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# KRC TIMES

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## PERSPECTIVE

Studies show that praising children for their intelligence may hinder their progress - Instead, they should be praised for their effort.

## Arunachal espionage probe widens; two more arrested, total now four

**ITANAGAR**  
The Itanagar Police has widened its investigation into an alleged Pakistan-linked espionage network, arresting two more persons from Jammu and Kashmir and taking the total number of arrests in the case to four within a month. Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) Chukhu Apa said on Monday that the latest arrests were made on December 18 from Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. The accused have been identified as Aijaz Ahmed Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Ganai. Both were subsequently brought to Arunachal Pradesh and are currently in police custody.

According to the police, the duo was allegedly involved in collecting sensitive information from different parts of Arunachal Pradesh and passing it on to handlers based in Pakistan. "We were working on credible intelligence inputs about a spy ring operating out of Arunachal Pradesh. Under the leadership of Itanagar SP Jummar Basar, the team worked diligently and effected these arrests," Apa said, adding that the investigation is continuing. With the latest arrests, the total number of persons apprehended by Arunachal Pradesh Police in connection with Pakistan-linked espionage activities has risen to four. The case first came to light on November 21, when Itanagar Police arrested Nazir Ahmad Malik and Sabir Ahmed Mir, both residents of Kupwara district, following specific intelligence inputs. Malik was detained from Ganga village in Itanagar, and based on information obtained during his interrogation, Mir was arrested later the same day from Abotani Colony in the state capital. Subsequently, West Siang Police arrested Hilal Ahmed, also a resident of Kupwara, from a shop in Aalo where he was running a cloth outlet at a trade fair in the Old Market area.

**WHO SAID WHAT**

Modi gov't's trade diplomacy sets new milestone. India-New Zealand FTA, that brings in \$20 billion investment and offers lucrative opportunities for Indian innovators, entrepreneurs, farmers, MSMEs, students, and youth, will open new gateways to prosperity. It is a textbook example of how, people-centric foreign policy is fulfilling the aspirations of citizens under PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's leadership. - Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, India

# Myanmar Opium Boom Fuels Spike in Heroin Trafficking Across Northeast India

**GUWAHATI**

Smuggling of opium-based narcotics, particularly naturally occurring heroin, into the Northeast has shown a sharp rise, with recent seizure data pointing to a direct link with Myanmar, where poppy cultivation has climbed to a ten-year high amid prolonged conflict and economic collapse.

Heroin seizures by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the Northeast stood at 7 kg in 2023, increased to 9 kg in 2024, and jumped sharply to 31 kg in 2025 so far. Assam accounted for 17 kg of the total seizures this year. Figures from the Assam Police indicate an even steeper rise, with heroin recoveries increasing from 164 kg in 2023, along with 162 kg of opium, to 174 kg in 2024.

Other enforcement agencies, including the Assam Rifles, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Manipur Police and Railway Police, have also reported frequent seizures of heroin, morphine and opium across the region, underscoring the scale of trafficking



networks operating through the Northeast.

According to the Myanmar Opium Survey 2025, poppy cultivation in Myanmar rose by 17 per cent over the past year, expanding from 45,200 hectares in 2024 to 53,100 hectares in 2025. The increase re-

verses a brief dip and confirms a steady upward trend since 2020.

Opium, derived from poppy plants, is the primary naturally occurring ingredient used in heroin production. The world's three main sources of illicit opium are Afghanistan, Colombia and Myanmar. For the first time, significant poppy cultivation has also been recorded in Myanmar's Sagaing region, which borders Northeast India. The conflict-ridden area saw 552 hectares under poppy cultivation, signalling a shift towards insecure western border regions.

Myanmar has emerged as the world's largest source of illicit opium following the collapse of production in Afghanistan, where cultivation fell by nearly 95 per cent after a Taliban ban in 2023. Total opium output in Myanmar is estimated at around 1,010 metric tonnes in 2025, more than double Afghanistan's current level.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that Myanmar's farmers earned between USD 300 million and USD 487 million from opium

sales last year, making it a critical source of income amid the country's fragile legal economy. Beyond opiates, Myanmar remains a major hub for the production of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine and ketamine, compounding what UNODC describes as a "highly challenging illicit drug situation" across Southeast Asia and beyond.

Investigations by the NCB into a recent seizure of over 6 kg of heroin in Assam's Barak Valley revealed that the consignment originated in Myanmar and was trafficked through forest corridors in Manipur. Similar probes by the DRI, Customs, Assam Rifles and Manipur Police this year have also traced seized consignments back to Myanmar.

Officials note that while opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar and Southeast Asia was historically marked by small, loosely organised plots, cultivation methods have become increasingly sophisticated since 2022, resulting in higher yields and a growing flow of narcotics into neighbouring regions, including Northeast India.

## Agartala Bangladesh Mission to Remain Shut Amid Attacks on Hindus: Pradyot



**AGARTALA**

Tipra Motha founder and royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma on Tuesday asserted that the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala would not be allowed to reopen unless attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh come to a complete halt and anti-India statements are stopped.

Debbarma was reacting to the suspension of all visa and consular services by the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala following protests by the Youth Tipra Motha Federation. He said the decision came in the wake of sustained public opposition and a press conference in which he had warned that if threats were issued against Indian diplomatic missions, India was capable of responding firmly.

Addressing the people of Tripura and members of the Youth Tipra Motha, Debbarma said that although Tripura is

a small state, it can emerge strong if its people remain united beyond political differences.

He stressed that national interest must take precedence over party politics and called for collective unity in the face of external challenges.

The Tipra Motha leader reiterated that services at the Bangladesh mission in Tripura have already been stopped and maintained that the office would not be permitted to resume operations unless what he described as the torture of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh ends and hostile rhetoric against India is withdrawn.

"This is not a credit to Tipra Motha," Debbarma said, adding that the development reflects India's strength, unity and the resolve to stand together as Indians first. He also urged citizens to continue protests against Bangladesh, emphasising that national identity must always come before political affiliations.

## No Consensus on FMR, Border Fencing at Imphal Meet; Fresh Talks in January

**IMPHAL**

The Central government, the Manipur government and the United Naga Council (UNC) on Monday held another round of tripartite talks in Imphal on issues related to border fencing and the Free Movement Regime (FMR), agreeing to maintain status quo and continue dialogue in January 2026.

The government side was led by A.K. Mishra, Advisor (North East), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), while a nine-member UNC delegation was headed by its president Ng Lorho.

According to UNC leaders, both sides agreed that the status quo on the border fencing issue would be maintained until a mutually acceptable solution is arrived at. They also acknowledged the need to jointly explore ways and means for a permanent resolution to the long-pending concerns. The next round of talks has been scheduled for January 2026.

During the meeting, the UNC raised concerns over what it described as "unreasonable checking" by security agencies, alleging that such measures amounted to harassment of the general public. Government representatives, the UNC said, assured the delegation that the issue would be examined.



The fresh round of talks comes in the backdrop of strained negotiations earlier this year. On August 26, talks between UNC-led Naga organisations and government representatives in New Delhi on FMR and border fencing had ended in a deadlock. Following the impasse, the UNC announced a "trade embargo in Naga areas" under its jurisdiction from midnight of September 8, 2025, although the agitation was withdrawn a few days later. An 11-member Naga delegation had met an eight-member government team on August 26 at Subramanyam Bharati Marg in Delhi, but discussions failed to yield consensus. UNC leaders had then conveyed to the government that for dialogue to continue meaningfully, ongoing border fencing works should be kept on hold. Monday's Imphal meeting marks a renewed attempt by all stakeholders to keep the dialogue process alive amid sensitivities surrounding border management and traditional movement rights along the India-Myanmar frontier.

# Section 163 imposed in West Karbi Anglong after violent protests

**KARBI ANGLONG**

As tensions escalated in Assam's West Karbi Anglong district, Section 163 of Bhartiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) has been imposed to maintain public order and peace.

Prohibitory Order issued by the District Magistrate of Karbi Anglong, Nirola Phangchopi, imposed 163 of the BNSS from December 22, 2025, until further notice to prevent "anti-social elements" from causing ethnic or communal disturbances and to protect public life and property.

A gathering of 5 or more people is strictly prohibited, and there is a Total restriction on the movement of people and private vehicles from 5:00 PM to 6:00 AM. The order also prohibits rallies, picketing, "Mashal" (torch) processions, or dharmas in public places. Carrying firearms or setting off firecrackers is not permitted. No inflammatory or anti-national speeches, posters, or wall writing. No use of loudspeakers or microphones without prior permission.

Police, military, and officials on duty are exempt from movement restrictions. People with medical emergencies may



move. Education & Government: Schools, colleges, universities (for exams), and government/private offices will continue to function as usual.

Assam Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu and Assam DGP Harmeet Singh also reached the site to assess the situation.

The escalation occurred after protesters, who were holding sit-in demonstrations demanding the eviction of illegal encroachers from the Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) and Professional Grazing Reserve (PGR) lands in the hilly district, set the house of the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous

Council (KAAC) on fire.

The incident occurred in the Dongkamukam area near Kheroni in the West Karbi Anglong district.

Three protesters and a few security personnel were injured following a clash between protesters and security personnel.

The protesters pelted stones and attacked security personnel, and forced the cops to blank fire to bring the situation under control.

A senior police official of West Karbi Anglong district said that more security personnel have been deployed in the area

to bring the situation under control.

Akhilesh Kumar Singh, IGP (Law & Order), told "We are mobilising extra forces to bring the situation to normalcy. The mob also set ablaze the residence of the CEM of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. Some security personnel got minor injuries, and we are collecting the data."

According to the reports, the situation turned violent after police on Monday morning picked up a few protesters, and a large number of local people first blocked roads and marched towards Dongkamukam and set ablaze the ancestral residence of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) CEM Tuliram Ronghang.

On the other hand, a mob also damaged several houses, one school bus and other structures of a basti area near Dongkamukam. Meanwhile, senior police officials have rushed to the area.

The protest stems from a long-standing demand to evict settlers from PGR and VGR lands, with the KAAC issuing eviction notices in February 2024. However, a petition in the Gauhati High Court has stalled the process, citing concerns about contempt of court.

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## TIME TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY CADETS'

As someone who spent four decades in uniform, I sometimes wonder why, while leadership as a subject is taught at Indian military academies, the idea of having a military vision of self is not stressed well enough. One might well say that having a vision is part of leadership training and is the same as having an aim. However, that's not so.

In these times of the omnipresent social media, religiosity is being linked with one's nationalism and the apolitical fabric of the armed forces is being severely tested—with senior leadership being photographed with politicians and spiritual heads in religious places outside cantonments.

The recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the dismissal of a young Army lieutenant for not attending the 'mandir parade' of his battalion has brought the armed forces officer cadre on the front-burner of national consciousness. In such a challenging environment, a personal vision can act as a moral compass to steer one's career in uniform with aplomb, and more importantly, in the spirit of what the Constitution expects from an officer.

Having a vision is having 'an acute sense of the possible'. A vision is aspirational—a dream that subsumes multiple aims that are stepping stones to realising one's own vision. There is an inherent element of an aching for attaining something, best expressed by the blind entrepreneur Srikanth Bolla, who said on TV, "You do not need eyesight to have a vision."

The exposure to TV and social media has made the present-day armed forces recruits different from those of yesteryears. Today's youth have an attention span of 10 minutes between commercials. However, real life is very different and is especially so in uniformed services where the daily routine is rigidly structured—reveille, go to work, follow a schedule, sleep and repeat the next day.

This is replicated over years, resulting in the atrophy of thought and enquiry, and a reduction in the excitement and novelty quotient. The antidote to this withering of individual and professional development is having a personal vision to work towards.

This achieves three objectives. First, it helps an officer to strive for excellence. Consequently, there would be an elevation in their professional status. And third, seeing them as a focused individual raises his standing in the eyes of the organisation. It must be remembered that an officer is the most transparent person in a military formation, as their actions are evaluated by subordinates round the clock. "Does my sahab walk his talk?" is the unwritten evaluation metric.

But how does one assess whether one is on the right track? While external mentors help, there is a very harsh critic within oneself who can give true feedback. Melodramatic as it may sound, but that person is the one in the mirror staring back every morning since they represent all of their subordinates looking up to them for leadership. A truthful answer to his questioning gaze on whether one lived up to the standards expected of a military personnel, would act as a personal guardrail in the endeavour to achieve one's vision.

Since vision has an osmotic effect on compatriots and juniors alike, role models help in framing one's own. Ask any service officer who was a cadet in the National Defence Academy in the early 1970s when Commodore (later Admiral) Ronald 'Ronnie' Pereira was the deputy commandant. He was a disciplinarian to the core who would dish out punishments very liberally. He was the most admired, too, because of his insistence on professionalism—one accompanied with a heart of gold when it came to looking after the wellbeing of cadets. Ronnie has been a role model for many, including this writer, and helped mould numerous young minds as they were launched into the roller-coaster of military life.

In the 1970s and earlier, the NDA prayer was recited by cadets at the morning squadron muster. A line in that prayer has special significance in the present times of restructuring of social mores and the intrusive role that politics has started playing in daily functioning. Besides asking the almighty to "help keep ourselves physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight", the prayer also asks to "awaken our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and guide us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong". The gaze of that person, staring back every morning from the mirror, has been asking—and will continue to ask—whether that harder right path has been traversed or the easier wrong track taken for illegitimate gain.

Indian military academies have their work cut out—to drill in this sentiment of right and wrong in the formulation of a personal 'vision' of every cadet under training, especially in these turbulent social media times. It would help greatly if the leadership, both military and civilian, leads by example. The bearers of stars on military epaulettes and office-holders in the political arena must remember that they are role models for the boys and girls starting their careers in the military in a resurgent India; they deserve only the best.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

Your heart is the size of a fist because you need it to fight.

- Lora Mathis

# DOES BANGLADESH'S UNREST DISTURB INDIA'S NORTHEAST?



COL (DR) ASHWANI KUMAR, M- IN-D, VSM (RETD.)

Understanding the Risks, Realities, and Preventive Pathways.

Political unrest in Bangladesh is not a distant domestic issue for India; it is a regional concern with direct implications for India's northeastern states. Geography, history, and shared human link-

History offers sobering lessons. In earlier decades, instability in neighbouring regions enabled insurgent groups operating in the Northeast to exploit porous borders for shelter, logistics, and arms movement. While Bangladesh's cooperation with India in recent years significantly weakened such networks, any dilution of state authority during unrest risks reopening old vulnerabilities.

Alongside insurgency-related concerns, organised crime thrives in unstable environments. Arms trafficking, narcotics movement, human trafficking, and counterfeit currency operations find easier passage when governance weakens. For the Northeast, where peace has been hard-won after decades of conflict, such spillover poses a serious long-term risk if not proactively addressed.

Trade, Transit, and Economic Disruption.

Bangladesh is not only a neighbour, but it is also a vital economic and transit partner for India's Northeast. Over the past decade, land ports, rail links, inland water-

ways, and road corridors through Bangladesh have significantly reduced distances between northeastern states and the rest of India, as well as Southeast Asia. This connectivity is central to India's Act East Policy and the economic transformation of the region.

Political unrest disrupts these lifelines. Trade slowdowns, restrictions at land ports, and delays in infrastructure projects directly affect border economies in Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya, where local livelihoods depend heavily on cross-border commerce. Agricultural exports, small industries, and transport-linked employment suffer first, deepening economic insecurity in already fragile districts. When development stalls, security challenges inevitably resurface.

Such social spillover does not always manifest immediately, but it erodes trust over time. In regions with complex histories of migration and identity politics, perceptions can be as destabilising as realities. Managing this dimension requires not only law enforcement but careful information management and community engagement.

Insights from the Ground: A Practitioner's Perspective.

Having served extensively

across India's eastern and northeastern states during a long military career, the author has observed how external instability translates into internal stress along borderlands. From counter-insurgency operations to border management and civil-military coordination, one lesson remains constant: infiltration is rarely a standalone security issue. It is inseparably linked to economic deprivation, demographic pressures, historical fault lines, and governance gaps.

As a curative historian, one who studies history to anticipate and prevent future fractures rather than merely chronicle past events, the author views unrest in Bangladesh as part of a broader historical continuum. Experience shows that when governance weakens across borders, its effects surface first in peripheral regions like the Northeast. If these early indicators are ignored, they accumulate quietly before erupting into crises that are far harder to manage.

A forward looking approach must therefore integrate military vigilance with socio-economic fore-

sight. Border fencing patrols, use of drones and serial surveillance coupled with IMINT are necessary, but insufficient unless accompanied by development, cultural integration, demographic balance, and political sensitivity in frontier regions.

The Preventive Way Forward.

India's response must prioritise prevention over reaction. Strengthened border management using technology, surveillance, and intelligence coordination is essential. Equally critical is sustained diplomatic engagement with Bangladesh, ensuring that security cooperation and economic connectivity remain insulated from political fluctuations.

Development must be treated as a security instrument. Accelerated infrastructure, employment generation, and market access in border districts reduce vulnerability to infiltration and radical narratives. Parallely, robust counter-misinformation mechanisms and community outreach are needed to preserve social harmony.

Most importantly, the Northeast must continue to be integrated emotionally, economically, and politically with the national mainstream. A confident and prosperous region is the strongest deterrent against external destabilisation.

Conclusion.

Yes, unrest in Bangladesh does disturb India's Northeast, but disturbance need not lead to destabilisation. India today is better equipped than ever before, with stronger institutions, improved intelligence coordination, and deeper diplomatic leverage. The challenge lies in applying historical understanding to contemporary policy with consistency and foresight.

A stable Bangladesh and a resilient Northeast are not competing objectives; they are mutually reinforcing realities. Preventive security, inclusive development, and historical awareness together form India's most credible defence against cross-border uncertainty.

Author's Note.

The author, Ashk Machhanvi, is a former Indian Army officer who has served extensively across India's eastern and northeastern states, including sensitive border and insurgency-affected regions.

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

You thought Guwahati's Airport terminal is the best thing you've seen in Assam? Wait till you see our Semiconductor plant taking shape, which will script a new history in the State. Take a look at the progress

~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma, CM Assam



ages ensure that instability across the eastern border reverberates most strongly in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and parts of West Bengal. The Northeast, connected to the Indian mainland by a narrow corridor and sharing over 4,000 kilometres of border with Bangladesh, remains particularly sensitive to any disruption in its immediate neighbourhood.

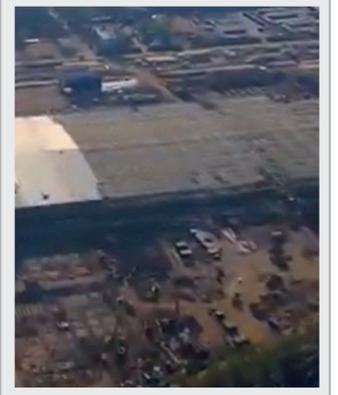
The critical question, therefore, is not whether unrest in Bangladesh affects India's Northeast, but how deeply it does so and what preventive measures can insulate the region from destabilising spillover.

Border Vulnerability and Illegal Movement.

India and Bangladesh share one of the longest and most complex international borders in the world. Large stretches pass through rivers, wetlands, agricultural fields, and densely populated villages, making complete physical fencing difficult. During periods of political instability or economic stress in Bangladesh, attempts at illegal crossings tend to rise. Such movements may include economic migrants, but they can also provide cover for traffickers, smugglers, and elements with hostile intent.

For northeastern states already grappling with demographic sensitivities and resource constraints, even limited unregulated movement can strain administrative capacities and revive social anxieties. Border management thus becomes not merely a security function, but a governance challenge that requires coordination between central forces, state administrations, and local communities.

Insurgent Networks and Criminal Spillover



His operational experience in counter-insurgency, border management, and civil-military coordination has provided him with first-hand exposure to the complex interplay of security, society, and development in the Northeast.

Alongside his military career, the author is a curative historian, one who studies history not merely to record the past, but to diagnose present vulnerabilities and suggest corrective pathways for the future. His work focuses on how historical fault lines, demographic shifts, economic neglect, and cross-border movements influence long-term national stability. Drawing from lived experience and historical analysis, he examines infiltration not only as a security challenge but as a socio-economic and humanitarian issue requiring anticipatory governance, regional integration, and people-centric policy responses.

His writing reflects a belief that sustainable security in the Northeast will emerge not just from fences and forces, but from foresight, inclusion, economic resilience, and a clear understanding of history's unfinished business.

# Pijush Hazarika Launches Flood Control, Water Security and Policing Projects in Cachar

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**SILCHAR:** Assam Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika on Monday laid the foundation for a series of infrastructure projects in Cachar, signalling the state government's renewed focus on flood control, urban water security and citizen-oriented policing.

The minister launched a Rs 400 crore anti-erosion project at Lakhipur to protect Binnakandi Part II and nearby areas along the left bank of the Barak river. The project will use A-type geo bags, porcupines and geosynthetic fabric sheets to address long-standing erosion that has affected large parts of the Lakhipur Assembly constituency.

Addressing a public gathering in the presence of minister Kaushik Rai, Hazarika said the government has



shifted to a scientific, mission-mode approach to flood and erosion management. What this really means, he said, is fewer breaches and more durable protection for vulnerable riverine areas. He drew a comparison with earlier decades, noting that around 4,500 km of embankments were built in the seven decades after Independence, while nearly 1,000 km have been constructed in the last four-and-a-half years alone. Annual embankment breaches, which earlier ranged between 40 and 60 and sometimes crossed 100, have been reduced to two to five over the past four years. According to the minister, this reflects better planning, monitoring and execution on the ground. The day's programme also focused on public safety. Hazarika laid foundation stones for new police stations at Kachudaram and Sonai under the MOITRI scheme,

aimed at improving police infrastructure and making stations more responsive to citizens. The events were attended by minister Kaushik Rai, MP Parimal Suklabaidya and MLAs Nihar Ranjan Das and Karim Uddin Borbhuyan.

Later, the minister laid the foundation stone for a Rs 2.20 crore anti-erosion project at Uttarkrishnapur Part II to protect the AMRUT water intake plant, a key source of drinking water for Silchar. The project is expected to shield the facility from river erosion and ensure uninterrupted water supply to the town.

Summing up the initiatives, Hazarika said the state, under Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, is prioritising resilient infrastructure, safer communities and long-term development, with an emphasis on outcomes rather than announcements.

## Two declared foreigners asked to leave Assam within 24 hours by Biswanath administration

### GUWAHATI

The district administration in Assam's Biswanath district has directed two women, declared as Bangladeshis by the Foreigners' Tribunal, to leave the country within 24 hours of receiving the order, officials said on Sunday.

The women have been identified as Asmull Khatun of Missamari village and Afuja Begum of Bakrapatta village. Both were declared foreigners from Bangladesh by the Foreigners' Tribunal following separate proceedings conducted at different points in time.

Acting on the tribunal's verdicts, Biswanath District Commissioner Lakhinandan Saharia issued expulsion orders under Section 2 of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950, directing the two women to leave Indian territory.

According to the orders, the declared foreigners have been instructed to "remove themselves from the territory of Assam, India within 24 hours of receiving the order" and to exit through the Dhubri, Sribhumi or South Salmara-Mankachar route.

The administration warned that failure to comply with the directive would compel the government to take appropriate action to remove them from the state. Officials confirmed that the expulsion orders were served on December 22. In a related development, the Nagaon district administration had earlier issued similar expulsion orders to 15 individuals identified as foreigners, directing them to leave the country on December 18. The action is part of Assam's ongoing efforts to enforce Foreigners' Tribunal verdicts and address issues related to illegal immigration in the state.

## BJP links madrasa education in Assam's char areas to extremist models in Bangladesh, Pakistan

### GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday made a series of controversial claims alleging that madrasa education in the state's char and chapori areas is influenced by extremist models operating in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state headquarters, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bhawan, party spokesperson Ranjib Kumar Sarma alleged that certain madrasas functioning in Assam's riverine areas along the Brahmaputra follow curricula similar to Qawmi madrasas in Bangladesh and institutions linked to extremist networks in Pakistan. He claimed such educational models encourage religious fanaticism and pose a threat to social harmony. Sarma further alleged that what he described as a "Miya Muslim mindset" places religion above language and culture, and sought to draw parallels between

incidents of violence during the Assam Movement and recent developments in neighbouring Bangladesh. Citing international media reports, he claimed that organisations such as Jamaat-e-Islami and Qawmi madrasa networks have played a role in radicalisation in Bangladesh.

The BJP spokesperson also alleged that population growth was being used as a tool to gain political dominance, followed by what he described as atrocities against people of other faiths. He argued that Bangladesh, despite sharing a common language and cultural heritage, has witnessed religious violence due to the spread of extremist ideologies. BJP panelists Priyanka Tamuli and Geetarth Bora were also present during the press briefing. The remarks are expected to draw strong political reactions, with opposition parties likely to challenge the BJP's claims and call for restraint and the preservation of communal harmony in Assam.

## Himanta, KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang cite court orders, urge dialogue amid Karbi Anglong unrest

### GUWAHATI

Amid escalating tension in Assam's Karbi Anglong district over demands for eviction from Professional Grazing Reserve (PGR) and Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) land, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said the issue can only be resolved through dialogue, asserting that the state government cannot act in violation of an interim order of the Gauhati High Court.

Addressing the unfolding situation, Sarma said the demand for eviction of non-tribal residents from certain areas of Karbi Anglong has been a long-standing issue raised by local communities. However, he underlined that the Gauhati High Court has passed an interim order restraining eviction at this stage.

"Currently, we cannot evict anyone. We cannot go against the court order," the Chief Minister said.

Sarma noted that despite the legal restraint, some groups were pressing for immediate eviction, which led to an indefinite hunger strike. He said when the government intervened

and shifted some of the protesters to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for medical treatment, rumours spread that they had been arrested.

"There has been no arrest. Those taken to GMCH were shifted purely for treatment and they will return home," Sarma said, adding that misinformation had contributed to the deterioration of the situation.

Stressing that confrontation would only worsen matters, the Chief Minister said the dispute must be addressed within the constitutional framework. "We cannot go against the High Court, but we can sit together, hold dialogue and resolve the issue. I am ready to personally engage in discussions with the protesters," he said.

Referring to Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Chief Executive Member Tuliram Ronghang, Sarma acknowledged that the council leadership also favours eviction but reiterated that neither the KAAC nor the state government can act without judicial clearance.

"Without a High Court order, not

only Tuliram Ronghang, even I cannot do anything," he said.

Meanwhile, KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang provided a detailed account of the council's position and the sequence of events that led to the unrest. He said eviction from PGR and VGR land was initially planned in line with a Supreme Court directive, but the process had to be halted after the Gauhati High Court issued an interim stay.

Ronghang said that following consultations with political parties, the KAAC had decided to proceed with eviction from grazing reserve areas. As part of the process, the services of 11 individuals were terminated and eviction notices were issued, asking residents to vacate the land within 15 days.

"After the notices were served, the affected people approached the Gauhati High Court. Since the matter is sub-judice, the administration cannot proceed with eviction at this stage," Ronghang said.

He clarified that carrying out eviction in the face of the interim order would amount to contempt

of court. "Even though there is a Supreme Court direction on grazing reserve land, violating the High Court's order would invite contempt proceedings and punishment," he said.

Ronghang also addressed allegations surrounding the hunger strike, stating that protesters had sought a written assurance from the council. He said a meeting was scheduled at 4 pm to discuss the issue, but it could not take place as some hunger strikers fell ill and were shifted to Guwahati for treatment.

"No one was arrested. Those who became unwell during the hunger strike were taken to Gauhati Medical College Hospital for medical care," he said.

The KAAC CEM further alleged that while he was away attempting to defuse the situation through dialogue, violence broke out at his ancestral home in Dongkamukam. According to Ronghang, a group of protesters reached the village, and despite attempts by locals to stop them, his house was set on fire and stones were pelted.

## Bangladesh mission suspends visa services in Tripura after protests, Pradyot Debarman claims responsibility

### AGARTALA

Days after repeated protests broke out in front of the Bangladesh diplomatic mission located in Agartala, the capital city of Tripura, the authorities decided to suspend visa and consular services until further notice.

All visa and consular services at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala will remain suspended from December 23 until further notice due to unavoidable circumstances, an official statement said on Monday.

In a brief notification issued by the Assistant High Commission, it was stated that the decision to keep the services closed had been taken owing to circumstances beyond control. However, no specific reason was cited for the suspension.

The announcement has caused inconvenience to applicants, par-



ticularly those who had scheduled appointments for visa-related services over the coming days. The mission has advised applicants and visitors to take note of the closure and refrain

from visiting the office during the period.

The Assistant High Commission said that further updates regarding the resumption of services would

be communicated in due course through official channels. It should be noted here that the decision to suspend services was made days after protests staged by different political and social outfits vehemently condemning the atrocities on religious and ethnic minorities of Bangladesh. Tipra Motha Party Supremo Pradyot Kishore Debarman credited the protests held by the youth wing of his party YTF for the closure. He said, "We shall not allow this office to function here in our state so long atrocities on religious and ethnic minorities shall continue in Bangladesh. We can't let people speak anything against our motherland and our embassy. This is why I speak for unity. If we can stand united, we can achieve greater heights together."

According to Debarman, India shouldn't silently listen to the threats coming from Bangladesh.

## Rajasthan Cyclist Rides into Cachar with Everest Goal and Green Message



### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**SILCHAR:** Silchar witnessed an inspiring arrival on Monday as young cyclist and environmental activist Pappu Ram Choudhary from Rajasthan rode into Cachar as part of his nationwide cycling mission aimed at promoting fitness, discipline and environmental responsibility.

Cycling under the banner of the Shakti Sankalp Safar, Mount Everest Cycling Expedition, Choudhary has already covered more than 38,000 km across 21 states and six Union Territories. His journey, which blends endurance with social purpose, is driven by an ambitious goal to scale Mount Everest in 2026 and unfurl the Tricolour at the summit.

Beyond the physical challenge, Choudhary's expedition carries a strong environmental focus. As part of his green initiative, he has pledged to plant one lakh saplings

across India. Nearly 30,000 saplings have already been planted through plantation drives organised along his route, reflecting his commitment to conservation and sustainable living.

During his visit to Silchar, Choudhary called on Cachar District Commissioner Mridul Yadav, IAS, on Monday evening and shared details of his journey and objectives. As part of his programme in the district, he will take part in a plantation drive at Government Girls M.P. School, Silchar, on December 23 at 11 am.

Interacting with local residents and officials, Choudhary appealed to the youth to embrace healthy habits, discipline and a sense of purpose. He said his mission is to inspire young people towards nation-building, road safety, physical fitness and care for the environment, encouraging them to set their sights as high as Everest.

## Assam CM Sarma hands over appointment letters to 3,420 candidates in health sector

### GUWAHATI

Strengthening Assam's healthcare workforce, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma handed over appointment letters to 3,420 candidates for technical and non-technical posts in the health sector at a function held in Guwahati on Monday.

It may be noted that after successful completion of one lakh appointments, the State government is now steadily moving towards its next goal of two lakh government jobs.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sarma said that after successfully completing the target of one lakh appointments, the State government is now steadily moving towards its next goal of two lakh government jobs.

With these appointments, the total number of government jobs provided during the tenure of the present State government has risen to 1,45,449, reaffirming the Government's commitment to transparent, merit-based recruitment in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sarma said that after successfully completing the target of one lakh appointments, the State government is now steadily moving towards its next goal of two lakh government jobs.

He announced that fresh appointments to Grade III posts through the Assam Direct Recruitment Examination will be made on January 10 next year, while appointment letters for a large number of Grade IV posts will be issued before January 20.

He further added that the process of issuing appointment letters to candidates already selected for various government departments will continue until February next year.

"No previous Assam government had been able to provide more than 25,000-30,000 government jobs during a five-year tenure. To fulfil the pre-election promise of one lakh jobs, the first Cabinet of the present government constituted a Cabinet sub-committee and took a decision to prioritise recruitment in the Home, Health, and Education Departments. Over the past four and a half years, the government has honoured this commitment and is progressing steadily towards providing two lakh government jobs. As a result, a sense of confidence has grown among the youth that sincere efforts and hard work can lead to success and secure government employment," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister observed that a new environment has emerged in Assam during the tenure of the present government, with the state introducing several new measures to ensure that young men and women can secure employment through a fair and transparent recruitment process.

Highlighting initiatives taken to strengthen the healthcare sector, he said

that steps have been taken to establish one medical college in every district.

He noted that the positive impact of these initiatives is now clearly visible, with a gradual decline in maternal and infant mortality rates in the state.

"Several leading private-sector hospitals in the country are moving towards setting up facilities in Assam, which will open up new employment opportunities for the youth. In addition, large projects such as the semiconductor manufacturing unit at Jajiroad, the ammonia-urea project at Namrup foundation of which was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the upcoming thermal power project at Chapar in Dhubri district will together create employment for thousands of young people. Along with government employment, the state has also laid strong emphasis on self-employment, introducing schemes such as 'Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbhar Assam'. These initiatives have created a sense of hope among the youth. While some sections attempt to create a negative atmosphere in society, the youth of Assam today are stepping out not for agitation, but to build their future and establish themselves on the robust foundation. Through clean and transparent recruitment practices, Assam has earned recognition across the country, and the government has succeeded in building an environment of trust among the younger generation," the Chief Minister stated.

Addressing those appointed to the Health Department, the Chief Minister said that their responsibility is far greater than

that of many other government employees, as their service is directly linked to human lives.

He urged the newly appointed youth to help create an environment in government hospitals where the poor and underprivileged can access to healthcare services with ease and dignity. Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said that doctors and healthcare workers in the state rendered exemplary service, which led people to prefer government hospitals over private ones during the crisis.

He added that government hospitals are now equipped with adequate medical facilities, and that committed, compassionate, and duty-bound government employees can bring meaningful change to Assam.

The Chief Minister, however, expressed concern over the rising number of children affected by cerebral palsy in the state. He said that around 30,000 children were examined during health camps organised across Assam, of whom nearly 6,000 were found to be affected.

He warned that the actual number across the state could be as high as one lakh. He stressed that with the construction of medical colleges and the recruitment of sufficient doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers, the collective goal will be to ensure high-quality medical care.

He emphasised that there must be no lapses in medical care provided to women during childbirth, and that every child should be delivered with the highest level of care and caution.

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Around 32 lakh unmapped voters to be called in phase 1 of SIR hearings from December 27 in Bengal



KOLKATA:

Around 32 lakh unmapped voters will be called in the first phase of hearings under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, officials said.

Hearings for this category, in which voters could not link their names with those of family members in the 2002 electoral rolls, will begin from December 27, he said.

"We have started sending notices to around 10 lakh such voters from today, while the same will be issued to another 22 lakh voters from Tuesday," the official at the office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer told.

During the enumeration phase, a total of 31,68,424 unmapped voters were identified across the state, he said.

He said that the proceedings will be conducted at district magistrates' offices, sub-divisional offices, various government departments, as well as in schools and colleges.

Voters with logical discrepancies will be taken up in the next phase, for which guidelines have been sought from the Election Commission, another official said on Monday.

Each hearing will be conducted under the supervision of a micro-observer, he said. Around 32 lakh unmapped voters will be called in the first phase of hearings.

Around 1.36 crore voters will be called for SIR hearings in West Bengal: CEO

Training for 4,000 micro-observers will be held in two phases on December 24 in Kolkata, he said, noting

that all the micro-observers are officials from the state.

Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that the micro-observers lack knowledge of the local Bengali language.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the Election Commission will visit the state to review the progress of the SIR of the electoral rolls, sources in the office of the state CEO said.

"The commission's Principal Secretary SB Joshi and Deputy Secretary Abhinav Agarwal will arrive in the state to assess the progress of the hearing phase under the SIR process," he said.

The officials will also attend the training programme for micro-observers on December 24, he added.

# Messi event fiasco: Calcutta HC refuses to interfere in SIT probe

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court refused to interfere at this stage in a probe being conducted by a special investigation team (SIT) over chaos during Argentine football legend Lionel Messi's event at Salt Lake stadium here on December 13.

A division bench presided by Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul held that the investigation and enquiry in the case is in the preliminary stage and no material could be placed before it to establish that "investigation/enquiry is vitiated or polluted".

The petitioners in three PILs sought transfer of the investigation into the incident to CBI as well as the refund of ticket prices to the spectators, a section of whom had gone on a rampage over not being able to see their favourite star and early conclusion of the event following a messy situation on the ground.

Some people were seen jostling around Messi, thus blocking the view of those seated on the stands.

Rejecting a prayer for interim relief on the matter, the court said that at this stage, it is not inclined to interfere and stay the investigation.

The division bench, also comprising Justice Partha Sarathi Sen, said that it could not be established that members of the SIT had any interest in the event in question and for this reason, "we are not inclined to interfere into investigation at this stage".

The bench, which passed the order after conclusion of the hearing on Monday for the three PILs, said that it is trite that an investigation cannot be directed to be transferred to CBI or to any other agency on mere asking or merely because a party has levelled allegations.



It said that in rare and exceptional cases, only such directions can be issued when it can be established with accuracy and precision that the investigation in question is vitiated or faulted.

The court directed the state government and the organiser of the event to file their affidavit-in-opposition to the petitioners' contentions in four weeks.

It said that the petitioners can file their affidavit-in-reply to those within two weeks therefrom.

The three PILs, which were heard analogously, will be taken up for hearing again in the week commencing on February 16, the bench said.

The counsel for the West Bengal government argued before the court that the state did not sell the tickets and that it was an event organised by a private event management company.

Claiming that the investigation was being done in right earnest by the SIT, he stated before the court that the state's director general of police (DGP) was issued a show cause letter over the incident.

The owner of the event management company, Satadru Dutta, was arrested by the police soon after the programme on December 13, in connection with the fiasco.

Dutta's lawyer submitted before the division bench that they were unaware as to how so many people, who milled around Messi, blocking the view of the spectators, entered the ground, as the police were in charge of the entry points.

He further stated that the football legend's events were also held in Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi and that all went off smoothly.

Billwadal Bhattacharya, the

lawyer for Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, who is one of the petitioners, questioned the source of funds for organising the event and prayed for a court order for an investigation by a competent central agency.

Senior advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, representing another petitioner, submitted before the court that the enquiry committee formed by the state is not a judicial commission, but is simply an administrative one.

The court noted that the state produced a gazette notification of the formation of the committee.

The state's lawyer further stated that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had, soon after the incident, expressed regret for the fiasco and that her government formed the committee comprising a retired high court judge and top officers of the administration.

## INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine President Zelenskyy says progress in US-led peace talks is 'quite solid'

KYIV

Initial drafts of U.S. proposals for a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia meet many of Kyiv's demands, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, although he suggested that neither side in the almost four-year war is likely to get everything it wants in talks on reaching a settlement.

"Overall, it looks quite solid at this stage," the Ukrainian leader said of recent talks with U.S. officials who are trying to steer the neighboring countries toward compromises.

"There are some things we are probably not ready for, and I'm sure there are things the Russians are not ready for either," Zelenskyy told reporters in Kyiv.

U.S. President Donald Trump has for months been pushing for a peace agreement, but the negotiations have run into sharply conflicting demands from Moscow and Kyiv.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said Sunday he held "productive and constructive" talks in Florida with Ukrainian and European representatives, though Trump was less effusive the following day, saying, "The talks are going along."

"We are talking. It's going OK," Trump said Monday while on vacation at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Asked if he planned to speak to Zelenskyy or Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump didn't say, offering only of the fighting, "I'd like to see it stopped."

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, said "nearly 90%" of Ukraine's demands have been incorporated into the draft agreements.

In this photo taken on Saturday Dec. 20, 2025 and provided by Ukraine's 24th Mechanized Brigade press service, a soldier walks through the ruins of the town of Kostyantynivka, in the Donetsk region, Ukraine.

Russia says talks on US peace plan for Ukraine 'are proceeding constructively'



The backbone of the proposed deal is a 20-point plan, he said. There is also a framework document on security guarantees between Ukraine, European countries, and the United States, as well as a separate document on bilateral security guarantees granted to Ukraine by the U.S.

Zelenskyy mentioned several key points, such as the Ukrainian army remaining at a peacetime level of 800,000; membership in the European Union; and European forces, under the leadership of France and the U.K. and with a "backstop" from Washington, ensuring "Ukraine's security in the air, on land, and at sea."

"Some key countries will provide presence in these domains; others will contribute to energy security, finance, bomb shelters, and so on," the Ukrainian president said.

Ukraine is arguing that the bilateral document with the U.S. should be reviewed by the U.S. Congress, with some details and annexes kept classified, Zelenskyy said.

The U.S. team is now in talks with Russian envoys, and Washington has asked that no details be released, he

added.

Ukraine strikes deep inside Russia Zelenskyy said Monday he met with his military commanders who reported that defensive lines are holding firm against the Russian onslaught.

"In (recent) weeks, the Russian army has significantly increased the intensity of attacks, and the number of Russian losses has increased accordingly," he said in a post on Telegram.

Ukrainian forces hit an oil terminal, a pipeline, two parked jet fighters and two ships in a series of strikes on Russian soil, officials said Monday.

The attacks are part of an ongoing campaign to disrupt the Russian war effort and sow fear behind the front line, where outnumbered Ukrainian troops are straining to hold back Russia's bigger army.

The strikes also seek to undermine Putin's attempt to portray Russia as negotiating from a position of military strength in U.S.-led peace efforts, which have yet to make a breakthrough on key points.

The killing of a top Russian general by a car bomb in Moscow on Monday, with investigators suspecting Ukraine

was behind it, could be another instance of Kyiv picking surprise targets.

Ukrainian forces struck the Tamaneftgaz oil terminal, an ammunition depot and a launch site for attack drones inside Russian territory and Russian-held Ukrainian territory, Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Monday.

A pipeline, two docks and two ships were damaged in the southern Krasnodar region, and a large blaze broke out, the statement said, without specifying what kind of weapons were used in the attack.

It added that a Ukrainian-made missile also hit a temporary base for Russia's 92nd River Boat Brigade in Olenivka, in the occupied Crimean Peninsula.

A separate strike targeted an ammunition depot in a Russian-controlled portion of the Donetsk region, aiming to slow the Russian advance there, the General Staff said. A Russian launch site for attack drones was also hit.

Ukrainian partisans set fire to two Russian jet fighters in an operation on Sunday evening at a base near Lipetsk, a city in western Russia, according to Ukraine's military intelligence.

Russia's Ministry of Defense said only that its forces shot down 41 Ukrainian drones overnight, three of them over the Krasnodar region.

Meanwhile, Russian forces kept up their targeting of Ukraine's energy sector, aiming to deprive civilians of heat and running water during the frigid winter. Russia has tried to knock out power in Ukraine throughout the war, in a tactic that Ukraine refers to as "weaponizing winter."

Energy infrastructure across five regions were attacked during the night, Ukraine's Ministry of Energy said.

Russia struck Ukraine with 86 drones of different types overnight, Ukraine's air force said. Ukrainian forces stopped 58 of them, it said.

## Trump reiterates claim of preventing India-Pakistan nuclear conflict



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has once again claimed that his intervention helped avert a potential nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan, asserting that Pakistan's leadership credited him with saving millions of lives.

Speaking at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on Monday, Trump said Washington played a key role in preventing the escalation of hostilities between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

"We stopped a potential nuclear war between Pakistan and India. And the head of Pakistan, a highly respected General, he's a Field Marshal and also the Prime Minister

of Pakistan, said President Trump saved 10 million lives, maybe more," Trump said Monday.

Trump made the remarks in the presence of Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, Navy Secretary John Phelan, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Referring to the military escalation earlier this year, Trump said, "You know, eight planes were shot down. That war was starting to rage, and he actually said the other day that President Trump saved 10 million lives, maybe more. So we solved all these wars. The only one I haven't solved yet is Russia, Ukraine," he said.

Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" cease-

fire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim over 60 times that he "helped settle" the tensions between the two neighbours.

India, however, has consistently rejected claims of third-party mediation, maintaining that the understanding to end hostilities was reached bilaterally.

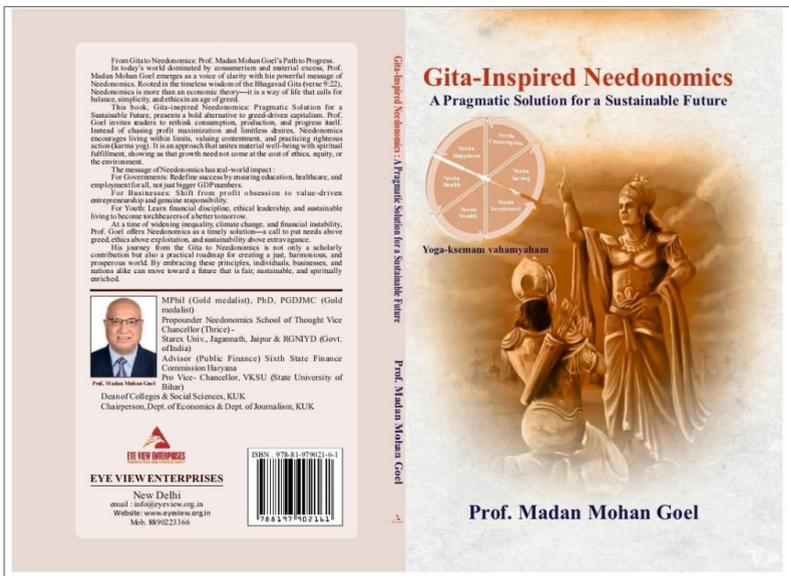
India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

## BOOK REVIEW

# GITA-INSPIRED NEEDONOMICS: A PRAGMATIC SOLUTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

By Prof. Madan Mohan Goel, Published by Eye View Enterprises, New Delhi  
Price: Rs.250 | First Edition 2025 | ISBN: 978-81-979021-6-1 Pages 176



BISWADEEP GUPTA

The latest work of Prof. Madan Mohan Goel, *Gita-Inspired Needonomics: A Pragmatic Solution for a Sustainable Future*, is a timely and thought-provoking contribution to contemporary economic discourse. At a moment when the global economy is grappling with climate crises, widening inequality, resource depletion, and pervasive consumerism, this book offers a refreshing alternative rooted in ethical, sustainable, and value-based living. As the proponent of the Needonomics School of Thought (NST), Prof. Goel presents an integrative framework that draws deeply from the Bhagavad Gita while engaging with modern economic realities. The outcome is a compelling intellectual blend—at once philosophical, practical, and visionary.

### A VALUE-BASED ALTERNATIVE TO GREEDONOMICS

The central thesis of the book challenges the dominant paradigm of Greedonomics—an economic mindset driven by excessive accumulation, limitless wants, and the exploitation of people and the planet. Prof. Goel posits that the world's current crises—climate change, economic volatility, social disorder, and moral erosion—arise from systems that have normalised greed. In response, he proposes Needonomics, an economics of needs rather than wants, which emphasises sufficiency, balance, ethical conduct, and sustainable development. Grounded in the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, Needonomics seeks to align human aspirations and economic activities with righteous duty (swadharma), moderation, and harmony. It emphasises “simplicity without deprivation,” advocating a middle path where consumption, production, governance, and development are guided by what is necessary, just, and sustainable.

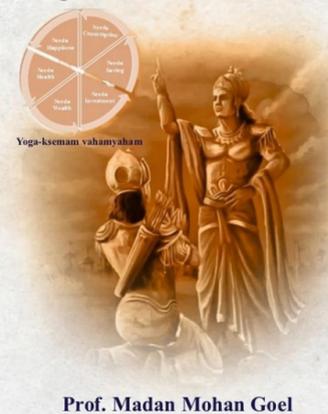
### STRUCTURE AND SCOPE: A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK

The book is divided into six sections, comprising twenty-six well-curated chapters that systematically explore the philosophical foundations, sectoral applications, and policy implications of Needonomics.



Believing you've slept well, even when you haven't, improves performance.

### Gita-Inspired Needonomics A Pragmatic Solution for a Sustainable Future



Prof. Madan Mohan Goel

### SECTION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF NEEDONOMICS

This section lays the conceptual groundwork by connecting Gita's eternal wisdom with the modern relevance of Needonomics. Prof. Goel reinterprets wealth, welfare, and human purpose through a lens that counters materialism. The chapter on Greedonomics critiques the growth-at-any-cost model, while the SWOC analysis offers an honest evaluation of Needonomics—its potential, limitations, opportunities, and challenges.

### SECTION 2: CONSUMER AND MARKET PERSPECTIVES

The chapters here are particularly useful for understanding how Needonomics can recalibrate the behaviour of stakeholders across market systems. With concepts such as “Needo-Consumption” and ethical supply chains, the author shows how consumers, producers, distributors, and traders can adopt need-based decisions to restore balance in global markets. The analysis is grounded in real-world insights and provides policy-relevant recommendations for ethical and equitable trade.

### SECTION 3: GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

Prof. Goel extends the NST framework to governance structures, arguing for “Needo-Governance” that is transparent, efficient, and rooted in public welfare. Chapters on the knowledge-based economy, the 16th Finance Commission, Indian Systems of Medicine, and global institutions like the IMF and World Bank demonstrate how Needonomics can enrich both national and international policymaking. This section makes a strong case for integrating ethical values into public policy and global economic governance.

### SECTION 4: SECTOR-SPECIFIC IMPLICATIONS

This section is one of the book's strengths, as it operationalises Needonomics in specific sectors—agriculture, manufacturing, and services. By offering practical pathways for food security, labour-intensive growth, and service-sector ethics, the author illustrates the versatility of Needonomics. The chapter on teachers and researchers is a valuable addition, urging academic stakeholders to shift from careerism to purpose-driven scholarship.

### SECTION 5: NEEDONOMICS AND INDIAN THOUGHT

Prof. Goel bridges Needonomics with the

economic philosophies of prominent Indian thinkers such as Dattopant Thengdi, Kautilya, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These comparative analyses not only enrich the theoretical depth of Needonomics but also demonstrate its coherence with India's civilizational heritage. The synergy between the Arthashastra's statecraft and the Gita's spiritual guidance is particularly illuminating.

### SECTION 6: FUTURE VISION AND ROADMAP

The concluding section outlines a transformative vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047, integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), national priorities, and the ethical foundations of Needonomics. The comparison with Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful* and Dr. J.K. Mehta's wantlessness expands the philosophical breadth of the text. The roadmap offered is ambitious yet grounded in ethical realism, reflecting Goel's conviction that India can be a lighthouse nation for sustainable global development.

### A BLEND OF PHILOSOPHY, ECONOMICS, AND PRACTICAL ETHICS

What sets this book apart is its ability to connect the transcendental wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita with contemporary economic challenges. Prof. Goel does not merely reinterpret scripture; he transforms its teachings into actionable principles for consumers, producers, policymakers, and

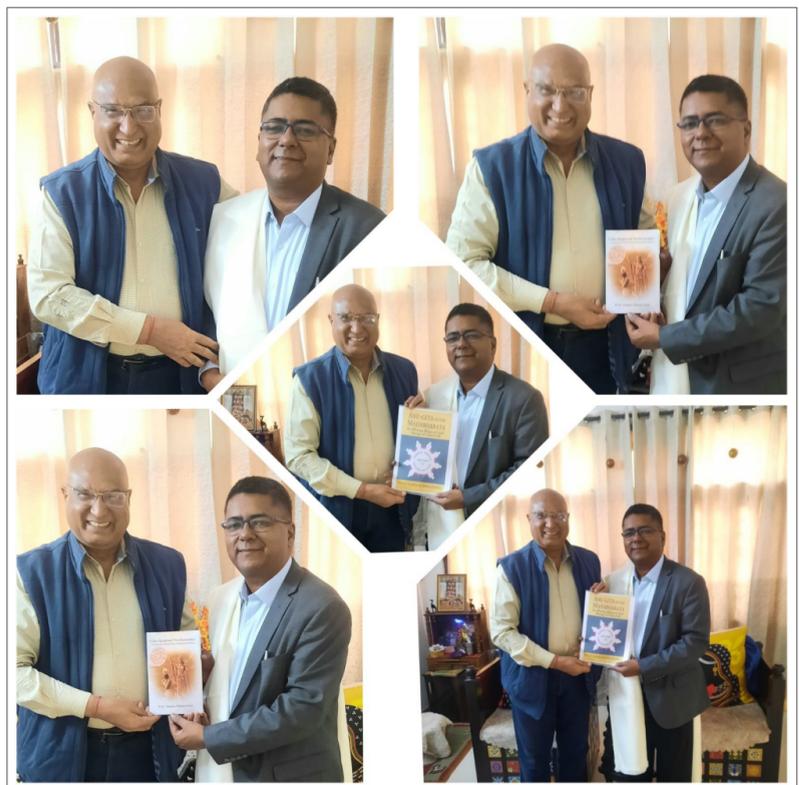
finance. The book also positions Needonomics as a potential contribution to global economic thought, inviting economists worldwide to reconsider models built solely on GDP growth and profit maximisation.

### STRENGTHS OF THE BOOK

An interdisciplinary approach blending economics, ethics, governance, and Indian philosophy. Clear articulation of Needonomics as an alternative to both classical and modern capitalist models. Sector-wise practical applicability makes the model relevant to real-world decisions. Integration of Indian thinkers to contextualise economic development within indigenous intellectual traditions. Forward-looking roadmap for national and global sustainability. Areas for Further Exploration While comprehensive, the book could stimulate future research in:

- Quantitative models based on Needonomics principles
- Comparative international case studies
- Integration with behavioural economics
- Tools to measure Needo-Happiness or Needo-Efficiency
- These are natural extensions that scholars may build upon.

### CONCLUSION



academicians. His approach is normative yet pragmatic, philosophical yet empirical. The book's emphasis on balance—between growth and ecology, consumption and restraint, rights and duties—mirrors the Gita's own ethos of equanimity.

### RELEVANCE TO INDIA AND THE WORLD

At a time when India aspires to reach developed-nation status by 2047, *Gita-Inspired Needonomics* offers a value-oriented blueprint for holistic progress. The framework resonates with India's cultural ethos while addressing global concerns such as climate change, sustainable agriculture, ethical markets, and equitable

*Gita-Inspired Needonomics: A Pragmatic Solution for a Sustainable Future* is a significant intellectual contribution from Prof. Madan Mohan Goel. It challenges mainstream economic thought and offers a refreshing, ethical, and sustainable alternative rooted in India's timeless wisdom. The book is indispensable for policymakers, economists, educators, students, and socially conscious citizens seeking a balanced path between material progress and moral responsibility. In a world dominated by excess and exploitation, Prof. Goel's Needonomics shines as a guiding light—inviting humanity to rethink prosperity, redefine progress, and rebuild the future with integrity, balance, and compassion.

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# Art Competition at Laishoi Village Highlights Climate Change and Northeast Integration



**Art Competition**  
Promoting Northeast Integration Rally  
In Collaboration with Eta Northeast Women's Network

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

**Venue:** Laishoi Village Community Hall  
**Time:** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 23 December  
**For Queries, Contact:**  
99994 57584

Come, express unity through art and celebrate the spirit of Northeast integration

## LAISHOI VILLAGE

An art competition promoting the Northeast Integration Rally was held on December 23 at the Laishoi Village Community Hall, in collaboration with the Eta Northeast Women's Network. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 45 children, including 25 children from the Laishoi Water Complex Relief Camp.

The painting competition

was organised on the theme of Climate Change, providing a creative platform for children to express their concerns and ideas on environmental protection and sustainable living. In the Class 6 to 10 category, Thiya Malemnganba secured the first position, followed by Thiya Yaifabi in second position, while Oinam Yeninghunba secured the third position.

In the Class 1 to 3 category,

Thiyam Sandhya won the first position, Chinglemba Oinam secured the second position, and Thougamba Iron stood third.

Eta Northeast Women's Network has been actively associating with Laishoi Relief Camp and Laishoi Village through various community-based initiatives. For the past two years, the organisation has been implementing livelihood initiatives and the Learning

Tree Initiative, under which Sunday classes are regularly conducted focusing on everyday science, human values, and personality development.

The event successfully combined creativity with social awareness, reinforcing the spirit of unity, environmental responsibility, and inclusive development in line with the objectives of the Northeast Integration Rally.



## BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

**ACTIVITY PROGRAM**





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



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



**11 JAN**  
**Barak Valley Conclave**  
 Potential, Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley by different youth organizations. Includes KOCs, and D' group and can register for participation. Registration fee is 500/- and participation fee is 1000/- only. Different rewards are provided.



**12 JAN**  
**River-Climate Conclave**  
 Climate Change will influence on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, technical and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competitive and certification. River Barak, Climate Change.



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



**10 JAN**  
**Media Conclave**  
 Media Conclave: Media Conclave, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Media Conclave: Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences for students, parents, teachers, members.



**BROADCAST PARTNER**



**REGISTER HERE**

Contact: **WP: 0721300019**  
**info@krcfoundation.org**



**PAINTING CARNIVAL**  
**NE CULTURAL FEST**  
**E-SPORTS**  
**FILM FESTIVAL | EXHIBITION**  
**BOOK CLUB | WORKSHOP | BOOK**  
**RAV BARAK | IN CONCLAVE**

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

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

**Barak Festival**  
**Band Night** 10 JAN  
**Musical Night** 11 JAN



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



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



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



**Watch Out!**  
**Film Festival**