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**PERSPECTIVE**

Life is not about the people who act true to your face. It's about the people who remain true behind your back.

**Bomb found at Deputy Commandant's residence gate**

IMPHAL

Suspected cadres of an underground outfit placed a hand grenade at the residential gate of a Deputy Commandant in Manipur's Thoubal district on Tuesday morning, reports said.

The grenade was left on top of a paper that carried a handwritten warning: "KCP (PWG), the last warning, Nupajao and family." The explosive was discovered at the gate of Kangabam Nupajao, the son of K. Achou of Athokpam Makha Leikai under Thoubal police station. He is the son of K. Achou.

Family members found the bomb around 7 am, while Nupajao currently posted in Bihar as a Deputy Commandant with the Indian security forces was away from home.

Following the alert, a team from the Manipur Police Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad rushed to the site and safely removed the hand grenade. The squad later disposed of the explosive at a secluded spot in the district around 10 am.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Although no group has officially claimed responsibility, the note points to the involvement of KCP-PWG, an outlawed faction of the Kangleipak Communist Party that seeks Manipur's sovereignty.

**WHO SAID WHAT**



Tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ji on his birth anniversary. From being an active participant in India's freedom struggle, presiding over the Constituent Assembly to becoming our first President, he served our nation with unmatched dignity, dedication and clarity of purpose. His long years in public life were marked by simplicity, courage and devotion to national unity. His exemplary service and vision continue to inspire generations. - Narendra Modi, PM

**Northeast Can Become India's Next Major Tourism Frontier, Says Scindia**

NEW DELHI

India's Northeast is poised to emerge as one of the country's most dynamic tourism frontiers, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday, describing the region as a cultural and ecological powerhouse with immense untapped potential.

Speaking at the fourth meeting of the high-level tourism task force in the national capital, Scindia stressed the need to strengthen last-mile connectivity, promote integrated planning, and adopt sustainability-driven development to generate long-term benefits for both local communities and the national economy. He also proposed creating an annual festival calendar showcasing the region's major cultural events to enhance visibility and deepen cultural awareness across India.

The meeting was convened by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), which has formed eight high-level task forces each led by a Chief Minister of a northeastern state, alongside the Union DoNER Minister and three other northeastern



Chief Ministers.

Scindia commended the "depth and quality" of the presentation made during the session and urged the Meghalaya government, which leads the tourism task force, to incorporate member feedback and submit the final report. According to the ministry, the meeting marked a crucial step toward crafting an integrated and actionable tourism roadmap for the Northeast, with a focus on sharpening priorities, identifying persistent challenges, and accelerating coordinated implementation across the states.

Deliberations centred on unlock-

ing the region's vast tourism potential through enhanced multimodal connectivity, strengthened world-class infrastructure, development of globally competitive destinations, and expansion of adventure, eco-tourism, and culture-based tourism offerings. Officials said the strategy also emphasises promoting new tourism products rooted in the region's nature, heritage, and diverse cultural traditions.

The meeting further highlighted the need to broaden skilling and training ecosystems, standardise service quality, and deepen capacity-building to ensure more local employment opportunities and sustainable industry growth. Stronger inter-state coordination, members agreed, will be vital for creating seamless tourism circuits and curated visitor experiences across the Northeast.

With renewed national focus and collaborative state-level engagement, the Northeast is positioning itself to become one of India's most compelling tourism growth zones-combining natural beauty, cultural richness, and sustainable development.

**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.

**Tripura Gets Rs .140-Crore Boost for New Ayurveda and Homoeopathy Colleges**



AGARTALA

Tripura's healthcare and medical education landscape is set for significant expansion after the Ministry of Ayush approved ₹140 crore to establish two new medical colleges-one specialising in Ayurveda and the other in Homoeopathy.

Chief Minister Manik Saha said a high-level review meeting has already been conducted to chart the implementation roadmap. The state aims to make both institutions functional by the next academic session, with officials instructed to expedite all necessary procedures, from land development and construction to staffing and regulatory clearances.

According to the state government, the new colleges will enhance treatment options, strengthen human resources in traditional

medicine, and help reduce the burden on existing medical facilities. The initiative also aligns with the Centre's broader push to integrate and expand Ayush systems across the country.

Saha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda and Ayush Minister of State Prataprao Yadav for extending support to the project, saying the approval marks a major step toward improving Tripura's health infrastructure and expanding educational opportunities in the state's medical sector.

With the funding now sanctioned, the government is moving quickly to complete preparatory work, aiming to position Tripura as an emerging hub for traditional medicine education in the Northeast.

**'Selective Amnesia' Charge: NNPGs Say Full Integration Not Possible**

DIMPUR

The Working Committee of the Naga National Political Groups (WC-NNPGs) has cautioned apex tribal bodies against what it described as "selective amnesia" at a decisive moment in Naga political history, urging stakeholders to acknowledge that "historical realities must meet contemporary realities."

In a strongly worded statement issued on Tuesday, the seven-group coalition said this is "not a time to lecture Nagas on Naga history", warning that emotional rhetoric could distract from the pressing challenges faced by thousands of educated Naga youth entering a competitive global environment. The committee reiterated that full integration of Naga-inhabited areas, a long-standing political aspiration, is "not possible at this time".

The WC-NNPGs stressed that the principle underlying its 2017 "Agreed Position" with the Government of India remains unchanged - that the political future of Nagas must be determined with due regard to prevailing realities. It noted that most tribal hohos had taken part in wide-ranging consultations between 2016 and 2019, issuing joint resolutions and shaping the



contours of the ongoing peace process.

Calling the Agreed Position a "refined political thought process", the committee said the document was the product of extensive dialogue with tribal bodies, churches, prayer groups and village custodians. It recalled that the Centre formally invited the NNPGs for negotiations in October 2017, during which the Naga delegation adopted a "calm, practical" approach. All mutually accepted points, the group added, were carefully documented to avoid ambiguity or "historical distortions".

The statement sharply criticised the communication vacuum that followed the Centre's signing of the Framework Agreement with the NSCN (IM) on

August 3, 2015. According to the WC-NNPGs, the NSCN (IM) "cut off all communication lines" with tribal organisations, civil society groups and the Forum for Naga Reconciliation, leaving the Naga public "in the dark about their political future".

The Naga peace process has seen multiple phases of engagement. After the ceasefire agreement of 1997 and more than 80 rounds of talks, the Government of India signed the Framework Agreement with the NSCN (IM) in 2015. Parallel negotiations with the WC-NNPGs culminated in the Agreed Position on November 17, 2017. In October 2019, the Centre announced that talks with both formations had formally concluded.

While the WC-NNPGs have repeatedly signalled readiness to accept a "workable, inclusive" solution and move forward, the NSCN (IM) continues to insist on a separate flag, constitution and territorial integration of all Naga-inhabited areas - demands the Centre has ruled out.

As Nagaland awaits a breakthrough, the WC-NNPGs' latest message underscores deepening tensions among stakeholders and a widening divergence over the road ahead for one of India's longest-running political negotiations.

**Cybercrime Becomes One of Assam's Fastest-Rising Threats; Over 18,000 Arrested**

GUWAHATI

Cybercrime has rapidly evolved into one of Assam's most pressing security threats, with more than 18,315 arrests recorded since 2014 in connection with a wide spectrum of digital offences, ranging from ATM fraud and KYC scam rings to identity theft, fake documentation and online sexual exploitation.

Official data indicates that the surge in cyber-related crime now rivals traditional forms of criminality, prompting sustained interventions from enforcement agencies. Offences reported include circulation of obscene content, child pornography, forged Aadhaar, PAN and voter IDs, fake SIM card networks, and increasing incidents of financial fraud carried out through digital platforms.

Authorities admit cybercrime has already become a central focus for police forces in the state. To strengthen response mechanisms, Assam has adopted a multilayered strategy - including nationwide systems now extended across the state. Among the key measures:

Cybercrime helpline 1930



introduced for rapid reporting of fraud.

National Cyber Security Policy implemented to bolster detection, response and preventive frameworks.

National Cyber Crime Coordination Centre enabling smoother, faster inter-state investigations. CERT-In reinforced to address cyber incidents at both institutional and citizen levels.

Along with structural reforms, the state has rolled out extensive outreach programmes targeting students, youth collectives and community groups.

These campaigns aim to build digital literacy - teaching users how to recognise phishing attempts, safeguard personal information, and understand the implications of their online activity.

While digital offences continue to climb, conventional crimes remain a significant policing priority. According to Home Department data:

Theft remains one of the most common crimes, with 7,634 cases in 2024 and 5,251 recorded up to November 2025.

Murder cases have steadily dropped from 1,451 in 2014 to 926 in 2024, and 732 up to November this year.

Abductions, which saw a spike in 2021 at 7,580 cases, fell to 3,381 in 2024 and 2,567 till November 2025.

Dowry-related cases have halved over a decade, from 188 in 2014 to 94 in 2024.

Witch-hunting crimes, though fewer, persist - fluctuating between 5 and 16 cases annually.

Loot and dacoity show a downward trajectory after years of fluctuation.

Child marriage enforcement has led to 7,765 arrests between 2014 and November 19, 2025. Officials say Assam is now preparing for what they describe as a "new frontier of policing", with cybercrime expected to dominate future law enforcement challenges. Strengthening cybersecurity infrastructure, enhancing investigative capability and deepening public awareness will be central to the state's defence against digital crime, they added.



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**Prof Madan Mohan Goel**



**Advisor, NEIR 2026**

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## PEACETIME SIMULATIONS

When General K Sundarji conceptualised Operation Brasstacks in 1987, India's security environment was intense, but still largely linear. The exercise was not merely a rehearsal of military manoeuvres. The three stages prior to Brasstacks IV involved national wargaming that brought together political leaders, bureaucrats, scientists, logisticians, and military commanders—a rare moment when the State thought collectively about war, governance, and national preparedness.

At that time, Pakistan was only 16 years past the trauma of 1971—still adversarial, but conventionally outmatched. China was only in the early phase of Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernisations—emerging, but not yet shaping regional security dynamics. In that environment, it was logical that Brasstacks focused on massed conventional operations across geographically defined battle spaces.

Today, that world is scarcely recognisable. Pakistan possesses nuclear deterrence, missile capabilities, and is expanding access to drones and other emerging warfare technologies. Its fiscal fragility and internal instability do not restrain its behaviour; they often incentivise asymmetric posturing. With diminishing leverage in Afghanistan, it has sought a reverse form of strategic depth through intelligence footprints and sympathetic networks in Bangladesh. China has evolved into a deliberate strategist, not merely supporting, but shaping Pakistan's threat profile. The contest is now multi-domain—cyber, informational, economic, diplomatic, and psychological—where narratives matter as much as capabilities.

In this evolving environment, Operation Sindoor provided reassurance, exposing no visible strategic weakness. Yet, as every seasoned practitioner knows, public success does not erase private lessons. What is not visible is often more valuable. Every operation brings clarity—not only about our strengths, but also about our friction points and unseen vulnerabilities. Learning from those requires more than a review; it requires simulation, rehearsal, and refinement. That is the unique strength of wargaming.

Unlike briefings or consultations, wargaming is an immersive learning tool. It does not merely present a situation—it forces decision, under pressure, uncertainty, and time constraints. It enables policymakers, diplomats, intelligence professionals, economists, and military planners to experience how crises unfold; and, critically, how their decisions shape consequences. It identifies institutional blind-spots, improves inter-agency understanding, and trains decision-makers to think in layers—not only about what the adversary might do, but why and when. The US, Japan, Israel, and China regularly simulate crises to refine decisions and strengthen strategic cognition.

The Indian armed forces have long excelled in this domain. Wargaming and scenario planning are deeply ingrained from academy training to operational and joint command levels. Officers are habituated to visualise, simulate, and optimise responses. Table-top exercises in disaster management are a quasi-military extension of this method—integrating agencies across domains and teaching coordination as a habit. But while the military lives wargaming, the national governance ecosystem only visits it. That must change.

The recent Delhi car blast was part of the same hybrid continuum—designed to probe resilience, shape perception, and exploit our cognitive blind-spots. It reminds us that modern conflict respects no boundaries, and can evolve faster than responses unless the responses are rehearsed. For India, this makes it imperative to institutionalise a national strategic wargame every two years, culminating in a combined commanders' conference as a national convergence forum. Such simulations should assess crises involving cyber disruption, economic coercion, media manipulation, or internal destabilisation; testing decision sequencing, strategic signalling, response agility, and communication integrity—embedding true civil-military fusion.

India speaks confidently today of atmanirbharta in defence, theatre commands, civil-military synergy, integrated national security architecture, and hybrid warfare preparedness. These are promising, but their real strength will emerge only when they are anchored in a shared culture of strategic understanding. That demands experiential learning. The true value of such exercises lies in enabling those who would plan and decide to think collectively, not in silos. Wargaming becomes the safest way to gain that experience before we are forced to learn it in a crisis.

India is fortunate to have institutions such as the National Defence College and the Army War College, which are repositories of strategic knowledge and long-term security insight. These institutions can, without altering their core military purpose, evolve into national hubs where elected representatives, senior bureaucrats, domain experts, technology leaders, and diplomatic practitioners periodically co-learn about emerging strategic realities. These need not be long residential programmes, but structured strategic capsules—on hybrid warfare, deterrence stability, grey-zone coercion, intelligence shaping, information warfare, and national resilience.

This is not without precedent. At the Royal College of Defence Studies in London, a small group of elected representatives attends the annual strategic studies programme alongside military leaders, diplomats, security practitioners, and professionals from over 40 nations. They do not become military experts, but they emerge as far more informed legislators. Not because they were taught what to think, but because they learned how to think about war, peace, resilience, and national purpose.

Such intellectual cross-pollination in India would only enhance the role of political leadership and policy institutions. It would help ensure that national security is understood not only in military terms, but also in its economic, societal, diplomatic, technological, and psychological dimensions. That is precisely where national level wargaming can become the bridge between theory, insight, and decision.

In a world where conflicts are increasingly shaped in the mind before they are fought on the ground, wargaming may well be India's most powerful peacetime strategic integrator.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

“In order to write about life first you must live it.”

– Ernest Hemingway

# Indian Labour Reforms Revisited: A Neodonomics Perspective on Balance and Justice



PROF. MADAN MOHAN GOEL  
PROFINDER, NEEDEDOMICS & FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR

India's long-awaited labour reforms—merging 29 central labour laws into four consolidated and modernized Labour Codes—represent a significant step in reshaping the relationship between employers, employees, and the state. These four codes on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions were envisioned as transformative reforms capable of enhancing ease of doing business, formalising employment, and ensuring welfare for workers across sectors.

Neodonomics School of Thought (NST), rooted in the principle of “need-based, rational, and balanced decision-making,” welcomes this reform as a necessary structural intervention. However, NST also critically evaluates whether these codes truly deliver the transformational change promised, or whether they simply reorganize an existing maze of labour regulations into a more compact but equally complex structure.

1 From 29 Laws to 4 Codes: A Structural Shift without a Leap

The consolidation of 29 labour laws into four codes is seen as an overdue simplification. For decades, India's labour law framework was a forest—dense, overlapping, and difficult to navigate. NST acknowledges that the pruning of this forest is a welcome administrative relief. Yet, simplification in form does not always guarantee simplification in spirit.

NST believes that the reform represents a “slow creep” rather than a bold leap. The codes reorganize, compress, and structurally streamline the old laws, but they do not entirely rewrite the philosophical foundation of India's labour regulation. In several areas, the codes appear more business-friendly but without provoking strong labour backlash—a sign of incrementalism rather than structural transformation.

2 Employer Flexibility: Pragmatic but Limited

One of the most debated changes is the increase in threshold for retrenchment, layoffs, and closure permissions—from 100 workers to 300. This shift gives companies greater flexibility to adjust workforce sizes, potentially boosting competitiveness in labour-intensive sectors.

Similarly, the introduction of fixed-term employment allows employers to hire for short durations without the expense of long-term obligations. Allowing women to work night shifts with adequate safeguards also reflects progressive thinking aligned with NST's commitment to gender justice and productive inclusivity.

Yet NST notes that flexibility is uneven. Fixed-term contracts may lead to job inse-

curity if misused. While the codes promise worker protections such as pro-rated benefits and gratuity for fixed-term workers after just one year, monitoring proper implementation remains a significant challenge.

3 Minimum Wage Puzzle: Complexity Continues

One of the most concerning elements for NST is the continuation of complexity in minimum wage structures. India now has 24 different minimum wage slabs—four skill categories across six working conditions.

Instead of simplifying the wage system, the codes have institutionalised a multilayered structure that requires deep administrative and enforcement capacity. NST raises serious questions:

Who will monitor such varied wage categories?

Do states have the institutional capacity to implement and enforce?

Will this create fresh avenues for disputes and litigation?

Neodonomics advocates simplicity, transparency, and the minimisation of compliance burden. From that perspective, the wage framework falls short.

4 Social Security: Expanded Promises, Escalating Costs

Perhaps the most progressive element of the new codes is the extension of social security benefits to gig workers and platform workers—an often ignored segment of the workforce in a rapidly digitalizing economy. Workers now potentially become eligible for provident fund (PF), Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) benefits, and insurance.

NST considers this inclusion essential for a just and humane labour system. However, these benefits come at a cost: companies face escalating financial burdens in contributing to social security funds.

For businesses transitioning from informal to formal employment, this may lead to nearly 50 percent addition to wage costs. While NST values social justice, it also highlights the importance of economic feasibility. Excessive compliance costs may deter firms from formalization, limiting the effectiveness of the policy.

5 Wages, Benefits, and the Cost of Labour Competitiveness

The codes redefine wages to include “basic salary plus allowances,” tightening the scope for artificially suppressing PF contributions. For workers, this is a gain. For employers, the wage bill increases.

India's comparative advantage in labour-intensive industries is rooted in globally competitive wages. However, with stricter wage definitions, overtime pay set at double the regular wages, and a cap of 125 overtime hours per quarter, the cost of labour rises substantially.

NST warns that rising labour costs without corresponding productivity gains

may weaken India's long-standing competitiveness in areas such as textiles, leather, toys, and assembly operations. This is especially critical as India aims to attract global supply chains under the “China-plus-one” strategy.

6 Monitoring and Evaluation: Missing Backbone

While the codes promise flexibility with fairness, the actualization of this balance depends entirely on implementation. NST draws attention to the significant gap between policy intent and on-ground practice. Without robust monitoring mechanisms, digital compliance systems, and transparent grievance redressal platforms, many provisions risk remaining aspirational.

The role of state governments becomes even more important, as labour is a concurrent subject. States must not only legislate but also enforce. NST believes that the shift to four central codes expands rather than reduces the scope of state intervention.

7 NST's Balanced Appraisal: Reform with Reserve

From a Neodonomics perspective, the new labour codes are a blend of progress and pitfalls:

Positive Aspects Appreciated by NST:  
Consolidation of 29 laws into four codes  
Flexibility for employers to adapt in dynamic markets

Inclusion of women in night shifts  
Extension of social security to gig and platform workers

Pro-rated benefits for fixed-term employees

Clarity in wage definitions

Concerns Raised by NST:

Too many minimum wage slabs complicate compliance

Increased cost of formal employment may discourage formalisation

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms remain vague

Excessive state intervention despite claims of simplification

Risk of job insecurity through fixed-term contracts

Rising labour costs in labour-intensive sectors threaten global competitiveness

Neodonomics teaches us the principle of need-based moderation—not excess flexibility for employers, and not excessive protectionism for workers. The ideal labour law should promote a balanced ecosystem where economic needs, social justice, and sustainable development co-exist harmoniously.

8 Democracy at Work: A Neodonomics Conclusion

Neodonomics School of Thought ultimately views the new labour codes as an attempt to create “democracy at work”—a

system where employers gain operational freedom and workers enjoy improved rights and benefits. However, the true measure of success lies in the implementation, not the drafting. India needs a labour ecosystem that promotes job creation instead of job protection, encourages formalization rather than penalizing it, simplifies compliance instead of duplicating complexity and enhances productivity alongside worker welfare. The labour codes move the needle, but not enough. They represent an evolutionary reform rather than a revolutionary one. NST urges policymakers, corporates, trade unions, and civil society to engage in continuous dialogue, ensuring that labour reforms remain aligned with the nation's developmental needs and the principles of Neodonomics—simplicity, rationality, fairness, and accountability. Only then can India truly achieve a labour market that supports its aspiration for Viksit Bharat—a developed, dignified, and harmonious nation by 2047.

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

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## Desperate Pakistan Launches Anti-Taliban Drive, Risking Another Afghan Civil War

FATIMA BALOCH

When the Afghan Taliban captured Kabul on August 15, 2021, Pakistan celebrated. The Prime Minister, military officials, and other high-profile politicians declared it a victory for Pakistan. Yet continued attacks from Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the secular Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), combined with the Afghan-Pakistan clashes of October 14-15, 2025, quickly shifted the narrative. In the context of Afghanistan's improving regional relations, Pakistan now labels the Afghan Taliban 2.0 government illegitimate, frequently using the propaganda term “regime” to imply foreign design and fabrication.

Islamabad refers to the US/NATO-Taliban Doha Agreement of February 29, 2020, arguing that Washington imposed this government on Afghanistan. At the same time, Pakistan recognizes the agreement and demands that Afghan soil not be used against it. Pakistan further claims the Taliban represent a Pashtun-majority government, excluding other ethnicities and lacking democratic legitimacy. This stance reflects Pakistan's direct interference in Afghanistan's domestic politics.

In reality, many of the Taliban's top leadership positions—including Deputy Prime Ministers, the Chief of Army, and the Mayor of Kabul—are held by non-Pashtuns. For Pakistan, however, a strong, independent, and nationalist Afghanistan has long been perceived as a strategic threat. Islamabad fears that such a government could reignite Pashtun nationalism, revive calls for an independent Pashtunistan, challenge the Durand Line, and potentially support Baloch separatism—threatening Pakistan's territorial

integrity from both the west and the south.

Historically, Pakistan has exploited Afghan instability, backing insurgents and fueling civil wars. In the 1980s, it supported Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and other factions, deepening the devastating conflict of 1992-1994. Later, it facilitated the rise of Taliban 1.0, declaring Afghanistan its “strategic depth.” After 9/11, Pakistan became a frontline ally of the US/NATO against the Taliban, gaining Non-NATO ally status and substantial aid. Over two decades, Pakistan fought the Taliban under the “do more” policy while simultaneously providing military support, airbases, and logistics to NATO forces—resulting in thousands of Afghan deaths. During this period, the TTP emerged, ideologically aligned with the Afghan Taliban.

The Taliban's return to power in 2021 emboldened the TTP to replicate their success and challenge the Pakistan Army. Today, nuclear-armed Pakistan faces converging internal and external threats reminiscent of 1971. In Balochistan, the secular Baloch nation continues its struggle for independence under the BLA, while the TTP has gained ground in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, defeating Pakistani forces and seeking to replace the pseudo-democratic Islamic Republic with a Taliban-style sharia government.

Afghanistan, despite decades of monarchy, communism, socialism, and externally imposed democracies, has not experienced peace for 45 years. Yet unlike previous regimes, the Taliban-led government has brought relative stability. Many Afghans perceive its governance model as aligned with their cultural and religious values. The Taliban have curbed corruption, restored law and order, and reasserted sovereignty—

earning legitimacy and popular support, particularly in rural areas.

Thus, where foreign-engineered governments failed, the nationalist and Islamic-valued Afghan Taliban 2.0 stands as a legitimate authority. Indeed, the Taliban government appears more representative than Pakistan's pseudo-democratic system, which is neither Islamic nor democratic. Under Taliban leadership, Afghanistan is undergoing rapid development—a trajectory that challenges Pakistan's traditional security calculus. Desperately, Pakistan is once again seeking regime change to install a pro-Pakistan government.

Currently, Pakistan is losing against TTP and BLA insurgencies. Years of conflict and politicized leadership have left the military exhausted and ineffective, reminiscent of the Afghan National Army's collapse under Ashraf Ghani. Seeking to internationalise its internal insurgencies, Pakistan turned to Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and China to establish an anti-TTP and BLA accord.

Pakistan has since closed trade routes with Afghanistan, cancelled Afghan transit at Karachi port, and on October 14-15, 2025, launched strikes across Afghanistan—including Kabul—aiming to force the Taliban to fight its war against the TTP. Qatar and Saudi Arabia brokered a ceasefire, leading to peace talks in Doha on October 18 and Istanbul on October 23, both of which failed.

During these talks, Pakistan's ISI and military delegation demanded:

Declaring a Fatwa that Pakistan is an Islamic Republic, thereby rendering TTP jihad impermissible.

Relocating TTP and BLA fighters to western Afghan provinces.

Ensuring Afghan soil is not used for insurgencies against Pakistan under the Doha Agreement.

The Taliban rejected these demands, clarifying that Fatwas are issued by the Supreme Council, not the Supreme Leader; and that the Doha Agreement was signed with the U.S., not Pakistan. They emphasized that TTP and BLA insurgencies are Pakistan's internal matters, precluding the Taliban's return in 2021.

Pakistan withdrew from talks and launched a propaganda narrative portraying Afghanistan as a terrorist haven, accusing the Taliban of harboring ETIM, IMU, and ISIS-K. Yet these claims failed to gain traction, as regional powers—including China, Qatar, Iran, and Russia—strengthened economic ties with Afghanistan.

Peace talks collapsed. Today, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, and Russia recognize and support the Taliban government. Turkey, however, fears Pakistan's collapse and the emergence of an independent Balochistan, which could resonate with Kurdish separatism.

Pakistan's army is now desperately seeking Afghan factions and militant actors to fight against the Taliban-led government. Yet Afghans widely perceive Pakistan as untrustworthy, and no Afghan leaders have responded to its overtures. The Taliban, wary of U.S. influence and Pakistani interference, increasingly view support for the TTP's Islamic, pro-Afghanistan agenda—and the Baloch struggle for a Greater Afghanistan (Loy Afghanistan)—as essential to safeguarding their sovereignty.

# Rajya Sabha Returns Manipur GST Bill to Lok Sabha for Final Approval

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on December 2 returned the Manipur GST Bill to the Lok Sabha, paving the way for the northeastern state's transition into the nationwide GST 2.0 reforms framework. The legislation, which replaces an existing Ordinance, was passed by the Lok Sabha a day earlier.

Replying to the debate in the Upper House, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the bill would finally extend long-pending GST benefits to the people and businesses of Manipur, strengthening revenue mobilisation in a state still recovering from prolonged conflict. She criticised the Opposition for "shedding crocodile tears" over Manipur while skipping key parliamentary debates on the state's financial and administrative matters. "Every time about Manipur they will raise these issues... total crocodile tears," she said, adding that the

reforms would remove tax ambiguities and align Manipur with systems already functional across the country.

Sitharaman highlighted that GST 2.0 introduces measures such as track-and-trace systems and restructured tax slabs. She noted that the earlier 28 per cent slab had been abolished, with several goods shifted to the 18 per cent category. These changes, she said, would ease compliance, increase transparency and boost the state's revenues—particularly crucial at a time when Manipur has been under President's Rule.

During the discussion, BJD MP Sulata Deo urged the Centre to lift President's Rule and ensure early elections in Manipur. She also pointed out that India once had the world's highest GST rate at 28 per cent, surpassing even countries like Argentina.

Supporting the bill, YSRCP MP Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla said streamlined compliance processes and improved trans-

parency would enable Manipur to focus on long-term development and integrate more effectively with national economic priorities. Citing official data, he noted that violent incidents in Manipur had decreased significantly from 740 in 2008 to 97 in 2020, but the trend reversed in 2023, with nearly 260 deaths reported by April 2025. Sustainable peace, he stressed, would require addressing deep-rooted inequalities between hill and valley regions and between majoritarian and tribal communities.

Nominated member Harsh Vardhan Shringla also backed the legislation, saying a predictable GST regime would help attract investment, improve fiscal stability and support economic recovery in a state still grappling with ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki-Zo groups. Since May 2023, over 260 people have been killed and thousands displaced due to the continuing conflict.

With the Rajya Sabha returning the bill, it will now go back to the Lok Sabha for final procedural approval before becoming law.

Kharge, Rahul Gandhi Hold Strategy Session with Assam Congress on Election Preparedness, Voter Roll Revision

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi met senior leaders of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) in New Delhi on Tuesday to review preparations for the state's upcoming assembly elections and assess the progress of the ongoing Special Revision (SR) of electoral rolls.

The meeting was attended by Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Assam PCC president Gaurav Gogoi, AICC in-charge Jitendra Singh and Congress Legislature Party leader Debabrata Saikia. Discussions centred on organisational readiness, vot-

er roll management and key issues influencing the political landscape ahead of the 2026 polls.

Assam is expected to go to the polls in March or April next year, and party sources said the leadership examined detailed strategies to synchronise campaign planning with the electoral roll revision process. The Special Revision exercise is currently underway across the state, with the Congress keen on ensuring accurate, comprehensive and compliant voter lists.

Leaders emphasised the need to align internal preparations with the Election Commission of India's guidelines, especially as the Commission has designated 1 January 2026 as the qualifying date for the Special Revision. This date will determine voter eligibility and is considered crucial for ensuring the credibility of the upcoming electoral process.

Officials overseeing the revision have

clarified that the current SR exercise falls between the routine annual summary revision and the more extensive Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The aim is to strike a balance—enhancing voter list accuracy without the logistical burden of a fully intensive revision.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission last month ordered Special Intensive Revision in 12 states and Union Territories, including four that will head to the polls next year. In Assam, both political parties and election authorities are gearing up to ensure a smooth, transparent and well-managed electoral process in 2026.

With the assembly elections drawing closer, Tuesday's meeting signals the Congress high command's intent to strengthen groundwork, streamline organisational coordination and sharpen its electoral strategy in the politically crucial northeastern state.

## Gaurav Gogoi Flags "Deep Institutional Crisis" at Tezpur University, Seeks PM's Intervention

GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing serious concern over what he describes as a "deep institutional crisis" at Tezpur University, urging urgent central intervention to restore academic integrity and administrative accountability at the premier institution. In a detailed representation, Gogoi warned that Tezpur University—established under the historic Assam Accord to advance the state's educational aspirations—is now battling severe administrative, academic and financial distress. He said the situation has reached an "alarming" stage, jeopardising the university's original mandate and credibility. According to Gogoi, the campus is reeling under widespread allegations of financial irregularities, misuse of public funds, frequent administrative lapses and a persistent lack of transparency in governance. He pointed to a steady fall in the university's NIRF rankings, a surge in faculty vacancies, stalled appointments and growing discontent among students, researchers and staff. Together, he said, these issues indicate a visible decline in academic standards and a deteriorating institutional environment. Adding to the unrest, Gogoi referred to the recent controversy following the death of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg. The Vice Chancellor's remarks and the administration's failure to observe the state-declared mourning period triggered widespread outrage, deepening mistrust between the university community and its leadership. The situation escalated to such a degree that the Sonitpur district administration ordered a magisterial inquiry into the episode.

## Guwahati Zonal Office Key as NIA Expands Nationwide Footprint with 21 Branches, 52 Special Courts: MoS Home

GUWAHATI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has widened its operational reach across India, reinforcing its position as the country's primary counter-terrorism investigation body, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

In a written reply, Rai said the agency now functions through 21 branch offices nationwide, supported by two zonal offices—one in Guwahati and the other in Jamnain addition to its New Delhi headquarters. The Guwahati zonal office, in particular, plays a crucial role in coordinating counter-terror operations across the Northeast, a region with a long history of insurgency, cross-border crime and emerging extremist networks.

The minister said the agency's staff capacity has also grown substantially. Of the 1,901 sanctioned

posts in the NIA, 769 positions were approved in the past five years, reflecting a strong push to bolster manpower and investigative capability. To ensure faster handling of terror-related cases, the Centre has notified 52 NIA Special Courts across the country. Three of these—located in Ranchi, Jammu and Mumbai—are dedicated exclusively to cases investigated by the agency, helping streamline trials that involve complex charges under the NIA Act.

Responding to a question raised by MP Dilip Saikia, Rai reiterated that the NIA was formed under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, to serve as a central law enforcement institution capable of investigating crimes that threaten national security, territorial integrity, India's relations with foreign states, and offences linked to international conventions listed in the Act.

## Manipur MP Leishemba Sanajaoba urges Centre to recognise 'Sanamahism' as separate religion



Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, BJP, Manipur

IMPHAL

The BJP Member of Parliament (MP) from Manipur in the Rajya Sabha and titular king of the state, Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, on Tuesday raised a matter of Urgent Public Importance in the Upper House of Parliament, urg-

ing the Government of India to formally recognise Sanamahism as a separate religion in the national Census.

Drawing the attention of the House, the titular king urged the Government to issue a clear directive to the Census authorities for the inclusion of Sanamahism as a

separate religion.

Sanamahism/Sanamahism is a polytheistic and animistic religion practised by the Meitei people of Manipur. It is also known as Meiteism, Lainingthouism, or the Sanamahism religion. Sanamahism is an ancient faith that predates Hinduism and Vaishnavism. The religion is named after the deity Lainingthou Sanamah, one of the most important gods in the Meitei faith.

The BJP MP ruefully stated that the continued absence of an independent enumeration code for Sanamahism has resulted in misrepresentation and dilution of the identity of its followers, despite repeated appeals from scholars, CSOs, and religious authorities, including the Lainingthou Sanamah Temple Board, Ultra Shanglein, and Sanakontung. Sanajaoba asserted that the

Manipur Legislative Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution on 5 August 2022, requesting the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India to include Sanamahism as an independent religious category. The resolution echoed the long-standing sentiment of the Meitei/Meetei community, for whom Sanamahism is an ancient indigenous faith with distinct rituals, practices, and cultural heritage.

He expressed concern that thousands of individuals continue to practise Sanamahism but lack an appropriate category to record their faith in the Census schedule.

He concluded that recognising Sanamahism as a distinct religion would ensure accurate demographic representation, protect cultural heritage, and uphold the constitutional principles of religious freedom and identity.

## Tripura CM Says State Now Seeing 'Exfiltration, Not Infiltration' as Border Vigil Tightens

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has said the state is witnessing "exfiltration instead of infiltration," claiming that heightened security checks and verification drives are prompting undocumented residents to leave the state rather than enter it. Tripura shares an 856-km international border with Bangladesh and is encircled by the neighbouring country on three sides.

According to an official statement, the Border Security Force (BSF) this year apprehended 57 illegal Rohingya immigrants, 628 Bangladeshi nationals and 280 Indians during various operations along the border. Saha said the BSF has been instructed to coordinate with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) to send infiltrators back after completing requisite legal



procedures.

"There is no infiltration from across the border. Instead, the state is now witnessing exfiltration," Saha told reporters on Monday night. He noted that guarding the border remains difficult due to rugged terrain, riverine stretches

and unfenced areas. "Despite the challenging situation, the BSF has been doing its best to guard the international border," he added.

Responding to speculation that the recent uptick in exfiltration is linked to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of elec-

toral rolls in several states, Saha said many individuals living in India on fake documents are now choosing to leave. "Those living in the country with fake documents will have to leave. SIR is going to make an impact in West Bengal after Bihar," he said.

Asked whether Tripura itself will undergo the SIR process, Saha said the Centre has made its position clear that illegal foreigners will not be permitted to stay or take part in the country's electoral system. "If New Delhi wants, SIR will be conducted in our state. The presence of illegal foreigners poses a threat to national security," he said.

Taking aim at Opposition parties, Saha said "infiltration was a political feed to them," asserting that the government's priority is to ensure that only genuine Indian citizens participate in elections.

## Assam's emergency services crippled as 108 ambulance staff continue strike

GUWAHATI:

Emergency medical services across Assam have been paralysed for a second consecutive day, Tuesday, as nearly 3,000 employees of the vital 108 Mrityunjy ambulance service continue their indefinite statewide strike.

The agitation, which began on December 1, is pressing the state government for job regularisation, fair wages, and the immediate payment of pending overtime dues.

Hundreds of employees from various districts have gathered at the protest site in Chachal, Guwahati, keeping ambulance operations suspended across the state.

The critical network, which is the backbone of Assam's emergency healthcare system for both urban and rural areas, has been brought to a complete halt.

Years of "Broken Assurances" Organized by the All Assam 108 Mrityunjy Employee Association, the strike is the result of what workers describe as years of unfulfilled assurances and ignored appeals by the state government.

"For three years we have approached officials and even the Chief Minister. During Covid, we were recognised as frontline workers, yet today our wages remain comparable to factory labour," stated one of the protesters, highlighting the disparity in rec-

ognition and pay.

The employees, who have served as frontline emergency responders since the service's inception, reiterated concerns over job insecurity, low compensation, and consistent violations of labour norms, including mandatory 12-hour shifts without proper overtime compensation.

The Association's primary demands centre on bringing the critical service under full government control and ensuring worker welfare.

These demands include Job Regularisation for nearly 3,000 employees, Fair Wages equivalent to highly skilled workers, Full Overtime Pay for 12-hour shifts, and Welfare Access which covers inclusion in state welfare schemes such as Apon Ghar and Seuji Ghar, as well as an annual bonus.

Association representatives confirmed that despite submitting multiple memorandums and holding discussions with officials, including meetings with the Chief Minister and the Health Department, no concrete or satisfactory decision has been reached.

The abrupt suspension of the 108 service has raised severe concerns about access to emergency medical care across Assam. Patients and their families are scrambling for alternatives, expressing worry over potential life-threatening delays in reaching hospitals.

## Nagaland Ties Up with Toyota to Upgrade Health, Education Infrastructure

KOHIMA

Nagaland's struggling healthcare system is set for critical reinforcement after Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. inked a corporate social responsibility (CSR) agreement with the state government on December 2. The partnership also seeks to strengthen educational facilities in key urban centres.

The memorandum of understanding, signed at the Bamboo Hall in Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, commits Toyota Kirloskar to supporting improvements in public health infrastructure and learning environments in Kohima and Dimapur. The initiative is expected to address longstanding gaps in service delivery in a state where difficult terrain and limited medical facilities continue to strain the healthcare network.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio acknowledged the acute challenges facing Nagaland's health sector and expressed optimism that collaboration with Toyota would create meaningful, long-term improvements. "Having Toyota Kirloskar Motor as health partners is intended to improve public health services, enhance learning empowerment and create long-term social impact," Rio said.

Sudeep Santram Dalvi, Director of Projects at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said the



company considers Nagaland a major priority in the Northeast and is committed to contributing to the state's socio-economic development. "As we extend our engagement with Nagaland, we want to focus on social impact, including education and health. We hope families and children will benefit from these initiatives," he said.

Abu Metha, Adviser to the Chief Minister and Chairman of the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), delivered the introductory remarks at the signing event. The agreement was formally executed by Chief Minister Rio and Dalvi on behalf of their respective organisations.

While the collaboration marks Toyota Kirloskar's entry into the development of health and education sectors in Nagaland, officials have yet to disclose funding details, implementation mechanisms or project timelines. The government, however, has de-

scribed the partnership as a significant step toward improving essential services and expanding community-oriented development in the state.

Rodent Infestation Devastates 42% of Mizoram's Crops, Over 5,000 Farmers Hit

A severe rodent infestation has destroyed nearly 42 per cent of Mizoram's agricultural output this year, leaving more than 5,000 farmers grappling with massive crop losses, according to the state's Agriculture Department.

Deputy Director (Plant Protection) Lalrindiki said the outbreak was triggered by the gregarious flowering of Bambusa tulda—locally known as Thingtam—a bamboo species that blooms roughly once every 48 years. The flowering leads to a surge in bamboo seeds, creating ideal conditions for a sudden explosion in rodent populations.

The infestation has ravaged more than

1,700 hectares of farmland across 180 villages in all 11 districts, affecting 5,317 farmers. Although mass poisoning drives and other containment measures have slowed the spread, officials say the rodent population has only started to decline with the completion of the harvest season.

Mamit district, which borders Bangladesh and Tripura, is among the hardest hit, reporting around 60 per cent crop loss and affecting 2,009 families. In southern Mizoram's Lunglei district, 1,071 farmers lost over 60 per cent of their produce.

In Hnahthial district, the damage was even more severe in proportional terms, with 82.9 per cent of crops destroyed across 110 farms, despite fewer farmers being directly affected.

The infestation, which was first reported in Mamit in February 2024, has hit primarily paddy fields but has also destroyed maize, sugarcane, ginger, pumpkin, eggplant and sesame crops.

The crisis has sparked fresh fears over food security in Mizoram, where nearly 70 per cent of the population relies on agriculture for livelihood. Traditional jhum (shifting) cultivation remains widespread, though the state government has been encouraging farmers to move toward more sustainable horticulture and plantation-based farming.

Officials caution that unless long-term mitigation strategies are strengthened, the Thingtam-linked rodent boom—historically associated with famine-like conditions in the region—could continue to threaten agricultural stability in the years ahead.

Quest!

Men don't generally finish maturing until around the age of 43. With women, it's around the age of 32.

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# Parliament Winter Session: Opposition MPs stage protest over SIR



**NEW DELHI**  
Congress and other opposition MPs staged a protest against the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll as the Parliament gears up for the second day of the Winter Session.

Opposition members, including MPs from the INDIA bloc, gathered outside the Makar Dwar of the Parliament ahead of the day's proceedings to express their discontent over the ongoing SIR exercise.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Sonia Gandhi also joined the protest.

On Monday, the first day of the Winter Session, the Lok Sabha witnessed multiple adjournments till noon, 2 pm, and later in the day, as opposition MPs demanded a discussion on the SIR being conducted in 12 States and Union Territories.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore said, "The INDIA Alliance decided yesterday morning that we will stress for the discussion on SIR and the election electoral reform-related things. Today, at 10:30 am, we are having a demonstration in front of the Makar Dwar demanding the same thing. All the MPs are

going to protest outside the parliament."

Tagore further emphasised that the Opposition seeks a debate on the issue, underlining its impact on citizens' voting rights.

"I had given agenda motions also, and we hope that they are accepted. We want a debate on that subject. The government should not run from this critical issue, as the right to vote is at stake. In Bihar, 62 lakh voters have been removed. It has now been rolled out in 12 states. A lot of BLOs are committing suicide. We wanted to protect the democracy of India. And for that, we need a debate in the Parliament," the Congress MP said.

On Monday, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh slammed the SIR exercise for delving into the question of citizenship, comparing it to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

He said, "We have always been in favour of the SIR. This has happened before. Back then, the SIR used to run for 2-4 months, and it was a process for registering every citizen's vote. Voters didn't fill out any forms. The BLO would come and ask, and we'd give them the informa-

tion. Our vote would be added. This SIR requires us to fill out forms and provide proof of our Indian citizenship. You've enacted the CAA, get it investigated. This is not SIR, this is CAA. We object to it."

Singh also said, "Our weakness is that we're not able to do the physical on-the-ground work the Congress Party should do." Hitting back at the Opposition amid continuous protests and sloganeering inside the House, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi said that the Prime Minister showed them a mirror with his "drama" jibe. She added that if the INDIA bloc continues to create ruckus over "baseless issues", they will face similar electoral results as in the Bihar Assembly elections.

The BJP MP said, "Yesterday, PM Modi showed a mirror to the opposition leaders and also advised MPs that we should work constructively in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and wherever discussions happen, we should express our thoughts constructively. But this did not happen. After the Bihar results, the opposition parties should have introspected and learned that if they create a ruckus in Parliament, raising baseless issues, the result will be the same as what happened in Bihar." On the second day of the Winter Session, the Central government is scheduled to move the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to introduce the bill to amend the Central Excise Act, including proposals to increase excise duties and cess on tobacco products.

# Putin-Modi meet: What to know about India's oil imports, defence talks and geopolitical stakes

NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India this week for a summit focused on strengthening economic, defence and energy ties, a trip that will also test New Delhi's effort to balance its relations with Moscow and Washington as the war in Ukraine continues.

Putin is due to arrive on Thursday and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, with both sides expected to review bilateral cooperation, discuss key regional issues and sign a series of government and commercial agreements, officials said.

India has continued to purchase discounted Russian oil despite US claiming that the trade helps sustain Moscow's revenues during the Ukraine war. US President Donald Trump has also imposed an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods, taking total duties to 50% in retaliation.

New Delhi has defended its oil purchases, saying the its energy choices guided by consumer interest amid global price volatility and to meet the growing energy demands of its 1.4 billion people.

Putin last visited India in 2021. Modi was in Moscow last year, and the two leaders briefly met in September in China during a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, hugs Russian President Vladimir Putin before their meeting in New Delhi, India, on Oct. 5, 2018.

The India-Russia summit comes as the United States renews its push for an Ukraine peace plan and seeks broader cooperation from key partners.

Trump's peace plan has prompted concerns that it tilted too heavily toward Moscow. The proposal was revised after US and Ukrainian officials met in Geneva more than a week ago.

Modi has avoided condemning Russia for the fighting in Ukraine



while emphasizing the need for a peaceful settlement.

Sreeram Sundar Chaulia, an international affairs expert at the Jindal School of International Affairs near New Delhi, said India has avoided taking an overt mediating role because it could complicate its ties with both Russia and the US. "But behind-the-scenes diplomacy by Modi is feasible, and has happened already to some extent," Chaulia said.

Modi could try to nudge Putin "to accommodate some Ukrainian and European concerns to bring about a cessation of hostilities," he added.

India and Russia will look at bolstering their bilateral relation and are expected to deliver a package of documents centered around economic cooperation, trade facilitation, maritime, healthcare and media exchanges, according to Indian officials involved in the summit's preparation. They spoke on condition of anonymity as the details aren't public.

India is keen to increase exports of pharmaceuticals, agriculture and textiles to Russia and is seeking the removal of non-tariff barriers. New Delhi is also seeking long-term supplies of fertilizers from Moscow.

Another key area where the two

countries are working to finalize an agreement is the safe and regulated migration of Indian skilled workers to Russia.

The US has pressed India to halt purchases of discounted Russian oil, accusing New Delhi of helping fund Moscow's war effort. In August, Trump imposed a 50% tariff on Indian imports to increase pressure over the issue.

India rejected the charge, saying it follows international sanctions and prioritizes its national interest and energy security. But its position could become more complicated after new US sanctions on Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil. Indian officials said the country will avoid buying oil from sanctioned producers, while keeping options open with companies not targeted by the restrictions.

"India will certainly underscore that there is no Indian desire to cut off energy supplies from Russia completely," said Harsh Pant, vice president of foreign policy at the Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank.

Pant said future imports will depend "on the market forces and how effective sanctions are in weaning away Indian private sector or Indian state-run companies from Russian energy sources."

Energy cooperation is expected to feature prominently at the summit, including India's investments in Russia's Far East and expanded civil nuclear collaboration. The Kudankulam nuclear power plant in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, built with Russian assistance, remains the centerpiece of that partnership, and officials said talks continue on localized equipment manufacturing and potential joint projects in third countries.

India is expected to push Russia for faster delivery of two further S-400 surface-to-air missile squadrons, after receiving three under a 2018 deal worth about \$5.4 billion. The delay has been tied to supply chain disruptions linked to the war in Ukraine.

Indian authorities are also likely to explore the possibility of acquiring additional S-400 units or an upgraded variant, though no contract or announcement is expected.

Indian defense planners say the S-400 proved effective during a brief military standoff with Pakistan in May. "The meeting will focus on broader elements of institutional cooperation on defense between our two sides and will try to ensure that delivery delays are ended. Potentially, S-400 additional is not ruled out, but don't expect any announcement during the visit," India's Defense Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said at a security conference in New Delhi last week.

Talks are also expected on upgrading India's Russian-made Su-30MKI fighter jets and accelerating deliveries of critical military hardware, as well as improving coordination on joint exercises and disaster relief.

Despite India diversifying its procurement of military hardware over the last few years, Russia continues to be its biggest supplier. Moscow is keen on selling its stealth fighter jet Su-57 to India, but New Delhi has kept its options open to other foreign suppliers as well.

# INTERNATIONAL

## Top US diplomat claims Trump deserves credit for 'very dangerous' peace deals like India-Pakistan



WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday claimed that President Donald Trump has "brokered several peace deals, including the very dangerous ones like India and Pakistan", arguing that the president deserves "tremendous credit" for reshaping America's foreign policy.

During a Cabinet meeting at the White House, Rubio said for the first time in decades, American foreign policy was

guided solely by whether it made the US "safer, stronger and more prosperous."

"If it is, he's (Trump) for it. If it doesn't, he's against it. And that sort of clarity is transformational," he said.

"Not to mention all the other peace deals, very dangerous ones like India and Pakistan or Cambodia and Thailand, and so on... Mr President, I think you deserve tremendous credit for the transformational aspect of our foreign policy," Rubio said.

Earlier, at the Cabinet meeting, Trump repeated his claim that he had resolved several global conflicts, including between India and Pakistan, as he asserted that he should get the Nobel Peace Prize for each of the "eight wars" he has ended. "We ended eight wars... But we're going to do one more, I think, I hope," Trump said, referring to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (R) speaks next to President Donald

Trump during a Cabinet meeting at the White House on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, in Washington.

No wonder Modi-Trump huglormacy is in deep freeze: Congress after Rubio repeats India-Pakistan claim

Trump has repeatedly claimed that within the first eight-nine months of his second term in the White House, he resolved conflicts between India and Pakistan, Thailand and Cambodia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Kosovo and Serbia, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, Rwanda and Congo.

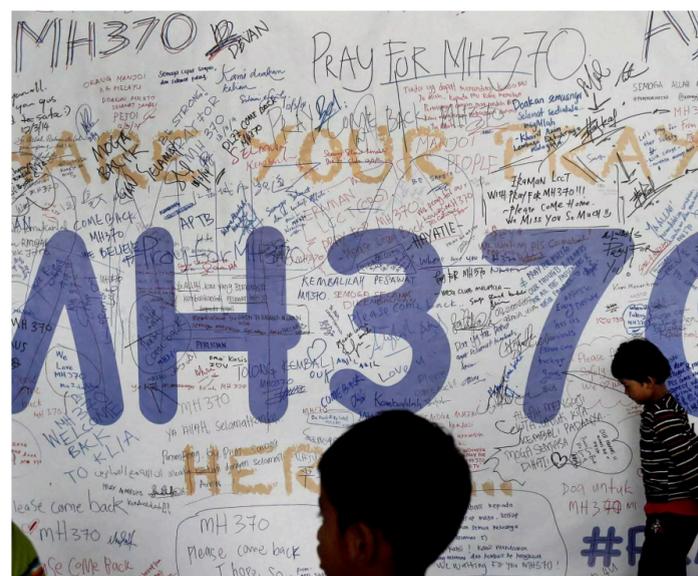
He also credits himself for resolving the Israel-Hamas conflict.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Monday that Trump will host Congo President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo and Rwanda President Paul Kagame to sign a "historic peace and economic agreement" brokered by the US president. Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire 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. New Delhi has consistently denied any third-party intervention.

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.

## Deep-sea search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 to resume December 30



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 communica-

tions 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 search-

ing for 367 missing people. About 218,000 others were in temporary shelters after being battered in the downturns 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.

## Mobocracy in robes: How Yunus regime's farcical tribunal ordered Sheikh Hasina's judicial assassination

The recent death penalty verdict against Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's longest-serving Prime Minister, delivered by the so-called International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), fails to show any real connection between the charges framed, the evidence presented, and the conclusions reached by the court. Even more troubling is that the entire process appears designed to settle old political scores. This trial reflects a long-held desire for revenge by the ideological descendants of the 1971 war criminals whom Sheikh Hasina brought to justice. It is painful to see a judicial institution rebuilt through illegal means and reshaped in a way that seems intended to produce a predetermined political outcome.

The unelected interim administration led by Dr Muhammad Yunus came to power following a meticulously engineered campaign of mayhem, riots, disinformation, and mob violence. During July-August 2024, police stations were torched, weapons looted, critical infrastructure vandalised, and government authority systematically undermined until a democratic and elected government was toppled and replaced by a regime that has never once asked the Bangladesh's people for a mandate. It is this regime, born of mob rule, that has now reassembled the ICT and used it to pass a sentence of death on the very prime minister who, for fifteen years, anchored Bangladesh's democratic and developmental trajectory.

The tribunal is not a court of justice. It is a political weapon, built on constitutional defiance, judicial capture, and procedural fraud, and its verdict against Sheikh Hasina is a judicial assassination in political form.

**A Tribunal Rebuilt on Constitutional Rubble**  
The first problem is not simply how the tribunal behaves; it is that it should not exist in this form at all.

After 5 August 2024, the interim regime set about remodelling the International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973 (ICTA) by decree. Within just eleven months, it issued four executive ordinances, altering more than thirty-four provisions of the ICTA. Under Article 93(1) of Bangladesh's Constitution, ordinances may be promulgated only when Parliament is in recess; Article 93(2) requires that every such ordinance be placed before Parliament within thirty days. Since there is no functioning Parliament now, none of these changes were ever subjected to parliamentary scrutiny or approval. They are ultra vires; beyond the constitutional powers of any interim government, null and void ab initio.

In other words, the current structure of the ICT rests not on law, but on rule by decree. What was created in 1973 by a sovereign Parliament and later amended after 2009 to prosecute the genocide and crimes against humanity of 1971 has been re-engineered by an unelected regime to prosecute the democratic opponents. The separation of powers has been replaced by a concentration of power in the hands of an administration that owes its existence to unrest, not to elections.

To call this a "court" is to misuse the word. Mobocracy in Robes: How the Judiciary Was Captured

The Chief Justice and other judges of the Appellate Division were forced out under orchestrated mob pressure menacing the Supreme Court complex while regime-aligned actors made clear that judges who did not fall in line would face public humiliation and worse. This spectacle violated the Constitutional guarantee of judicial independence, and shielding of judges from arbitrary removal. It was not reform; it was mobocracy weaponised to break the bench.

The tribunal itself was assembled in haste. Its entire structure was reshaped through executive orders, not through proper democratic or judicial processes. This alone creates a serious concern that the verdict against Sheikh Hasina came from a process built to reach a political goal, not to uphold justice.

The regime reconstituted the ICT with judges who were either inexperienced, politically aligned, or both. Article 98 of the Constitution prohibits the appointment of probationary (additional) judges to special tribunals. Section 6 of the International Crimes Tribunal Act (ICTA) requires that tribunal judges be senior Supreme Court judges or jurists of recognised competence. It also requires that only permanent judges of the High Court Division can serve as the Chairman of the ICT.

Instead, the regime appointed Justice Md. Golam Mortuza Mazumdar, who had only just been made an additional judge of the High Court, as the Chairman of the ICT—a position requiring not only seniority but also experience in complex criminal and international law. Barrister Shaful Alam Mahmud was appointed as a High Court judge a mere six days before being placed on the tribunal. He had never served as a judge before and has a well-documented history of being a member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's lawyer organisations. Other judges Mohitul Haque, Enam Chowdhury, Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, Manzurul Basid, and Nur Md. Shahriar Kabir were selected through the same constitutionally defective, politically engineered processes.



nal, it is not strengthening justice; it is capturing it. Credible reports that the ICT Chairman was absent during critical stages of the most politically consequential trial in Bangladesh's history only add to the sense of farce. If the Chairman did not hear all the evidence, who actually adjudicated it? Who drafted the judgment? Were verdicts scripted elsewhere and merely read out under judicial letterhead? These questions would be alarming in any jurisdiction. In a capital case, they are devastating.

**Defence Rights Turned Inside Out**  
The trial in absentia of Sheikh Hasina adds another layer of concern. Such trials are permissible only when the accused receives proper notice, voluntarily chooses not to appear, enjoys effective representation, and is guaranteed a full retrial upon return. None of these conditions were met. Sheikh Hasina had to relocate from Bangladesh not by choice but under an atmosphere of direct threat to life. The tribunal treated the guarantees of the right to adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence and the right to legal assistance of one's own choosing as obstacles, not obligations.

Senior members of the Dhaka Bar—including respected advocates such as Z.I. Panna, who explicitly sought to represent Sheikh Hasina—were obstructed from appearing. In their place, the tribunal imposed defence counsel who had no experience in international criminal law.

The regime-appointed defence counsel received the prosecution's voluminous dossier only five weeks before trial. He asked for no adjournment. He conducted minimal cross-examination, failed to challenge hearsay evidence, did not probe inconsistencies in witness testimonies, and raised no serious objections when the tribunal restricted disclosure or limited cross-examination.

He called no expert witnesses, presented no independent forensic analysis, and made no effort to test the prosecution's narrative through competing evidence. His one notable intervention—claiming that intercepted audio recordings were "AI-generated"—was made without any accompanying motion for independent forensic testing. He did not insist on authenticating the recordings and did not demand a full chronological reconstruction of events.

This is not simply poor. Even the OHCHR itself admitted the report does not meet standards for judicial admissibility. It offers no disaggregated data, no time-stamped sequencing of incidents, and no methodology capable of allocating responsibility for deaths occurring before or after the collapse of the elected government.

Most importantly, after midday on 5 August 2024, the elected government no longer held authority. Any casualties occurring after the government's overthrow cannot, under any reasonable or legal standard, be attributed to Sheikh Hasina's administration. Yet this basic chronological fact is routinely omitted in international commentary.

Meanwhile, little attention has been paid to Awami League activists killed in targeted attacks during the unrest and police officers murdered in streets and in stations through violent attacks. The claims of responsibility by certain protest leaders and extremist groups for arson, sabotage and target killings are also being ignored. The substantial body of evidence that implicates other actors and exonerates Awami League supporters are being brushed aside by the blanket decree of indemnity given by the regime to shield the real perpetrators.

When a court constructs a capital verdict on such contested, selective, and incomplete evidence, it is not engaging in adjudication. It is endorsing a politically curated narrative.

**The Broader Agenda of the Yunus Regime**  
To understand why the ICT has been turned into a political theatre, we must look beyond the courtroom.

Since seizing power, the Yunus regime has presided over a deepening crisis of governance. Public services have deteriorated. Police have been ordered to stand back as attacks on Awami League workers and cadres continue with near impunity. The Hindu community and other religious minorities have reported rising violence and intimidation. Women's rights, painstakingly advanced under Awami League governments, have been quietly rolled back through policy neglect and concessions to conservative elements.

Inside the state apparatus, figures associated with Islamist extremist networks, including individuals linked to Hizb-ut-Tahrir, have acquired new influence. Journalists and human rights defenders have been harassed, detained, and silenced. Economic growth has slowed, a trend documented by international financial institutions. Elections have been postponed, the Awami League has been banned from political participation, and segments of the electorate are effectively disenfranchised.

In this wider context, the reconstituted ICT

serves a clear political function. It provides a moral alibi for authoritarian consolidation: by demonising Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League as perpetrators of "crimes against humanity", the regime seeks to justify its own illegitimate rule, distract from its failures, and remove its principal democratic rival from the field permanently.

**A Verdict Against Democracy Itself**  
The death sentence against Sheikh Hasina is not an isolated judgment, it is the endpoint of an orchestrated political project. It rests on unconstitutional, ex post facto amendments, delivered by a tribunal illegally constituted with ineligible, politically aligned judges. The verdict relies on untested evidence, partisan witnesses, and a trial in absentia that violated every principle of notice, counsel, confrontation, and cross-examination. That it is shielded from meaningful appellate review makes it even more alarming in a capital case.

Most troubling is its selectivity. The ICT has targeted only Awami League leaders, while those responsible for arson, looting of arms, minority attacks, and sabotage during the 2024 unrest enjoy de facto impunity. This is not justice; it is persecution.

The political motive is unmistakable. Sheikh Hasina fulfilled her 2008 pledge to try the war criminals of 1971, bringing senior Jamaat-e-Islami leaders to account. Today, the prosecution is stacked with lawyers who once defended those very figures, and several tribunal judges have documented BNP-Jamaat affiliations. The courtroom has become a venue for settling old ideological scores.

The verdict has triggered sweeping condemnation: 102 leading journalists and 1,001 prominent

academics across universities have denounced it as retaliatory, farcical, and the product of a kangaroo court. For Bangladeshis who uphold the ideals of 1971—sovereignty, secularism, social justice—this is not just an attack on a leader, but an assault on constitutional governance itself.

International civil-society organisations with long-established credibility, including the European Bangladesh Forum, Earth Civilization Network, Freedom and Justice Alliance, the South Asia Democratic Forum in Belgium, and the Working Group Bangladesh in Germany have all raised serious concerns about the legitimacy of the proceedings. Major global institutions, notably Amnesty International and the International Crisis Group, have likewise warned of the absence of due process, the erosion of judicial neutrality, and the overtly political character of the charges.

**What the World Should See**  
International audiences are being sold a comforting fiction: that an "interim government" is fearlessly pursuing accountability, that a "special tribunal" is dispensing justice, and that a spontaneous "mass movement" toppled an authoritarian regime.

They should look much more closely. A democratically elected government was not removed by popular mandate but by orchestrated mob violence. An unelected regime then rewrote laws without Parliament, forced judges out under mob intimidation, installed partisan newcomers on the bench, crippled defence rights, assembled a prosecution driven by old vendettas, and rushed a capital trial to completion in just one hundred days, ending in a death sentence against the leader who delivered Bangladesh its greatest gains in development and social progress in a generation. Since then, the same regime has banned the Awami League from elections, is not yet definitive about holding elections, allowed extremists to infiltrate state institutions, and now governs without any democratic mandate—all while running a polished PR campaign to disguise a constitutional breakdown. In this context, the reconstituted ICT is not a solution but a symptom of the crisis: unconstitutional in its creation, compromised in its composition, fraudulent in its procedures, and selective in its prosecutions. Justice for the victims of 2024 is essential, but it will not come from a kangaroo tribunal created by an illegitimate regime. It will come only when Bangladeshis are again free to choose their representatives democratically and under the Constitution. Until then, the world must see the death sentence against Sheikh Hasina for what it is: not a ruling grounded in law, but the clearest expression yet of a regime intent on eliminating its principal democratic opponent.

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# NEIR 2026 in the iconic Itanagar

NEIR 2026 will reach the iconic Itanagar on January 13. The city will host a series of activities the next day. Here's a cleaner version:



**I**tanagar is the capital and largest city of Arunachal Pradesh. It houses the state's Legislative Assembly, the main government offices, and the administrative headquarters. The permanent bench of the Gauhati High Court is also located in Naharlagun, which forms part of the Itanagar urban area.

Itanagar sits at the edge of the Himalayas with the kind of quiet confidence you only notice once you spend time there. At first glance, the city looks like a collection of hills, winding roads, government buildings, and scattered neighbourhoods. But if you stay a little longer, you realise it's one of the most layered capitals in the North-east. The city tells a story of heritage, migration, adaptation, and ambition, all playing out at their own pace.

Itanagar is still young. It became the capital of Arunachal Pradesh only in the late twentieth century, and that youth is visible everywhere. You see it in the energy of new businesses, the growth of educational institutions, the constant construction, and the way people talk about the future with a straightforward optimism. But the city also carries the weight of a much older past. That balance between old and new is where its character lies.

Start with Ita Fort. The city is named after it, and for good reason. Walk around those ancient stone walls and you feel the place's history instantly. Built centuries ago, long before anyone imagined a modern capital, the fort sprawls over a hill with stones so massive you wonder how they were moved. The fort doesn't flaunt itself. It just sits quietly, overlooking the city that borrowed its name. That humility matches the broader spirit of Arunachal itself, a state that rarely feels the need to show off.

Move a little away from the fort and the modern city begins to unfold. The administrative complex, the Assembly building, the cultural centres, the university campuses—they all carry a sense of deliberation. Itanagar wasn't allowed to grow chaotically. Planners tried to give it shape even while working against the challenges of hilly terrain. The result is a city that can feel both scattered and intentional at once. Roads twist around ridges, houses cling to slopes, and entire neighbourhoods sit tucked between two bends of a valley. It takes time to map the geography in your mind. What this really means is that Itanagar doesn't offer the predictable grid of a traditional capital city. Instead, it gives you a sense of exploration. Every turn feels new. A short drive often reveals a panoramic view you didn't expect. Fog rolls in without warning, softening the outlines of the hills and giving the city a dreamlike quiet.

But Itanagar's real story comes from its people. You meet tribes from across Arunachal—Nyishi, Adi, Apatani, Galo, Tagin—and over time you begin to understand how much cultural diversity the city holds. Their languages, styles of dress, food habits, and rituals create a mosaic that doesn't feel forced. People here share space without losing identity. That coexistence is one of Itanagar's strengths.

This social mix shows up everywhere. Morning markets brim with local vegetables, herbs, and smoked meats you won't find elsewhere. Cafes run by young entrepreneurs serve everything from traditional Northeast meals to Korean ramen and mochaccinos. Students at Rajiv Gandhi University debate everything from climate change to Indigenous rights. Government employees from across India bring their own customs into the city's rhythm. All of this creates a blend that makes Itanagar feel smaller than it is but more global than



you expect.

Food in Itanagar is an education in itself. Bamboo shoot, smoked pork, jhuki rice, local ferns, fresh river fish—the flavours are clean, grounded, and surprisingly subtle. Every bite tells you something about the

terrain, the forests, and the communities that shaped these recipes. You'll find food cooked without heavy spices yet richer than meals that rely on them. There's a respect for ingredients that comes from living so close to the natural world.

Nature, of course, is the city's constant companion. Look around and you'll see hills rising on all sides. The green feels endless. Even the air tastes different once you climb a little higher. This closeness to wilderness impacts the city's personality. People pay attention to weather patterns. They talk about landslides, rainfall, and the state of the forests the way other cities talk about traffic. Life here can be unpredictable, but it's also rewarding. When the sky clears after rain, the horizon looks almost unreal. One of the most compelling places near the city is the Ganga Lake area, also known as Gyakar Sinyi. The lake sits tucked inside thick forest cover, encircled by tall trees and silence. The calm water reflects everything around it, making the place feel like a natural amphitheatre built for stillness. Visitors come for picnics, school excursions, or a break from the busier parts of the city. You don't go there for adventure. You go because the quiet reminds you to breathe slower.

Another major anchor is the Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum. It holds textiles, tools, ornaments, and household objects from tribes across Arunachal. Each display tells a story of craftsmanship and survival. Bamboo and cane work, weapons forged from iron, traditional musical instruments, ceremonial dresses—the museum captures a world that is still alive outside its walls. For someone trying to understand the state beyond postcards and headlines, this place offers a real starting point.

But the city isn't only about heritage. It's also about movement and connection. The Itanagar-Naharlagun region, connected by road and rail, behaves like one urban cluster. Naharlagun provides the everyday bustle; Itanagar adds the administrative weight. Together they form a capital complex that keeps expanding. New businesses, new roads, new institutions—everything grows outward in slow circles. The development isn't flashy, but it's steady.

There's also a unique quality in how people approach community life. Festivals like Nyokum Yullo, Losar, Dree, and Solung bring the population together. On these days, the boundaries between tribes blur. People share food, dance, wear traditional attire, and open their homes to friends. The celebrations feel personal, warm, and rooted in the land. This spirit spills into ordinary days too. Neighbours greet each other with real interest. Conversations flow easily in tea stalls. Even government officers talk in a tone that feels less hierarchical than in other capitals. People adapt quickly. They navigate broken roads without complaint. They shift routines when rain brings half the city to a stop. That quiet endurance shapes the identity of the place in ways that don't show up in tourist brochures. The city's proximity to major natural reserves adds another layer. Papum Pare district is home to some of the richest biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas. Birdwatchers often use Itanagar as a base because the forests nearby are full of hornbills, barbets, and woodpeckers. Researchers come here to study plant species found nowhere else. The connection between the city and the forests isn't symbolic—it's lived. Itanagar is a young capital with an old soul. It carries ancient stones and modern highways in the same breath. It holds dozens of cultures without diluting any of them. It grows steadily without abandoning its relationship with the hills that cradle it. If you listen closely, you hear ambition in its classrooms, tradition in its markets, and calm in its forests. The city doesn't ask you to be impressed. It asks you to pay attention. And once you do, it stays with you.





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**12 JAN**  
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 Climate Change will influence on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, treatment and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competition and exhibition on River Barak, Climate Change.

**11 JAN**  
**Media Conclave**  
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**5E For Success Conclave**  
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 Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & Colleges, Extension, Seminars, Public Speaking (College) & an online event where students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate.

**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".  
 Welcome your valuable students, journalists, media & corporate houses, sponsors, guests, speakers, members.



**10-12 JAN**  
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 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



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