

Barak Festival
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025
www.krctimes.com
Phone: 9721 838313

KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026

Registrations
OPEN

WhatsApp only | +91 955 083 0085
www.northeastintegrationrally.in

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 784 | SILCHAR WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 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

People spend too much time looking for more, instead of appreciating what they already have.

Meghalaya Nears Completion of India-Bangladesh Border Fencing: Conrad Sangma

SHILLONG

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Wednesday said that border fencing work along the India-Bangladesh border in the state is nearing completion, with only around 40 to 45 kilometres of the total stretch left unfinished.

Speaking on the progress of border infrastructure development, Sangma said nearly 400 kilometres of fencing has already been completed across the state.

"About 10 per cent work remains due to local issues," the Chief Minister said, adding that the government is engaging with local residents to resolve concerns related to the pending stretches.

"We are talking to the locals and trying to solve the genuine issues," he said.

Sangma also claimed that Meghalaya has made faster progress in border fencing compared to several other states sharing borders with Bangladesh.

"In comparison to other states, Meghalaya is ahead," the Chief Minister added.

The fencing project along the India-Bangladesh border is part of broader efforts aimed at strengthening border security, enhancing surveillance and addressing cross-border challenges in the region.

WHO SAID WHAT



Remembering Veer Savarkar on his Jayanti. His courage and patriotism will always inspire people. His intellect and emphasis on social reform are also noteworthy.

~ Narendra Modi, PM

President Murmu Urges Citizen-Friendly Policing at Sikkim Police Honour Ceremony

Scindia Congratulates Sikkim on Achieving Fully Literate Status Under ULLAS

GANGTOK

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday called for a more citizen-friendly policing system and urged police forces to function as supportive institutions for society while addressing the ceremonial presentation of the President's Police Colour to the Sikkim Police at Palzor Stadium in Gangtok. Presenting the prestigious President's Colour to the force, Murmu said the honour recognised the outstanding service and dedication of the Sikkim Police over the years. She congratulated former and serving officers and personnel associated with the force for the achievement.

"Today, I am extremely pleased to present the President's Colour to the Sikkim Police for its outstanding service. This honour is a matter of pride for all members of the Sikkim Police," the President said.

Murmu noted that the Sikkim Police, established in 1897 to secure the India-Tibet trade route, has continued to play a vital role in maintaining peace and security in the Himalayan state.

She said the police force had not only maintained law and order but had also extended support to people during natural disasters and other difficult situations. The President further highlighted that several personnel from the force had been awarded United Nations Peacekeeping Medals for their contributions to UN missions. Addressing the issue of police reforms, Murmu said the Indian policing system had long remained influenced by colonial-era practices where the emphasis was more on control and governance than public service.

"Under this mindset, instead of helping the public, the focus was more on ruling over them. It is very important to completely free ourselves from this thinking in order to empower the citizens of the country," she said. The President stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in policing and said citizens should be able to register complaints and grievances without difficulty. She also urged police personnel to remain sensitive towards women, children and weaker sections of society, adding that the police should function as a friend and guide to citizens in order to strengthen public trust. Murmu said the role of the police extended beyond apprehending criminals and also involved building a safe and aware society.

Praising the Sikkim Police for maintaining a professional and people-friendly approach, she said the force had earned the respect and affection of the



public through its conduct and service. Highlighting the strategic importance of Sikkim, the President noted that the responsibilities of the state police were significant as the state shares an international border and receives a large number of tourists from India and abroad. She said the Sikkim Police must work closely with national security agencies while also preparing to tackle emerging crimes such as cybercrime, online fraud, hacking and deepfake-related offences. "To deal with these challenges, the police must strengthen their capabilities in the latest technology, cybersecurity and digital investigation," she said. The President also underlined the need for coordination among police forces and investigative agencies across states, observing that cyber and digital crimes were not confined by geographical boundaries.

She further stressed the need to create greater public awareness to prevent such offences. Describing the President's Colour as a matter of great honour,

Murmu expressed confidence that the Sikkim Police would continue to serve with dedication and uphold the dignity associated with the recognition.

"I firmly believe that the Sikkim Police will continue to perform its duties with a spirit of service to the nation," she added. Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday congratulated the people of Sikkim after the state was formally declared fully literate under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative. Describing the achievement as a "historic moment", Scindia said "Saakshar Sikkim is now a reality" and termed the milestone a major step forward in the state's educational progress. In a post on X, the Union minister said education forms "the foundation of an empowered and developed region" and added that the development reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit North East".

Scindia said "Saakshar Sikkim is now a reality" and termed the milestone a major step forward in the state's educational progress. In a post on X, the Union minister said education forms "the foundation of an empowered and developed region" and added that the development reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit North East".

Assam Assembly passes Uniform Civil Code Bill; bans polygamy, registration of marriages and live-in must

GUWAHATI

Assam Assembly on Wednesday passed a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill after a marathon debate between the BJP-led NDA and the opposition parties. The bill seeks to establish a single civil legal framework to govern marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships irrespective of religion.

With this, Assam has become the first state in the Northeast and the third Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled state in the country to pass such legislation, after Uttarakhand and Gujarat. Though Goa also has common civil law since the Portuguese colonial rule.

The bill prohibits polygamy, while setting a standardised legal age of 21 years for grooms and 18 years for brides. It proposes mandatory registration of marriages and live-in relationships, while setting defined timelines and penalties for non-compliance.

"The legislation safeguards cultural diversity by granting full freedom of ritual, allowing marriages to be solemnised through any existing religious ceremony or custom, including Vedic Bibah, Ahom Chaklong, Saptapadi, Ashirvad, Nikah, Holy Union, Anand Karaj," an official statement read.

The UCC Bill was introduced on May 25 in the state assembly, proposing a ban on polygamy and making registration of live-in relationships compulsory. State Cabinet Minister Atul Bora introduced the Uniform Civil Code Assam Bill 2026 in the Assembly on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The BJP had promised to bring in the UCC in Assam in its manifesto ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The state Cabinet had approved the Bill in its first

meeting held on the 13th of this month.

The Uniform Civil Code, Assam, 2026 Bill proposes a single civil legal framework for all residents governing marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships, according to the state government.

As per the bill, marriages are required to be registered within 60 days of the ceremony, while live-in relationships must be registered within 30 days. Deliberate failure to register marriage or divorce within the stipulated 60-day period will attract a penalty of Rs 10,000, the statement said.

Speaking to ANI, BJP MLA Diganta Kalita on Wednesday praised the government for fulfilling a key election promise and described the move as historic.

"Our Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, stated previously that if we were to return to power, the implementation of the UCC would be our top priority. Today marks a truly significant indeed, a momentous occasion for us. This day will go down in the history of the 16th Assam Legislative Assembly," Kalita said.

Assam Transport and Bodoland Welfare Minister Charan Boro sought to allay fears regarding the impact of the bill, particularly concerning the state's diverse indigenous populations.

"There is really no cause for undue concern regarding the UCC. Because we are a tribal people, and tribal communities are completely exempt from the UCC, whatever matters currently govern us will remain intact. It seems there is no subject here that warrants any such apprehension or alarm," he said.

Uttarakhand was the first state to pass a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in February 2024, followed by Gujarat, which cleared the legislation with a majority voice vote after a marathon debate lasting over seven hours in March 2026.

ASF Outbreak Prompts Pork Ban, Restrictions in Assam's Tinsukia

TINSUKIA

The Tinsukia district administration has imposed emergency restrictions in Doomdooma following the confirmation of African Swine Fever (ASF) in pigs at Uttar Rangpuria village under Kakopathar near Doomdooma.

Authorities identified Uttar Rangpuria village as the epicentre of the outbreak and began culling operations in the infected zone from May 27, which will continue till May 29, officials said.

In an order issued on May 26 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, Tinsukia District Commissioner Sumit Sattawan declared a one-kilometre radius around the affected village as an "infected zone" and a 10-kilometre radius as a "surveillance zone".

As part of the containment measures, all pork shops and related establishments in Doomdooma co-district have been directed to remain closed for 30 days or until further notice.

The administration has also prohibited the movement of pigs and pork products from the affected area to other districts as well as neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh. In addition, the sale of pork in markets across the co-district has been temporarily banned.

African Swine Fever is a highly contagious viral disease that affects domestic and wild pigs and is known to cause high mortality among infected animals. However, veterinary experts have clarified that the disease does not spread to humans and poses no public health risk.

Assam Chief Secretary, BSF ADG Review Border Security, Regional Challenges



GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota on Thursday held a high-level meeting with Border Security Force (BSF) Additional Director General Sumit Sharan to discuss border management, regional security challenges and coordination between the state administration and border guarding forces. According to the Assam Chief Secretary's Office, the meeting focused on evolving security dynamics in the Northeast, including the changing political situation in neighbouring countries and challenges arising from the diverse geographical nature of international borders.

Sumit Sharan, a 1997-batch IPS officer and senior BSF official, met the Chief Secretary as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination and preparedness along Assam's sensitive border areas.

Officials said the discussions covered a range of issues related to border governance, security infrastructure and operational coordination. Special emphasis was laid on strengthening border check-post infrastructure and improving monitoring and management systems in border regions. The meeting also highlighted the need for continued collaboration between the civil administration, law enforcement agencies and

central security forces to maintain peace and stability in Assam and the wider Northeast.

Assam shares international borders with Bangladesh and Bhutan and holds strategic importance because of its proximity to several northeastern states and neighbouring countries. Security agencies have continued to focus on concerns such as illegal infiltration, cross-border movement, smuggling, insurgency-related activities and the impact of changing regional political developments. The discussions come at a time when security agencies across the Northeast are closely monitoring developments in neighbouring countries and assessing their potential impact on border security and internal stability in the region. In a statement shared on social media, the Chief Secretary described the interaction as "substantive discussions on border management and evolving security dynamics in the region." He added that the meeting underlined the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure effective border governance and long-term regional stability.

The BSF plays a key role in guarding India's international borders and supporting internal security operations in border states, including Assam. Officials said continued dialogue and joint coordination mechanisms between the state administration and central forces would help strengthen security preparedness and improve administrative efficiency in border management across Assam and adjoining regions.

Centre, Tripura Roll Out Rs.236-Crore 'Mission Queen Pineapple' to Turn State Fruit Global

AGARTALA

In a major initiative aimed at transforming Tripura's pineapple economy, the Centre and the state government on Wednesday launched the ₹236-crore "Mission Queen Pineapple, Tripura" project to boost cultivation, value addition, branding and exports of the state's famed GI-tagged Queen Pineapple.

The three-year project was launched in New Delhi in the presence of Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and state Agriculture Minister Ratan Lal Nath.

Speaking at the launch event, Nath said Tripura's unique agro-climatic conditions have made it one of India's leading pineapple-producing states, with large-scale cultivation of Queen and Kew varieties primarily carried out by tribal farmers.

"The Queen Pineapple, Tripura's state fruit, carries a Geographical Indication tag and is known for its aroma, golden-yellow colour and low-fibre texture," Nath said.

Despite its premium quality and high export potential, the minister pointed out that farmers currently receive only ₹6 to ₹10 per kilogram at the farm-gate level,



while processed and export-grade Queen Pineapple can command prices between ₹80 and ₹150 per kilogram in domestic and international markets.

He said Tripura's Queen Pineapple is widely regarded as one of the finest varieties in the country due to its sweetness, aroma and nutritional value.

According to the minister, the fruit contains vitamins A, B and C along with minerals such as calcium, magnesium, potassium and iron. Its sweetness level ranges between 13 and 17.2 degree Brix, giving it a balanced sweet-tart flavour.

Nath noted that the export journey of Tripura's Queen Pineapple began in 2018 with consignments sent to Dubai and lat-

er expanded to markets in Qatar, Oman and Bangladesh. Processed pineapple products from the state have also reached Germany and Russia.

The project, officially titled "Pineapple Cultivation and Value Chain Development", will be implemented between FY 2026 and FY 2028 to address structural bottlenecks limiting the commercial expansion of the fruit.

Funding for the ₹236-crore mission includes ₹145 crore from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, ₹30 crore from the Ministry of Agriculture, ₹25 crore from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, ₹20 crore from the Tripura government, and ₹4 crore from

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, along with contributions from other central ministries and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The initiative has been designed around three core pillars - cultivation management, post-harvest processing and value addition, and branding and marketing.

Officials said the project would follow a multi-ministerial coordination model aimed at strengthening the entire pineapple value chain from farm to global markets. Highlighting an additional economic opportunity, Nath said pineapple leaves, which are currently discarded as agricultural waste, could generate substantial revenue if commercially utilised.

"The leaves that our pineapple farmers throw away today have an economic value of nearly ₹1,483 crore. This initiative seeks to convert agricultural waste into economic opportunity using the same land, crop and farmer base," he said.

The government expects the mission to substantially improve farmers' income, strengthen export competitiveness and establish Tripura's GI-tagged Queen Pineapple as a premium international agricultural brand.

Mizoram Plans 132 MW Tuivai Hydropower Project to Meet Rising Power Demand

AIZAWL

The Mizoram government is planning to develop a 132 MW hydroelectric power project on the Tuivai River in Saitual district near the Manipur border to strengthen the state's power generation capacity amid rising electricity demand, officials said.

Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Chief Minister's Office to expedite the proposed Tuivai Hydroelectric Project. Power Minister F. Rodinglana and senior officials of the Power and Electricity Department were also present during the meeting.

Officials said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project has already been completed and the proposal is now ready for the tendering stage. The state government is considering implementing the project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. According to officials, Mizoram's current peak power demand stands at around 182 MW and is projected to increase to nearly 213 MW by 2030, as per the

20th Electric Power Survey.

Despite having an installed generation capacity of 50.20 MW, the state's actual local power generation remains limited and currently meets only around 10 per cent of the overall requirement.

Officials said Mizoram spends nearly Rs 649.54 crore annually on power purchases, excluding transmission costs, prompting the government to prioritise the expansion of domestic power generation infrastructure.

The Tuivai Hydroelectric Project was first surveyed by the Central Water Commission in 1992 with a proposed capacity of 210 MW. However, the project design was later revised after a portion of the proposed dam area was found to extend into neighbouring Manipur, leading to the reduction of the planned capacity to 132 MW. As per the revised DPR, the project is estimated to cost Rs 2,289.50 crore and is expected to be completed within five years.

The review meeting also discussed annual funding requirements in consultation with the Finance Department.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 785

THE REAL STATE OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

The trouble with the post truth world is that it has an expiry date. The truth can be glossed over for some finite length of time, not perpetually. Truth eventually triumphs. It seems that we have reached that hour of reckoning. Indications were pronounced, coming from the Prime Minister himself, when he in no uncertain terms asserted the need for Indian citizens to 'tighten their belts' – an 'austerity package of sorts'!

But the most devastating demonstration was staged in far-away Scandinavia. The Prime Minister of Netherlands had in the earlier phase of the Prime Minister's foreign visit flagged the deeply disturbing features of Indian democracy, its ever deteriorating press freedom and conditions of human rights of its religious minority population. But the final blow was damning when reporters in Norway bluntly questioned the Indian Prime Minister for not taking questions in a press conference after having invited the media corps.

Not only did it deal a telling blow on the credibility of the Prime Minister, and his governance, but the question will haunt the cozy post-truth world that has been built through a complete institutionalisation of a corporate-led media bluff to ward off critical questions which make a society and democracy vibrant. No amount of waxing eloquent by the Indian MEA will stave off certain questions. That this was in faraway Oslo makes it all the more difficult to brand them under the familiar description of 'traitors' or 'anti-nationals'.

With the US-Israeli military aggression and its legitimate response by Iran, the energy supply line has got visibly choked in the Strait of Hormuz. There should not be any surprise despite Modi's frequent beat hugs with his so-called friend Donald Trump, the complete befriending of Bibi Netanyahu in the run up to the military aggression and the constant company with US-Israeli nexus, India has no diplomatic leeway to change the course of the military confrontation. If at all, India's earlier goodwill as the leader of the non-aligned world has gone through the window, with India now siding with Tel Aviv and Washington. So much so that, Pakistan has managed to find its way as one of the negotiators for ending the deadlock diplomatically.

What makes the situation dangerous for us, the billions in India, is that the Prime Minister's attempt to attribute the impact of the irrefutable crisis is not washing. Modi had attributed the impending crisis to Covid and the war. Serious analysts, let alone the opposition, are shredding these justifications to pieces. In fact, India's current economic crisis is showing the mirror to the policies of the Modi-led government itself. The aggressive neo-liberal attacks lowered the income and savings of a large section of the working people. Unabashed subservience to corporate interests led to unprecedented levels of cronyism. Along with the dismantling of public sector assets and handling over these and the natural resources to those very corporates, this has completely destroyed the domestic demand and purchasing power.

The results are glaring: unprecedented levels of inequality and astronomical levels of unemployment. The latest 2026 World Inequality Report puts hard numbers to how sharply income and wealth are split in India. In India, the top 10 per cent earn 58 per cent of all income, while the bottom 50 per cent receive only 15 per cent. Wealth is even more skewed; the richest 10 per cent hold about 65 per cent of total wealth and the top 1 per cent about 40 per cent. This is how the World Inequality Lab's findings, led by Thomas Piketty and others, stack up. The post-truth chant that India is the fourth fastest growing economy of the world, and more comically, claiming that India is the second most 'equal economy' is now coming to haunt Modi and his corporate-media backers and their spin.

Some home-truths of economics should be understood. No amount of disinformation can make investments happen if profits cannot be earned. Profits can only be earned if commodities can be sold. Without demand, neither commodities can be sold nor profits earned. This is coming back with a vengeance. Some of the latest symptoms of the impending crisis are in the form of rapid exit of the foreign institutional investors, who are scampering away from the Indian capital market. This is unmistakably manifested in the runaway hurry towards Indian Rupee approaching the US Dollar. Not just FIIs, which are by definition fickle and look at immediate gains, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which is a more substantial input for long term growth are also leaving, so much so that, right now the inward FDI in India has turned negative. No amount of tax waiver for favoured corporates is securing investments in India, as they are looking for offshore greener pastures.

Even Adani, the closest of Modi's cronies, has bought peace with the US Security Exchange Commission (SEC) by paying a hefty penalty. Further, they have bought peace with Trump and his Republicans by offering to invest \$10 billion and creating 15,000 jobs. One doesn't know whether this peace was facilitated by Modi's own offer of succumbing to Trump's demand that India stop buying cheaper crude and gas from Russia and Iran and instead buy the more expensive US oil. Whether the surrender to the 'Tariff Terror' is also part of the deal, is anybody's guess.

Overall, the impact of the war is appearing to be so severe because of the Modi government's failure to build a strategic reserve for crude. Whereas China has 1.4 billion barrels acquired in April 2020, when crude was ruling \$20 per barrel. India has a meager 40 million barrels. This means that India's strategic reserve of crude is just 2.85 per cent of China's reserves. Between 2014 and 2026, Modi government collected Rs. 40 lakh crores as extra tax from the people, while domestic crude production has decreased. As a result, India's import dependence of 78 per cent (2010-2014) has risen to almost 90 per cent now. Failure to diversify imports, together with the smallness of reserves have exposed Indian economy far too much. Failure to invest in physical and social infrastructure for the last 12 years has left the population in an unprecedented trauma.

The divisive Hindutva campaign will not help. Post truth bravado will be even more useless. The time has come to reckon with the truth. The government should immediately come out with a whitepaper, with reasonable degree of introspection, with a call for course correction and forging some degree of national consensus.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do. - Epictetus

WILL TRUMP WIN THE IRAN WAR OR IS THE AGE OF SUPERPOWERS CHANGING?



COL. (DR.) ASHWANI KUMAR, MID, VSM (RETD.)

The Iran War of 2026 is no longer merely a military confrontation between the United States, Israel, and Iran. It has evolved into a defining geopolitical struggle over the future balance of global power itself.

At stake is not only the future of West Asia, but also the survival of the post-Cold War superpower model dominated by America. President Donald Trump entered the conflict seeking to restore deterrence, weaken Iran's strategic network, and reinforce American authority in the region. Yet the longer the war continues, the more the world is beginning to ask a deeper question, can even the world's strongest military power still impose political outcomes in an age shaped by economic interdependence, cyber warfare, proxy conflict, and rising Asian influence?

The war has gradually exposed a harsh strategic reality. The old unipolar order appears weakened, but a stable multipolar order has not yet emerged. Instead, the world is drifting toward fragmented power centres, unstable alliances, economic coercion, cyber confrontation, and growing geopolitical distrust.

Iran's Strategy: Not Victory, But Endurance.

Iran understands one important reality it cannot defeat America conventionally. But Tehran also knows that modern wars are no longer won solely through battlefield destruction.

Its strategy is therefore based upon endurance, disruption, and strategic exhaustion.

Iran's greatest strength lies in geography and patience. The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most sensitive energy choke points. Any instability there immediately affects global oil prices, shipping routes, insurance markets, and industrial economies.

Tehran has also spent decades preparing for asymmetric warfare:

- Missile deterrence.
- Drone capability.
- Proxy networks.
- Cyber operations.
- Underground military infrastructure.
- Psychological resilience against sanctions.

Iran's calculation appears simple, if the war becomes prolonged and economically painful, political pressure inside America and among its allies will gradually increase.

In this sense, Iran is fighting a strategic war of attrition rather than a direct military contest.

The Expanding Shadow of Proxy Warfare.

One of the most dangerous dimensions of the conflict is the growing role of proxy warfare. Modern wars are increasingly fought not only by regular armies, but also through militias, cyber networks, armed groups, ideological organizations, and regional actors operating indirectly on behalf of larger powers.

For decades, Iran has carefully cultivated influence across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and elsewhere through aligned organizations and regional partnerships. These networks provide Tehran strategic depth far beyond its borders and allow it to pressure adversaries without always engaging in direct state-to-state confrontation.

This proxy structure has significantly complicated the war.

Even when direct military exchanges slow down, attacks on shipping routes, drone operations, cyber sabotage, and militia activity continue to sustain instability across the region. The result is a conflict that becomes geographically wider, economically more damaging, and diplomatically harder to control.

Proxy warfare also creates strategic ambiguity. Major powers can escalate pressure while avoiding direct conventional confrontation. However, this ambiguity increases the danger of miscalculation. A single strike on critical infrastructure or a regional assassination can rapidly trigger broader escalation involving multiple countries.

The long-term impact of proxy warfare is equally serious. It weakens state institutions, prolongs instability, encourages radicalization, and turns entire regions into zones of continuous low-intensity conflict.

Why Israel Appears Determined to Continue the Conflict.

Israel views Iran not as a temporary geopolitical rival but as a long-term exist-



tential security challenge. For Israeli leadership, Iran's missile capability, nuclear ambitions, and regional proxy network represent a strategic threat that cannot be ignored. Tel Aviv believes that allowing Tehran greater military and regional influence would fundamentally alter the balance of power in West Asia.

This explains why Israel appears more determined than many other nations to sustain pressure on Iran.

Israeli strategic thinking is driven by several concerns:

Preventing Iran from achieving nuclear weapons capability.

Weakening Iran-backed groups near Israeli borders.

Preserving regional military superiority.

Re-establishing deterrence credibility amid rising regional tensions.

Israel also calculates that delaying confrontation today may create a far more dangerous security environment tomorrow.

However, this approach carries risks. A prolonged conflict could further destabilize West Asia, intensify proxy warfare, deepen anti-West sentiment, and increase the possibility of wider regional escalation involving non-state actors and neighboring countries.

Why Is Iran's Uranium a Bigger Concern Than It Appears?

A question many ordinary readers may naturally ask is this: when countries like India and Pakistan already possess nuclear weapons, why does Iran's reported stockpile of around 440 kilograms of uranium enriched to nearly 60 percent create such global concern for America and its allies?

The answer lies not merely in the quantity of uranium, but in the geopolitical context and the speed with which highly enriched uranium can potentially be converted to weapons-grade material. Strategic experts argue that uranium enriched to 60 percent is technically much closer to weapons-grade enrichment than low-enriched civilian nuclear fuel. The concern in Washington and Tel Aviv is therefore less about immediate weaponization and more about "breakout capability" – the possibility that Iran could rapidly move toward weapons production if it politically decides to do so.

Unlike India, which is internationally viewed as a relatively stable nuclear power with declared deterrence doctrine and established command systems, Iran exists in a highly volatile regional environment marked by ideological confrontation, proxy warfare, and continuous hostility with Israel.

At the same time, critics argue that global nuclear standards often appear selective and politically driven, especially when different countries are treated differently under the international system. This perception itself has become part of the larger geopolitical debate surrounding the Iran crisis.

Has America Already Lost Something? Militarily, America remains unmatched. No nation today can compete with its naval reach, satellite intelligence, precision-strike capability, or global military infrastructure.

Yet history repeatedly shows that military superiority alone does not guarantee geopolitical success.

The wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan demonstrated that prolonged conflicts can weaken domestic political unity, economic confidence, and international legitimacy.

The Iran conflict risks creating similar pressures.

The war has already:

- (i) Increased global energy instability.
- (ii) Added economic strain.
- (iii) Diverted strategic focus from China.
- (iv) Polarized international opinion.
- (v) Deepened divisions within sections of the Western alliance structure.

Many countries now view the conflict less through ideological lenses and more through the prism of economic survival and strategic balance.

America may still dominate militarily, but the unquestioned aura of unipolar dominance appears increasingly challenged.

China: The Silent Strategic Winner. The biggest strategic beneficiary of the conflict may ultimately be China.

Unlike America, China has avoided direct military involvement while steadily expanding diplomatic influence. Beijing has projected itself as a voice of restraint, stability, and economic continuity.

This is where President Trump's recent visit to China became especially significant. The visit symbolized a changing geopolitical reality, even rivals now require dialogue to prevent global economic disruption. Discussions reportedly included oil supply chains, sanctions pressure, trade stability, and the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

China understands that prolonged American engagement in West Asia indirectly benefits Beijing by:

- (i) Diverting US strategic focus.
- (ii) Weakening Western economic stability.
- (iii) Expanding Chinese diplomatic space.
- (iv) Increasing Asian dependence on Chinese trade networks.

Unlike Cold War powers, China rarely seeks ideological confrontation. It advances through infrastructure, trade, technology, and long-term economic influence. However, China also faces risks. Any major disruption in Gulf oil flows would directly affect Chinese manufacturing and energy security. Beijing therefore seeks controlled instability not total regional collapse.

India's Role in the Emerging Asian Order.

For India, the Iran conflict represents both danger and opportunity. India today occupies a unique strategic position in Asia. It maintains relations with America, historical ties with Iran, growing cooperation with Israel, economic engagement with Gulf nations, and continuing strategic dialogue with Russia.

This gives India unusual diplomatic flexibility.

Unlike many smaller powers, India is not compelled to fully align with one bloc alone. Instead, New Delhi is increasingly practicing strategic multi-alignment maintaining relationships across competing power centres while preserving independent decision making.

India's priorities remain clear:

- (i) Energy security.
- (ii) Stability in the Indian Ocean.
- (iii) Protection of the Indian diaspora in the Gulf.
- (iv) Safe maritime trade routes.
- (v) Counterterrorism concerns.
- (vi) Regional balance against China.

India is therefore unlikely to openly support either side militarily unless its direct national interests are threatened. Instead, India's role in Asia is gradually evolving into something larger:

- (i) A stabilizing regional power.
- (ii) A balancing force between East and West.
- (iii) A strategic maritime actor in the Indian Ocean.

A civilizational state capable of dialogue across ideological divides.

The conflict has also highlighted the strategic importance of projects like Chabahar Port, which provide India access to Central Asia while reducing dependence upon hostile regional corridors. The 21st century may ultimately become defined not by one superpower, but by an Asian strategic triangle involving India, China, and America.

Failure of International Institutions. The war has also exposed the declining effectiveness of international organizations. The United Nations has struggled to create meaningful consensus, while global institutions increasingly appear constrained by major-power rivalries.

Even traditional alliances are showing signs of stress:

- (i) Europe remains divided.
- (ii) Russia supports Iran diplomatically while avoiding direct confrontation.
- (iii) Gulf nations fear escalation but remain dependent upon American security structures.
- (iv) Middle powers seek neutrality and economic stability.

The result is a fragmented diplomat-

ic environment where no single nation today possesses uncontested global authority.

Is the Superpower Era Changing? The central question therefore remains: will Trump "win" the Iran war?

The answer depends entirely upon how victory is defined.

(i) If victory means military dominance, America remains overwhelmingly superior.

(ii) But if victory means long-term geopolitical stability, strategic legitimacy, economic resilience, and sustained global influence, the answer becomes far more uncertain.

The Iran War may ultimately be remembered less as America's victory

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Deeply appreciate Hon

Prime Minister H.E.

Anthony Albanese's

@AlboMP

remarks in the

Australian Parliament

about India and the

contribution of Indian

diaspora to **□**. Hon

Prime Minister's

words reflect the

growing strength of

the **□□□** Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership,

built on shared

democratic values and

vibrant people-to-

people ties. ~ High

Commission of India,

Canberra, Australia



or defeat and more as the moment the world fully entered a post-unipolar age.

A new system now appears to be emerging:

(i) Power dispersed across multiple centres.

(ii) Economic warfare replacing direct invasions.

(iv) Cyber capability rivaling military strength.

(v) AI and information warfare shaping perception.

(vi) Regional powers gaining influence.

(vii) Civilizational identities returning to geopolitics.

In this changing order, India's rise may become one of the defining strategic developments of the century.

The future world may not belong to nations that merely possess military strength. It may belong to those capable of balancing power with patience, diplomacy with deterrence, and national interest with strategic wisdom.

And perhaps that is the deeper lesson emerging from the fires of the Iran War.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed are personal and based on publicly available information and strategic analysis at the time of writing. The article is intended solely for academic, analytical, and informational discussion and does not represent the official views of any government or organization.

'Treat Your Wife, Don't Remarry': Himanta Slams Polygamy Demand Amid UCC Debate

GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma strongly opposed any provision permitting polygamy on grounds of a spouse's illness, asserting that marriage in Hindu society is a "divine relationship" rooted in responsibility, care and commitment.

Reacting to discussions surrounding provisions related to marriage and polygamy under the proposed legal reforms in Assam, the Chief Minister criticised the Indian National Congress over what he described as support for allowing remarriage if a wife becomes seriously ill.

"In our Hindu society, we believe that a husband-wife relationship is a divine relationship. If my wife falls ill, it is not my job to marry again.



"My job is to get my wife treated," Sarma said.

The Chief Minister alleged that the Congress was advocating a position that would permit men to seek another marriage instead of caring for their spouses during illness, calling such an approach "cruelty".

"A prestigious political party cannot say that if your wife is ill, instead of treating and taking care of her, you should get married again. You will push her into mental agony. What kind of society is this?" he asked.

Sarma said his government had rejected demands seeking permission for polygamy without valid legal grounds.

"For no reason, unless you prove that she is unfaithful, you cannot al-

low polygamy," he stated.

He further said that in cases of marital disputes, individuals should pursue remedies through the legal system rather than seeking multiple marriages outside the framework of law.

"If you can say that she is not faithful, you will have to go to law and get a divorce. After a proper decree, you can have a second marriage or a marriage after divorce," Sarma added.

The remarks come amid intense political debate surrounding the recently passed Uniform Civil Code Bill in Assam, which seeks to introduce common civil regulations governing marriage, divorce, inheritance and related personal matters in the state.

BJP Names Abhishek Debroy as New Tripura Unit President

AGARTALA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday appointed MLA Abhishek Debroy as the new president of its Tripura unit, replacing Rajib Bhat-tacharjee as the party gears up for upcoming political and organisational activities in the state.

The appointment was announced through an official organisational notification issued by BJP National General Secretary and Headquarters In-charge Arun Singh. According to the party, the decision was approved by BJP national president Nitin Nabin and came into effect immediately.

Debroy, who represents the Matabari constituency in the Tripura Legislative Assembly, was elected to the Assembly in the 2023 polls on a BJP ticket. Party leaders expect him to play a significant role in strengthening the BJP's organisational network in Tripura ahead of future electoral challenges. The leadership change in Tripura is part of a broader organisational reshuffle undertaken by the BJP across multiple states. Alongside Tripura, the party also announced new state presidents for Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

Former Congress leader and ex-MLA from Barnala, Kewal Singh Dhillon, has been appointed president of the BJP's Punjab unit. In Haryana, senior BJP leader Archana Gupta has been entrusted with leading the state organisation, while Union Minister of State and East Delhi MP Harsh Malhotra has been named the new chief of the party's Delhi unit.

The BJP said the appointments were made under the guidance of the party's national leadership as part of efforts to further strengthen its organisational structure across states, including the Northeast.

NFR Revives 112-Year-Old Steam Engine at Maligaon in Tribute to India's Railway Heritage

HAFLONG

Northeast Frontier Railway has restored a 112-year-old heritage steam locomotive of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and unveiled an upgraded heritage display at its headquarters in Maligaon as part of efforts to preserve India's railway legacy.

The restored Steam Locomotive No. 808-C Class Narrow Gauge engine was formally inaugurated on May 26 by NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava in the presence of senior railway officials and staff members.

Built in 1914 by the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow, the locomotive is considered a rare piece of India's railway engineering history and a significant symbol of the steam railway era. The engine had earlier been displayed at the NFR headquarters campus and has now undergone extensive restoration, including structural repairs, repainting and refurbishment.

The restoration work was car-

ried out by the Carriage and Wagon Workshop at New Bongaigaon under the supervision of the NFR General Manager.

To make the installation more engaging for visitors, the restored heritage display now includes decorative illumination along with simulated sound and smoke effects, creating an interactive experience for railway enthusiasts and tourists.

Steam Locomotive No. 808 belonged to the iconic 4-6-2 Pacific Class engines introduced in 1914 for operations under the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway network. Along with its twin locomotive No. 807, it played a vital role in hauling freight trains weighing up to 800 tonnes on the Kishanganj Extension section.

Following the conversion of the Siliguri-Kishanganj railway section to metre gauge in 1948, the locomotive continued functioning as a shunting pilot at Siliguri before being decommissioned during the 1960s.

Meghalaya Govt Moves to Curb VIP Culture With Uniform Rules for Official Vehicle Name Boards

SHILLONG

The Government of Meghalaya has approved a new regulation standardising the use of name boards on official vehicles in a move aimed at reducing VIP culture, improving transparency and ensuring uniformity in government protocol.

The decision was cleared by the Meghalaya Cabinet on Wednesday following a proposal prepared by the state Transport Department.

Announcing the development after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the new guidelines clearly define which officials and designated authorities are permitted to display official name boards on government vehicles.

"As you recall, we had earlier come out with a SOP regulating the use of sirens, lights, and other aspects associated with VIP culture. In line with that, the Transport Department was asked to de-



fine who can use name boards and what the standard format should be," Sangma told reporters.

According to the Chief Minister, the latest regulation is part of the government's broader effort to curb unnecessary displays of authority and bring discipline to the use of official vehicles.

Under the newly approved norms, only specific positions

within the government, judiciary, administration and select statutory bodies will be authorised to use official name boards. The regulation also prescribes a uniform design and format based on official designation.

The list of authorised positions was prepared by the Transport Department and approved by the Cabinet after detailed examina-

tion. While the full list has not yet been made public, officials indicated that it largely covers senior government functionaries, judicial officers and key administrative authorities.

The move is expected to prevent arbitrary or unauthorised use of official name boards and ensure consistency in protocol across the state.

Government sources said the regulation would also help improve accountability and reduce misuse of government identity for unofficial or personal purposes.

The Meghalaya government had earlier introduced standard operating procedures regulating the use of sirens, beacon lights and other symbols associated with official privilege as part of ongoing administrative reforms.

Officials said the Transport Department will soon issue detailed operational guidelines and specifications for implementation of the newly approved regulation across Meghalaya.

Centre Clears Forest Land Diversion for Nagaland Power Transmission Project

KOHIMA

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the diversion of 3.93 hectares of forest land inside the Nagaland Zoological Park for the construction of a 220 kV power transmission line connecting Dimapur and Kohima.

According to an official release issued on Wednesday, the approval was granted in favour of the Nagaland Power Department for the Dimapur-Kohima (Zhadima) transmission line project passing through the Rangapahar Reserve Forest area in Chümoukedima district.

The release stated that the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Shillong had initially granted in-principle (Stage-I) approval through a letter dated February



12, 2024.

Following compliance with the conditions laid down under the Stage-I clearance, the ministry later accorded final approval for diversion of the forest land through a subsequent communication dated August 25, 2025.

Authorities said the approval remains subject to fulfilment of all stipulated environmental and forest-related conditions.

The Divisional Forest Office, Nagaland Zoological Park has been directed to monitor compliance with conditions mentioned in the forest and wildlife clearance orders and report any violations to the Nodal Officer under the Forest Conservation Act, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Nagaland, and the state Environment, Forest and Climate

Change Department.

The release further stated that project execution would remain subject to obtaining all additional statutory clearances required under relevant laws and regulations, payment of prescribed fees and compliance with any applicable court orders.

Officials also said the user agency would be required to strictly adhere to all conditions linked to the diversion of forest land.

The Divisional Forest Officer has additionally been instructed to submit periodic monitoring reports to the Nodal Officer under the Forest Conservation Act after completion of all compliance formalities.

Authorities added that handing over and taking over certificates, along with GPS readings and polygon maps of the diverted land, would also need to be submitted as part of the compliance process.

Rare Albino Hog Deer Spotted in Kaziranga, Delighting Wildlife Enthusiasts



GUWAHATI

A rare albino hog deer has been spotted inside Kaziranga National Park, drawing excitement among wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists and residents across Assam. The unusually light-coloured deer was recently seen standing out against the lush green landscape of the national park, which is globally known for its rich biodiversity and protected wildlife habitats.

The sighting has generated widespread interest because albino animals are extremely rare in the wild due to the genetic condition known as albinism, which causes a lack of pigmentation in the skin, fur and eyes. Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to several endangered and iconic species, including the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, wild buffaloes, swamp deer and tigers. Environmentalists said the rare sighting adds another significant chapter to Kaziranga's ecological legacy.

"It is good news for the people of Assam because a rare albino hog deer has been recently spotted in Kaziranga National Park. The albino hog deer is a rare animal, and its sighting brings joy," said environmentalist Devojit Moran.

He added that the discovery could further boost tourism in the national park, which already attracts visitors from across India and abroad. "Kaziranga tourism will get a new lease of life from now onwards. Although it is already famous, after this sighting of the rare albino hog deer, tourism will grow more than ever," Moran said.

Wildlife experts noted that the appearance of an albino hog deer highlights the genetic diversity preserved within Kaziranga's protected ecosystem and underscores the importance of continued conservation efforts in the region.

The sighting has now become one of the latest remarkable wildlife observations recorded from the famed national park.

Gauhati University Defends NEP Fee Structure Amid Student Protests Over Admission Uncertainty

GUWAHATI

Gauhati University on Wednesday issued a detailed clarification on the fee structure of its Five-Year Integrated Master's Programme (FYIMP) and Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), rejecting allegations of arbitrary fee hikes amid growing student protests and uncertainty surrounding admissions under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 framework.

The clarification came a day after students of Darrang College staged demonstrations over uncertainty regarding admissions into the fourth year of the FYUGP structure.

The protest, organised by the Darrang College Students' Union on May 26, saw students blocking roads and burning an effigy of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Protesters alleged that the absence of clear guidelines regarding seventh and eighth semester admissions had created widespread confusion among students.

Several students claimed that those who had not appeared for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for postgraduate admissions were now uncertain about their academic future.

"The government has still not taken

any clear decision regarding admissions. As a result, the future of many students has become uncertain," a protesting student said. The All Assam Students' Union and its Darrang College unit also submitted a memorandum demanding clarity on FYUGP admissions and immediate removal of uncertainty surrounding seventh-semester entry. Responding to the controversy, Gauhati University said media reports claiming steep fee hikes were "factually incorrect" and maintained that no programme fees had been arbitrarily increased.

The university stated that the FYIMP was introduced in May 2023 as part of NEP 2020 implementation and launched in the presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the state Education Minister.

According to the university, the programme was designed to provide students with a seamless transition from undergraduate to postgraduate studies without requiring a separate entrance examination.

University authorities explained that the programme operates under a self-financing model because no additional grants, manpower or infrastructure assistance had been provided for its implementation.

To meet the infrastructure demands created by undergraduate teaching under the NEP framework, the university said it converted an unused hostel building into classrooms after the current Vice-Chancellor assumed office. Two additional floors have also been added to

the NEP Coordination Centre building, which will become operational in the upcoming academic session.

A separate academic block is also under construction to address long-term classroom requirements. The university emphasised that infrastructure development costs had not been transferred to students. At the time of FYIMP's launch during the 2023-24 academic session, semester fees were fixed at Rs 16,500 for science stream courses and Rs 14,500 for arts stream subjects.

Despite the self-financing nature of the programme, the university claimed that the fees collected recover only a portion of the actual expenditure incurred.

It further announced that from the 2025-26 academic session onwards, semester fees for even and subsequent semesters had been reduced by Rs 2,000 to lessen financial pressure on students and their families.

In a significant relief measure, the university also declared that fee waiver benefits would now be extended to eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) students enrolled in FYIMP from the current semester onward. However, authorities cautioned that any further fee reduction could affect the sustainability of some academic programmes because of limited institutional resources.

The university also clarified that from the seventh semester onward, FYIMP students would be treated at par with regular postgraduate students and corresponding postgraduate fee structures would apply. Addressing allegations that

fees for affiliated colleges under FYUGP had increased "almost four-fold", Gauhati University rejected the claims and clarified that only a one-time permission fee for introducing the fourth year had been incorporated under an existing regulatory structure introduced in 2018.

Officials explained that colleges had earlier paid separate one-time permission fees for introducing first, second and third years, and the same framework had now been extended to cover the fourth year under FYUGP.

Importantly, the university stated that no separate affiliation fee was being charged for introducing the fourth year. "Extension of a programme from three years to four years under FYUGP does not attract any separate or additional affiliation fee," the university clarified.

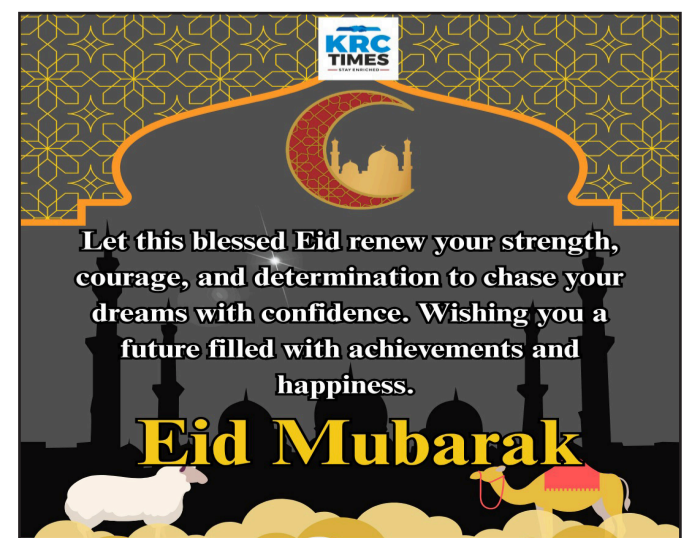
It further stated that affiliation and permission fees had been revised only after seven years, with the previous revision carried out in 2018.

According to the administration, the overall increase amounted to nearly 15 per cent over seven years and was implemented following recommendations made by the statutory Finance Committee.

Reiterating its commitment to implementing NEP 2020, Gauhati University said it remained focused on maintaining academic quality, affordability, transparency and inclusiveness, while urging stakeholders and sections of the media to verify facts before circulating information publicly.

Quest!

Allodoxophobia is the fear of opinions.



Let this blessed Eid renew your strength, courage, and determination to chase your dreams with confidence. Wishing you a future filled with achievements and happiness.

Eid Mubarak

First hydrogen train in the country to start regular operations between Jind, Sonapat in Haryana



expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central Government for allotting the country's first hydrogen fuel cell-based DEMU train to Haryana.

He said this is not only a historic achievement for Haryana but for the entire country, which will give India a new identity in the direction of modern, environment-friendly and future-oriented public transportation.

He said that the Railway Board has approved the operation of a 10-coach hydrogen fuel cell-based DPRS 1200-kilowatt DEMU train between Jind and Sonapat. This train will run at a maximum speed of 75 kilometres per hour.

The Chief Minister said that this project will play an important role in making Haryana a leading centre of clean, safe and modern rail transport technology in the country.

Saini said that hydrogen-based trains will become a strong foundation for the future of transportation.

This will not only help reduce pollution but will also give a new direction to the use of green energy and alternative fuels. "This Hydrogen DEMU train will prove to be a milestone, keeping future projects in view," he said.

The Ministry of Railways had allocated Rs 2,800 crore in the 2023-24 budget for hydrogen train development. This funding supports research, design, testing, and the creation of necessary infrastructure for wider adoption across key routes.

Under the "Hydrogen for Heritage" project, Indian Railways plans to introduce 35 hydrogen-powered trains, primarily on heritage and hill routes.

to ensure the proper security of the entire premises of the hydrogen plant and refuelling facility shall be made to prevent unauthorised access.

This train will run at the maximum speed of 75 kilometres per hour and the trial runs were conducted in March this year.

Also, a license has been granted for the filling and storage of Compressed Hydrogen Gas (CHG) in the Hydrogen Storage System from the Hydrogen Generation Unit for dispensing as automotive fuel at Jind, Haryana.

Initially, for three months, the train shall be accompanied by trained technical staff having competency in the hydrogen trainset to attend to en-route technical issues.

This hydrogen train stands out globally as the world's longest hydrogen train on a broad-gauge system.

With a 10-coach configuration (2 Driving Power Cars and 8 passenger coaches), the total power output is 2400 kW (1200 kW per Driving Power Car).

The passenger capacity is up to 2,600 passengers, and it is designed for smooth operation on Indian tracks while maintaining high efficiency and safety standards.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has

CHANDIGARH

The Ministry of Railways has approved the introduction of country's first fully indigenous 10-coach hydrogen DEMU (Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit) train. The train is set to start regular operations between Jind and Sonapat in Haryana.

This marks a significant milestone in the country's transition to cleaner and more sustainable railway technology.

As per a letter dated May 22, from the Director, Civil Engineering, Railway Board, Kishan Rawat to the Director General, Research Design and Standards Organisation, and General Manager, Northern Railway, the sanction of Rolling Stock has been processed for operation over a dedicated section Jind-Sonapat only, whereas the scheduled maintenance of the Trainset has been planned at Shakurbasti, Delhi.

The necessary authorization for the movement of the trainset from Jind-Shakurbasti-Jind in dead condition (Hauled by Loco) shall be ensured in accordance with extant codal provisions, said sources.

It also called for the provision of 24x7 manning for the control room, with complete access to the data log for the hydrogen refuelling cycle.

Necessary arrangements

SC verdict on SIR: ECI can examine citizenship, deleted cases to go for adjudication



NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the Election Commission of India (ECI) can examine citizenship status only for the limited purpose of determining eligibility for inclusion in the voter list and clarified that deletion from the electoral roll does not amount to a legal declaration that a person is not a citizen.

The court also directed the poll panel to refer, within four weeks, cases where names were deleted on citizenship grounds to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act

for adjudication.

The bench made the observations while upholding ECI's power to conduct the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, saying it "breathes life" into the constitutional mandate of free and fair elections and advances the "constitutional imperative" of ensuring credible polls.

Disposing of petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Bihar, SC said the credibility of the democratic process rests on the accuracy of the voter list.

One of the principal objections raised by petitioners, including the NGO Association for Democratic

Reforms, was that the exercise functioned as an "NRC-like process", with the poll panel allegedly verifying citizenship — a power they argued rests exclusively with the Central government.

Rejecting the contention, the bench held that the Commission is empowered to undertake a limited enquiry into citizenship to satisfy itself about a person's eligibility for inclusion in the electoral roll.

"We are, therefore, unable to hold that the impugned documentation framework is arbitrary or violative of the statutory scheme. The

Commission is empowered, in the exercise of its constitutional mandate, to undertake a limited enquiry into citizenship for the purpose of satisfying itself as to eligibility for inclusion in the electoral roll," the court said.

The court clarified that such an enquiry "did not amount to a determination of citizenship in the strict sense" and that any action arising from it was confined only to electoral consequences.

"It affects the individual's entitlement to be included in the electoral roll, and thereby their right to participate in the electoral process. It does not, however, operate to divest the individual of claims of citizenship, nor does it foreclose a determination of that question by the competent authority under the Citizenship Act," the bench added.

To prevent disenfranchisement, the court directed the ECI to refer, within four weeks, all cases where names were deleted from the 2003 electoral roll on citizenship grounds to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955, for adjudication.

"The Competent Authority shall take the necessary decision in accordance with law, preferably before the next Parliamentary, Assembly, Local Body elections, whichever is earlier, after giving notice and an opportunity of hearing to the deleted individuals, if any," the court said.

It further said that where the Commission is not satisfied that a person meets the statutory conditions for inclusion in the electoral roll, it would be required to refer the matter to the competent authority under the Central government for adjudication under the Citizenship Act.

"The Commission's determination, being confined to electoral purposes, cannot assume finality on the question of citizenship. Any deletion effected on this ground shall, therefore, remain subject to the outcome of such adjudication by the appropriate authority," the bench said.

INTERNATIONAL

US military conducts another strike against Iran after Trump says Tehran is 'negotiating on fumes'

WASHINGTON

U.S. forces carried out new defensive strikes on Wednesday on an Iranian military facility after downing Iranian attack drones, according to U.S. officials.

The officials, who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said U.S. Central Command forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that posed a threat around the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. forces also struck an Iranian ground control station in Bandar Abbas that was about to launch a fifth drone, according to the officials.

The strikes came after President Donald Trump asserted Wednesday that Iran is "negotiating on fumes" and insisted that November's midterm elections won't make him rush into a deal to end the nearly three-month-old conflict that's spurred unease across the global economy. Speaking at the start of a Cabinet meeting, Trump expressed confidence that a deal is near. Over the weekend, he even declared that his administration and Tehran had "largely negotiated" a settlement, though the talks are still in flux.

The president is looking for a settlement that will reopen the Strait of Hormuz and provide him with a credible argument that Iran's nuclear capability has been diminished enough to declare victory, winding down a conflict that's been politically unpopular for Republicans.

But as things stand, Trump also risks finding that closure to his war of choice comes with an unsatisfactory ending.

The emerging deal puts off many critical issues to be resolved later and has already exposed the Republican president to fierce criticism — even from some of his own supporters — that Iran's hardline leaders will emerge from the conflict battered but emboldened. It all comes to a head just as the midterm elections to determine control of Congress come into focus and as Republicans

worry that rising costs and fuel prices are darkening the American electorate's mood.

But Trump on Wednesday dismissed the idea that the upcoming elections would shape his Iran strategy.

"They thought they were gonna outwait me. You know, 'We'll outwait him. He's got the midterms,'" Trump said. "I don't care about the midterms."

Trump acknowledged there's still work to do, but he spoke with a measure of certainty that the two sides would get there.

"They want very much to make a deal," Trump said. "So far, they haven't gotten there. We're not satisfied with it, but we will be — either that or we'll have to just finish the job."

Talks were further complicated after U.S. forces carried out what the Pentagon called "defensive" strikes on missile launch sites and minelaying boats in southern Iran on Monday. The U.S. said it acted with "restraint" in light of the weeklong ceasefire, while Iran decried the action as a sign of "bad faith and unreliability." Wednesday's strikes are likely to cause more complications.

While Trump insists a deal is within reach, there appears to be daylight between the U.S. and Iran on several key issues. The president is also facing scrutiny from Republican allies, including Sens. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Ted Cruz of Texas, who have said the terms seem too favorable to Tehran.

They're balking at aspects of the deal that have emerged publicly that they say too closely resemble the nuclear agreement reached with Iran by Democratic President Barack Obama, which Trump scrapped during his first term.

Under the potential deal, Tehran would agree to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium — a key Trump demand — in return for sanctions relief. That's according to two regional officials and one senior Trump administration official, all of whom

spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

One regional official, with direct knowledge of the negotiations, said how Iran would give up the uranium would be subject to further talks during a 60-day period. Some would likely be diluted, while the rest would be transferred to a third country, the official said.

Trump said that he "wouldn't be comfortable" with either Russia or China taking Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. The two countries have the closest relations with Tehran, and nuclear analysts have said they could be a potential acceptable third party to the Iranian Republic to take possession of the enriched uranium as part of a potential deal.

Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran has not publicly committed to giving up its uranium.

Another key issue unresolved is whether the ceasefire will also cover Israel's operations against Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militant group in Lebanon. Iran has insisted that Lebanon must be covered by any ceasefire agreement negotiated with the United States.

The administration appears to leave some wiggle room on the Lebanon question. The emerging memorandum of understanding calls for a ceasefire between the U.S. and its allies against Iran and its proxies, such as Hezbollah, but also underscores Israel's right to act against imminent threats and in self-defense.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday announced that the Israeli military is "deepening its operation" in Lebanon. Overnight, Israel's military clashed with the Iran-backed militant Hezbollah group along a strategic river in southern Lebanon as Israeli troops pushed farther north. Jonathan Conricus, a former spokes-

person for the Israel Defense Forces, said Israel expects that Iran would quickly move to direct any sanctions relief to restore its military capability and boost proxy groups, including Hezbollah and Hamas in Gaza.

"We're not done fighting, because the Iranian regime isn't done," said Conricus, who is a senior fellow with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a hawkish Washington think tank.

Trump on Wednesday also reinforced his call that the deal should include a requirement for several additional countries, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Pakistan, to join the Abraham Accords, the U.S.-brokered agreements from Trump's first term aimed at normalizing diplomatic and economic relations with Israel.

"We're, you know, requesting strongly that they join," Trump said.

Trump's optimism that the other Middle Eastern and majority-Muslim countries could soon sign on to the accords might be overly ambitious.

For example, Saudi Arabia, the most significant power in the Arab world and long seen as the biggest prize for the normalization effort, has insisted that establishing a guaranteed path to a Palestinian state remains a precondition. It's something that Israel vehemently opposes.

Trump pushed for the Abraham Accords during a call with leaders of Mideast allies over the weekend.

Barbara Leaf, a retired U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and senior State Department official during President Joe Biden's Democratic administration, said officials from Gulf countries who were on the call told her that Trump's pitch was greeted by "stunned silence." A person familiar with the call disputed that characterization and said that some regional allies responded positively to the president's call to join the accords. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity about the private conversation.

Bangladesh health officials launch probe after six newborn babies die in same hospital in a day



DHAKA

At least six newborn babies died in the same hospital ward in Bangladesh within hours of each other on Wednesday, said health officials, who launched an investigation.

The newborns, aged between one and three days, were in the post-delivery ward of Ad-Din Hospital, a private facility in the capital, Dhaka.

"An investigation is underway, and we need some time to determine the cause of the deaths of the newborns," Nahida Yasmin, a director at the hospital, told reporters.

Prabhat Chandra Biswas, head of the government's health department, noted that air conditioning in the

ward was not working in the early hours on Wednesday, as temperatures in Dhaka were around 32C.

"There is no alternative ventilation once the air conditioner is turned off," he told reporters, saying the atmosphere inside was suffocating.

One baby fell sick and was taken to an intensive care unit, but was returned to the ward an hour later.

Around dawn, five other babies were feeling unwell. "All were put on ventilators but could not be saved," Yasmin said.

Health department spokesman Zahid Raihan said initial information did not suggest any mistreatment as the cause of the deaths.

The Criminal Investigation Department is... testing whether there

were any technical faults in the air conditioner or any electrical equipment," he said. Janu, a 55-year-old woman whose granddaughter was among the six dead, sat at the entrance of the hospital holding a tiny body wrapped in a shroud. "My granddaughter was perfectly okay until last night," she told.

The babies "turned blue one after another... We took her to the ICU and later received her body," Janu said. Others families at the hospital appeared nervous, with some saying they were considering transferring their children elsewhere.

"My grandson has been in the ICU for 19 days in a critical condition -- I can't understand what I should do," Mohammed Harun told AFP.

Assam UCC Bill 2026: How the Proposed Law Could Redefine Marriage, Divorce, Inheritance and Live-in Relationships

When Assam Parliamentary Affairs Minister Atul Bora introduced the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026 in the Assam Legislative Assembly on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the move signalled one of the most significant legal overhauls in the state's post-Independence history. If enacted, Assam would become the first state in the Northeast and among a small group of Indian states to adopt a common civil framework governing marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships across religious communities.

The proposed legislation seeks to establish a uniform legal structure for civil matters irrespective of religion, while exempting Scheduled Tribes (Hills) and Scheduled Tribes (Plains) in recognition of constitutional safeguards and customary practices. Although religious ceremonies such as Nikah, Anand Karaj, Vedic rites, Ahom Chaklong and Christian wedding traditions may continue unchanged, the legal consequences arising from those ceremonies would now be governed by a single statutory code.

Supporters of the Bill describe it as a long-awaited step toward gender equality and legal uniformity. Critics, however, argue that several provisions raise serious questions concerning privacy, state oversight and the balance between individual rights and governmental regulation.

Mandatory marriage registration and monogamy

Among the central provisions of the Bill is compulsory registration of marriages. Every marriage solemnised in Assam would have to be registered within 60 days through the office of the Sub-Registrar. Failure to do so could attract a penalty of Rs 10,000.

The Bill retains the legal marriage age at 21 years for men and 18 years for women, while enforcing monogamy across communities. Bigamy and polygamy would be punishable under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, carrying imprisonment of up to seven years.

However, the proposed legislation contains a savings clause protecting polygamous marriages that were legally solemnised before the UCC comes into effect. Such marriages would continue to remain valid under law.

The legislation also seeks to repeal the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024, effectively bringing all communities under one registration mechanism.

Child marriages and marriages obtained through coercion, fraud, concealment or misrepresentation would continue to attract punishment under existing criminal laws, including imprisonment and fines.

One legal process for divorce

The proposed UCC introduces a common set of grounds for divorce applicable to all residents covered by the law. Grounds such as cruelty, desertion and mutual consent would apply uniformly irrespective of religious affiliation.

The Bill also introduces provisions concerning child custody during separation proceedings. Children below five years of age would ordinarily remain in the custody of the mother, although courts would retain discretion to determine the child's welfare based on individual circumstances.

Like marriages, divorces would also require formal registration. Failure to register a divorce within the prescribed period could invite financial penalties similar to those imposed for non-registration of marriages.

The government has argued that the move would reduce legal ambiguity and eliminate disparities between personal laws governing different religious communities.

Live-in relationships brought under legal scrutiny

One of the most debated provisions in the proposed law concerns live-in relationships. Under the Bill, couples entering into live-in relationships would be required to register the relationship within 30 days of commencement.

Failure to register could result in imprisonment of up to three months, a fine of Rs 10,000, or both. Furnishing false information or concealing material facts during registration may invite imprisonment and fines of up to Rs 25,000.

The government maintains that registration would provide legal protection to vulnerable partners, particularly women, by formally recognising maintenance rights and civil claims arising from such relationships.

Children born from registered live-in relationships would be considered legitimate under the law. The Bill also grants deserted live-in partners the right to seek maintenance through courts.

However, civil-liber-



ty groups and opposition leaders have criticised the provision as an intrusive expansion of state authority into private relationships between consenting adults. Critics argue that mandatory registration backed by criminal penalties effectively transforms a personal arrangement into a monitored legal category.

The provision has emerged as one of the most politically contentious elements of the proposed legislation.

Equal inheritance rights for sons and daughters

The proposed UCC seeks to establish a gender-neutral inheritance framework in cases where a person dies without leaving a will.

Under the Bill, the spouse, sons, daughters and parents of the deceased would all fall within the same Class-I heir category, granting equal legal standing in matters of succession.

The provision marks a major departure from certain personal-law traditions where inheritance shares differ on the basis of gender. Under the proposed framework, daughters would enjoy the same inheritance rights as sons by statute.

Legal experts believe this could significantly reshape property ownership patterns in Assam, especially in families where daughters were historically excluded from equal succession claims.

The Bill also recognises the right of an adult of sound mind to execute a written and witnessed will. This aspect has generated sharp debate, particularly among Muslim organisations and opposition leaders.

Critics, including AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, have argued that unrestricted testamentary freedom could allow parents to disinherit daughters or other heirs entirely through wills, bypassing traditional protections available under Islamic inheritance law.

Government representatives counter that mandatory documentation, witnessing requirements and a formal registration framework would make fraudulent or coercive transfers more difficult.

Concerns over wills and unequal property transfers

A major issue surrounding the inheritance provisions relates to the possibility of parents transferring property disproportionately to one child, often through wills or gift deeds executed late in life.

The concern gained prominence following debates around the Uttarakhand UCC in 2024, where questions were raised over elderly parents being pressured into transferring assets to one heir while excluding others.

Under existing legal systems, inheritance rules vary considerably. Hindu law permits a person to will away self-acquired property freely, while Islamic law traditionally restricts testamentary disposition beyond one-third of the estate without consent from other heirs.

The Assam Bill does not incorporate the Islamic restriction limiting bequeathable property. Instead, it attempts to address disputes through procedural safeguards.

First, the law ensures equal inheritance among all children in cases where no valid will exists. Second, wills must be written and properly witnessed. Third, the proposed registration architecture would create a documented trail for property transfers, making fraudulent claims easier to challenge.

Legal analysts note that the effectiveness of these safeguards will ultimately de-

pend on the detailed rules framed after the Bill becomes law. Questions remain over how authorities will verify mental fitness, consent and the authenticity of property transfers involving elderly parents.

Several observers have also pointed out that some operational details concerning verification mechanisms remain undefined in the current draft.

Political confrontation over the UCC

The Bill has triggered intense political confrontation inside and outside the Assam Assembly.

The opposition Congress, Rajiv Dal and the All India Trinamool Congress accused the government of rushing the legislation without adequate consultation. Congress legislators argued that the exemptions granted to Scheduled Tribes undermine the claim of complete uniformity.

Opponents have also alleged that the Bill disproportionately affects Muslims while preserving customary protections for other communities.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma defended the legislation as a constitutional reform aligned with Article 44 of the Constitution, which calls upon the state to strive toward a Uniform Civil Code.

The BJP-led NDA government, which commands a majority in the 126-member Assembly, is expected to secure the Bill's

passage comfortably.

Yet the political battle is unlikely to end with legislative approval. Constitutional challenges, debates over privacy and questions concerning religious freedom are expected to continue in courts and public discourse long after the law is enacted.

A paperwork-driven transformation of family life

For ordinary families across Assam, the most immediate effect of the proposed law may not emerge through dramatic courtroom battles, but through an expanding culture of legal documentation.

Marriage certificates, divorce registrations, live-in declarations, wills and property transfers would increasingly become part of a centralised legal record.

The government argues that such documentation strengthens accountability, protects women and children, and reduces disputes arising from undocumented family arrangements.

Critics, however, see the same framework as a widening system of state surveillance over intimate personal relationships.

What remains clear is that the Assam UCC Bill, 2026 is not merely a legal reform concerning personal law. It represents a broader attempt to redefine how family, inheritance and private relationships are formally recognised by the state.

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@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/krccplacements Apply here: https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm

VOLUNTEERS REGISTERS

We are looking for volunteers across NE & West Bengal Interested candidates (College students, youths) can register at https://northeastintegrationally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspx, send an email: neintegrationally@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 InfoCom Solutions at: info@krccfoundation.org 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 For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/krccstudentinternship or www.krccfoundation.org/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@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest www.krccfoundation.org/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 / WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: info@krccfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313



STUDENT INTERNSHIP

STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.

APPLY NOW

5eforsuccess@gmail.com



Live Project Incentives

Certificate Free Training



Brain VISION
KRC
Shaping Careers
For a Successful Tomorrow

Never lie to someone who trusts you, and never trust someone who lies to you.



WE'RE HIRING

TECHNICAL SALES EXECUTIVE

ABOUT JIGYASU

Jigyasu, a brand of Dasco Education Pvt. Ltd., is transforming education through experiential learning. We develop innovative science and technology models that simplify complex concepts and make learning engaging for students.

ROLE

Drive sales by demonstrating products to schools and offering technical solutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct demos & presentations
- Understand client needs
- Travel for meetings
- Achieve sales targets

REQUIREMENTS

- B.Sc./M.Sc. in Physics
- Good communication skills
- Sales interest & willingness to travel

DETAILS

₹25,000–₹35,000/month + Incentives

Locations: **Kolkata, North East, Odisha**

APPLY NOW & BE PART OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING!

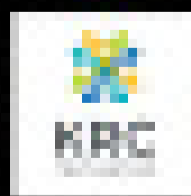


InfoCom

DIARY

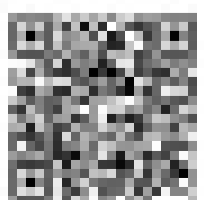


An Initiative of
KRC Foundation



infocom.krc@gmail.com
www.krcfoundation.org
Tel: 0720038513

Know More



Apply Here

