

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

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

# KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

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

Registrations OPEN

www.northeastintegrationrally.in

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 666 | SILCHAR MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2026. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com , www.krctimes.com

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

**SUBSCRIBE**  
₹300 / year

WhatsApp payment details : 8721838313  
info@krctimes.com

**PERSPECTIVE**  
Respect is one of the greatest expressions of love.

**Manipur set to host regional MMA fight night in April, spotlighting Northeast fighters**

**IMPHAL**  
Manipur will host a regional mixed martial arts (MMA) fight night in early April, with professional bouts scheduled for April 4, as part of a two-day event aimed at providing competitive exposure to fighters from across the Northeast.

The event, titled Manipur Pride MMA: The Rise of Warriors 1, is being organised by BonJovi MMA and Fitness. According to organisers, the programme will commence on April 3 with amateur contests, followed by a full slate of professional fights on the second day.

Addressing a press conference in Imphal, event director Rangam Chiru said the initiative is focused on bridging the gap between amateur circuits and professional competition, particularly for fighters from Manipur who often lack access to high-level platforms.

"Many talented fighters in Manipur do not get consistent opportunities to compete at a professional level. This event is meant to give them meaningful exposure and help open pathways to national and international tournaments," Chiru said.

Fighters from other Northeastern states are also expected to participate, giving the fight night a regional character rather than limiting it to local athletes. Organisers described the card as one of the more substantial MMA events planned in Manipur in recent years. Local MMA fighter Nongmaithem BonJovi said athletes in the state face challenges due to limited technical guidance, structured mentorship and institutional support. He added that the event would serve as an important learning platform, allowing local fighters to experience professional standards and competitive intensity comparable to international events.

**WHO SAID WHAT**

**Guwahati, the gateway to the Northeast, is shining with a futuristic vision after years of neglect. From infrastructure and education to world-class hospitality, connectivity and a growing economy, the city is rising as a hub of Southeast Asia. Much more to come in 2026.**  
~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM Assam

## North East Integration Rally Kicks Off in Kolkata, Focus on Peace, Progress and Prosperity

**KOLKATA:**  
The North East Integration Rally began its journey from Kolkata on January 4, setting the tone for a month-long initiative aimed at strengthening regional integration and people-to-people ties across the North Eastern states.

The inaugural session was attended by a wide range of public representatives, professionals, cultural figures, and civil society members. Among those present were AL Hek, MLA and former minister; Lopamudra Dutta Choudhury, vice chairperson of Dumdum Municipal Corporation; Dr Prof. Sukumal Deb; Col. Shanti Kumar Singh (retd); author R.K. Maheshwari; engineer Tapash Roy; celebrated artist K. Bobin; Kh. Gajendra Singh; Dr. Sharmistha Raha of Prasar Bharati; Biplob Das of Kolkata Police; and adventure enthusiast. The programme was compered by Biswadeep Gupta, head of KRC Foundations.

Speakers praised the initiative, describing it as a small but meaningful step that could grow into a larger movement for unity and understanding. Many shared personal and professional links with the North Eastern states, un-



derlining the importance of sustained engagement between regions. The next leg of the rally will be held in Malda.

A cultural highlight of the event was a performance by K. Bobin, who rendered the official title song of the rally.

During the session, speakers reiterated the rally's objectives, which include promoting infrastructure development, expanding economic opportunities, encouraging cultural exchange, and deepening people-to-people engagement across states.

The rally also received a warm welcome at Panihati in Kolkata, where members of Udayar Pathe greeted the participants and expressed support for the North East Integration Rally and its objectives.

The rally's pre-launch ceremony was held on December 24, 2025, at The Countryside Retreat in Lamshang, Imphal, formally marking the start of preparations for the 2026 edition.

Built around the central theme of Peace, Progress, and Prosperity, the North East Integration Rally aims to draw attention to development, connectivity, and social cohesion across the region. The rally is scheduled to conclude on February 4, 2026.

## Manipur freezes administrative boundaries for census amid demands to update NRC first

**IMPHAL, JAN 4**

The Manipur government has frozen the administrative boundaries of all districts, tehsils and villages in the state to facilitate the upcoming census exercise, even as civil society organisations and political groups intensify demands for an update of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before any population enumeration is undertaken.

In an official order signed by Additional Secretary (Home) Ahanthem Subhash Singh, the Governor of Manipur, exercising powers under Clause (iv) of Rule 8 of the Census Rules, 1990, notified that all administrative boundaries will remain frozen from January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. The order said the measure was necessary to ensure the smooth conduct of census operations.

The decision comes against the backdrop of mounting concerns over conducting a census amid prolonged ethnic unrest, large-scale displacement and allegations of illegal immigration



in the state. Several civil society organisations have argued that enumeration without first ad-

dress these issues could distort demographic data and have long-term political and adminis-

trative consequences. On December 27, 2025, a conclave of political parties organised by the Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation at Lamyamba Shanglein, Konung Lampak, resolved to seek postponement of the census in Manipur.

The participants demanded that census operations be deferred until complete normalcy is restored, internally displaced persons (IDPs) are resettled in their original villages, free movement is ensured and normal administration resumes across the state.

They also stressed the need to identify illegal immigrants through an updated NRC or a similar mechanism before any enumeration exercise.

Echoing similar concerns, the Joint Committee Opposing Delimitation Exercise in Manipur (Kanglei-pak), or JCODEM, has repeatedly warned that proceeding with the census without updating the NRC could have serious implications for the state. The committee pointed out that

Manipur has long relied on provisional and disputed census figures from 2001, as the final report was never released due to allegations of large-scale irregularities and bogus entries.

JCODEM has also flagged unusually high decadal population growth rates recorded between 1991 and 2001, particularly in Chandel district, which registered a growth rate of 66.62 per cent far above the state average of 24.86 per cent and the national average of 21.98 per cent during the same period.

According to the committee, these anomalies underscore the risks of conducting fresh enumeration without first addressing questions of illegal immigration.

The freezing of administrative boundaries has once again brought the issues of census, NRC and delimitation to the forefront of public debate in Manipur, with multiple stakeholders calling for transparency, safeguards and political consensus before proceeding with any major demographic exercise in the conflict-hit state.

## Security Tightened Along Tripura-Bangladesh Border After Threat Inputs



**AGARTALA**

Security has been intensified along vulnerable stretches of the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura's Gomati district following intelligence inputs indicating possible movement of cadres linked to Bangladesh-based armed groups, including the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) and the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), officials said.

Acting on alerts from security agencies and in view of the prevailing situation in neighbouring Bangladesh, the district administration has imposed restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, to prevent threats to public order and border security. Tripura shares an 856-km-long international border with Bangladesh.

An order issued by Gomati District Magistrate Rinku Lather cited inputs received from the Commandant of the 159th Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), Bagma, warning of possible militant movement and infiltration attempts along the international boundary. The report also flagged concerns over the stealthy entry of Bangladesh nationals, Rohingyas and members of militant organisations, alongside the risk of smug-

gling and activities aimed at disturbing public tranquillity.

The vulnerable stretch identified spans from BOP Labokant Para to BOP Chaplin Chera under the Karbook sub-division, an area considered susceptible to cross-border infiltration and unlawful activities.

"I am satisfied that there are sufficient grounds to impose restrictions under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023, for ensuring peace and tranquillity and for preventing the designs of anti-national elements and activities inimical to the safety and security of the general public," the district magistrate said in the order.

Under the restrictions, which will remain in force from December 3, 2025, to February 28, 2026, the assembly of more than four persons has been prohibited between 6 pm and 6 am in villages located within 300 metres of the Indo-Bangladesh border, unless prior permission is obtained from local authorities. Night-time movement of civilians during these hours has been banned without written authorisation from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Karbook.

The order also prohibits the carrying of, or possession of, firearms or any weapons, except by personnel of the BSF, police, CRPF and other security forces on official duty. Security personnel engaged in government duties have been exempted from the restrictions, while residents living within the 300-metre border zone have been excluded from select provisions.

Officials said surveillance and patrolling has been intensified along the affected stretches to prevent infiltration, deter unlawful activities and maintain law and order along the sensitive border region.

**NEW DELHI**

The Congress on January 3 appointed senior party leader and Member of Parliament Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as the Chairperson of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee's screening committee, signalling a renewed organisational push ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections.

The appointment marks Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's first major organisational responsibility since she stepped down as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh. As chairperson of the screening committee, she will oversee the crucial task of shortlisting candidates for the Assam elections, a process that is expected to shape the party's electoral strategy in the politically significant north-eastern state.

The AICC simultaneously announced the formation of screening committees for other states and Union Territories going to polls. Former Rajya Sabha member Madhusudan Mistry has been named chairperson of the Kerala screening committee, while former Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo will head the screening committees for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad has been

## Priyanka Gandhi to Lead Assam Congress Screening Panel



appointed chairperson of the screening committee for West Bengal.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's elevation to the Assam role is being viewed within party circles as a strategic move as the Congress seeks to regain lost ground in the Northeast. Assam is emerging as a key electoral battleground, with the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) aiming for a third consecutive term in the state.

Assam will elect all 126 members of the Legislative Assembly in 2026, with the current assembly's term set to end on May 20, 2026. The Election Commission of India is expected to

announce the poll schedule in the coming months, with elections likely to be held around March-April 2026, possibly in multiple phases.

The main contest is expected to be between the BJP-led NDA and the Congress, alongside other opposition parties and regional players such as the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). With Priyanka Gandhi Vadra now leading the candidate screening process, the Congress is expected to place renewed emphasis on candidate selection, social representation and organisational revival as it prepares for a high-stakes electoral battle in Assam.

## RTI Seeks Details of Rs.5 Cr MPLADS Use by Inner Manipur MP

**IMPHAL**

A Right to Information (RTI) application has been filed seeking detailed information on the utilisation of Rs 5 crore allocated under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) by Angomcha Binol Akoijam, Congress Member of Parliament from Inner Manipur, for the 2024-25 financial year.

The RTI was filed by Oimam Robert Singh, a social worker from Bashikhong Torban Leikai in Imphal East district, with the stated objective of promoting transparency and public accountability in the use of public development funds. According to the application, Singh has sought comprehensive details of projects initiated, pending and completed under MPLADS during the period, along with information on how the funds were utilised. The RTI also requests a project-wise breakup of the amounts sanctioned and the expenditure incurred.

Singh noted that the Inner Ma-

nipur MP had earlier inaugurated several MPLADS-funded works, including drinking water plants and other public infrastructure projects across valley districts. In view of these initiatives, the applicant has sought official records to verify compliance with MPLADS guidelines. Officials said the RTI application has been submitted to the Public Information Officer (PIO) of Imphal West district, seeking a complete list of MPLADS projects approved in 2024-25. The applicant has asked for copies of work orders, utilisation certificates, completion reports, and details of implementing agencies, wherever available. In the application, Singh also pointed out that MPLADS funds are intended strictly for development works approved by the District Collector and are subject to specific norms, including restrictions on the construction of permanent structures. He has sought clarification on whether the projects undertaken adhered to these guidelines.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 666

## ENGINEERING VIKSIT BHARAT

President Droupadi Murmu's focus on research, innovation, and startup culture as the cornerstone of Viksit Bharat by 2047 is both timely and deeply relevant. Addressing students at the convocation of the NIT, Jamshedpur, she articulated a vision that goes beyond degrees, placements and pay packages, and instead places national development, social impact and technological leadership at the centre of higher education. Her message carries particular significance for the NITs, which are among India's premier engineering institutions and have historically played a decisive role in shaping the country's technical and industrial capabilities.

Over the past decade, the global landscape of technology and business has undergone a dramatic transformation. The digital revolution, accelerated by artificial intelligence, data analytics, automation and advanced manufacturing, has compressed innovation cycles and disrupted traditional models. In this fast-evolving environment, large, slow-moving institutions alone cannot drive change. Startups—often small in valuation but big in ideas—have emerged as the real engines of innovation. They provide agile, cost-effective and disruptive solutions, and increasingly, they are shaping national capabilities in strategic sectors. NITs occupy a unique position in this ecosystem. Spread across almost every state and Union Territory, these institutes combine academic rigour with regional relevance. They produce thousands of engineers each year who are not only technically skilled but also deeply aware of local challenges—be it water management, waste disposal, infrastructure design, power distribution or digital governance. As President Murmu rightly noted, NITs must focus more on research and innovation to help India emerge as a global knowledge superpower.

Encouragingly, the Government has recognised the centrality of startups in this transformation. Over the years, a range of dedicated schemes—such as Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission, Fund of Funds for Startups, and sector-specific incentives—have been launched to provide financial support, incubation, mentorship and regulatory facilitation. These initiatives have lowered entry barriers and empowered young entrepreneurs to convert ideas into scalable solutions. The impact of NIT-driven startups is especially visible in high-stakes domains like space and defence. Indian startups today are working shoulder to shoulder with leading scientists, contributing to satellite subsystems, propulsion technologies, materials engineering, electronics, software and data processing. Their role in recent space missions and defence modernisation efforts underscores how innovation-led entrepreneurship can strengthen national self-reliance and strategic autonomy.

This is a profound shift from the past, when such sectors were the exclusive preserve of Government laboratories.

At the same time, President Murmu's caution about the darker side of technology deserves serious attention. Cybercrime, data misuse and the growing menace of e-waste pose complex challenges that demand innovative, affordable and scalable solutions. Recycling technologies, secure digital architectures and sustainable design models are not just environmental or security imperatives; they are also emerging economic opportunities. A powerful illustration of this potential is Jaipur-based Gravita India Ltd, a global leader in recycling, established in the early 1990s by a student of NIT Srinagar (then REC Srinagar). From modest beginnings, the company has grown into a multi-thousand-crore enterprise with worldwide operations. This success story highlights how technical education, entrepreneurial vision and sustained innovation can converge to create global impact. It is not an isolated case. Across the country, NIT graduates are contributing technical solutions for sewage treatment plants, infrastructure projects, urban planning and critical restorations—often in challenging environments where efficiency and sustainability are paramount.

Each successful startup has a multiplier effect. It inspires another cohort of young innovators, builds confidence in indigenous capabilities and creates an ecosystem where experimentation is valued. Young minds are inherently tech-savvy and rich with ideas; what they need is guidance, mentorship and initial economic support. When these elements come together, the outcomes can indeed be beyond imagination.

President Murmu's words, therefore, are not merely ceremonial advice but a strategic call to action. India's youth must cultivate the courage to lead from the front rather than merely seek comfortable jobs. History shows that global technology giants—Apple, NVIDIA, Intel, Microsoft, Facebook, X, and Instagram—were all born from bold innovations and risk-taking. Innovation is the foundation of technical dominance and economic power. This synergy between youthful innovation and national purpose can transform the dream of Viksit Bharat into a lived reality.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes.” - Maggie Smith

# Bangladesh after the Begums: From Hasina's Fall to Zia's demise



T N ASHOK

By the end of 2025, Bangladesh finds itself without the two women figures who defined it. With the death of Khaleda Zia at 80 and the exile of Sheikh Hasina after her dramatic fall from power, Bangladesh has entered a political interregnum unlike any it has known since independence.

For more than three decades, the country's fate was shaped—some would say trapped—by the rivalry of two women whose lives were forged in assassination, grief, and inherited power. Now, in a short but turbulent period of just six months, both are gone from the stage. What remains is a nation searching for authority, legitimacy, and direction.

Khaleda Zia's passing on December 30 closed the final chapter of what Bangladeshis long called the era of the “battling Begums.” Her rival, Sheikh Hasina, once the most powerful woman in South Asia, now lives in political exile in India, sentenced to death in absentia by a Bangladeshi court following her violent crackdown on student protests in 2024. Between them lies a vacuum—dangerous, uncertain, but also pregnant with possibility.

Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina were not born politicians. They became political symbols because history left them little choice. Khaleda was a shy homemaker until 1981, when her husband, President Ziaur-Rahman, was assassinated in a failed military coup. Hasina's fate was sealed earlier: in 1975, her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—the founding leader of Bangladesh—was murdered along with most of his family. Hasina survived only because she was abroad.

These parallel tragedies did more than define their personal lives; they hardened their politics. Each woman came to see the other not merely as a rival but as an existential threat to her family's legacy—and, by extension, to the nation itself.

In the late 1960s, there was a fleeting moment when that animosity gave way to cooperation. Khaleda and Hasina joined forces to lead a mass uprising against military ruler Hussain Muhammad Ershad. Their alliance helped topple the dictatorship in 1990 and restore parliamentary democracy. It was the last time they would stand together.

From 1991 onward, Bangladesh became a country governed by rotation rather than resolution. Khaleda ruled from 1991 to 1996, lost power, returned triumphantly in 2001, and exited again in 2006. Hasina alternated in between, then dominated politics after returning to office in 2009, ruling uninterrupted until 2024.

Each woman claimed democratic legitimacy; each accused the other of corruption, authoritarianism, and betrayal. Courts became political weapons. Elections turned into zero-sum contests. Parliament hollowed out as boycotts became routine. Governance often took second place to survival.

Yet their rule also delivered stability of a kind. Under Hasina, Bangladesh posted strong economic growth, expanded infrastructure, and improved social indicators. Under Khaleda, parliamentary democracy was restored, foreign investment encouraged, and primary education expanded. The problem was not the absence of achievement—but the absence of trust.

That brittle equilibrium finally collapsed in August 2024. Student-led protests against rising authoritarianism, economic inequality, and political repression spread rapidly across the country. Hasina's government responded with force. Dozens were killed. The violence triggered

mass outrage, defections within the state, and ultimately her ouster.

Hasina fled the country and eventually surfaced in India, where she remains in political exile. A Bangladeshi court later sentenced her to death in absentia for her role in the crackdown—a verdict that underscored both the ferocity of her fall and the unresolved nature of Bangladesh's justice system.

An interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge, tasked with stabilizing the country and preparing elections. For the first time in decades, neither Begum was in control.

By then, Khaleda Zia was already a shadow of her former self. Years of imprisonment, house arrest, and illness had drained her strength. Released after Hasina's fall and acquitted earlier this year in corruption cases widely viewed as politically motivated, she returned from medical treatment in London frail but symbolically potent.

Her death now removes the last living anchor of the old political order. With her passing, the rivalry that once dominated Bangladesh's streets, headlines, and institutions ends not with reconciliation, but with absence.

Bangladesh today is bereft of towering political figures. Hasina's Awami League is leaderless, fractured, and tainted by its authoritarian excesses. Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) retains popular support but must now prove it can govern without its matriarch. Into this space steps Tarique Rahman.

Long reviled by opponents, tried and convicted in absentia during Hasina's rule, and exiled for nearly 17 years, Rahman returned to Dhaka in December 2025 after being cleared by the Supreme Court of major charges. As the acting chairman of the BNP, he is widely expected to lead the party into the February 2026 general elections.

For supporters, Rahman represents continuity without paralysis—a chance to revive democratic competition without reopening the vendettas of the past. For skeptics, he remains an untested figure burdened by dynasty and allegations that once dogged his mother.

Yet the reality is stark: he is the only national leader with both organizational reach and electoral momentum at a time when the Awami League appears destined for defeat.

The coming election may be Bangladesh's most consequential since 1991. It will test whether the country can move beyond personality-driven politics toward institutional renewal—or whether it simply replaces one dynasty with another.

International attention is intense. India watches warily, aware that Hasina was a reliable partner. The United States and Europe have signalled that electoral credibility, not allegiance, will shape future relations. China, pragmatic as ever, waits.

Inside Bangladesh, the public mood is weary but alert. Years of strikes, street violence, and political repression have exacted a heavy toll. The question is no longer who wins—but whether the system itself can recover.

Khaleda Zia's death and Sheikh Hasina's exile mark the end of Bangladesh's most defining political duel. For a generation, the country lived under the shadow of two women whose personal losses became national fault lines. Their rivalry brought both democratic revival and democratic decay.

Now, with both gone, Bangladesh faces its most profound test: can it fill the

vacuum not with another strongman—or strongwoman—but with stronger institutions? History offers no guarantees. But for the first time in decades, Bangladesh's future is no longer hostage to the past. That alone makes the moment extraordinary.

Bangladesh's present uncertainty is not unfolding in isolation. As the old order collapses, three external powers—India, China, and the United States—are quietly recalibrating, each with stakes that run far deeper than public statements suggest.

For India, Sheikh Hasina was more than a neighbour; she was a strategic asset. Under her rule, Dhaka cracked down on anti-India insurgent groups operating along the northeastern frontier, expanded connectivity projects linking India's landlocked states to the Bay of Bengal, and resisted overtures from Islamist forces hostile to New Delhi. Her sudden exile to India has placed the Modi government in an awkward position—host and protector to a fallen leader, yet increasingly aware that her return to power is politically improbable.

New Delhi now faces a dilemma. Open support for Hasina risks alienating a future government in Dhaka, while distancing itself from her could be seen as abandonment of a long-standing ally. Officially, India has emphasized “democratic processes” and “stability.” Privately, Indian strategists are hedging—opening channels to the BNP while preparing for a Bangladesh no longer anchored by Hasina's predictable alignment.

China, meanwhile, has played the long game. Beijing invested heavily in Bangladesh's infrastructure over the past decade—ports, power plants, bridges—careful to cultivate ties with both major parties while avoiding overt identification with either Begum. Hasina welcomed Chinese capital even as she balanced relations with India, making Bangladesh a quiet but important node in China's Belt and Road Initiative. With Hasina gone, China's advantage lies in its transactional flexibility. It is less concerned with who governs than with continuity of contracts and access to the Bay of Bengal. A BNP-led government under Tarique Rahman would likely seek to rebalance foreign ties, reducing over-dependence on India while maintaining Chinese investment—an outcome Beijing would find acceptable, even desirable.

It is the United States, however, whose role is most contested—and most suspected. In the months leading up to Hasina's fall, Washington had grown openly critical of her government's democratic backsliding. U.S. sanctions on Bangladeshi officials, visa restrictions tied to election integrity, and repeated public warnings about human rights were interpreted by Hasina's supporters as pressure tactics designed to engineer regime change.

When student protests erupted in August 2024 and the security forces responded brutally, those suspicions hardened into belief. Within the Awami League, and among Hasina loyalists now in exile, a narrative took hold: that Washington had at minimum tolerated—and at maximum quietly encouraged—the unrest that brought her down.

American officials deny any role, insisting that the movement was organic and that U.S. policy merely aligned with democratic norms. Yet in Bangladesh, a country with long memories of Cold War interventions and post-9/11 strategic manipulation, denials carry limited weight.

The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus—globally admired, Western-educated, and deeply respected

in Washington—has further fueled speculation, even if no evidence supports the idea of orchestration. Perception, in geopolitics, often matters more than proof.

Against this complex backdrop, Tarique Rahman's return has added another layer of intrigue. Once portrayed by Hasina's government as corrupt and reckless, Rahman now presents himself as a reformer shaped by exile—more cautious, more internationally aware, and keen to restore Bangladesh's credibility abroad.

His challenge, should he win in February, will be diplomatic as much as do-

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

**The return of the sacred Piprahwa relics after 127 years stands as a powerful example of governance guided by responsibility & long-term vision. From diplomacy & legal action to scientific verification & public-private collaboration, every step ensured these relics were honoured as sacred heritage.**

~ Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Minority Affairs



mestic. He will need to reassure India that Bangladesh will not become strategically hostile, signal to China that existing investments are safe, and convince the United States that democratic restoration—not revenge politics—is his central aim.

Early signs suggest a deliberate balancing act. BNP insiders speak of recalibrated foreign policy—less personal, more institutional; less ideological, more pragmatic. Whether this represents genuine transformation or tactical repositioning remains an open question. Bangladesh today stands at a crossroads not just of leadership, but of alignment. The disappearance of the two Begums has loosened the rigid certainties that once defined its politics. In their place is a fluid, unsettled landscape—one vulnerable to manipulation, but also open to reinvention. The danger is that the power vacuum invites overreach: from ambitious generals, populist demagogues, or external patrons eager to shape outcomes. The opportunity is that Bangladesh, freed at last from a rivalry rooted in personal tragedy and dynastic pride, might finally build politics on institutions rather than individuals. Whether it succeeds will depend on what happens next—at the ballot box, in the barracks, and in the backrooms of diplomacy from New Delhi to Beijing to Washington.

# 'Cash handouts don't create empowerment': Gaurav Gogoi targets Assam BJP's welfare-first model

TINSUKIA

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Gaurav Gogoi on Friday launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Assam government's welfare approach, arguing that cash transfers and piecemeal assistance schemes cannot substitute for genuine economic empowerment.

Addressing reporters in Tinsukia, Gogoi accused Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's administration of lacking a long-term vision and of reducing women and economically disadvantaged sections to permanent scheme beneficiaries rather than enabling them to become financially self-reliant.

Gogoi questioned the rationale behind the state government's decision to provide Rs 1,500 per month as assistance to temple attendants, while allegedly failing to create sustainable economic models for traditional institutions such as satras,



which play a significant socio-cultural role in Assam.

"There is nothing innovative about distributing schemes," Gogoi said. "Programmes like Arunodi or similar cash assistance schemes exist in almost every state in India. What Assam truly needs are policies that help ordinary people stand on their own feet economically."

The Congress leader argued that

welfare measures should act as stepping stones to empowerment rather than becoming ends in themselves. According to him, repeated reliance on cash transfers risks deepening dependency instead of addressing structural economic challenges such as livelihoods, skills, and access to markets.

Drawing a contrast with the Congress's tenure in Assam, Gogoi claimed

that earlier governments placed greater emphasis on economic sustainability. "During the Congress government, focus was laid on economic empowerment. Even satras were provided institutional support, enabling many of them to remain economically viable to this day, at least to some extent," he said.

He alleged that the present dispensation had failed to build on that legacy, choosing instead to prioritise headline-grabbing announcements over long-term institutional strengthening.

Gogoi said that if the Congress returns to power, the party would undertake a detailed study to design schemes that genuinely empower women and marginalised communities. "Real development happens only when programmes respond to the actual problems people face, not when they are reduced to monthly handouts," he added.

The APCC president also criticised what he described as the selective nature

of budgetary priorities under the BJP government. He alleged that increases in old-age pensions or women-centric schemes are announced after prolonged delays and marginal revisions, while allocations for infrastructure and development projects allegedly awarded to a limited group of contractors see sharp and rapid escalation. "This is precisely why a small section of people in Assam is becoming extremely wealthy, while the poor remain stuck in the role of beneficiaries," Gogoi said. "Wealth is getting concentrated, and inequality is widening, even as the government claims inclusive development."

Expanding his criticism beyond welfare policies, Gogoi took aim at the chief minister's recent statements on granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities in Assam. He accused Sarma of misleading the public by projecting the tabling of a ministerial committee report in the Assembly as a historic breakthrough, only to later concede that ST status would

not be granted before the Assembly elections.

"Presenting the tabling of a report as a major achievement and then admitting that no decision will come before elections only exposes the government's political duplicity," Gogoi alleged.

Looking ahead to the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, the Congress leader struck a confident note, asserting that public discontent with governance and corruption would translate into electoral consequences. "This time, the people of Assam will show the entire country that when a self-respecting society unites, an arrogant and corruption-ridden government collapses very easily," he said. "The BJP will not be able to mislead the conscious people of Assam." Gogoi's remarks come amid an intensifying political climate in the state, with welfare delivery, economic inequality, and social representation emerging as key fault lines ahead of the polls.

## Assam empowers Deputy Commissioners to deport illegal entrants within 24 hours, bypasses tribunals

GUWAHATI

In a significant tightening of its approach against illegal immigration, the Assam government has introduced an expedited mechanism empowering Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to directly order deportation of illegal entrants within 24 hours of receiving specific complaints, bypassing the existing tribunal process.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the new provision while speaking about the state's ongoing eviction and land recovery operations. "Now the government has introduced a new facility. If a specific complaint is received, a tribunal is no longer required. The Deputy Commissioner can directly take action and deport the person from the country within 24 hours," Sarma said, urging citizens to inform district authorities whenever such cases come to light.

The Chief Minister said the move was aimed at accelerating action against illegal entrants and strengthening the state's ability to enforce the rule of law. He described the measure as essential for ensuring public safety and long-term security in Assam.

Sarma also provided an update on the state's large-scale eviction drive, stating that the government has so far reclaimed 1.6 lakh bighas of land out of a total 12 lakh bighas identified for review. "Many have been freed, but many more still remain. The process will continue," he said.

According to the Chief Minister, eviction operations are currently underway in Hojai district and will be expanded to other districts in a phased and systematic manner. He reiterated that the government remains committed to continuing the drive "relentlessly" until all illegal encroachments are cleared.

## Sarbananda Sonowal highlights press freedom, ethical journalism

GUWAHATI

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday underscored the centrality of press freedom and ethical journalism in a democracy, calling on media professionals to act as vigilant guardians of public interest amid a rapidly evolving and often chaotic information landscape.

Addressing the 17th Central Mid-Term Conference of the Assam Press Correspondents' Union (APCU), Sonowal described journalists as the fourth pillar of democracy and the "true voice of the people," entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding freedom of expression and ensuring public accountability.

"The role of the media as society's conscious watchdog is immeasurable. Journalists have consistently worked to protect freedom of speech and uphold democratic values," the Union minister said, urging reporters to remain committed to truth, credibility and professional ethics.

Warning against the perils of misin-

formation and sensationalism, Sonowal stressed that responsible journalism must prioritise accuracy and balance, while fostering social harmony. He said the media should serve as a bridge between the government and citizens, amplifying people's concerns and facilitating constructive dialogue.

Emphasising the need for adaptability, Sonowal called on journalists to continually upgrade their skills, embrace new technologies and respond thoughtfully to emerging challenges, while remaining anchored in public service and integrity. He added that dialogue, coordination and consensus-building by the media can play a vital role in strengthening society.

MLAs Sanjay Kishan and Bolin Chetia, along with senior journalists and other dignitaries, were present at the conference. Later in the day, Sonowal visited the Makum Legislative Assembly constituency, where he laid foundation stones, inaugurated welfare projects and interacted with beneficiaries of various Prime Minister's flagship schemes.

## Four accused seek bail in Zubeen Garg death case; court to hear objections on January 17

GUWAHATI

Four accused in the death case of noted singer-composer-actor Zubeen Garg on Friday moved bail petitions before the Kamrup (Metro) District and Sessions Court, which has fixed January 17 as the next date of hearing for the public prosecutor to file objections. The bail applications were filed by Garg's band member Amritprava Mahanta, his cousin Sandipan Garg, and his two personal security officers (PSOs), Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya. A police officer named in the case has also moved the court. Zubeen Garg died on September 19 while swimming in the sea in Singapore, where he had travelled to attend the Northeast Festival. The case is being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). According to the prosecution, the SIT has filed a detailed chargesheet accusing festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's secretary Siddhartha Sharma, and band members Shekharjoti Goswami and Amritprava Mahanta of murder. Garg's cousin, who was



accompanying him at the time, has been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, while the two PSOs face charges of criminal conspiracy and criminal breach of trust involving alleged misappropriation of funds or property entrusted to them. Guwahati Bar Association general secretary Apurba Kumar Sharma said Mahanta's bail plea was moved by her private counsel, while lawyers appointed by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) filed petitions on behalf of Garg's cousin and the two PSOs.

"The government lawyer Bhupendra Bhattacharya strongly opposed the bail pleas and stated that

formal objections would be filed," Sharma said. He added that the festival organiser's legal team from Kolkata appeared physically before the court but did not file any bail application. Meanwhile, Siddhartha Sharma's advocate appeared virtually and sought time on the issue of framing of charges, citing the voluminous nature of the chargesheet.

The CID has stated that the chargesheet runs into 2,500 pages, while documentary evidence—both material and digital—submitted to the court exceeds 12,000 pages. It remains unclear whether Shekharjoti Goswami has engaged a private lawyer or is being represented by a DLSA-appointed

advocate. Zubeen Garg's wife, Gariima Garg, who was present during the hearing, urged the government to expedite the appointment of a special public prosecutor. "The accused have assembled a strong legal team. We also need a strong prosecution team. The Chief Minister has assured that a special prosecution team will be formed, and I request that this be done at the earliest," she said. Calling for a fast-tracked trial, Gariima Garg pointed out that the case involves nearly 400 witnesses. "If the hearings proceed in a routine manner, it could take decades. We have faith in the legal system and will fight for justice for Zubeen within its framework," she added. The first hearing after the SIT submitted the chargesheet was held on December 16 before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's (CJM) court, which subsequently committed the case to the sessions court. The trial formally commenced on December 22.

So far, the accused have appeared virtually in all three hearings, with police citing law and order concerns if they were produced physically in court.

## Assam Minister hands over 40 motorised high-speed rescue inflatable rubber boats to Fire and Emergency Services

GUWAHATI

Assam Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management Keshab Mahanta, as part of efforts to strengthen disaster management infrastructure in the state, ceremonially handed over 40 motorised high-speed rescue inflatable rubber boats to the Fire and Emergency Services at a programme held at the Gateway Terminal in Guwahati on Saturday.

The event was attended by Additional Director General of Police and Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Surendra Kumar; Additional Chief Executive Officer of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), Minakshi Das Nath; Senior Superintendent of Police and Advisor, Fire & Emergency Services, Dr. Sadiq Ali Ahmed; Advisor, Inland Water Transport Development Society, Comodor K. C. Choudhury; along with officers of ASDMA and Fire & Emergency Services, and personnel of SDRF.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday distributed cheques of Rs 10,000 each to 30,655 enterprising women of the Borsola Assembly Constituency in Sonitpur district under the Mukhya Mantri Manhila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA).

Under the same programme,

he also handed over seed capital to 39,701 women in the Sipajhar Assembly Constituency in Darang district. Under this distribution, entrepreneurship funds have so far been disbursed to 14,46,021 women across 62 Assembly Constituencies in the state under MMUA.

Chief Minister Sarma also virtually laid the foundation stone for a Super Speciality Hospital to be constructed at the Tezpur Medical College and Hospital campus, involving a project cost of Rs. 306 crore.

He also laid the foundation for Karmabir Chandranath Sharma Government Model Degree College to be built at Nij-Bihaguri, involving a financial outlay of Rs 35 crore.

The Chief Minister also virtually inaugurated the Sarkahat Mini Stadium, constructed at a project cost of Rs. 11 crore.

The six-storey super-speciality hospital block to be constructed at the Tezpur Medical College campus will house key departments, including Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, and Urology, as well as emergency services. In addition, it will include a mortuary block, a medical gas pipeline system, a cafeteria, and modern waste management facilities, thereby providing world-class healthcare services to the community.

## Guwahati to witness historic Bagurumba spectacle as 10,000 artistes perform before PM Modi on January 17

AGARTALA

In a significant push towards renewable energy and power self-sufficiency, the Tripura government has identified 10 river sites to generate 185 MW of electricity using Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology, Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath announced on Saturday.

Speaking at the bhoomi puja ceremony of the upcoming Super Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) building at Banamalipur in Agartala, Nath said the initiative is aimed at harnessing the state's flowing rivers to meet Tripura's steadily growing electricity demand.

"Development requires electricity. At present, Tripura provides power supply for 23 hours and 54 minutes a day. The number of electricity consumers has increased from 7.21 lakh before 2018 to 10.57 lakh now," the minister said. He added that Tripura's current peak demand of 378 MW is projected to rise to 650 MW by 2031, making the adoption of new and sustainable technologies essential.



According to Nath, the rivers identified for hydrokinetic power generation include Chakmaghat, Maharani, Dumboor, Natunbazar, Kalsi, Manu, Kulai, Feni, Dhalai and Sangan in the Ampil-Lakhipur region. Preliminary work on the projects is expected to begin next

month. Highlighting the state's broader renewable energy roadmap, the minister said Tripura is also placing strong emphasis on solar power generation. Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, around five lakh families installing 2 kW solar

panels could collectively generate up to 1,000 MW of power per day, significantly boosting the state's energy self-reliance.

He further noted that solar power systems are being installed on 2,000 government buildings, with an expected generation capacity of 80 MW, while about 15,000 individuals have already contributed 6 MW through private rooftop solar installations.

"The objective is to adopt new technologies, reduce dependence on depleting gas reserves and ensure sustainable power generation. These initiatives will not only ensure reliable electricity supply but also strengthen the state's economy, increase GDP and improve per capita income," Nath said.

The power minister also underscored the importance of energy-efficient infrastructure, noting that the Super ECBC building, being constructed at a cost of Rs 12.33 crore, is one of five such projects across the country designed to promote energy efficiency and sustainable construction practices.

With a combination of hydrokinetic and solar energy projects, Tripura is positioning itself as a frontrunner in renewable energy adoption in the Northeast, as it prepares to meet future power demands through cleaner and more resilient sources.

Quest!

Honey does not spoil. You could feasibly eat 3000 year old honey.

### VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

@ NEIR 2026

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

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

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

## Rajnath Singh to commission ICG's 1st indigenously built PCV, Samudra Pratap on Jan 5



NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) first indigenously built Pollution Control Vessel, Samudra Pratap, is set to be commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on January 5, 2026, at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in Goa.

In a post on X, the Indian Coast Guard wrote, "@IndiaCoastGuard Ship Samudra Pratap, the first of two Pollution Control Vessels, will be commissioned by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at @goashipyardLtd, #Goa on 05 Jan 26. Built by #GSL with over 60% indigenous content, the 114.5 Mtr, 4,200 ton vessel boasts a speed of more than 22 knots and an endurance of 6,000 nm, significantly enhancing the #ICG's pollution response, fire-fighting, and maritime safety & security capabilities."

This vessel is a significant milestone in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence production, with over 60% indigenous content.

The commissioning of Samudra Pratap will enhance

the ICG's capabilities in responding to marine pollution incidents, safeguarding India's maritime environment and resources.

Built by GSL with more than 60 per cent indigenous content, Samudra Pratap reflects India's growing self-reliance in defence shipbuilding under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The 114.5-metre-long vessel displaces around 4,200 tonnes, can achieve speeds of over 22 knots, and has an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles.

Equipped with advanced pollution response and fire-fighting systems, it will significantly enhance the Coast Guard's capacity to address oil spills, maritime emergencies, and security challenges in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and beyond.

Goa Shipyard Limited, a premier defence public sector undertaking, was constructing two such pollution control vessels for the ICG under a Rs 583 crore contract signed on June 22, 2021. This project marks the first time pollution-control ships of this class have been designed and built indigenously

ly in India.

Samudra Pratap has been designed and constructed in-house to meet the Coast Guard's specific operational requirements.

The ship measures 114.5 metres in length with a beam of 16.5 metres and will be manned by 14 officers and 115 sailors. Notably, it is also India's first indigenously designed and built hybrid, sea-going pollution-control vessel. The commissioning comes amid heightened maritime vigilance by the Coast Guard. On December 18, 2025, ICG ship Anmol apprehended two Bangladeshi fishing boats engaged in illegal fishing within India's EEZ, underscoring the force's critical role in enforcing maritime laws and safeguarding national interests.

With the induction of Samudra Pratap, the Indian Coast Guard further strengthens its operational readiness while reinforcing India's commitment to maritime safety, environmental protection, and indigenous defence manufacturing.

## Cold wave persist in Delhi, northern India, flights disrupted amid dense fog

PATNA

Large parts of north, central and eastern India continued to reel under severe winter conditions on Sunday, with cold waves, dense fog and snow-fall disrupting daily life and transport services across several states.

In the national capital, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 7.4 degrees Celsius, while the air quality remained in the 'poor' category. According to India Meteorological Department, a cold wave is likely to affect isolated areas of the city till January 6. A cold wave is declared when minimum temperatures fall 4.5 to 6.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

Safdarjung, the city's base station, recorded a minimum of 7.4 degrees Celsius, while Palam recorded 6.8 degrees, Lodhi Road 7.6 degrees, Ridge 8.9 degrees and Ayanagar 6.6 degrees Celsius. Relative humidity stood at 92 per cent at 8.30 am. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 17 degrees Celsius.

Delhi's Air Quality Index stood at 299 at 9 am, placing it in the 'poor' category, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board.

Cold wave conditions also intensified in Jammu and Kashmir, where the Kashmir Valley witnessed a further dip in temperatures during the ongoing 'Chilla-e-Kalan', the 40-day harshest winter period. Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.5 degrees the previous night. Gulmarg remained the coldest location with a minimum of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive night, while Pahalgam recorded minus 5 degrees. Qazigund saw temperatures drop to minus 4 degrees, Kupwara to minus 2.5 degrees and Kokernag to minus 1.6 degrees.

Despite the intense cold, the plains of the Kashmir Valley are yet to receive snowfall this season. The IMD has forecast light rain or snow at isolated places in higher reaches of north and central Kashmir on January 5 and 6.



Rajasthan also reported severe cold, with moderate to dense fog affecting visibility in several areas. Fatehpur was the coldest location in the state, recording a minimum temperature of 1.1 degrees Celsius. Sikar recorded 2.5 degrees, Lunkaransar 2.8 degrees, Vanasthali 4 degrees, and Sirohi, Pali and Churu 4.4 degrees each. Jaipur recorded a minimum of 8.8 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions were reported at isolated places in eastern Rajasthan.

The cold wave and fog have disrupted travel across northern India. The Airports Authority of India issued an

advisory warning passengers of possible flight delays and extended holding times due to poor visibility. Travellers have been advised to check flight status with airlines and allow additional buffer time.

Dense fog slowed road traffic and disrupted rail and air operations in several states. In Uttarakhand, Haridwar experienced thick fog and biting cold, with vehicular movement on national highways slowing significantly. Higher reaches of the state received snowfall, with Kedarnath Dham witnessing heavy snow since Friday afternoon, hampering reconstruction work at

the shrine.

Uttar Pradesh continued to face cold wave and fog conditions, with Prayagraj engulfed in dense fog and sharply reduced visibility reported in Ayodhya and Varanasi. In Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior was blanketed by fog, while the IMD issued an Orange Warning for districts such as Khurda and Cuttack, where visibility reportedly dropped to as low as 50 metres in some areas.

Authorities have urged people to remain cautious as severe winter conditions continue to affect large swathes of the country.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Abduction of Venezuela's Maduro revives US imperialist history in Latin America

WAHSINGTON

From direct military interventions to support for dictators, US actions across Latin America have repeatedly raised questions about imperialist overreach and the resulting political instability.

The military operation to abduct and arrest Venezuela's leader Nicolás Maduro has once again placed the United States under scrutiny for its long and controversial history in Latin America.

Maduro is currently held at a jail in New York after US special forces seized him and flew him out of the country on Saturday, in an operation that US President Donald Trump said would place Venezuela under effective American control.

The announcement followed a swift pre-dawn raid in which commandos detained Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, as air strikes hit targets in and around the capital Caracas.

The actions have brought renewed attention to long-standing accusations by Venezuela's late president Hugo Chávez, and his successor Maduro, that Washington backed coup attempts against their governments.

From direct military interventions to support for dictators, Washington's actions across the region have repeatedly raised questions about imperialist overreach and the resulting political instability.

Below is a look at US interventions in Latin America since the Cold War.

(L) A handcuffed Nicolás Maduro is escorted by US federal agents, including DEA officers, after arriving in New York on Saturday; (R) US President Donald Trump shares the first photo of Maduro in US military custody following his abduction from Caracas.

Trump releases photo of Maduro blindfolded and handcuffed aboard US ship

1954: Guatemala  
On June 27, 1954, Colonel Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, president of



Guatemala, was driven from power by mercenaries trained and financed by Washington, after a land reform that threatened the interests of the powerful US company United Fruit Corporation (later Chiquita Brands).

In 2003, the United States officially acknowledged the CIA's role in this coup, in the name of fighting communism.

1961: Cuba

From April 15 to 19, 1961, 1,400 anti-Castro militants trained and financed by the CIA attempted to land at the Bay of Pigs, 250 kilometres (155 miles) from Havana, but failed to overthrow Fidel Castro's communist regime.

The fighting killed more than a hundred on each side.

1965: Dominican Republic  
In 1965, citing a "communist threat", the United States sent Marines and paratroopers to Santo Domingo to crush an uprising in support of Juan Bosch, a leftist president ousted by generals in 1963.

1970s: Backing dictatorships in Chile, Argentina  
Washington backed several military

dictatorships, seen as a bulwark against left-wing armed movements in a world divided by Cold War rivalries.

It actively assisted Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet during the September 11, 1973 coup against leftist president Salvador Allende.

US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger supported the Argentine junta in 1976, encouraging it to quickly end its "dirty war", according to US documents declassified in 2003.

At least 10,000 Argentine dissidents disappeared. In the 1970s and 1980s, six dictatorships (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil) joined forces to eliminate left-wing opponents under "Operation Condor", with tacit US support.

(L) A handcuffed Nicolás Maduro is escorted by US federal agents, including DEA officers, after arriving in New York on Saturday; (R) US President Donald Trump shares the first photo of Maduro in US military custody following his abduction from Caracas.

Chile, where Kissinger backed coup, remembers his 'moral wretchedness'  
1980s: Wars in Central America

In 1979, the Sandinista rebellion overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua. US president Ronald Reagan, concerned about Managua's alignment with Cuba and the USSR, secretly authorised the CIA to provide \$20 million in aid to the Contras (the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries), partly funded by the illegal sale of arms to Iran.

The Nicaraguan civil war, which ended in April 1990, claimed 50,000 lives.

Reagan also sent military advisers to El Salvador to crush the rebellion of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN, far left) in a civil war (1980-1992) that resulted in 72,000 deaths.

1983: Grenada

On October 25, 1983, US Marines and Rangers intervened on the island of Grenada after prime minister Maurice Bishop was assassinated by a far-left junta and as Cubans were expanding the airport, presumably to accommodate military aircraft.

At the request of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Reagan launched Operation "Urgent Fury" with the stated goal of protecting a thousand US citizens.

The operation, widely deplored by the UN General Assembly, ended on November 3, with more than a hundred dead.

In 1989, after a contested election, president George H. W. Bush ordered a military intervention in Panama, resulting in the surrender of general Manuel Noriega, a former collaborator of US intelligence, who was wanted by US justice.

Some 27,000 GIs took part in Operation "Just Cause", which officially left 500 dead. NGOs put the toll significantly higher, in the thousands.

Noriega would spend more than two decades in prison in the United States for drug trafficking before serving additional sentences in France and then Panama.

SEOUL

North Korea launched multiple ballistic missiles toward the sea Sunday, its neighbors said, just hours before South Korea's president left for China for talks expected to cover North Korea's nuclear program.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement it detected several ballistic missile launches from North Korea's capital region around 7:50 a.m. It said the missiles flew about 900 kilometers (560 miles) and that South Korea and US authorities were analyzing details of the launches.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said that South Korea maintains a readiness to repel any provocations by North Korea and is closely exchanging information with the US and Japan on the North's missile launches.

Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said that at least two missile launches by North Korea have been confirmed. "They are a serious problem, threatening the peace and security of our nation, the region and the world," Koizumi told reporters.

The launches were the latest weapons demonstration by North Korea in recent weeks. Experts say North Korea is aiming to show off or review its achievements in the defense sector ahead of its upcoming ruling party congress, the first of its kind in five years. Observers are watching the Workers Party congress to see whether North Korea will set a new policy on the US and respond to its calls to resume long-stalled talks.

North Korea has been focusing on testing activities to enlarge its nuclear arsenal since its leader Kim Jong Un's summit with US President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019. Kim has also boosted his diplomatic credentials by aligning with Russia over its war in Ukraine and tightening relations with China. Observers say Kim would believe his leverage has sharply increased to wrest concessions from Trump if they sit down for talks again.

North Korea hasn't



announced when it will hold the congress, but South Korea's spy service said it will likely occur in January or February.

Sunday's launches also came hours before South Korean President Lee Jae Myung departed for China for a summit with President Xi Jinping. During the four-day trip, Lee's office said he would request China, North Korea's major ally and biggest trading partner, to take "a constructive role" in efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea and the US have long asked China to exercise its influence on North Korea to persuade it to return to talks or give up its nuclear program. But there are questions on how big of a leverage China has on its socialist neighbor. China, together with Russia, has also repeatedly blocked the US and others' attempts to toughen economic sanctions on North Korea in recent years.

Later Sunday, South Korea convened an emergency national security council meeting where officials urged North Korea to stop ballistic missile launches, which violate UN Security Council resolutions. The council reported details of the launches and unspecified South Korean steps to Lee, according to the presidential office.

The launches followed Saturday's dramatic US military operation that ousted

Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro from power and brought him to the US to face narco-terrorism conspiracy charges. It represented America's most assertive action to achieve regime change in a country since the nation's 2003 invasion of Iraq.

"Kim Jong Un may feel vindicated about his efforts to build a nuclear deterrent, as he likely did after Trump's strikes on Iran," said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. "However, leaders of hostile regimes will probably live with greater paranoia after seeing how quickly Maduro was extracted from his country to stand trial in the United States."

North Korea's state media hasn't commented on the US operation.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Sunday Kim visited a weapons factory on Saturday to review multipurpose precision guided weapons produced there. KCNA cited Kim as ordering officials to expand the current production capacity by about 2.5 times. Last Sunday, North Korea test-fired what it called long-range strategic cruise missiles. On Dec. 25, North Korea released photos showing apparent progress in the construction of its first nuclear-powered submarine.

## Shifting Sands in West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee's Balancing Act as Old Alliances Fray and New Fault Lines Emerge

**W**est Bengal's political landscape has begun to churn with an intensity that seems premature at first glance. The next Assembly elections are still at least six months away, yet the state is already witnessing restless manoeuvring, recalibration of loyalties, and the quiet testing of new political equations. Beneath the surface calm lies a growing sense that the certainties which once underpinned Mamata Banerjee's dominance are no longer as firm as they once appeared.

At the centre of this renewed churn is a familiar figure from Bengal's political past: Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Once a towering presence in the Congress, both in West Bengal and nationally, Chowdhury is once again visible in his home turf of Murshidabad and neighbouring districts. His renewed activity is widely read as an attempt to claw back lost relevance after a dramatic fall from grace. Chowdhury's political résumé is formidable—former state Congress president and later leader of the Congress party in the Lok Sabha—but his decline has been just as spectacular.

Mamata Banerjee, for her part, had made it a personal and political mission to defeat Chowdhury in his constituency. To achieve that end, she showed her trademark tactical flexibility, stitching together alliances and encouraging rival forces with one overriding objective: to ensure Adhir Chowdhury's defeat. The strategy worked. Chowdhury lost his seat, and almost simultaneously, he lost the confidence of the Congress high command. Soon after, he was replaced as the state Congress president.

That replacement, however, proved to be unequal to the task. The Congress organisation in West Bengal, already weakened by years of erosion, slid rapidly towards near-extinction. In a state increasingly polarised after Mamata Banerjee's rise to power, the Congress found itself squeezed between a resurgent Trinamool Congress (TMC) and an aggressive Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Its traditional vote bank fragmented, its organisational muscle withered, and its political relevance all but evaporated. This outcome was not accidental. Mamata Banerjee's political ascent was built, in no small measure, on the systematic hollowing out of the Congress in Bengal. Ironically, her own political roots lay firmly within the Congress. As a young leader, she was nurtured and encouraged by Rajiv Gandhi, who saw in her an energetic organiser with mass appeal. Banerjee has often recalled how Rajiv Gandhi sent her on her first overseas trip, a gesture she remembers as a mark of trust and mentorship. Yet, when she broke away to form the All India Trinamool Congress, she did so with ruthless clarity of purpose. The Congress, her former political home, became the principal quarry from which she drew leaders, cadres, and voters to build her new outfit. Over time, this strategy succeeded beyond expectation. As the Congress withered, the TMC expanded, occupying the political space once held by the national party.

With the Congress marginalised, Mamata Banerjee turned her attention to consolidating its former vote base, particularly among Muslims. Retaining Muslim support became central to her political strategy, not least because it provided a counterweight to the BJP's expanding influence among Hindu voters. In pursuit of this goal, Banerjee



"One day" is a dream. "Day one" is a decision.

went further than any of her predecessors, positioning herself as the most reliable protector of minority interests in the



state. Her challenge, however, did not end there. Beyond the Congress, she also set out to erode the traditional Muslim support base of the Left, especially the CPI(M). This was no easy task, given the decades-long relationship between the Left Front and large sections of Bengal's Muslim electorate. Yet Banerjee's populist style, combined with targeted welfare schemes and symbolic gestures, yielded results. A significant section of Muslim voters shifted allegiance to the TMC, accelerating the Left's decline.

Many of Banerjee's frontline leaders during this phase were defectors from the CPI(M). Initially, their experience and organisational networks proved useful. Over time, however, these leaders became liabilities, burdened by ideological baggage and habits that sat uneasily with Banerjee's tightly controlled, leader-centric party structure. When their utility diminished, she did not hesitate to marginalise or sideline them, reaffirming her grip over the party. Today, Banerjee appears to have reached a point of diminishing returns with this strategy. While the TMC continues to enjoy substantial Muslim support, signs of strain are becoming visible. Several Muslim leaders within the party have grown increasingly ambitious, seeking greater autonomy, prominence, and power than Banerjee is willing to concede. Others appear to be in an openly rebellious mood, testing the limits of her authority.

It remains unclear whether these rumblings amount to a genuine revolt or are merely tactical posturing designed to extract concessions. What is evident, however, is a growing assertion among Muslim leaders and voters alike. There is a sense that unconditional support for the TMC should translate into tangible political dividends, not just symbolic gestures or limited patronage. The days of being content with what critics describe as "morsels" may be drawing to a close.

The challenge to Banerjee has been most starkly articulated by Humayun Kabir, once considered one of her stalwarts. Kabir has emerged as a leader who believes he has outgrown his role within the TMC. By floating his own party, he has thrown down a direct challenge—not just to Banerjee's authority,

but to her claim of being the undisputed political voice of Bengal's Muslims. Kabir asserts that he commands significant Muslim allegiance and hints at a future in which his party could play the role of kingmaker, should no major party secure a clear majority.

At this early stage, it is difficult to assess the true extent of Kabir's influence. The Muslim vote, long treated as a consolidated bloc, now appears increasingly fluid. Some analysts suggest that a portion of Muslim voters may drift back towards their older political homes, such as the Congress or the CPI(M), if these parties can mount even a modest organisational revival. Others argue that smaller, community-based parties could siphon off votes, fragmenting the Muslim electorate in ways that complicate Banerjee's electoral arithmetic.

Confronted with these uncertainties, Mamata Banerjee has begun to recalibrate once again. Recognising that exclusive reliance on minority support carries risks, she is making a visible effort to reconnect with the broader Bengali Hindu electorate—the mainstream vote bank that ultimately decides electoral outcomes in the state. This outreach has taken the form of highly symbolic and carefully choreographed initiatives aimed at appealing to Hindu cultural sentiment.

One of the most striking of these initiatives is the construction of a massive Jagannath Temple at Digha, a popular seaside town near the Odisha border. Modeled closely on the iconic Jagannath Temple of Puri, the Digha structure is clearly intended to evoke deep religious associations. Few believe, however, that it can ever rival the sanctity or stature of the original temple in Puri. Symbolism, rather than theological equivalence, is the point.

In a further gesture, Banerjee has handed over the management of the Digha temple to ISKCON, a move calculated to lend religious legitimacy and organisational credibility to the project. Yet she has not stopped there. More recently, she inaugurated the construction of "Durgangan" in New Town, one of the state's most upscale urban developments. Any initiative associated with Durga resonates powerfully with Bengali Hindus, for whom Durga Puja is not merely a religious festival but a

central cultural marker.

The proposed Durga temple and adjoining complex are explicitly designed to tap into this emotional reservoir. Through such projects, Banerjee hopes to soften resistance among Hindu voters who have drifted away from the TMC, particularly those attracted by the BJP's assertive cultural politics.

Predictably, controversy has followed. The original site chosen for the Durga temple was alleged to have belonged to Muslims, who challenged the construction in the High Court. The court's stay order forced a hurried relocation of the project, fuelling criticism from multiple quarters. To her opponents, the episode exemplifies the contradictions inherent in Banerjee's current strategy: an attempt to court Hindu voters without alienating Muslim supporters, and vice versa.

In effect, Mamata Banerjee is attempting the near-impossible—riding two horses moving in opposite directions. Balancing minority reassurance with majority outreach is a delicate exercise, especially in a politically charged environment where symbolism is scrutinised as closely as policy. Any misstep risks alienating one constituency or the other.

Yet, it would be a mistake to underestimate her. Banerjee's political instincts and survival skills have repeatedly confounded critics. Her ability to sense shifts in the political wind, to adapt narratives, and to deploy symbolism with precision has few parallels in contemporary Indian politics. Compared to her rivals—whether a weakened Congress, a struggling Left, or an assertive but still socially fragmented BJP—she remains the most formidable political operator in West Bengal.

As the election draws closer, the state is likely to witness sharper polarisation, bolder experiments, and more overt challenges to established loyalties. Whether Mamata Banerjee can once again recalibrate her coalition and hold her fort amid these drifting sands remains the central question of Bengal politics today. What is certain is that the coming months will test not only her political dexterity, but the durability of the alliances she has so carefully built—and now must painstakingly rebalance.

### SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

#### PLACEMENT

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

#### VOLUNTEERS REGISTERS @ NEIR 2026

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

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to [InfoComSolutions@krctimes.com](mailto:InfoComSolutions@krctimes.com) Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

#### STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

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

#### NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

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

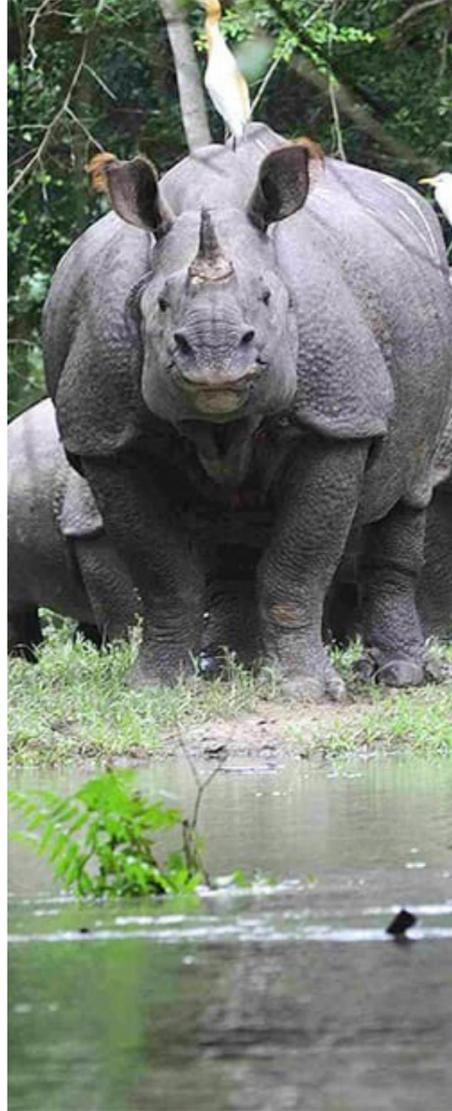
#### CONNECT@ KRC TIMES



#### KRC TIMES

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

# A City in Motion: What Guwahati Has to Offer



Chicken or pork stewed with black sesame. Bamboo shoot lending its sharpness. Mustard greens that carry the season's flavour without extra effort.

You find these dishes in homes and small eateries, not in big restaurants. Meanwhile, the city's younger crowd gravitates to cafes around Ganeshguri, Six Mile, and Christian Basti—places with strong coffee and soft lighting where students debate politics and musicians rehearse.

But the real heart of Guwahati's food lies in its markets. Fancy Bazaar bursts with color and noise. Uzan Bazaar's fish vendors can tell you a fish's story just by touching it. Paltan Bazaar carries spices that have travelled from Bhutan, Arunachal, and Nagaland.

Guwahati's hills are more than viewpoints. They are green lungs the city desperately needs. Narengi, Kharguli, Hengrabari, Jatia—each neighbourhood rises and falls with the hills that frame it. Monsoon mornings often begin with clouds sliding down their slopes like a curtain being drawn.

Then there are the wetlands: Deepor Beel, Silsako, Borsola. These are havens for birds and buffers for the city. Deepor Beel, a Ramsar site, draws migratory birds every winter. Watching them settle on the water while trains pass in the distance gives you a glimpse of how nature and infrastructure co-exist uneasily here.

Guwahati holds contradictions without trying to resolve them. A centuries-old temple beside a busy flyover. A modern government building facing a shrinking wetland. An age-old market surviving beside a new mall. Students preparing for competitive exams while musicians form indie bands in basement studios. Activists staging protests while families gather for evening river cruises.

What ties these layers together is movement. Guwahati rarely pauses. It absorbs, reacts, reshapes, and pushes forward.

Traffic that swells beyond capacity. Hills cut recklessly for construction. Urban flooding that returns each monsoon. Pollution rising with the expanding vehicle population. Pressure on wetlands. Land prices that push communities outward.

The city knows its problems. The question is whether its pace will allow it to solve them before they shape its future too sharply.

Guwahati isn't a city you fall for instantly. It doesn't charm you the way smaller hill towns do. It doesn't stay frozen in time. It doesn't pretend to be perfect. What it offers instead is momentum. A sense of becoming. A place where stories collide—tribal, urban, spiritual, political—and generate a kind of restless energy you won't find any-

**F**or context, Dispur, the capital of Assam, sits within the greater Guwahati area and serves as the seat of the state government. Guwahati doesn't fit into a neat category. It isn't a mountain town, a river city, a cultural capital, or a business hub alone. It's all of that at once, shifting shape depending on which part of it you stand in and what hour of the day you meet it. That's what makes Guwahati complicated, messy, magnetic, and impossible to define with a single phrase. It's the Northeast's busiest gateway, but it's also a place where ancient rituals unfold with a stillness that feels untouched by time.

The river here isn't decoration. It's an active presence. Broad, moody, and powerful, the Brahmaputra shapes how the city thinks, breathes, and grows. Watch it in the morning from the Saraighat Bridge and you'll see fishermen heading out in narrow boats, ferries drifting toward North Guwahati, and sunlight breaking over the water like a quiet announcement.

Stand by Uzan Bazaar in the evening and the river has a different tone—soft, patient, almost contemplative. People sit along the ghats, teenagers take photos, elders watch the water as if it's telling them something only they can hear.

The Brahmaputra gives Guwahati a sense of scale few Indian cities possess. It commands respect because it can shift moods without warning. Floods in the monsoon remind the city that nature calls the shots here. That awareness humbles the place in a way concrete never could. Guwahati expanded before it learned how to manage its own growth. Hills sliced into for new neighbourhoods. Wetlands reclaimed and built upon. Traffic that swells and knots without mercy. The city's geography—its hills, lakes, wetlands, and riverbanks—makes urban planning a daily negotiation rather than a fixed blueprint.

Yet the city keeps moving. New malls rise beside old markets. High-rises cast shadows over narrow

riverfronts that feel unchanged despite everything around them shifting.

Climb the steps to Umananda Temple—set on a tiny island in the Brahmaputra—and you see the city from a different angle entirely. Ferries, bridges, traffic, and skyscrapers look small from here. The temple's hillock, legend says, was shaped by Shiva himself. Whether or not you believe the story isn't the point. The point is that Guwahati's spiritual geography is as alive as its physical one.

Nilachal Hill carries the weight of mythology, devotion, and identity. Kamakhya Temple isn't just a pilgrimage site. It's the place that stitches Guwahati to centuries of Shakti worship. The architecture is distinctive, with its beehive-shaped shikhara, its complex of smaller shrines, and its sanctum built around a natural spring.



lanes. Cafes sit above hardware stores. It feels chaotic, but beneath the noise is a city constantly adjusting, improvising, and reimagining itself. If you walk through Pan Bazaar early in the morning, before the traffic wakes up, you feel the older Guwahati. Bookstores opening shutters, porters unloading sacks of goods, cafes preparing milk tea, temple bells ringing from nearby lanes.

Move into Uzan Bazaar, and suddenly the city turns nostalgic. Old Assam-type houses with sloping roofs and timber frames sit quietly between modern apartments. Narrow roads bend toward

The Ambubachi Mela transforms the hill into a sea of red-clad devotees. But even on ordinary days, Kamakhya holds a quiet gravity. Stand on the hill-top and you see Guwahati stretch in every direction—dense, restless, expanding. The contrast between the ancient temple and the fast-growing city below shows exactly how layered Guwahati is.

Guwahati's population mix gives it a tone different from Shillong, Imphal, or Kohima. It's less curated, more porous. Assamese communities form the core, but every lane carries languages: Bengali from migrants who arrived generations ago, Hindi

from traders, Nepali from the hills, Bodo from the plains, and tribal dialects from across the state.

The mix doesn't come with spectacle. It's woven into daily life—in markets, in offices, in local festivals. Take Bihu, for instance. The city celebrates it with an energy that spills across neighbourhoods. But during Durga Puja, the city transforms again, with pandals glowing late into the night. On Eid,

where else in the Northeast.

This city grows on you because it mirrors the region's complexity. Walk long enough along the Brahmaputra, climb the hills, sit in the markets, join the crowds during festivals, and you'll understand. Guwahati isn't the Northeast's gateway



markets around Hatigaon fill with buyers choosing clothes and sweets. Guwahati accommodates all of this without making the differences feel loud.

Food in Guwahati is honest. It reflects the state's simplicity and its ecological richness. Fish from the Brahmaputra. Duck cooked with ash gourd.

because of geography. It's the gateway because it holds everything—ancient belief, modern ambition, ecological vulnerability, and cultural diversity—and keeps moving forward anyway.



## BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

### ACTIVITY PROGRAM



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





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



**11 JAN**  
**Barak Valley Conclave**  
 Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley to be discussed by stakeholders. Includes NGOs, and Government officials. Register for free at [www.krcfoundation.org](http://www.krcfoundation.org) or [www.barakvalleyconclave.com](http://www.barakvalleyconclave.com)

**10 Jan**  
**Barak Festival: Peace Progress & Prosperity**



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



BROADCAST PARTNER

## Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



REGISTER HERE

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

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



**10 JAN**  
**Media Conclave**  
 Media Conclave: Media Conclave, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Media Conclave: Workshops, Seminars, Masterclasses, Conferences, Seminars, Panels, Speakers, Workshops.



**11 JAN**  
**5E For Success Conclave**  
 The 5E for Success Conclave is going to be held at the theme: 'From School to Campus to Corporate'. Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors. Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & Colleges. Extension: School, Public Speaking (College). In 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'. Media Conclave: Workshops, Seminars, Masterclasses, Conferences, Seminars, Panels, Speakers, Workshops.



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



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





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

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



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



**10-12 JAN**  
**Book Bank**  
 #NoOneLeftBehind | Book Bank | Donate | Borrow | Reuse

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

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

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

**applies**

- Outreach Executive
- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

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