment to early Naga political solution, Rio reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to achieving an honourable and inclusive settlement to the issue. He made a fresh appeal to the Naga political groups, the Government of India, and all stakeholders to appreciate the pressing urgency to reach a final settlement without further delay. Rio also reaffirmed the government's commitment to eastern Nagaland, acknowledging developmental gaps in the region. He asserted that the government remains committed to addressing the aspirations of the people of eastern Nagaland, particularly their demand for an arrangement under the Frontier Nagaland Territory Area (FNITA). Rio also highlighted various developmental activities initiated in the state. Later, inaugurated a photo exhibition titled "Journey of Nagaland Down the Decades", organised by the IPR department. The exhibition showcased a wide collection of photographs ranging from the pre-statehood period to contemporary developments in the state.

## Over 2,900 Assam Schools Merged in Five Years for Resource Optimisation, Centre Tells Lok Sabha



**NEW DELHI**

The Centre has informed the Lok Sabha that more than 2,900 government schools in Assam have been merged with nearby institutions over the past five years as part of a broader effort to optimise resources and strengthen learning outcomes across the state. Responding to a written query on December 1 regarding the number of government primary and secondary schools closed in Assam, Union Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary clarified that no government or provincialised schools have been shut down. Instead, the state has undertaken an extensive consolidation exercise.

According to the data shared, 2,774 elementary schools and 206 secondary schools were merged or amalgamated between 2019 and 2024. Chaudhary said the exercise was carried out under the Shiksha Khetra Scheme, which permits the merging of schools with low or non-sustainable enrolment or those situated within the same cam-

pus, ensuring more efficient utilisation of infrastructure and teaching staff.

The minister stressed that the process has adhered strictly to the provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, including distance norms aimed at ensuring accessibility. The restructuring, he said, has helped rationalise teacher deployment and is intended to curb dropout rates across districts. Chaudhary also emphasised that no student has been denied schooling as a result of the mergers. "All children continue to have access to neighbourhood schools as mandated under the RTE. Adequate care has been taken to ensure that students do not face any difficulty during the transition," his reply noted. The clarification comes amid ongoing discussions on school rationalisation policies in several states, where declining enrolment and uneven teacher distribution have prompted administrations to merge schools to improve academic outcomes and resource management.

## Manipur govt forms panels to rehabilitate displaced people after month-long protest

**IMPHAL**

Manipur government on Monday constituted state and district level committees to "strengthen" the ongoing efforts for rehabilitation and resettlement of the people who were internally displaced by the ethnic violence.

The government made an announcement on the constitution of the panels through a statement, issued hours after the internally displaced persons (IDPs) had launched a month-long protest demanding their resettlement at their original homes by this month.

The statement said the constitution of the committees reflects the government's commitment to ensuring a coordinated, responsive and people-centred approach to restoring stability and supporting affected families.

The state level committee will be headed by the Chief Secretary. Commissioners of Finance, Home, and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, with the Special or Additional Secretary (Home) serving as Convenor, will provide policy direction. The district level committees will be headed by respective district magistrates.

"This high-level body is designed to ensure unified decision-making, enhance inter-departmental coordination, and address systemic issues that



may affect the overall progress of rehabilitation and resettlement efforts across the state," the statement said.

Displaced residents took to the streets in Manipur, claiming that, as the annual Sangai festival is being held, normalcy has been established in the state, and they should be allowed to return to their homes.

Internally displaced people clash with security forces as they attempt to return to native homes in Manipur

The committees have been tasked with monitoring and coordinating all rehabilitation and resettlement initiatives for IDPs and addressing bottlenecks to

ensure timely and efficient delivery of support.

"This structured intervention is expected to streamline processes, enhance inter-departmental coordination, and ensure that assistance reaches families," the statement further stated.

The IDPs, who have been lodged in various relief camps for more than two years now, launched the protest from the Imphal West district. Meitei organisation 'Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity' (COCOMI) lent its support to the protestors. COCOMI convenor Khuraijam Athouba joined them on the first day of the stir.

Referring to assurances from authorities that the IDPs will be able to return to their original areas by December, Athouba warned that if the government failed to ensure resettlement within this month, they would be compelled to intensify their agitation. There have been multiple incidents recently where security forces foiled the attempts of IDPs to return to their original homes in or near Kuki areas.

They began making the attempts after the state administration had taken a decision to hold the Sangai Festival. Their argument was that the holding of the festival indicated the return of peace and normalcy in the state.

## Hornbill Festival commences with grand opening ceremony

**KOHIMAM**

The 26th edition of the 10-day Hornbill Festival, which commenced at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, on Monday, witnessed a vibrant opening, celebrating Nagaland's rich cultural diversity, heritage, and artistic traditions.

The festival opened with the largest-ever international participation, featuring six partner countries - Austria, Malta, Switzerland, Ireland, France, and the United Kingdom - along with Arunachal Pradesh as the state partner.

Gracing the opening ceremony as the chief host, Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla highlighted the significance of the festival as a celebration of the state's cultural heritage, unity, and identity.

Bhalla noted that the Hornbill Festival stands as a testament to Nagaland's rich traditions, vibrant art forms, and enduring values.

He emphasised that the festival reflects the collective resilience of the Naga people and their commitment to preserving the legacy handed down by their an-



cestors.

Chief Minister and host of the festival, Neiphiu Rio, stated that the Hornbill Festival is an expression of the Naga way of life, representing their unity and oneness.

He added that it signifies the rich legacy, living traditions, and respect for the ancestors.

Emphasising the significance of the Unity Plaza at the main arena of the Naga Heritage Village, Rio said it is a symbol of the Nagas' oneness and shared hope for a peaceful and prosperous future.

He also said it was an honour to have

six countries as partner countries and Arunachal Pradesh as a partner state.

Ambassador of Ireland to India, Kevin Kelly, in his greetings, shared the Ireland-India relations, including their fight for freedom and aspirations that inspire each other. He further stated that Nagaland shares with the world a festival of affirmation of identity, resilience and creative energy. Director, British Council, Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, highlighted some of the British and Naga ties. He said Nagaland and the United Kingdom relations go beyond cultural ties and mulled for ties in business & trade, education &

research, and science & technology.

Ambassador of Switzerland Maya Tissafi spoke about the rich traditions of the Naga people and highlighted how this festival brings together tribes, families, visitors, and friends from across India.

She praised the creativity and skill of Naga artists, saying that their performances are deeply inspiring. Ambassador of France to India Thierry Mathou said France is keen to further collaborate with India and Nagaland in IT, education, tourism, and music.

On Day 1 of the festival, visitors were treated to a special performance titled "Hornbill Dream" by the Task Force for Music and Arts, which featured captivating cultural and musical items, showcasing the rich and vibrant culture and traditions of Nagaland.

The dignitaries also took part in the Kisama Walk, which included a visit to the traditional morungs, followed by a state dinner.

Thousands of people, including tourists from different parts of India and around the globe, attended the inaugural function.

## Assam University Secures UGC Nod for New Assamese Department: Sahitya Sabha

**SILCHAR**

The Assam Sahitya Sabha on Tuesday announced that Assam University has received formal approval from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to establish a full-fledged Department of Assamese Language. The confirmation came during the centenary celebrations of Chandrakanta Handique Bhawan in Jorhat, where a two-day programme kicked off with strong public participation and heritage-themed events. Sabha president Dr. Basanta Kumar Goswami said the development marks a proud moment for language enthusiasts across the state. "Assamese once had minimal space in Assam University. Today, with UGC's approval, the university is finally getting its own Assamese department. This is a milestone for all who love the language," he stated. Reaffirming the Sabha's focus on strengthening Assamese identity in academic spaces, Goswami also announced that the university will soon introduce two academic chairs named after literary icons Lakshminath Bezbaruah and Padmanath Gohain Baruah.

The centenary celebrations be-

gan with members hoisting 100 flags at the Sabha's historic headquarters, followed by floral tributes to cultural legends Zubeen Garg and Bhupen Hazarika. A colourful procession featuring diverse ethnic groups moved through Jorhat city, reflecting unity through culture and language.

Calling the occasion "historic for every Assamese", Goswami highlighted the emotional significance of Chandrakanta Handique Bhawan. "It is not just a building, it is the heartbeat of Assamese literature, language and cultural unity," he said.

Goswami added that the Sabha now operates over a thousand branches in India and abroad, including a newly opened branch in Moscow, underscoring the global connection Assamese communities maintain with their roots.

Stressing the organisation's role in bridging divides between the Barak and Brahmaputra valleys, Goswami said a 50-member artists' team from Barak Valley will join Wednesday's events. He also announced plans to install a statue of renowned language scholar Hemchandra Barua in Silchar.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 637

## DATE AFTER DATE

December 1, 2025, has become a significant date in India's judicial history globally. The new rules implemented are not just administrative changes, but a sign of comprehensive judicial reform. The new policy centers on the same old question: By what authority can a person be kept waiting for years in a process? The Supreme Court asked itself this question and presented its solution in the form of a "Restructured Listing System." The Court now believes that justice is justice only when it is delivered on time, and this principle is clearly evident at the core of its entire policy. The Supreme Court has simplified the filing and listing process and implemented a system to limit unnecessary adjournments, baseless urgent demands, and unnecessary adjournments. For years, Supreme Court mornings began with a deluge of mentionings, a crowd that often drowned out the voices of cases with genuine urgency. The new system has virtually eliminated this chaos. The Court's energy will now be focused on hearings, not on procedure, and this in itself marks the beginning of a major change. For years, issues like the constant adjournment of cases, delays in hearings, and unnecessary mentioning of cases have burdened the Indian judicial system. Judicial delays not only prolong litigation but also adversely affect the personal liberty, property rights, and fundamental right to justice of ordinary people. To address this problem, the Supreme Court has made major changes to the listing, mentioning, and adjournment systems. These changes aim to make justice faster, more reliable, and more technologically efficient. These reforms are not merely administrative changes, but also foster a new mindset and a new culture within the judiciary.

Friends, if we consider the four major circulars issued in simple terms, the Supreme Court has issued four important circulars to implement these reforms. Their purpose is to streamline court administration, technical procedures, and judicial work. In simple terms, these four circulars are as follows: (1) Circular on Controlling Mentioning - This circular states that from now on, oral mentioning of cases will not be made directly before the CJ's bench. Only those cases for which special permission has been granted will be permitted for oral mentioning before the CJ's bench. This step will control the crowd of lawyers who used to line up daily to request mentioning before the CJ. (2) Circular on Automation of Case Listing - The Court has implemented a new technological system that automatically sorts, scrutinizes, and lists cases upon filing. Lawyers will no longer need to manually request early dates for their cases through filing or mentioning. The system will automatically prioritize urgent matters. (3) Circular on Auto-Listing of Urgent Matters within 48 Hours - This important provision provides that all new matters related to personal liberty and urgent interim relief will be automatically listed for hearing within two working days, i.e., 48 hours. (4) Circular on Adjourning Control - This circular states that unnecessary adjournments, the practice of repeatedly seeking dates, and the postponement of hearings without valid reasons should be curbed. The Court wants lawyers to be prepared when the hearing date is set, ensuring that hearings are not unnecessarily prolonged. The collective goal of these four circulars is to accelerate the pace of litigation and eliminate the problem of adjournments.

Friends, if we simply explain the new structure of oral mentioning, urgent listing, and adjournment, the system of hearing, listing, and mentioning cases in the Supreme Court was often considered complex and slow. Lawyers would make a large number of "oral mentionings" daily, i.e., standing in court and requesting an early listing of their case. This consumed a significant amount of the bench's time just hearing the mentionings. Sometimes, it was difficult to distinguish truly urgent cases from this multitude. Recognizing this situation, the Court implemented a restructured system effective December 1, 2025. Friends, if we understand its purpose, the energy, time, and effort required by lawyers for oral mentionings has been reduced. The system has been made more digital, more transparent, and priority-based. (1) Simplifying filing (2) Eliminating unnecessary mentionings before the bench (3) Speeding up hearings for matters involving personal liberty (4) Automatically prioritizing matters seeking urgent interim relief (5) Preventing unnecessary congestion of lawyers and unnecessary wastage of court time. These changes are considered to be a major step towards making the judiciary more justice-centric and less procedurally burdensome. Friends, let's discuss the ban on oral mentioning, the new policy, and the promotion of junior lawyers. To put it simply, the oral mentioning time in the Supreme Court, early every morning, was considered the noisiest. Every lawyer wanted their case to be heard quickly, whether urgent or not. This was a waste of valuable court time, and often the truly urgent matters were not prioritized. According to the new policy, (1) senior lawyers will no longer be able to make oral mentionings before the CJ's bench. This will reduce the crowdedness of mentionings, allowing the CJ's bench to devote more time to actual judicial work. (2) Only matters requiring special leave will be mentioned before the CJ. Previously, every lawyer could make a mention; now only those who truly needed it will do so. (3) Junior lawyers have been promoted; this is a historic change. Previously, the mentioning platform was always held by senior lawyers, leaving junior lawyers in the shadows. Now, they will have the opportunity to come forward and present their views. This will boost their confidence and strengthen the spirit of equal opportunity in the judiciary. This move reflects the Supreme Court's new approach to empowering future generations of lawyers. (4) Automatic Listing within 48 Hours A revolutionary reform in cases involving people's liberty. The new circular states that all the following types of cases will be listed within 48 hours. This change is based on the idea that if the case involves a person's liberty, every minute of delay is tantamount to injustice.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions. - Dalai Lama

# Innovation strategies for Viksit Bharat 2047

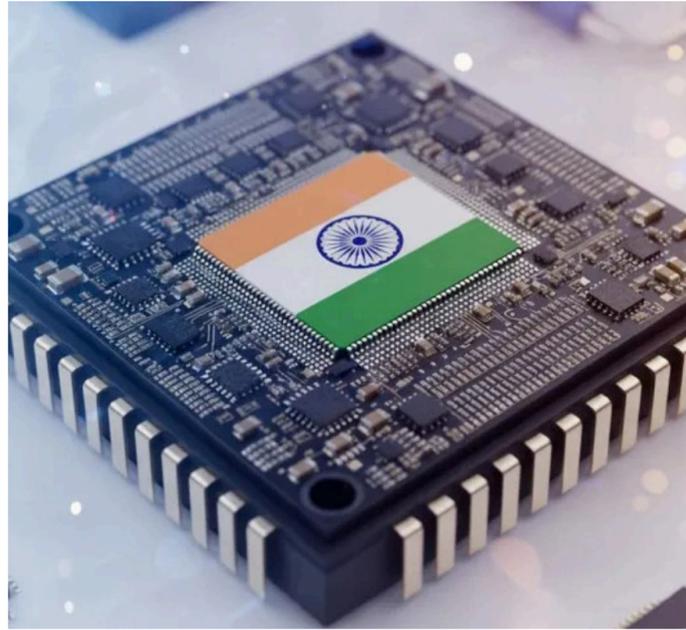
PROF KS CHANDRASEKAR

"Necessity is the mother of innovation". As the world grows, countries grow and the people grow as such grow looking for necessities which were once already available. Behind every new one coming up, there are gaps that were not addressed earlier by people and the unmet needs that transform to something new. There lies the entrepreneurial spirit which alone can transform an economy. Lijjat Papad, started by seven housewives on a rooftop, now has 45,000 working women and a turnover of Rs 1600 crore (Rs 16 billion). N R Narayana Murthy put together Rs 10,000 and started Infosys in his small 700 square feet apartment. Its market capitalization as of now is more than Rs 6.16 trillion. India jumped to claim the 39th position in the latest IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2024 as it gained significantly on various parameters, such as economic performance, government efficiency and business efficiency, but still lagged on the infrastructure front. IIT-Madras has developed a rural ATM machine for about Rs 30,000 as compared to the Rs 7-8 lakhs (USD 15-17,000) price of the global manufacturers. In IT hardware, Proton dot matrix printer from TVS Electronics has revolutionized rural retail stores and set a record through its "least expensive dot matrix printer in the world". Philips India introduced a Hand Wound Radio that can be powered by hand winding. In the consumer product business, the use of "sachet" to dispense shampoo is the oft-quoted example from India. Use of polythene packets to package milk and the "no refrigeration, yet six months life" packaging of milk, is really "Made for India".

India needs to focus on the research and development to ensure that they are on top in innovation and the same needs to align with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. There is a need to increase both public and private spending on research and development. Existing industrial technology needs to be developed with a focus on green and clean energy solutions. There is a need to support domestic technology development and industrial diversification in developing nations.

In a major boost to the R&D ecosystem in the country, the Prime Minister launched the 1 Lakh Crore Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme Fund. The scheme aims to promote private sector-driven research and development of ecosystems in the country. This will be a great boost to the economy in fostering innovation in the country. This fund will not be offered as grants. Long-term low or zero-interest loans, equity investments, and contributions to Deep-Tech Fund of Funds will be the focus. Thus, it is result oriented. Advanced Materials & Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, Bio-Manufacturing, Blue Economy, Digital Communications, Electronics & Semiconductor Manufacturing, Emerging Agriculture Technologies, Energy, Environment and Climate, Health and Medical Technologies, Quantum Science and Technology, Renewable energy and Space Technologies will be focusing area where India can make major jump.

India needs to invest in robust infrastructure, including transport, energy, and information and communication technology (ICT) to support sustainable development and follow the SDGs. The major road network including expressways, green roads and quality roads can ensure new innovations catering to the convenience of road users. By providing an annual pass worth Rs.3000, the major bottleneck of the highway users has been addressed. They will be willing to spend on possible conveniences while on road. This is where new innovations including food, FMCG and services can be provided. E-mobility can provide more charging stations in



food joints which will be a win win situation. India has the second-largest road network in the world, with over 6.3 million kilometers as of March 2025. The total car population in India is expected to reach about 108.6 million vehicles by 2030, a doubling from 54.4 million in 2020. Hybrid technology, e-mobility and other options for fuels need to be addressed and here the innovations can be of help. India's air traffic is projected to grow significantly by 2030, with passenger numbers expected to reach between 500 million and 600 million which is equivalent to the population of USA and Indonesia put together. The consumption of products and services enroute can increase manifold. Car hailing to automated car systems, mass rapid systems including metros can provide ample opportunities for entrepreneurs.

India has 7,500 km of coastline and 14,500 km of navigable waterways. Freight transport by waterways is currently underutilized, but there is potential for growth, especially in areas where there are some issues pertaining to the road transport. India has a goal of reaching 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel power by 2030, with strong growth in solar and wind. Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bioenergy, a nationally important institute that is involved in education and research in this area will be tapped by the Cluster University of Jammu to offer innovative programs in this specific area with employment opportunities. India is yet to fully tap the semiconductor wave sweeping across the world. Innovation in line with the UNSDGs can be opted. Curricular innovation in offering Certificate and Diploma programs in Semiconductor technology can offer skilled labor in the market. Cluster University of Jammu is in the process of addressing this issue and trying to work with India Semiconductor Workforce Development Program (ISWDP).

Government of India and the State Governments are trying to ensure a favorable regulatory environment and market infrastructure that drives innovation. Through NEP2020, there is every effort made to develop a skilled workforce through education and training in R&D. Connecting basic education to technical and skill training, technical skill training to labor market entry, and labor market entry to workplace and continuous learning and recognition of prior learning is given utmost importance now. The innovative eco system needs to be fostered through. The Indian government's "Startup India" initiative has played a key role in

the sector's expansion. The number of DPIIT-recognized startups has grown significantly, from around 500 in 2016 to over 159,000 as of January 2025. The ecosystem has created over 1.6 million direct jobs. India is now ranked as the third-largest startup ecosystem globally. Funding by the GOI has been the biggest backbone for the young entrepreneurs in India. By launching several plans, Indian government has assisted the start-up firms a lot to perform and sustain both in domestic and global market. There are numerous government and semi-governmental initiatives to assist startups. Start-Up India initiative is a great relief for start-up firms that will give them a final break from the conventional License Raj of India. The program includes three-year tax and compliance breaks intended for cutting arduous government regulations and red tapism. 'Make in India' has identified 25 sectors in manufacturing, infrastructure and service activities and detailed information is being shared through interactive web-portal and professionally developed brochures. FDI has been opened up in Defence Production, Construction and Railway infrastructure in a big way. To facilitate the growth of startup firms, SETU (Self-Employment and Talent Utilization) fund had been set up by the government. Under this program, Rs 1,000 crore has been allotted by the government in order to create opportunities for self-employment and new jobs mainly in technology-driven domains.

There are innovative areas that are going to offer higher returns in India for the start ups and entrepreneurial areas like Home Automation, Urbanization/Space Utilization, Online Reputation Management, Eat Natural and Stay Healthy, Mentoring, Consulting, Event management, Online tutoring and Design management to name a few. Some of the well-known universities have already started giving credits and financial support to some of the startups which have become a fully grown companies over the years. If we see a brand like Groww, which was a startup from BITS, Pilani has now come out with equity issue in BSE. Cluster University of Jammu has already started a Section 8 company for this Institution Innovation cell with Government MAM College being designated as a Hub for the same. Already there were excellent ideas that were put forth by the students which will be taken to the next stage. Reserve Bank of India's Green Deposits Framework, effective from June 2023, gives direction to banks and NBFCs to disclose how they deploy

funds raised via green deposits. This has given rise to Green Fixed Deposits—a novel and innovative category of products that retail and institutional investors would be exposed to invest in, knowing their capital will be deployed in environmentally positive sectors such as renewable energy, clean transport, and pollution control. This will pave ways for more innovative investing in future. As mentioned in ArthSashtra, those with ethical governance (Dharmic rule) can only survive in any period of time and it is now that innovations can actually influence such rules. The Taittiriya Upanishad quotes, "Let us come together, let us speak together, let our minds be in harmony." Combining the best brains, best infrastructure and best governance can ensure that more innovations and accolades can be created. What is needed is the extra effort from every individual for the benefit of the society and for mankind.

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

**The world is changing at a radical rate: Technology barrels ahead. Climate chaos reigns. Inequalities deepen. We are moving towards a multipolar world, with global power in flux. The solutions to these challenges lie in a networked, inclusive multilateralism.**

~ Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of UN



## The G20's evolving agenda for Peace, Prosperity, and Progress

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

The G20 has emerged as one of the most influential forums shaping the world's economic and developmental direction. In an era marked by uncertainty and rapid transformation, the grouping plays an essential role in strengthening global economic stability and setting the foundation for inclusive growth. Its influence extends far beyond economic coordination, touching upon climate policy, digital governance, food security, health systems, and the future of sustainable development. As global challenges grow more interconnected, so does the need for a platform capable of guiding collective action—and the G20 continues to be at the centre of this effort.

Created in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998, the G20 originally served as a platform for finance ministers and central bank governors to discuss the stability of international financial systems. Over time, especially after the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, the grouping expanded to include Heads of State and Government. This elevation reflected the realization that meaningful crisis response required political commitment at the highest level. What began as an informal economic forum has today evolved into a global agenda-setting body representing major industrial and emerging economies.

Together, G20 members account for the overwhelming share of global wealth, trade and population. This reach gives the grouping unparalleled influence. Its decisions affect the economic stability

of nations both within and outside its membership. Against this backdrop, the world's current challenges—climate disruptions, financial volatility, supply chain fragility, widening inequality and rapid technological shifts—underscore how essential it is for the G20 to remain bold, responsive and forward-looking.

As South Africa assumes the G20 Presidency for 2024-2025, the global landscape demands exactly that. Only a handful of years remain before the world reaches the 2030 deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, yet progress is moving far slower than expected. Many nations are struggling with inadequate financial resources, insufficient climate preparedness, growing social divides and mounting debt burdens. The urgency of addressing these issues has never been greater, and South Africa's leadership arrives at a critical juncture.

South Africa brings a unique perspective to the Presidency, shaped by its history, development journey and the African philosophy of Ubuntu. This worldview emphasises interconnectedness and shared responsibility. It asserts that progress cannot be separated from justice and that the wellbeing of each nation is tied to the wellbeing of others. South Africa's theme for the Presidency—centred on solidarity, equality and sustainability—reflects this understanding. It highlights a commitment to a world where development is inclusive, opportunities are shared and long-term sustainability is prioritised.

The Presidency places strong emphasis on strengthening resilience in the face of climate-driven disasters. Across continents, communities are grappling with the aftermath of storms, floods, droughts and wildfires. For many developing nations, such shocks bring long-term setbacks, as limited financial resources hinder recovery efforts. South Africa aims to ensure that global support mechanisms become more predictable, better financed and capable of reducing vulnerability. This vision seeks not only to repair damage after disasters occur but to equip nations to withstand future shocks through better planning, stronger infrastructure and more robust financial instruments.

Another core focus of the Presidency is the need for sustainable debt solutions. Many low-income nations are experiencing debt burdens that compromise their ability to pursue development priorities. High borrowing costs, insufficient fiscal space and opaque credit rating practices contribute to a cycle that restricts economic ambition. South Africa advocates for deeper reforms within the global financial architecture, with the intention of creating a fairer and more transparent system. By improving access to affordable capital and enabling responsible restructuring where needed, countries will be able to channel more resources toward long-term development such as education, healthcare, infrastructure and climate resilience.

Efforts to support a just energy transition form another central element of South Africa's

agenda. As the world accelerates toward cleaner forms of energy, developing nations face the dual challenge of reducing emissions while sustaining their development pathways. Many also face the reality that green technologies remain costly or inaccessible. South Africa hopes to encourage greater investment in renewable energy, more support for country-led transition plans and better coordination between public and private finance. A just transition is one that protects existing livelihoods, creates new opportunities and embeds environmental responsibility in economic planning. By advocating for increased climate finance and stronger multilateral development banks, the Presidency aims to ensure that no nation is left behind in the global shift toward a low-carbon future.

The Presidency also recognises the centrality of critical minerals to the world's energy and technological transformation. Africa holds significant reserves of minerals needed for electric vehicles, batteries and renewable energy infrastructure. However, countries rich in these resources have historically benefited little from their extraction. South Africa's vision seeks to change this dynamic by promoting responsible mining, increasing local beneficiation and encouraging investment that enhances long-term industrial capacity. A more equitable minerals economy would not only strengthen African economies but also stabilise global supply chains and support the broader goals of sustainable development.

# Nagaland Records 1.37% HIV Prevalence, Second-Highest in India and Well Above National Average

GUWAHAT

Nagaland has reported an adult HIV prevalence rate of 1.37 per cent, one of the highest in the country and far exceeding the national average of 0.21 per cent, according to the India HIV Estimates 2023. The state now ranks second nationwide in terms of prevalence.

The figures were highlighted by Anoop Khinchi, Commissioner and Secretary of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS), while inaugurating the NSACS stall at Kisama on Monday as part of World AIDS Day observations.

Khinchi said Nagaland is intensifying efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Target 3.3) and achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95



global targets. As of October, the state had achieved 88% for the first 95 (diagnosis), 79% for the second

(treatment), and an encouraging 98% for the third (viral suppression). He expressed optimism that

Nagaland could meet the global benchmarks by 2026 but stressed that coordination among government departments, community groups, private stakeholders and faith-based organisations would be critical.

Raising a note of concern, Khinchi pointed out that new infections were increasingly being detected outside traditional high-risk groups such as people who inject drugs, female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, migrants and prison inmates. He warned that a broader at-risk population engaging in unsafe practices posed new challenges for public health interventions. Stressing compassion and awareness, he added, "HIV does not discriminate, and neither should we," urging citizens to prioritise testing,

prevention and timely treatment. Marking World AIDS Day 2025, Nagaland also held a state-level event in Kohima, organised by NSACS in partnership with NNagaDAO, NNP+ and other development partners. The event was themed "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response." Participants took a pledge to promote responsible health choices and fight stigma and discrimination. In the keynote address, NSACS Project Director Dr. Ahu Sekhose said Nagaland's overall performance had improved markedly from 19th to 8th in NACO's national rankings. The state is among six nationwide on track to achieve the 95-95-95 goals, supported by strong performance across 50 indicators and five-star certification for 38 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres.

However, concerns were raised by civil society groups. NNagaDAO president Abou Mere pointed to rising infections among youth and the spread of HIV across all districts, warning that "critical funding constraints" were hampering key intervention programmes. NNP+ president Lanu Aier urged the revival of the Legislators' Forum on AIDS, which was dissolved in 2020, to strengthen political advocacy.

KPC president Alice Yhosu emphasised the media's role in countering misinformation, while Global Naga Forum co-convenor Prof. Rosemary Dzuwachu called for enhanced nutrition, livelihood and skill-development support for people living with HIV, citing the day-to-day challenges faced by affected communities.

## Sribhumi Healthcare Crisis Deepens as PHC Lies Abandoned for 11 Years

SRIBHUMI

Mounting concerns over collapsing public healthcare in Sribhumi district have intensified after it emerged that a Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Health Minister Krishnendu Paul's own constituency has remained non-functional for more than a decade. The Rangamati PHC, built in 2014 to provide essential medical services to border communities near Patharkandi and the Assam-Mizoram boundary, has never opened its doors due to a chronic shortage of health workers.

Once envisioned as a lifeline for remote villages, the PHC building now stands engulfed in weeds and wild vegetation - a stark symbol of prolonged administrative neglect in the rural health sector.

The crisis is compounded by the deteriorating condition of Sribhumi's only major public hospital - the 300-bed Civil Hospital - which also suffers from acute manpower and infrastructure deficits despite the Health Minister serving as its chairman. The facility has just 5 ICU beds, far below the mandatory 25, while its oxygen plant is known to malfunction frequently. Anti-rabies vaccines remain out of stock, and the district still lacks a burn specialist.

The consequences have been severe. Victims of the recent Charbazar gas cylinder explosion were forced to travel to Silchar Medical College due to the absence of burn treatment facilities at the district hospital.

Raising the alarm, District Congress Secretary Pankaj Nag submitted a memorandum to the Joint Director of Health demanding immediate operationalisation of the Rangamati PHC and urgent upgrades across the district's healthcare infrastructure.

## Gaurav Gogoi Slams Assam CM for Responding to Employee Protests with 'Warnings, Salary Cuts and Intimidation'



GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has sharply criticised the Assam government, accusing Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's administration of using "warnings, salary cuts and open intimidation" to suppress ongoing protests by employees across multiple key sectors.

In a statement issued on Monday, Gogoi said that staff from Health, Education, Panchayat and several other departments had been agitating for months over long-pending demands, yet the

government's response had been "hostile instead of empathetic."

He alleged that punitive measures had been taken against National Health Mission doctors, nurses and frontline workers, many of whom have participated in demonstrations. Gogoi further claimed that 108 ambulance drivers had also faced indirect threats for taking part in the protests.

"Such behaviour is unacceptable from a government elected to serve the people," the Congress MP said, adding that government employees form the backbone of Assam's administrative machinery and deserve "dialogue, respect and urgent action," not coercion.

Promising a shift in approach, Gogoi said that if the Congress returned to power in Assam, it would "end this culture of threats and arrogance" and adopt a governance model grounded in engagement, dignity and accountability.

## BTC CEM Condemns Secretariat Arson, Calls for Safeguarding Democratic Institutions

KOKRAJHAR

Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Chief Executive Member Hagrama Mohilary on Monday issued a sharp condemnation of the November 29 arson and vandalism at the BTC Secretariat, blaming members of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) for the attack and stressing that violence has no place in a democratic society.

"Democratic institutions must function with dignity and order. Acts of violence cannot be tolerated under any circumstances," Mohilary said, urging community organisations and political groups to uphold constitutional values and resolve grievances peacefully.

His remarks came during a high-level review meeting jointly conducted by the Assam Government and the BTC at the Secretariat in Kokrajhar. The session, held on December 1, focused on assessing progress in key development projects within the Bodoland Ter-



ritorial Region (BTR).

The meeting brought together senior officials including Assam Finance Minister Ajanta Neog, Cabinet Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah, MLA Charan Boro, Chief Secretary Ravi Kota, BTC Deputy Chief Rihan Daimary and other Executive Members.

Over the day-long review, offi-

cial discussions discussed major infrastructure initiatives, including the proposed Kokrajhar-Gelephu railway link, slated for inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January. Upgrades to Rupsi Airport and plans for a new railway coach manufacturing unit in the region also featured prominently. Speaking to reporters after

the meeting, Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah said the review aimed at identifying sector-wise improvements to accelerate the BTC's development agenda. "We assessed what further support and interventions are needed across departments to ensure seamless progress in the region," he said.

Finance Minister Ajanta Neog reaffirmed the state government's commitment to ensuring timely execution of central and state-funded schemes in the BTR, stressing the need for tighter inter-departmental coordination.

Security concerns following the recent attack on the BTC Legislative Assembly hall were also addressed, with officials outlining measures to prevent disruptions and to strengthen institutional security.

The meeting concluded with both the state government and the BTC administration pledging to work collaboratively toward inclusive and sustainable development across the Bodoland Territorial Region.

## Assam CM inaugurates Rs 83-crore Jamunamukh Railway overbridge in Hojai

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday inaugurated the newly constructed railway overbridge at Jamunamukh in Hojai district.

The 951-metre structure, built at a cost of around Rs 83 crore, includes a 7.5-metre-wide motorable carriageway aimed at easing movement in the region.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also virtually inaugurated the Model High School at Balijuri Tea Estate and three Jagannath Community Halls and Skill Centres at Kandali, Dhantola, and Sagunbahi Tea Estates.

He laid foundation stones for new buildings at Barhampur Higher Secondary School and Jamunamukh Higher Secondary School. In addition, he launched

several flood-protection and road-connectivity projects under the Nagaon Water Resources Division.

These include works sanctioned for the right bank of the Kopili river from Jamunamukh-Chikamari to Milonpur and from Jamunamukh to Patiapam, as well as the left bank stretches from Bakulguri to the Jamunamukh RCC bridge, Jamunamukh bridge to Premjan-Gosaigaon, Gosaigaon to Chaibuk village, and Pub-Kawoimari to Borchung.

Officials also launched anti-erosion measures along the Haria River from Palsa to Pub Tetelisara.

Addressing a public meeting, the Chief Minister said the new overbridge would improve connectivity between Dabaka, Kampur, and Jamunamukh rail-

way stations.

He highlighted that Kampur and Jamunamukh face annual flooding from the Kopili river and added that the government has taken up flood-protection projects worth around Rs 80 crore to address the issue.

He noted that development initiatives in Barhampur have accelerated in recent years, mentioning the newly completed flyovers at Chaparmukh and Kampur and ongoing road development and stadium construction projects worth an estimated Rs 350 crore.

Sarma said that past delays in welfare and development work had affected the State, but schemes such as Orunodoi, Mukhyamantr Mahila Udyomita Abhiyan, Nijut Moina, and Ayushman Bharat, along with subsidised distribution of essen-

tial commodities, have offered significant relief to poor and middle-class households.

He also stated that the government is prioritising infrastructure alongside welfare programmes.

He said schools previously received only limited development funds, whereas the institutions whose foundation stones were laid on Monday will each receive Rs 6-8 crore.

Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika, MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLA Jitu Goswami, senior officials of Northeast Frontier Railway, including Principal Chief Commercial Manager Niraj Sahay and Additional Divisional Railway Manager of Luning Division M.K. Singh, along with other officials and dignitaries, attended the event.

## BJP Will Return to Power in 2027 Manipur Assembly Elections, Says MLA Radheshyam Singh



IMPHAL

Manipur BJP MLA Thokchom Radheshyam Singh has asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party will return to power in the 2027 state assembly elections, expressing full confidence in the party's prospects despite the ongoing political turbulence in the state.

Addressing a gathering at his residence in Heirok, the former police officer told party workers and supporters that there should be "no apprehensions" about the BJP's future.

"Many say the BJP will not come to power, but everyone should know it will certainly return and form a government

in 2027. No one should have any apprehensions," Singh said.

In a pointed remark aimed at internal critics, Singh suggested that the party's recent setbacks were not organisational failures but the result of actions by certain individuals. "BJP is not at fault but certain persons in the party are... Just because a driver is not good at driving, please do not blame the vehicle and the makers," he said, adding that the BJP "has not done anything wrong" and remains organisationally strong in Manipur.

Singh further alleged that "some leaders have damaged the state," distancing the party from decisions or actions that have drawn public ire during Manipur's prolonged crisis.

His comments come as the state continues to grapple with ethnic unrest and political instability, with opposition parties repeatedly questioning the BJP government's ability to restore normalcy. Despite the criticism, the Heirok MLA maintained that the BJP continues to enjoy substantial public backing and will reclaim power when voters go to the polls in 2027.

## Tripura BJP Leader Slams 'One North East' Campaign, Says Pradyot Trying to Stay Politically Relevant

AGARTALA

In a sharp political offensive, senior BJP leader and former MP Rebati Tripathy has accused Tripura Motha founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarman of using the newly launched One North East campaign to regain lost political ground, warning that the initiative risks stirring old divisions at a time when Tripura is experiencing "relative peace and stability."

Speaking to reporters, Rebati said the campaign - unveiled with the backing of leaders from "failed regional parties" - reflects what he described as an "existential crisis" within Pradyot's political strategy.

He claimed that speeches delivered at a recent Tipra Motha gathering under the One North East banner at Stable Ground contained "provocative and contradictory statements," adding that Pradyot's confidence to make such comments has increased due to the current political climate.

Rebati criticised Pradyot for shifting political positions over the years, recalling his past agitation for Tripaland and Greater Tripaland. "He once championed Tripaland. Now those



Speaking to reporters, Rebati said the campaign - unveiled with the backing of leaders from "failed regional parties" - reflects what he described as an "existential crisis" within Pradyot's political strategy. He claimed that speeches delivered at a recent Tipra Motha gathering under the One North East banner at Stable Ground contained "provocative and contradictory statements," adding that Pradyot's confidence to make such comments has increased due to the current political climate.

cerns over the functioning of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), alleging financial irregularities and a lack of constitutional compliance. "There is no financial discipline in the TTAADC. Everything is on paper in the name of development," he said, reiterating his call for a comprehensive audit of the council's finances. Responding to renewed calls from tribal groups for separate statehood or enhanced constitutional safeguards, Rebati said such demands were impractical for a state with Tripura's size and demographics. He cautioned that pushing such agendas could undermine the stability the region currently enjoys. Rebati concluded by warning against political experiments that may reignite long-standing grievances. "Tripura has moved forward. Creating divisions through misleading campaigns will not help anyone," he said.

demands have disappeared from his dictionary," he said. "When he was in Congress, he said one thing; now he

says another. After a decade, he will again call it a mistake." The BJP leader also raised con-

Quest!

**Ironically, hearing someone call out your name when no one has actually called your name is a sign of a healthy mind.**

### VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

@ NEIR 2026

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

**CAN REGISTER AT**

[https://northeastintegrationally.in/Volunteer\\_Registration.aspx](https://northeastintegrationally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspx)  
 or send an email: [neintegrationally@gmail.com](mailto:neintegrationally@gmail.com)

[www.northeastintegrationally.in](http://www.northeastintegrationally.in)

## Government not averse to taking up discussion on SIR, electoral reforms: Kiren Rijiju



NEW DELHI

Union parliamentary affairs minister, Kiren Rijiju, on Monday stated in Rajya Sabha that the Government is not averse to holding a detailed discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Clarifying the Government's stand on the Opposition's insistence, he said that their request for a debate on the issue is already under active consideration.

However, Rijiju urged the Opposition members not to press for a strict timeline for conducting the discussion.

"Nobody is undermining any matter which was brought out by the Opposition party yesterday in the all-party meeting or Business Advisory Committee (BAC) today. What I am saying is, it is under the consideration of the government...if you put a condition that it has to be taken up today itself, then it becomes difficult, because you have to give certain space," Rijiju said.

The minister also said that certain parties raised matters other than the SIR and stressed the need to protect their rights as well.

"However, I am saying again, the matter is related to whatever you call it, special intensive revision or electoral reforms or whatever. I have stated before the beginning of the winter session that the Government is not averse to taking up discussion on anything," said Rijiju.

As the Opposition continued insisting on a timeline referring to his remarks at the BAC that he would respond by Sunday 9 pm, the minister said, "Please give us some time while there are other businesses, which are listed, that can be taken up. The demand, which you have put forward, has not been rejected. So, don't presume that the government is not ready to discuss any matter. Please do not put a condition on the timeline," the minister added.

On this, Trinamool Congress (TMC) floor lead-

er Derek O'Brien retorted sharply. "Problem is not the timeline but the trust deficit," he shouted back.

As the Upper House welcomed Radhakrishnan on his first day of conducting the House proceedings, O'Brien called for the start of a discussion on electoral reforms with immediate effect, while the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM) MP John Brittas said the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should honour his words and the House should hold a discussion on electoral reforms.

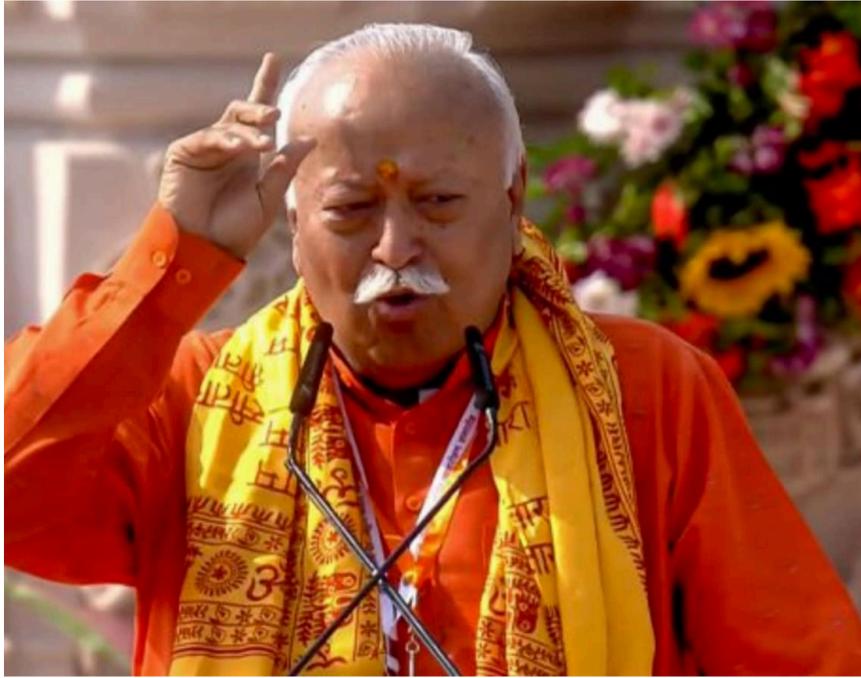
Earlier, Leader of Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded that the discussion should start immediately. He also asked the ruling party not to divide opposition parties. "Don't divide us. If you try to divide us, we will be stronger," he said.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha chairman CP Radhakrishnan disallowed the notices given by nine Opposition members on several issues, including a discussion on SIR under rule 267, leading to protests by them. The Chairman later asked members to raise their Zero Hour mentions.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) had announced SIR in West Bengal, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, and Goa.

Among these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. In Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of electoral rolls was announced separately.

## World leaders listen when Modi speaks, this reflects India's rising global strength: RSS chief Bhagwat



PUNE

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said world leaders listen carefully when Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks and this is happening because India's strength is getting manifested and the country is finding its rightful place.

Speaking at an event organised in Pune on Monday to mark 100 years of the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bhagwat suggested one should not look forward to celebrating milestones like jubilees or centenaries, but aim to complete the given task within the stipulated time.

"That is what the Sangh has been doing. Though the Sangh has completed 100 years, braving challenges and weathering many storms, it is time to introspect why the task of uniting the entire society has taken

so long," he told the gathering.

It is generally believed that when India rises, global problems get resolved, conflicts diminish, and peace prevails, the RSS leader opined.

"This is recorded in history, and we must recreate it. This is the need of the hour. The current global situation demands this from India. And that is why Sangh volunteers have been working since day one

with the resolve to complete this mission," he noted.

Highlighting India's growing stature at the global stage, Bhagwat said, "Why is Prime Minister (Modi) being heard globally with rapt attention? He is being heard because India's strength is now beginning to manifest at places where it rightfully should. And that has made the world take notice."

Noting the sacrifices made by RSS founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, who established the Hindutva organisation in Nagpur in 1925, Bhagwat recalled that Sangh volunteers began their journey of achieving the mission given to them amid numerous adversities and challenges.

"There was no certainty that their work would yield positive results, observed the RSS leader, referring to early months and years of the Sangh.

"They (Sangh volunteers) sowed the seeds of success and paved the path for transformation by dedicating their lives. Our gratitude must remain with them," he added.

Narrating an anecdote to the gathering, the RSS chief said he was once told the Sangh arrived 30 years late.

"I responded by saying we did not arrive late. Instead, you started listening to us late," Bhagwat stated.

When the Sangh speaks about the strength of dialogue and collective work, it refers to the entire society, he affirmed.

"Our foundation lies in unity through diversity. We must walk together, and for that, Dharma is essential. In India, all philosophies originate from a single source. Because everything is interconnected, (and) we must move ahead in harmony," Bhagwat asserted.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Trump says he will 'look into' reported double-tap strike on alleged drug boat in Caribbean

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Sunday he would "look into" claims the military conducted a follow-up strike that killed survivors on a boat in the Caribbean, part of Washington's anti-drug raids that have heightened tensions with Venezuela.

The United States is piling pressure on Caracas with a major military buildup in the Caribbean, the terror designation of a presumed drug cartel run by President Nicolas Maduro, and an ominous warning from Trump that Venezuelan airspace is "closed."

In the most recent controversy, The Washington Post reported last week that in an operation in early September, US forces hit a boat after seeing two survivors of an initial strike clinging to the burning vessel.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had ordered troops to kill everyone on board, The Washington Post and CNN both reported, citing unnamed sources familiar with the operation.

"The order was to kill everybody," one of the sources told the Post.

Trump defended Hegseth, arguing the reports were false.

"I'm going to find out about it, but Pete said he did not order the death of those two men," the president told reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday.

When asked if he would have wanted a second attempt to kill the survivors, Trump said: "We'll look into it, but no, I wouldn't have wanted that -- not a second strike. The first strike was very lethal."



Hegseth has dismissed the reports as "fake news."

Washington says the aim of the military deployment that began in September is to curb drug trafficking in the region, but Caracas insists regime change is the ultimate goal.

Trump confirmed on Sunday he had recently spoken with Venezuela's Maduro.

"I wouldn't say it went well or badly. It was a phone call," Trump said.

Aid from OPEC?

The New York Times reported on Friday that Trump and Maduro had discussed a possible meeting, while The Wall Street Journal said Saturday that the conversation also included conditions of amnesty if Maduro were to step down.

Republican Senator Markwayne Mullin said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" talk show that the United States has offered Maduro the chance to leave his country for Russia or elsewhere.

The imposition of steep 50% tariffs on Indian exports by the

Trump administration has delivered a sharp jolt to the US-India trade relationship and strategic partnership, once seen as a cornerstone of Washington's broader Indo-Pacific strategy.

US set to label Maduro-tied Cartel de los Soles as a terror organization. It's not a cartel per se

Washington accuses Maduro, the political heir to Venezuela's late leftist leader Hugo Chavez, of heading the "Cartel of the Suns" and has issued a \$50 million reward for his capture.

But Venezuela and its supporters insist no such organization even exists.

The United States also does not recognize Maduro as the legitimate winner of last year's presidential election.

Though Trump has not publicly threatened to use force against Maduro, he said in recent days that efforts to halt Venezuelan drug trafficking "by land" would begin "very soon."

Venezuela says it has requested

assistance from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which it is a member, to help "stop this (American) aggression, which is being readied with more and more force."

The request came in a letter from Maduro to the group, read by Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, who is also Venezuela's oil minister, during a virtual meeting of OPEC ministers.

Washington "is trying to seize Venezuela's vast oil reserves, the biggest in the world, by using military force," Maduro wrote in the letter.

Since September, US air strikes have targeted alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing at least 83 people.

Trump's administration has offered no concrete evidence to back up the allegations of drug trafficking behind the campaign, and numerous experts have questioned the legality of the operations.

The head of Venezuela's legislature, Jorge Rodriguez, said he met Sunday with relatives of Venezuelans killed in the strikes.

When asked about the report about Hegseth's order, he said: "If a war had been declared and led to such killings, we would be talking about war crimes."

"Given that no war has been declared, what happened... can only be characterized as murder or extrajudicial executions."

The steady US military buildup has seen the world's largest aircraft carrier deployed to Caribbean waters, while American fighter jets and bombers have repeatedly flown off the Venezuelan coast in recent days.

### Over 800 people are still missing after flooding in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand



PADANG SIDEMPUAN

Over 800 people remained missing Monday after devastating floods killed over 1,000 people last week in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as Indonesia's president urged more action to confront the changing climate.

The flooding and landslides killed at least 604 in Indonesia, 366 in Sri Lanka and 176 in Thailand, authorities said.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged to rebuild infrastructure while visiting affected areas. Some areas remained unreachable, with roads damaged and

communications lines down. Residents relied on aircraft delivering supplies.

At least 464 people in Indonesia were missing. Flooding displaced 290,700 people in North Sumatra, West Sumatra and Aceh provinces, the National Disaster Management Agency said.

"We need to confront climate change effectively," Prabowo told reporters. "Local governments must take a significant role in safeguarding the environment and preparing for the extreme weather conditions that will arise from future climate change."

Sri Lankan authorities

said rescuers were searching for 367 missing people. About 218,000 others were in temporary shelters after being battered in the downpours that triggered landslides, primarily in the tea-growing central hill country.

In Thailand, the first compensation payments were set to be distributed Monday, beginning with 239 million baht (\$7.4 million) for 26,000 people, government spokesperson Siripong Angkasakulkiat said.

He said authorities were working to restore infrastructure including water and electricity in the south, where severe flooding affected 3.9 million people.

# GITA-INSPIRED NEEDONOMICS RELEASED

## 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@krctimes.com For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krctimesplacements> 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](https://northeastintegrationrally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspx), send an email: [neintegrationrally@gmail.com](mailto: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 [InfoComSolutions@krctimes.com](mailto:InfoComSolutions@krctimes.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](mailto:5eforsuccess@gmail.com) For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krctimesinternship> or [www.krctimes.com/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship](http://www.krctimes.com/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship)

### NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

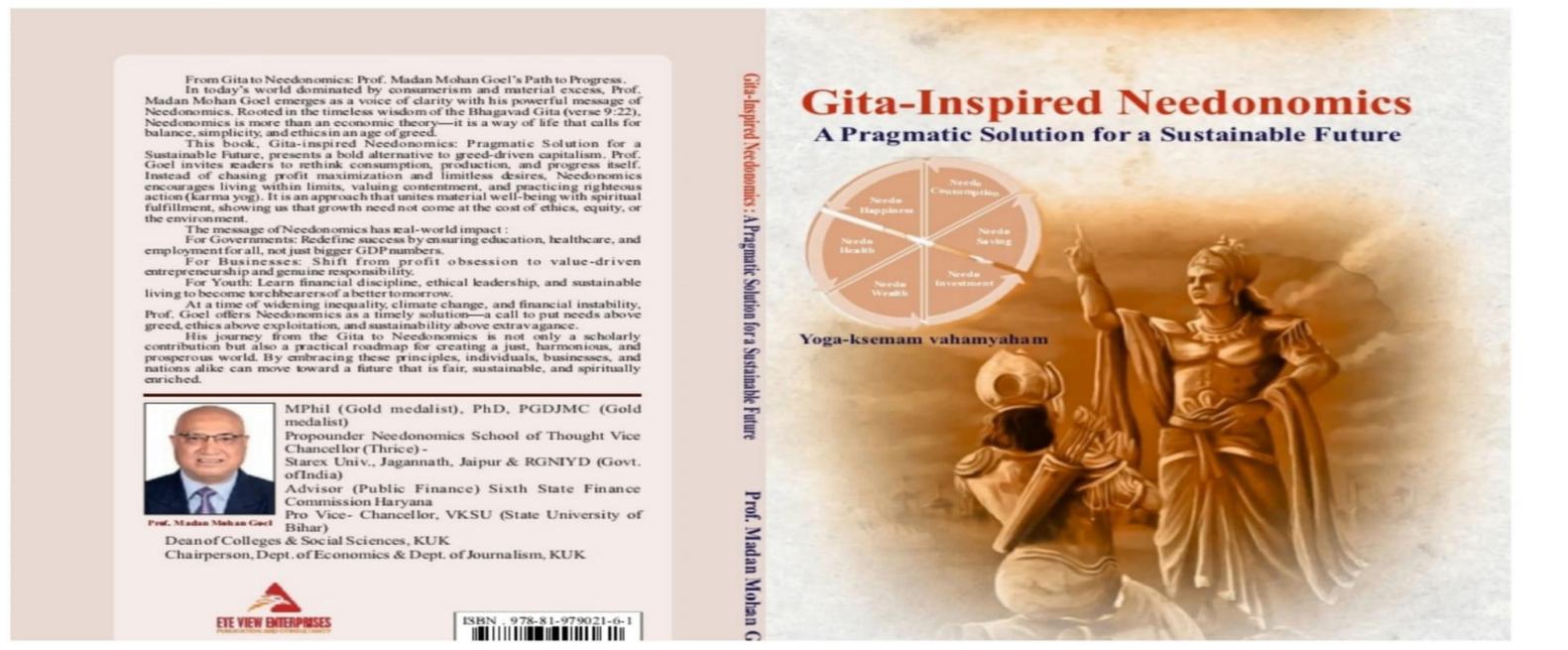
Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation certificate. Send articles at: [info@krctimes.com](mailto:info@krctimes.com) For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest> [www.krctimes.com/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest](http://www.krctimes.com/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](mailto:krctimes@gmail.com) / WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: [info@krctimes.com](mailto:info@krctimes.com) / WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: [krctimes@gmail.com](mailto:krctimes@gmail.com) / WP: 8721838313 Editor: [biswadeep.gupta@krctimes.com](mailto:biswadeep.gupta@krctimes.com) / WP: 8721838313



### KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

**KURUKSHETRA:** A new book titled Gita-Inspired Needonomics: A Pragmatic Solution for a Sustainable Future was released at the Nagpur Book Festival by Mukul Kanithar Ji on November 30. The festival was organised by the National Book Trust under the Ministry of Education.

The book, written by Prof Madan Mohan Goel, presents a bold rethink of conventional economics. Here's what matters. It argues that modern economic systems are trapped in excess and waste, and that a sustainable path demands a clearer line between needs and wants.



Respect is one of the greatest expressions of love.

Prof Goel positions Needonomics as a

framework that draws from the Gita to promote balance, ethical decision-making, and social responsibility.

Scholars familiar with his work see this as a major addition to the Needonomics School of Thought. The text is expected to interest policymakers, economists, academics, students, and readers who want an economic model that respects both human well-being and ecological limits.

What this really means is simple. At a time when the world is wrestling with inequality and resource stress, the book encourages a shift toward integrity, restraint, and compassion in public policy and personal life. Prof Goel's ideas invite readers to reconsider how progress is defined and how societies can grow without losing their moral compass.

North East Integration Rally 2026  
Peace | Progress | Prosperity  
Registrations OPEN  
Whatsapp only +91 933 083 0083  
[www.northeastintegrationrally.in](http://www.northeastintegrationrally.in)

# NEIR set to host its activities in the scenic city of Tezpur



**T**he NEIR-2026 will have its night activities in the beautiful Tezpur, a city in Assam's Sonitpur district, situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra about 175 kilometres north-east of Guwahati, on January 12. Tezpur is the largest urban centre on the river's north bank.

Tezpur sits quietly on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, but nothing about the town feels ordinary once you spend time with it. The place carries myth, war, scholarship, and culture in a way few Indian towns manage. Here's what matters: Tezpur isn't a city you rush through. It's a city that asks you to slow down, look around, and notice how many layers it holds beneath its calm surface.

Start with the origin story, because it shapes everything. Tezpur's history goes back to the legend of Usha and Aniruddha, the celestial lovers whose union sparked a battle so fierce that the land supposedly drank blood. That's how the town got its name. Walk through any of the old parts of the city and you sense that echo of myth. It's not something you can quantify, but it's there in the way locals talk about their landscape, their temples, and the stories they grew up hearing.

What this really means is that Tezpur is comfortable living with its own imagination. It never tries to hide the fact that folklore sits as close to daily life as the Brahmaputra itself. You see that duality most clearly at the ruins of Da-Parbatia. The stone doorway with its intricate Gupta-era carvings feels like a portal that survived everything history threw at it. The city has grown around it, scooters zip past it all day, and yet the doorway remains, quiet and unshaken, as if refusing to be overshadowed by the modern world.

Move from ancient stones to living culture and you find another identity entirely. Tezpur has earned the title Cultural Capital of Assam for good reason. This is the hometown of Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Bhuben Hazarika, and a long list of artists whose work still shapes Assamese mu-

sic, cinema, and theatre. Their presence isn't frozen in museums or plaques. It's alive in everyday life. You hear it in someone rehearsing a Rabha Sangeet in a college auditorium. You see it during Bihu celebrations at Tezpur Chowk. You feel it whenever the curtains rise at

Nature, of course, grounds the entire place. Tezpur is flanked by some of the richest ecological zones in the region. The nearby Nameri National Park draws trekkers, birders, and anyone who needs a break from noise. You cross the Jia Bhoroli river, step into the forest,

of the Brahmaputra flowing wide and unhurried. From the top, Tezpur looks peaceful and expansive. In the evening, the breeze settles in, the city lights flicker on, and you understand why locals treat this hill almost like a personal retreat.

If you're trying to understand daily life in Tezpur, head to the markets. Chowk Bazaar and Kacharigaon spill colour and sound in every direction. Fishermen arrive with the day's catch. Vendors sell everything from mustard greens to silkworm pupae. The air fills with the smell of fresh produce, ripe fruit, and the sharp edge of Assam's famous chiles. Spend half an hour listening to the bargaining and the friendly arguments, and you get a real sense of the town's character. People here are direct, practical, and warm once you break the initial reserve.

Education is another part of Tezpur's identity that deserves attention. Tezpur University has changed the intellectual landscape of the region. It brought students from across the Northeast into one campus and gradually turned the town into a hub of research and ideas. The university's impact is subtle but steady. Cafes are filled with students debating politics, literature, science, and cinema. Bookstores stock titles you might not find in other mid-sized Assam towns. Conversations spill from classrooms into parks and tea stalls. The city's energy has shifted because of it.

Now, let's talk about the military presence because it plays a major role in shaping the town. The Indian Army and the Air Force maintain strong bases in and around Tezpur. This gives the city a mix of discipline and structure without overwhelming its civilian life. The cantonments are clean, organised, and green. They bring families from across the country, creating a slightly cosmopolitan air in a place that might otherwise have remained too inward-looking. You notice it in the restaurants that serve everything from Assamese thalis to North Indian comfort dishes. You notice it in the range of languages you hear in coffee shops. The blend is subtle but real.

The city's relationship with the Brahmaputra deserves its own space. The river shapes mood and memory here. Sometimes it feels calm and silver like a sheet of stretched cloth. Other times it rises with monsoon rain and reminds everyone how unpredictable it can be. In the evenings, people gather near the ghats to talk, walk, or simply watch the sun fade behind the water.

These quiet routines give Tezpur its gentleness. The river is not just a landmark. It's part of the city's emotional vocabulary.

Food ties everything together. Tezpur's kitchens favour clean flavours and strong aromatics. Fish cooked in mustard, pigeon roasted with minimal spices, traditional Assamese sweets made from jaggery and rice—everything tastes rooted in home. Tea is a constant companion. Small stalls serve endless cups of it, and every conversation finds its way to a tea table eventually.

Tezpur is a place where history speaks softly, culture speaks constantly, and nature speaks in its own music. You learn to pay attention here. You learn to appreciate a slower rhythm. And you leave with the sense that this isn't just a town—it's an ongoing story, still unfolding, still inviting people to step in and listen.



the district's many stages and someone new steps into the spotlight, dreaming of carrying the legacy forward.

What sets Tezpur apart from other cultural centres is its relationship with introspection. Art here comes from observation. People watch the river, the changing colours of the Himalayan foothills, the busy markets, the shifting rhythms of a small city growing into a larger one—and they translate it into creative work. There's no rush to brand everything as innovation or reinvention. The creativity feels natural, almost inevitable.

and the world changes. This is where white-water rafting meets quiet bird-watching, where elephants graze a few hundred metres from trails, and where you're reminded that the Eastern Himalayas start just beyond the canopy. The park pulls people in every season, and each visit feels slightly different because the forest is always changing.

Closer to town, Agnigarh Hill gives you another kind of natural refuge. It's tied to the story of Usha, but even if you set the legend aside, the place has its own charm. Walk up the steps in the early morning and you get a clean view



## BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

**ACTIVITY PROGRAM**





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



**11 JAN**  
**Adventure Sports**  
 Trekking & Canoe, Obstacle Navigation, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Technique, Water Sports.  
[www.krcfoundation.org](http://www.krcfoundation.org)



**11 JAN**  
**Barak Valley Conclave**  
 Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley to be discussed by stakeholders.  
 Includes: MOU, and 20 general discussion topics for Barak valley. Includes 50 seats for members and general public. Participation through invitation only. Different rewards are provided.



**12 JAN**  
**River-Climate Conclave**  
 Climate change will accelerate on Global Change, climate and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, technical and practical of River Basin Planning & Geography, river flow and sedimentation in River Barak, Climate Change.



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



**10 JAN**  
**Media Conclave**  
 Media Conclave: Media Experts, Webinars, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'.  
 Webinars: Journalism, Marketing, Design & Corporate HR, Leadership, HR, Analytics, Business.

## Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



BROADCAST PARTNER



REGISTER HERE

Contact: [info@krcfoundation.org](mailto:info@krcfoundation.org)  
 WP: 0721300019



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



**10 JAN**  
**Media Conclave**  
 Media Conclave: Media Experts, Webinars, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'.  
 Webinars: Journalism, Marketing, Design & Corporate HR, Leadership, HR, Analytics, Business.

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

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

## Barak Festival

Band Night | 10 JAN  
 Musical Night | 11 JAN



Contact: [info@krcfoundation.org](mailto:info@krcfoundation.org)  
 WP: 0721300019



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



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



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

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

**Painting Carnival**  
 Water Colour and Oil and Sawdust Painting Campaign



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

- Outreach Executive
- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

APPLY NOW | WP: 0721300019 | [www.krcfoundation.org](http://www.krcfoundation.org)