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PERSPECTIVE
Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep the faith. It will all be worth it in the end.

MBA Student Seriously Injured in Alleged Drunk Driving Incident in Silchar, Students Protest for Justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT



SILCHAR:An MBA final-year student of Assam University, identified as Rozy Dev, was seriously injured in a road accident at Ambicapatty Chariali in Silchar, allegedly caused by a drunk driver.

According to reports, the incident occurred when a four-wheeler collided head-on with the scooter ridden by Rozy, a resident of Ambicapatty. Fellow students claimed that the impact left her with severe injuries, reportedly causing paralysis in the lower part of her body.

Although the accused driver was initially arrested, allegations have surfaced that he was released by the police the very next day, sparking outrage among students.

In protest, students of the MBA department staged a demonstration and submitted a memorandum to the office of the Superintendent of Police. They demanded a fair and transparent investigation into the incident, strict action against those responsible, and adequate support for the victim's medical treatment.

The students also urged authorities to enforce stricter road safety measures in the area to prevent such incidents in the future.

WHO SAID WHAT



Assam has witnessed a transformation that was ignored for decades. In a short span, our double-engine government has relentlessly worked on connectivity, preservation of heritage, industrialisation and strategic infrastructure to build a Viksit Assam. ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

Assam Assembly Polls 2026: Women Make Up Just 8% of Candidates, Gender Gap Persists

GUWAHATI

The 2026 Assam Assembly election has once again underscored a persistent gender imbalance in electoral representation, with women accounting for only 59 of the 722 candidates contesting across 126 constituencies, according to affidavit data analysed from records of the Election Commission of India.

Women constitute just 8 per cent of the total candidates in the fray, a figure unchanged from the 2021 Assembly elections, despite a decline in the overall number of contestants following delimitation. Male candidates dominate the electoral landscape, numbering 663.

The data also highlights a concentration of candidates within middle age brackets. A majority fall between 30 and 60 years, with the 40-49 and 50-59 age groups forming the largest segments. In



contrast, younger candidates remain underrepresented, with only 176 contestants - or 24 per cent - in the 25-40 age category.

Representation declines

further among older age groups, with only a small proportion of candidates aged between 70 and 79 entering the electoral contest.

Across party lines, wom-

en's participation remains limited. The Bharatiya Janata Party has fielded six women among its 90 candidates, while the Indian National Congress has nominated

women in about 13 per cent of the seats it is contesting. Smaller political outfits, including the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist), report relatively higher proportions of women candidates, though their overall presence remains marginal.

In terms of educational qualifications, over half of the candidates - approximately 53 per cent - are graduates or hold higher degrees. The remaining candidates have educational backgrounds ranging from primary schooling to higher secondary levels.

The overall demographic profile suggests that while educational attainment among candidates remains relatively strong and age distribution is centred around middle-aged groups, gender representation has seen little improvement over successive election cycles, continuing to reflect a significant imbalance in Assam's electoral

Nagaland Bypoll: Conrad Sangma Calls for Youth Empowerment, Reiterates Demand to Repeal AFSPA



KOHIMA

Conrad K Sangma, chief of the National People's Party (NPP), on Wednesday pitched for youth empowerment and renewed calls for repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) while campaigning for the upcoming Nagaland bypoll.

Addressing a public rally in Longkhum village in Mokokchung district in support of NPP candidate I. Abenjang for the Koridang by-election scheduled on April 9, Sangma urged political leaders, civil society organisations and religious bodies to work together to create meaningful opportunities for the youth of the Northeast.

Highlighting the region's demographic profile, Sangma noted that more than 60 per cent of Nagaland's population is under the age of 30, describing it as a significant but underutilised strength. Quoting him, NPP national secretary Saidul Khan said the party's objective is to bring together the people of the Northeast and promote collective development.

Sangma expressed confidence in

the party's candidate, stating that Abenjang would serve the people with dedication if elected. The bypoll, necessitated by a vacancy, is being closely watched for its potential to signal shifts in political alignments in the state.

Interacting with reporters, Sangma reiterated the NPP's independent political stance, asserting that the party is focused on long-term regional development rather than short-term electoral gains.

Security issues also figured prominently in his address, with the Meghalaya Chief Minister calling for the repeal of AFSPA. He argued that existing legal frameworks are sufficient to maintain law and order, echoing long-standing demands across parts of the Northeast amid ongoing peace processes.

During his visit, Sangma also paid tribute to Naga nationalist Imkongmeren Ao, blending political outreach with cultural engagement. He was accorded a traditional Ao welcome and interacted with village elders and local council representatives before addressing the rally.

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh will undertake a three-day visit to Jiribam district and adjoining areas along the Assam border from April 4 to 6, combining administrative review, political outreach, and confidence-building measures in violence-affected regions.

The visit follows his recent deliberations with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, where the prevailing law and order situation in the state was reviewed. Sources indicated that the Chief Minister has been advised to expedite the peace process and strengthen inter-community confidence.

According to the official itinerary, Singh will travel by road from Imphal and is expected to reach Jiribam around noon on April 4. He is scheduled to inspect key instal-



lations, including a police outpost and the district hospital, and attend a joint community meeting at New Alipur Naga village.

As part of confidence-building measures, the Chief Minister is expected to meet internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in relief camps and participate in a community feast involving members of Meitei and Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities.

This will be his second visit to Jiribam since ethnic violence broke out on May 3, 2023, which has claimed over 260 lives and displaced around 62,000 people, underlining the district's continued sensitivity. On April 5, Singh will lay the foundation stone for an inter-state truck terminus and other infrastructure projects at Chandrapur in Jiribam, signalling a renewed focus on connectivity in the border dis-

trict. The programme also includes campaign engagements in neighbouring Assam, with events scheduled in Silchar and Hailakandi districts, reflecting parallel political outreach.

Security has been significantly tightened ahead of the visit, with anti-sabotage teams and sniffer dog squads deployed to sanitise routes and venues. The Chief Minister, who is under Z+ category security, will be accompanied by ministers, MLAs, and senior officials.

Ahead of the visit, Singh called on Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at Raj Bhavan in Imphal. He also met the General Officer Commanding of the 57 Mountain Division at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, where discussions were held on preparations for hosting the Durand Cup 2026 in the state.

BJP Eyes Major Gains in Barak Valley, Himanta Biswa Sarma Projects 9-11 Seats

SILCHAR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday signalled a strong electoral push in the Barak Valley, expressing confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will secure between nine and eleven seats from the region in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Addressing a press briefing, Sarma described Barak Valley as a crucial battleground where the party expects to register significant gains, citing its organisational depth and sustained grassroots outreach as key factors driving voter support.

The Chief Minister exuded particular confidence about Hailakandi, asserting that the BJP is "100 per cent sure" of winning the constituency. Referring to Algapur, he acknowledged the visible public enthusiasm but maintained that the final outcome would depend on the party's performance at the ground level.

In a pointed critique of the Opposition, Sarma questioned the intensity of their campaign efforts, singling out leaders such as Gaurav Gogoi. He asked how many public meetings they had conducted, contrasting it with the BJP's strategy of direct voter engagement rather than what he termed as "hyping."

Reiterating confidence in the party's statewide prospects, Sarma projected that the BJP could win between 90 and 100 seats across Assam. He underscored that Barak Valley would play a decisive role in shaping the party's overall electoral outcome.

First-Time Voters in Cachar Shift Focus to Jobs, Civic Issues Ahead of Polls

SILCHAR

As campaign rhetoric intensifies ahead of the April 9 Assembly elections in Assam, a quieter yet increasingly influential demographic is shaping the discourse in Cachar district - its first-time voters. According to the final electoral roll published on February 10, Cachar has a total of 13,81,903 electors, including 34,498 voters in the 18-19 age group who will be casting their ballots for the first time. While their numbers may appear modest, their voices are beginning to carry weight in defining electoral priorities.

Interactions with young voters across the district reveal a notable shift from identity-driven or rhetoric-heavy politics to issue-based engagement. Employment opportunities, migration, healthcare, urban flooding and infrastructure have emerged as key concerns, reflecting everyday challenges faced by the youth.

A recurring theme among first-time voters is the lack of local employment, which continues to drive migration. Jyoti Rajbongshi, a Political Science student at Cachar College, questioned the need for young people to leave the state in search of jobs. "If opportunities existed here, why would we go elsewhere?" she said, echoing a widely shared sentiment.

For many, voting is not just a right but also a learning experience. Tomalika Purkayastha, a student of Women's College in Silchar, said she relies on discussions with family members to better understand candidates and party positions. Her approach reflects a broader trend of informed decision-making among young voters.

Civic infrastructure, particularly in Silchar town, has also emerged as a major concern. Sonia Baidya pointed to recurring monsoon flooding, attributing it to inadequate drainage systems and calling for sustainable, long-term solutions.

The absence of a strong industrial and

IT ecosystem was highlighted by Sneha Paul, a Journalism student at Ramanuj Gupta Degree College. She noted that limited local opportunities compel young people to move out, while also stressing the need for improved road infrastructure and enhanced safety for women.

Healthcare remains another critical issue. Shibashish Chakraborty flagged overcrowding at Silchar Medical College and the lack of accessible super-specialty services. "In emergencies, people still look to Guwahati or Chennai. That reflects the gaps in our system," he said.

Traffic congestion and recurring waterlogging further compound daily challenges. Barnali Singha expressed frustration over annual disruptions during the monsoon, calling for better traffic management and reliable civic systems to ensure smoother mobility.

What unites these voices is a clear demand for accountability and delivery. Unlike traditional voting patterns influenced by legacy loyalties, this cohort is increasingly independent in its choices, aided by greater access to information and active engagement on social media platforms.

Political observers note that this growing awareness is reshaping campaign strategies, with candidates under pressure to address tangible issues rather than rely solely on broad promises or identity narratives.

As Cachar moves closer to polling day, first-time voters are not just participating in the democratic process but actively redefining its expectations. Their message is unequivocal - generate local employment, strengthen infrastructure, improve healthcare access, and ensure governance that delivers measurable outcomes.

For this emerging electorate, development is no longer an abstract ideal but a lived necessity - defined by opportunity, mobility, safety and dependable public services.

Nagaland Bypoll: Conrad Sangma Calls for Youth Empowerment, Reiterates Demand to Repeal AFSPA

KOHIMA

Conrad K Sangma, chief of the National People's Party (NPP), on Wednesday pitched for youth empowerment and renewed calls for repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) while campaigning for the upcoming Nagaland bypoll. Addressing a public rally in Longkhum village in Mokokchung district in support of NPP candidate I. Abenjang for the Koridang by-election scheduled on April 9, Sangma urged political leaders, civil society organisations and religious bodies to work together to create meaningful opportunities for the youth of the Northeast.

Highlighting the region's demographic profile, Sangma noted that more than 60 per cent of Nagaland's population is under the age of 30, describing it as a significant but underutilised strength. Quoting him, NPP national secretary Saidul Khan said the party's objective is to bring together the people of the Northeast and promote collective development. Sangma expressed confidence in the party's candidate, stating that Abenjang would serve the people with dedication if elected. The bypoll, necessitated by a vacancy, is being closely watched for its potential to signal shifts in political alignments in the state. Interacting with reporters, Sangma reiterated the NPP's independent political stance, asserting that the party is focused on long-term regional development rather than short-term electoral gains. Security issues also figured prominently in his address, with the Meghalaya Chief Minister calling for the repeal of AFSPA. He argued that existing legal frameworks are sufficient to maintain law and order, echoing long-standing demands across parts of the Northeast amid ongoing peace processes. During his visit, Sangma also paid tribute to Naga nationalist Imkongmeren Ao, blending political outreach with cultural engagement. He was accorded a traditional Ao welcome and interacted with village elders and local council representatives before addressing the rally.



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PAKISTAN TERROR HUB



The latest assessment by the US Congressional Research Service, which once again identifies Pakistan as a hub for a wide spectrum of terrorist organisations, comes as no revelation. For India-and indeed for much of the international community-this is a long-established reality. What the report does, however, is reaffirm with institutional clarity a pattern that has defined Pakistan's security doctrine for decades: the systematic cultivation, sheltering, and instrumental use of militant groups as tools of state policy. The classification of 15 terror outfits operating from Pakistani soil, of which 12 are designated as foreign terrorist organisations under US law, underscores the scale and diversity of this ecosystem. From globally orientated entities such as Al Qaeda to India-centric groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, Pakistan's landscape resembles less a passive sanctuary and more a structured "terror factory". These organisations, driven largely by extremist ideology, operate across geographies-from Afghanistan to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir-forming a layered network of violence with both regional and global reach.

India has borne the brunt of this policy for nearly four decades. The list of attacks linked to Pakistan-based groups-from the 2001 Parliament assault to the 2008 Mumbai carnage, from Pathankot and Uri to Pulwama-is extensive and well documented. Successive Indian Governments have submitted dossiers, shared intelligence, and engaged diplomatically with regimes led by figures such as Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif, and Pervez Musharraf. Yet, these efforts have yielded little substantive change. Islamabad's consistent fallback-a blanket denial and the "non-state actor" argument-has served as a shield against accountability. The credibility of such denials stands fundamentally undermined by historical facts. The discovery of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, deep within Pakistan's territory, by US forces remains one of the most glaring indictments of the country's duplicity. It exposed not just the presence of high-value terror operatives but also raised troubling questions about state complicity or, at the very least, wilful blindness.

Equally concerning is Pakistan's adaptive modus operandi. When international pressure leads to the banning of a particular outfit, it often re-emerges under a different name, with the same leadership, infrastructure, and objectives intact. This cycle has rendered global counter-terror frameworks less effective, exposing gaps in enforcement and political will. Even oversight mechanisms like the Financial Action Task Force, which placed Pakistan on its "grey list" in 2018, have had limited long-term impact. While Islamabad undertook cosmetic measures leading to its removal in 2022, the deeper ecosystem of terror financing and ideological radicalisation remains largely unaddressed. The consequences are now rebounding internally. Pakistan today ranks among the countries most affected by terrorism. Fatalities, which had declined to 365 in 2019, have surged dramatically to over 4,000 in 2025. Violence in regions like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan reflects a blowback effect-where groups once nurtured for strategic depth have turned inward, destabilising the state itself. This duality-being both sponsor and victim-illustrates the inherent unsustainability of Pakistan's long-standing approach. For India, the response has evolved from restraint to calibrated deterrence. The surgical strikes following the Uri attack and the Balakot airstrikes after Pulwama marked a doctrinal shift, signalling that cross-border terrorism would invite direct retaliation. More recent operations under Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure across the border reinforce this message: that the cost of proxy warfare will no longer remain one-sided.

Yet, the issue transcends bilateral tensions. A nuclear-armed state grappling with economic distress, internal instability, and entrenched terror networks poses a grave risk to global security. The persistence of radicalisation-often rooted in segments of the madrasa system-continues to feed this cycle. The distinction between "good" and "bad" terrorism, long embedded in Pakistan's strategic thinking, has proven both flawed and dangerous. The CRS report should therefore be read not merely as an academic assessment but as a warning. Incremental measures and periodic crackdowns are insufficient. What is required is sustained, coordinated international pressure-diplomatic, financial, and strategic-to compel Pakistan to dismantle its terror infrastructure comprehensively. Considering the current geopolitics and emerging alliances, Pakistan's situation is quite perilous. Until the breeding grounds of extremism are decisively eradicated, the threat will persist-not just for India, but for the wider world.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get." - W. P. Kinsella

BJP'S ELECTION MANIFESTO FOR ASSAM

DR. GYAN PATHAK

The Congress announced five guarantees to Assam voters on Sunday March 29, and two days later on March 31, BJP has released its manifesto and gave 31 promises. A special feature of the BJP's manifesto is its comparison of achievement of NDA and UPA rule in the state trying to outshine the Congress. The social and economic promises given by both are attractive and may catch the imagination of voters, who will cast their vote on April 9, 2026.

The first guarantee is the Congress gave was to transfer Rs 50000 to every woman's bank account to start or grow business. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged, "The money that the BJP is today giving to women is conditional. They see that you are a BJP member. But after my government comes, we will not give any conditions. We will give it to all women." The second Congress guarantee is Rs25 lakh cashless health cover for families, as such cover was given in Congress led governments in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. The third Congress guarantee was delivering justice in the matter of death of singer Zubeen Garna within 100 days. The fourth guarantee was to increase old age pension from Rs250 to Rs1250 per month, and the fifth guarantee was to give permanent pattas (document) replacing 10 lakh annual land pattas to "Bhoomi Putras".

Congress campaign seems to rest on criticising BJP leader and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Congress president Kharge said that he had snatched the CM's seat from BJP CM Sarbananda Sonowal through deception. He tried to attract voters' imagination by asking

them, "Will you vote for such person? Will you vote for someone who deceives? Who lies? Who eats others' money? Who steals land? Who helps the sand mafia. All the people

counter the development narrative of the government effectively, if it wants to push its own narrative of development in the state.

BJP does not rely only on the



economic content it gave in the manifesto, but also have given 31 politically attractive promises. The first two promises are social promises that have been agitating the mind of the people of Assam for a long time.

"We will protect the land, heritage and dignity of the indigenous people of Assam, the first Sankalpa says, "By Implementing the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950, to expedite the process of detection and pushback of illegal immigrants; Freeing every inch of land from encroachment by illegal immigrants; Providing land rights to all genuine citizens of Assam under Mission Basundhara; Freeing the remaining encroached lands of Satras, Namghars, Devalayas and other places of worship and cultural heritage and providing financial assistance under the Asom Darshan Scheme; Strengthening the Satra Aayog to free Satralands from encroachment and provide assistance for Satra restoration and preservation; Redeveloping the Sri Sri Madhupur Satra in line with the Batadrava Than Cultural Project (Srimanta Sankardeva Abirbhav Kshetra); and Redeveloping and restoring Talatal Ghar and freeing it from encroachment in line with the Rang Ghar Beautification Project.

The second socially and politically relevant promise it has made,

"We will strengthen the legislative protections to preserve the civilisation, heritage and rights of the people of Assam by: Working towards the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), excluding the 6th Schedule areas and tribals, while ensuring the traditional rights of ethnic communities; Formulating an effective Act to end the menace of Love Jihad; and taking firm measures to tackle the menace of Land Jihad."

The next 29 promises it gave were related to economy and development. I promised to invest ₹5 lakh crore to position Assam as India's Eastern Gateway, backed by an Asom Gati Shakti Master Plan to ensure the timely completion of projects.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

In Kerala, apparently you can now call a coconut harvester the same way you book a cab. A uniformed professional arrives on a cycle, equipped, trained, and ready to work. We often speak about India's services economy in terms of IT exports or global capability centres. But we're digitising even our most traditional, hyper-local services. There was another detail from this video that stayed with me. The young man who climbed those trees was from Chhattisgarh. When I began my career in our Group's steel business, many of our associates working in our furnace and foundry shops had come from states like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, travelling far from home in search of opportunity. Today, it seems those same aspirations are finding avenues not just in heavy industry, as in the past, but in new-age, tech-enabled services. People moving, adapting and rising are a powerful economic force. And also a force for integration. As long as they're welcomed by the host states!

~ Anand Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra Group



It has promised city development projects in collaboration with the Central government under with sustainable satellite townships, industrial cities, world class Aerocity and airport in Silchar.

BJP's other important promises include creation of a flood-free Assam Mission with an investment of ₹18,000 crore+; creation of additional 2 lakh government jobs; financial assistance of upto ₹5 lakh to cover 10 lakh youth under the Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan to support the creation of new entrepreneurial ventures; free ration; a university in every district; free education from KG to PG to poor; increase monthly assistance to women to Rs3000 per month and also financial assistance of Rs25,000 to existing beneficiaries for business; Rs 11,000 per year for farmers; inclusion of seven communities in OBC list; land pattas; and doubling the Assam's economy by 2031 to \$150 billion, and scale it to \$300 billion by 2036. (views are personal)



'Attempt to mislead people': Nitin Gadkari refutes oppn's allegations of BJP's influence on EC

GUWAHATI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday dismissed the allegations levelled by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) of Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) influence on the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing them of "misleading" the people.

He said that the BJP believes in "impartial, independent and fair democracy".

"All these allegations are wrong. It is an attempt to mislead the people. BJP believes in an impartial, independent and fair democracy," Gadkari told ANI.

His remarks come after TMC

in West Bengal, and DMK in Tamil Nadu accused the BJP of "deleting the votes of the marginalised community" through Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

Speaking about the BJP's strategy for the upcoming elections, Gadkari said that his party aims to win the election based on its development work and the trust of the people.

"We want to fight and win elections based on the positive work we have done. We have changed the future of our country. We have provided employment. We built roads, airports, and railways. We are protecting our farmers. This is our strength. We don't need to



spread negativity for someone else. People believe in our work because of our work," he said.

Earlier, TMC supporters launched an indefinite protest near the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office in Kolkata, alleging large-scale irregularities in the submission of Form 6 applications and demanding strict action against those involved.

The controversy stems from an incident in which Booth Level Officers (BLOs) claimed to have intercepted a BJP worker attempting to enter the CEO's office with over 400 Form 6 applications. As Form 6 is used for the inclusion of names in the electoral rolls, the sheer volume of applications raised significant suspicions among TMC supporters.

Following the claim, TMC

workers gathered outside the office in protest on Tuesday while BJP supporters also reached the spot, leading to a heated exchange that soon spiralled into violence.

Following the incident, authorities imposed Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to prevent further clashes between BJP and TMC workers outside the Election Commission office in Kolkata, a police officer said.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of conspiring to get the upcoming polls cancelled and impose President's rule in the state.

"Administration is not under my control right now. Law and

order (situation) is being controlled by the ECI. They work as per the instructions of Home Minister Amit Shah. The Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, DG, SPs, DMs, ADMs, BDOs, ICs and several other state officials have been changed," she said.

Assembly elections are being held in five states and a Union Territory: Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry.

Voting will begin on April 9 in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry, while Tamil Nadu will go to the polls on April 23, and West Bengal will hold elections in two phases on April 23 and 29.

The results for all regions are scheduled to be declared on May 4.

Tripura TTAADC Polls: DGP Reviews Security Preparedness in Khowai, Dhalai Ahead of April 12 Vote

AGARTALA

Elaborate security arrangements are being put in place for the upcoming elections to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), with Director General of Police Anurag reviewing law and order preparedness in Khowai and Dhalai districts on Thursday.

The DGP chaired a joint review meeting at the office of the Khowai District Superintendent of Police, attended by senior police officials from both Khowai and Dhalai, including district SPs and commandants of the Tripura State Rifles (TSR) units deployed in the region.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Anurag said the TTAADC polls, scheduled for April 12, will be conducted under tight security cover, with adequate deployment of forces across sensitive locations.

"I have come here to assess the preparedness on the ground. We are reviewing policing arrangements and identifying further measures required to ensure that law and order is maintained before, during and after the polls," he said.

The DGP added that coordination meetings will continue at multiple levels, and the security situation is being monitored regularly to respond swiftly to any emerging challenges.

Officials said sufficient security personnel have already been deployed in both districts, with a focus on ensuring a peaceful polling environment and enabling candidates to campaign without disruption.

The police administration has also intensified ground-level assessments to ensure that election-related activities proceed smoothly, particularly in areas identified as sensitive.

The TTAADC elections are seen as significant in Tripura's political landscape, with authorities emphasising a zero-tolerance approach to any disturbances during the electoral process.

Meghalaya: Night Curfew Lifted in Parts of West Garo Hills as Situation Returns to Normal



SHILLONG

Authorities have lifted the night curfew in parts of West Garo Hills district in Meghalaya after reviewing the law and order situation and finding it to be stable, officials said.

An order issued by District Magistrate Vibhor Aggarwal noted that normalcy has returned to the affected areas, paving the way for withdrawal of restrictions imposed earlier this month.

The curfew, which had been in force from 6 pm to 6 am since March 19, was imposed under provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) following incidents

of violence in the district.

Tensions had escalated after clashes between tribal and non-tribal groups resulted in two fatalities, prompting the administration to enforce restrictions to prevent further deterioration of the situation. Officials said no major incidents have been reported in recent days.

With the curfew now lifted, residents are free to move during night hours, and commercial establishments have resumed normal operations, subject to existing regulations.

The district administration has urged the public to maintain peace and communal harmony, warning that any attempt to disturb order will be dealt with strictly. Law enforcement agencies have been directed to remain vigilant and respond promptly to any emerging situation.

Officials added that cooperation from local residents played a crucial role in restoring calm, enabling authorities to ease restrictions in the interest of public convenience.

GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday sharpened the Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance's campaign in Assam, asserting that the BJP's actions are directed against "infiltrators" and not indigenous Muslim communities in the state.

Addressing an election rally in Kallabor in support of Keshab Mahanta, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) candidate backed by the BJP-led alliance, Shah's visit marked his second trip to Assam within four days, underscoring the intensity of the party's poll push ahead of the April 9 Assembly elections.

Targeting the Indian National Congress, Shah alleged that the party failed to deliver development during its 15-year tenure in the state and neglected key sectors, including environmental conservation.



Referring to Kaziranga National Park, he claimed that encroachment during the Congress regime had adversely affected the globally renowned habitat of the one-horned rhinoceros. "It was the NDA government that acted against encroachers and restored Kaziranga's global tourism appeal," he said.

Taking a swipe at Congress

'BJP Targets Infiltrators, Not Indigenous Muslims': Amit Shah

crore over the past decade.

On the issue of encroachment, Shah said the Opposition often portrays action against illegal settlers as being religion-based. "The BJP is against infiltrators, not against indigenous Muslims in Assam," he asserted.

Highlighting improvements in law and order, Shah said the state, once marked by insurgency and unrest, has witnessed relative peace in recent years, with over 10,000 youth joining the mainstream.

He also emphasised the BJP's alliance with the AGP, describing it as a stable and enduring political partnership in the state.

With polling scheduled across all 126 Assembly constituencies on April 9 and counting set for May 4, campaigning in Assam has entered its final and most intense phase, with senior leaders stepping up outreach efforts across key constituencies.

Zubeen Garg Death Case: Singapore Probe Won't Impact Assam Trial, Say Officials

GUWAHATI

Authorities in Assam on Thursday asserted that findings of the Singapore Police Force in the death of singer Zubeen Garg will have no bearing on the ongoing criminal proceedings in the state, even as the overseas investigation ruled out foul play.

Senior officials said the probe conducted by Assam Police was "comprehensive" and based on a broader examination of events, with a chargesheet already filed before a court in Guwahati.

Advocate General Devajit Saikia stated that the closure of the case in Singapore, which termed the incident an accidental drowning, would not influence the trial currently underway in a fast-track court in Assam.

"The proceedings here are



independent and will continue on the basis of evidence collected in Assam," he said, underlining that

the case in Guwahati is based on a different set of allegations and legal grounds.

Special Director General of Police M P Gupta, who headed the Special Investigation Team (SIT), said the state probe examined a "larger picture," including events spanning several years. He claimed the investigation uncovered a pattern of alleged exploitation and linked multiple strands of evidence involving the accused.

Zubeen Garg died on September 19, 2025, while swimming near Lazarus Island in Singapore, a day before he was scheduled to perform at a cultural event. While Singapore authorities concluded that the death was due to accidental drowning with no evidence of foul play, the Assam SIT filed a chargesheet in December naming seven accused, with four facing murder

charges.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier described the case in the Assembly as a "plain and simple murder" and maintained that developments in Singapore could, in fact, strengthen the prosecution's case in Assam.

Officials indicated that differences between the two investigations - one conducted in Singapore and the other in Assam - may be formally presented before the court at an appropriate stage.

The case has also acquired political overtones, with Opposition parties questioning the contrasting conclusions and arguing that key aspects surrounding the singer's death remain unresolved.

The fast-track sessions court in Guwahati is currently hearing the matter on a day-to-day basis as proceedings continue.

High-Level Meeting Reviews Highway Safety, Manipur Govt Issues Strict Directives



BISWADEEP GUPTA

IMPHAL: A high-level review meeting was held at the State Secretariat today, chaired by Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand, with senior officials assessing the current safety and security measures along National Highways.

The meeting focused on strengthening mechanisms to ensure safe and smooth movement of people and goods across the State. Officials discussed key concerns related to disruptions and reviewed strategies to improve coordination among departments.

During the meeting, clear di-

rectives were issued to take firm action against disruptive and unruly elements that threaten highway security. Authorities were instructed to ensure that such activities are contained effectively to maintain uninterrupted transit.

The government reiterated that protection of life and public safety remains a top priority. It also stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, while building public confidence through timely and decisive action.

Officials said efforts will continue to enhance security measures and keep highways safe for all users.

BPF Eyes Clean Sweep in BTC, Hagrama Mohilary Targets UPPL in Poll Push

KOKRAJHAR

Hagrama Mohilary on Thursday expressed confidence that the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) would secure a sweeping victory in the upcoming Assam Assembly elections, while launching sharp attacks on rival formations, particularly the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

Addressing supporters in the Dotma constituency, Mohilary claimed that the political momentum in the region was firmly in BPF's favour. He said leaders and workers from multiple parties, including the AGP and BJP, had rallied behind the BPF candidate, strengthening its electoral prospects.

"We believe victory is certain. There is no other candidate or party strong enough to challenge our nominee," he asserted, projecting a dominant performance for the party.

Escalating his attack on the UPPL, Mohilary accused the party of attempting to create unrest in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) region and ruled out any electoral gains for it. "We are confident of winning all 15 seats. It will be a clean sweep, and UPPL will not win a single seat," he

Quest!

Alcohol kills 2.5M people per year.



said.

He also took a swipe at UPPL leadership, targeting party secretary Raju Narzary, and dismissed the Congress as a diminished force in BTC politics.

Mohilary's remarks come a day after the BPF released its election manifesto at Gossaigaon in Kokrajhar, outlining a broad development roadmap focused on education, infrastructure, identity and welfare.

A key highlight of the manifesto is the push for higher education infrastructure, including a proposed Central University in Baksa district and additional campuses

of Bodoland University across Chirang, Baksa and Tamulpur. The party has also pledged to establish coaching centres for competitive examinations such as UPSC, APSC, NEET and JEE.

On identity issues, the BPF has promised to pursue Scheduled Tribe (Hills) status for Bodo communities in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong, while advocating ST (Plains) recognition for the Sarania Kachari community. It also reiterated support for ST status demands of Koch Rajbongshi and Adivasi groups, alongside measures to address concerns of citizens marked as "D voters".

Infrastructure development forms another major pillar of the manifesto. The party has committed to expediting National Highway projects along the Bhutan border, constructing a flyover at the Tangla railway crossing, and establishing an Indo-Bhutan Trade Centre in Udalguri.

Additional proposals include setting up Bodoland Bhavans in major cities such as Mumbai and Bengaluru, along with guest houses in Kokrajhar, Dadgiri and Sikkim to support connectivity and cultural outreach.

The manifesto also outlines a series of welfare measures, including an annual allocation of ₹100 crore for unemployed youth, ₹40 crore for women's empowerment initiatives, ₹10 crore for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and ₹50 crore for economically weaker sections. Distribution of land pattas based on the 2005 voter list has also been promised.

Further commitments include provincialising educational institutions established up to 2016, introducing the Bodo language in APSC and judicial examinations, ensuring BTC representation in APSC, and developing religious and cultural infrastructure. A Skill and Livelihood Training Centre at Tukrajhar in Chirang is also part of the plan.

With campaigning intensifying across the BTC region, Mohilary's remarks signal an aggressive electoral push by the BPF as it seeks to consolidate support and reassert its political dominance in the Bodoland belt.

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BJP show of strength at Suwendu's Bhabanipur nomination; face-off with TMC workers near CM's home



KOLKATA

With chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'BJP zindabad' reverberating through the lanes of Bhabanipur, the BJP on Thursday transformed Suwendu Adhikari's nomination filing into a saffron show of strength in the very constituency that has long been Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's political fortress.

Adhikari was accompanied by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and state party president Samik Bhattacharya and other leaders.

Standing atop an open-hood, flower-decked truck fitted with giant BJP cut-outs and lotus symbols, Shah waved to cheering supporters as the convoy rolled out from Hazra crossing, amid tight security and a shower of flower petals from terraces and balconies.

If Bhabanipur is Mamata Banerjee's backyard, the BJP on Thursday sought to breach it with drums, slogans and a direct political challenge.

"Today, I have come especially for Suwendu Adhikari's nomination," Shah told a gathering at Hazra crossing

before the roadshow began. Moments later, Shah and Adhikari climbed onto the specially decorated vehicle and began the procession through Bhabanipur.

As the convoy moved through the constituency's streets, saffron flags fluttered from lamp posts and rooftops. Supporters lined both sides of the road, some chanting 'Ebar Banglay BJP', others raising cries of 'Mamata hatao, Bangla bachao'.

The loudest slogans, however, were reserved for Shah and Adhikari.

On the vehicle with Shah and Adhikari were BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya, Rashbehari assembly constituency candidate Swapan Dasgupta and Chowringhee nominee Santosh Pathak, underlining the BJP's attempt to turn the Bhabanipur battle into the centrepiece of its south Kolkata campaign.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Bengal LoP Suwendu Adhikari after the latter filed his nomination from Bhabanipur.

For the BJP, the optics were unmistakable.

As the convoy approached

Kalighat, barely a few hundred metres from Banerjee's residence, Trinamool Congress workers and supporters gathered on the roadside waving green-and-white party flags, shouting 'Joy Bangla' and 'Mamata Banerjee zindabad' slogans.

However, the situation turned tense when the BJP roadshow and the TMC protest came face to face near Kalighat.

For several minutes, supporters of the two rival camps stood barely a few metres apart, hurling slogans at each other.

A thick cordon of police personnel formed a human wall between the two groups to prevent any clash, with officers pushing the rival supporters back on either side of the road.

The face-off brought traffic to a halt and heightened tension in the area before the BJP convoy moved ahead.

The sight of saffron flags and green-and-white banners facing each other across a line of policemen captured the sharp political polarisation that now defines Bhabanipur and much of Bengal politics.

Covid variant 'Cicada' spreads in the US, Europe; no immediate risk to India

NEW DELHI

A 'highly mutated' COVID-19 variant, which is spreading fast in the US and parts of Europe, has triggered worldwide concern. However, experts said there is no immediate risk in India.

Nicknamed 'Cicada', the BA.3.2 is on the list of COVID-19 variants being tracked by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Though cases due to 'Cicada', nicknamed for the insect's ability to disappear and then reemerge after years underground, are rising, experts say it is not driving large waves of infection or more severe disease.

It was first detected in 2024. But Cicada has accounted for a high number of infections, especially in the US and some Eastern European countries, over the past month.

In the US, the variant was detected in wastewater samples in at least 29 states, according to the CDC. There, it is primarily affecting children but is not causing severe infection.

Speaking to The New Indian Express, Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman of the National IMA COVID Task Force, said that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is constantly evolving.

"This means the virus is continually making changes to its genetic structure (called mutations) so that it can escape being detected by existing human immune responses that were based on earlier versions of the virus," he said.

The BA.3.2 has evolved from a variant that apparently disappeared from the global surveillance radar in 2022. It has now reappeared with 75 new mutations in its spike protein compared to the earlier domi-



nant strains like JN.1.

"This extraordinary change is believed to be the result of the earlier virus having lived in a person of reduced immunity for several years, gradually accumulating one mutation at a time," said Dr Jayadevan, who is also Convener, Research Cell, Kerala State, IMA.

He, however, said there is no COVID surge ongoing in India.

"In countries reporting it, there is no evidence that it is causing more severe disease," he said, adding that, thus, it is not a cause for immediate concern in

India.

He further explained that this is also because of "widespread population immunity to prior versions of this virus".

Although it is found at significantly higher levels in Germany and the Netherlands, BA.3.2 in the US accounts for less than 1% of circulating SARS-CoV-2 viruses. "This is despite being discovered in the US as early as June 2025 in a traveller from the Netherlands. With worldwide travel, it may have arrived in India," he said.

The last major variants

detected in India were XFG and LF.7, which were the primary drivers of localised cases through 2025.

On the new variant not causing severe disease, he said, it is because of widespread immune memory in the population to the virus's basic template—from vaccination and from surviving bouts of natural infection.

"In other words, although it is still capable of infecting people, the immune response in healthy individuals can get rid of the virus before the body develops severe disease," he added.

INTERNATIONAL

Iran vows 'crushing' attacks on US after Trump's 'back to Stone Ages' threat

TEHRAN

Iran on Thursday threatened "crushing" attacks on the US and Israel, firing missiles at Tel Aviv after US President Donald Trump vowed to bomb the Islamic Republic "back to the Stone Ages".

The war, which erupted more than a month ago with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, has spread throughout the Middle East and roiled the global economy, impacting hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

In a prime-time White House address, Trump said the US was "very close" to achieving its objectives but warned attacks would intensify if Iran did not reach a negotiated settlement.

"Over the next two to three weeks, we are going to bring them back to the Stone Ages, where they belong," said Trump in a 19-minute speech delivered in front of American flags.

Iran's response was immediate, with Israeli air defences pressed into action and police responding to "several" impact sites, as four people were reportedly lightly injured in the Tel Aviv area.

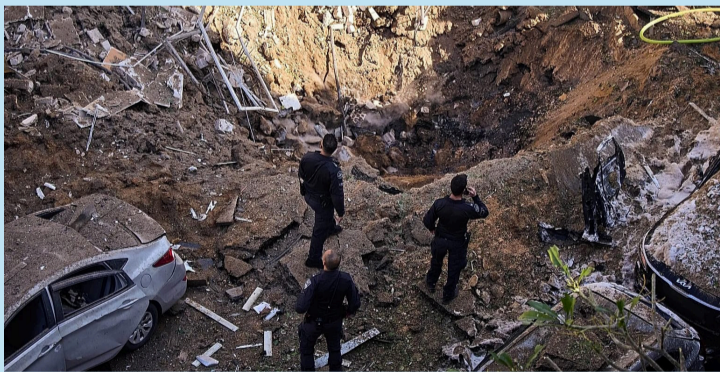
The Iranian military command centre Khatam Al-Anbiya put out a statement carried on state TV warning the US and Israel to expect "more crushing, broader, and more destructive actions".

"With trust in Almighty God, this war will continue until your humiliation, disgrace, permanent and certain regret, and surrender," said the statement.

The latest attacks came as Jewish Israelis were celebrating Passover, which some were forced to do underground.

"This is not my first choice," said a writer who gave his name as Jeffrey, at a meal organised in a bunker in Tel Aviv.

"But at least in the shelter, we can sit here and just ride it out," he added. Mourners wave Iranian flags in



Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, April 1, 2026, as they gather during a funeral procession for Alireza Tangsiri, head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy, and others killed in Israeli strikes in late March.

Trump has recently raised the possibility of a deal to end the war, which has pushed up fuel prices in the US and around the world, and pushed down his approval ratings.

He said talks could be possible with Iran's new leadership, which he described as "less radical and much more reasonable" than their predecessors.

But Tehran has dismissed Washington's ceasefire overtures, describing US demands to end the conflict as "maximalist and irrational".

"Messages have been received through intermediaries, including Pakistan, but there is no direct negotiation with the US," said Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei, quoted by the ISNA news agency on Thursday.

Trump warned that if no agreement with Tehran was struck, Washington had "our eyes on key targets including the country's electric generating plants".

Pro-government Iranians voiced defiance as they marched in Tehran at the

funeral of a Revolutionary Guards naval commander killed in an Israeli strike.

"This war has lasted a month. However long it takes, we will continue," said Moussa Nowruz, a 57-year-old pensioner.

The country's health ministry said the Pasteur Institute of Iran, a century-old medical centre in Tehran, had been extensively damaged in a strike.

In Lebanon, militant group Hezbollah said its fighters launched drones and rockets at northern Israel Thursday, with the Israeli military's Home Front Command saying air raid sirens were activated.

A day earlier, Israel killed a top Hezbollah commander, two sources told AFP, in a Beirut strike that the Lebanese health ministry said killed seven people.

Authorities in Lebanon say Israeli attacks have killed more than 1,300 people in the country since war erupted between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah on March 2.

Mourners wave Iranian flags in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, April 1, 2026, as they gather during a funeral procession for Alireza Tangsiri, head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy, and others killed in Israeli strikes in late March.

The conflict has drawn in Gulf

countries once seen as a safe haven in a volatile region, with air defences in the United Arab Emirates responding to missile and drone threats Thursday.

Trump vowed the United States would not allow allies in the region — Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain — to "get hurt or fall in any way, shape or form".

The war has highlighted the importance of the Strait of Hormuz, a shipping lane through which one-fifth of the world's oil usually passes.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have vowed to keep it shut to the country's "enemies" while Trump has made reopening it a condition for a ceasefire.

China is a major importer of oil through the vital waterway and the foreign ministry in Beijing blamed the United States and Israel for being the "root cause" of disruption.

Britain will lead a summit of 35 countries later Thursday to discuss how to restore freedom of navigation in the strait.

Trump's speech did nothing to reassure markets, as oil prices spiked and stocks tumbled.

The World Bank's Managing Director Paschal Donohoe told AFP his institution was "extremely concerned" about the war's impact on inflation, jobs and food security.

The real world economic impact is being felt around the globe, with airlines in China saying they will hike fuel surcharges and Malaysian civil servants being asked to work from home.

Even the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is feeling the impact, with the government saying "external conditions beyond our control" had forced a hike in fuel prices.

AFP reporters in the capital Thimphu saw long queues at filling stations Thursday, with shortages hitting the landlocked nation of around 800,000 people.

India attends UK-hosted summit on efforts to reopen Strait of Hormuz



NEW DELHI

India has joined a group of over 40 nations attending a UK-hosted summit on ensuring safe shipping through the strategic waterway Strait of Hormuz which has been closed by Iran to US, Israel and its allies, disrupting global oil and gas supplies amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, India has been represented at the summit by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Misri, joining the deliberations through virtual mode, articulated New Delhi's stance on safety of international shipping lanes in the region.

"As far as India is concerned, you very well know that we stand for free and open commercial shipping, and for maritime security in keeping with international law," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

"We continue to call for ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as a matter of priority," he said.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

West Asia has been a major source of India's energy procurement.

Jaiswal said the UK invited several countries, including India, for talks on the Strait of Hormuz and Misri attended it.

"We are in touch with Iran and other countries to see how best we can get unimpeded and safe transit for our ships which are carrying products including LPG and LNG," he said.

"Through these conversations over last few days, six Indian-flagged vessels have been able to safely cross the Strait of Hormuz. We continue to

be in touch with relevant parties on this matter," Jaiswal said.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson said New Delhi is closely following all developments relating to the West Asia conflict.

There have been growing global concerns over disruptions in commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz with many leading powers pressing for fully reopening the waterway.

Iran has allowed ships belonging to its friendly countries to transit through the waterway.

In the last couple of weeks, India has made diplomatic efforts focusing on ending the conflict in West Asia as soon as possible and ensuring the unimpeded flow of energy through the Strait of Hormuz.

New Delhi thinks there could be serious ramifications for fuel and fertiliser security for many countries including India if the blockade of the shipping lane continues.

Displaced and Uncounted: Manipur's IDPs Push Back Against Census 2027 Amid Ongoing Crisis

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In a development that underscores the continuing fragility of peace in Manipur, internally displaced persons (IDPs) have mounted a strong opposition to the proposed Census 2027, warning that the exercise, if conducted under prevailing conditions, risks deepening existing fault lines while producing a flawed and exclusionary demographic record.

At the centre of this resistance are displaced families from Ikou, currently residing at the Sajiwa Relief Camp on the outskirts of Imphal. On Friday, dozens of IDPs gathered in protest, voicing concerns that the timing of the Census amid unresolved displacement and restricted mobility could lead to systemic inaccuracies with long-term consequences for identity, entitlements, and political representation.

The demonstration marks a significant escalation in public dissent over the Census in Manipur, where the issue has already been simmering in recent months. For many of those living in relief camps, the opposition is not merely procedural but existential: a fear that being counted incorrectly, or not at all, could institutionalise their marginalisation.

A Census Amid Crisis The Government of India's decision to proceed with Census 2027 has triggered logistical preparations across states, including Manipur. However, in a region still grappling with the aftermath of ethnic violence that erupted on May 3, 2023, the feasibility of such an exercise remains deeply contested.

Thousands of families continue to live in temporary shelters, unable to return to their homes due to security concerns and fractured inter-community relations. Entire localities remain inaccessible or sparsely populated, while normal administrative functioning is yet to be fully restored in several areas.

Against this backdrop, IDPs argue that a Census conducted now would fail to capture the true demographic reality of the state.

"We are not against the Census as a constitutional exercise," said one protester at Sajiwa. "But how can it be accurate when people are scattered, displaced, and living in camps? Many of us don't even know when we can return home."

Fear of Exclusion and Misrepresentation

A key concern among the displaced population is the risk of exclusion. With many IDPs cut off from their original places of residence, there are fears that enumeration processes may not adequately account for those living in camps or temporary settlements.

Participants in the protest warned that thousands of individuals could either be left out of the Census altogether or recorded in ways that do not reflect their original habitation patterns. Such discrepancies, they argue, could have cascading effects on access to welfare schemes, electoral representation, and community rights.

The anxiety is particularly acute in Manipur, where demographic composition has long been a politically sensitive issue, intertwined with questions of land, identity, and autonomy. "The Census is not just about numbers here-it shapes our future," said another protester. "If the numbers are wrong, everything that follows-delimitation, resource allocation, representation-will also be wrong."

Civil Society Raises Alarm Echoing these concerns, Jeetendra Ningomba, convener of the Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation (CJFD), said the current situation in Manipur does not support a credible enumeration process.

"We are organising this public awareness programme because the issue is serious," Ningomba said during the protest. "While the Census will be conducted across the country, Manipur is still in turmoil. Administrative control has not been fully restored in many areas, and people are

not able to move freely." He stressed that these conditions would make it nearly impossible to obtain a fair and accurate demographic picture of the state. "In such a situation, the government cannot produce a reliable report. We appeal to both the Government of Manipur and the Government of India, particularly the Registrar General of India, to defer the Census in the state," he added.

Ningomba also highlighted the prolonged nature of the displacement crisis, noting that many families have been living in relief camps for over two years-a reality that fundamentally undermines the premise of a household-based enumeration exercise. Rehabilitation Before Enumeration

A recurring theme in the protest was the demand that rehabilitation and safe return of displaced populations must take precedence over any large-scale administrative exercise. For IDPs, the Census has become a symbol of misplaced priorities-an attempt to impose bureaucratic normalcy in a context where social and physical realities remain deeply unsettled.

"We need to go back home first," said a camp resident. "Only then can we be counted properly. Otherwise, this Census will not reflect who we are or where we belong." The demand is not merely logistical but rooted in a broader call for justice and restoration. Displaced

families argue that without addressing the underlying causes of their displacement, any attempt to document the population would be incomplete at best and misleading at worst. Official Schedule and Rising Tensions The opposition to Census 2027 issued by the Manipur Home Department in the state gazette on March 23, 2026. According to the notification, householding operations are scheduled to be conducted between September 1 and September 30, 2026, while the self-enumeration phase is slated for August 17 to August 31.

While these timelines align with the broader national schedule, their announcement has added to tensions within the state. Previous protests linked to the Census have also intersected with demands around the National Register of Citizens (NRC), further complicating the discourse.

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