

Barak Festival
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

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

KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026

Registrations OPEN

WhatsApp: +91 935 083 0085
www.northeastintegrationrally.in

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 801 | SILCHAR MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com , www.krctimes.com

Landslide in Dima Hasao Cuts Off NH-27 Connectivity, Hundreds of Vehicles Stranded



HAFLONG
A massive landslide triggered by incessant rainfall disrupted vehicular movement along National Highway 27 in Assam's Dima Hasao district on Sunday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded and severely affecting connectivity between the Barak Valley and other parts of the state.

The landslide occurred along the Jatinga-Harangajao stretch of the highway after a large section of a hillside collapsed, sending mud, rocks and debris onto the roadway. The affected portion of the highway was completely blocked, bringing traffic movement to a standstill.

Hundreds of passenger vehicles, buses and goods-laden trucks were stranded on both sides of the affected stretch as the blockage led to a long traffic jam. Travellers were forced to wait for several hours amid continuous rainfall and challenging weather conditions.

Officials said the landslide was caused by heavy and sustained rainfall in the region, which has weakened hill slopes and increased the risk of slope failures across several vulnerable locations in the district.

Following the incident, personnel from the district administration and concerned departments rushed to the

site and launched road-clearing operations to remove the accumulated debris and restore traffic movement.

However, officials noted that continuous rainfall and unstable hill conditions have hampered restoration efforts, making it difficult for machinery and workers to carry out clearance operations safely and efficiently.

The district administration has advised commuters to avoid non-essential travel along the Jatinga-Harangajao route until the situation improves and normal traffic movement resumes. Authorities said efforts are underway on a war footing to clear the affected stretch and reopen the highway at the earliest. The administration is also closely monitoring weather conditions and the stability of nearby slopes to prevent further incidents. National Highway 27 serves as a crucial transportation corridor linking the Barak Valley with the rest of Assam, and any prolonged disruption is likely to impact passenger movement as well as the transportation of essential commodities across the region.

Kaushik Rai Inspects East-West Corridor Works in Dima Hasao

HAFLONG
Assam Food, Public Distribution, Consumer Affairs, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Kaushik Rai on June 20 reviewed the progress of the Silchar-Saurashtra East-West Corridor project during an inspection of damaged stretches between Nirimboi and Harangajao in Dima Hasao district. The minister visited several key project sites, including Jatinga, Rekho, Boro Mulkhoi and Dalaichung, to assess the status of ongoing construction and restoration works. He was accompanied by Public Health Engineering, Barak Valley Development and Hill Areas Development Minister Krishnendu Paul, who also serves as the guardian minister of Dima Hasao district.

Among those present during the inspection were North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council Executive Member Debolal Gorlosa, MLA Rupali Langthasa, Dima Hasao BJP president Dhriti Thaoson, officials of the National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI), representatives of the executing agencies and senior district administration officials.

The ministers reviewed construction activities along the corridor and examined measures being undertaken to restore sections of the highway affected by landslides and adverse weather conditions. Addressing officials during the visit, Rai said the project has been progressing steadily under the active supervision and regular monitoring of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He noted that while landslides had damaged certain stretches of the corridor, repair and reconstruction works were being carried out on a war footing to minimise delays.

The minister expressed confidence that the strategically important highway project would be completed soon, providing safer, faster and more reliable connectivity for people travelling through the hill district and the Barak Valley region.

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

By donating just one pint of blood, four lives can be saved.

Shyamkanu Mahanta Approaches Supreme Court for Bail in Zubeen Garg Case

GUWAHATI
Shyamkanu Mahanta, one of the key accused in the case linked to the death of Assam's music icon Zubeen Garg, has moved the Supreme Court seeking bail after his plea was rejected by the Gauhati High Court.

According to reports, Mahanta approached the apex court following the denial of relief by the High Court. The matter has been listed for hearing before the Supreme Court on June 23.

The bail plea comes amid ongoing legal proceedings in the high-profile case, which has drawn widespread public attention across Assam.

Earlier, a Special Fast Track Court had rejected the bail applications of four other accused - Sandipan Garg, Amritprabha Mahanta, Nandeshwar Bora and Paresh Baishya - directing that they remain in judicial custody while the trial continues.

In a related development, the Gauhati High Court had reserved its order on Mahanta's bail petition after hearing detailed arguments from both the defence and the prosecution. The order was expected to be delivered on May 29.

The matter was heard by Justice Mitali Thakuria. During the proceedings, counsel appearing for Mahanta sought his release on bail, while Advocate General Devajit Lon Saikia opposed the plea and urged the court to deny relief.

The case, connected to the death of noted musician Zubeen Garg in September 2025, is currently being heard in multiple judicial forums. Owing to the seriousness of the allegations and the public profile of those involved, the proceedings have remained under close public scrutiny.

Further developments are expected following the Supreme Court hearing scheduled for Monday.

WHO SAID WHAT

The e-Forensics 2.0 app will serve as a robust digital bridge between forensic laboratories, investigating agencies, and courts. It will facilitate the real-time use of scientific evidence in investigations by ensuring real-time flow of information. Reducing delays by connecting every link in the prosecution chain, it will enable secure inter-lab case transfers, digital tracking, and case monitoring, leading to prompt and perfect delivery of justice.

- Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

NEET-UG 2026 Re-Examination Held Smoothly Across Tripura Under Tight Security



AGARTALA

The NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination commenced peacefully across Tripura amid extensive security arrangements and strict administrative measures, officials said. The re-examination was conducted at 10 centres across the state, including nine in West Tripura district and one in Dhalai district, with around 4,500 candidates appearing for the test.

West Tripura District Magistrate Dr. Vishal Kumar said authorities had put in place all necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination and that no untoward incidents had been reported.

Speaking to India Today NE, Kumar said officials visited examination centres, including Kendriya Vidyalaya, to review preparations and monitor the process.

"Students entered the examination halls by 1:30 pm, biometric attendance systems are functioning properly, and the examination is being conducted smoothly under the supervision of National Testing Agency (NTA) representatives. So far, no complaints have been received," he said.

The district administration had strengthened security measures at all centres and ensured that candidates reached their designated venues without difficulty. To maintain order and prevent disruptions, the District Magistrate issued prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The restrictions were imposed to ensure a conducive environment for candidates and to prevent disturbances near examination centres. Under the order, only candidates carrying valid admit cards, invigilators, teachers and other authorised personnel were permitted within a 100-yard radius of examination venues. Gatherings of five or more persons were prohibited in the restricted areas. Authorities also barred individuals, except security personnel, from carrying sticks or similar objects within the designated zones. Officials warned that legal action would be taken against anyone found violating the restrictions. West Tripura Superintendent of Police Namit Pathak said elaborate security arrangements had been made across all centres to ensure the examination was conducted without any disruption.

"Personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Tripura State Rifles (TSR), and Tripura Police have been deployed at all examination centres. Everything is in place, and the examination is being conducted peacefully," he said.

Officials said the coordinated efforts of the district administration, police and examination authorities helped ensure the smooth conduct of the re-examination across the state.

Manipur Issues High Alert Amid Rising Flood and Landslide Threat

IMPHAL

The Manipur government has issued a high-alert advisory for following persistent monsoon rainfall that has heightened the risk of flooding, landslides and infrastructure damage in the region.

Authorities said continuous rainfall associated with the southwest monsoon has led to growing concerns over rising river levels and the possibility of landslides in the district's vulnerable hill areas. Forecasts from the India Meteorological Department indicate that widespread rainfall and thunderstorms are likely to continue over the coming days.

The district administration warned that prolonged precipitation has left the soil heavily saturated, increasing the likelihood of flash floods, landslides and road blockages across several parts of Senapati.

Residents living near riverbanks and in landslide-prone locations have been advised to remain vigilant and take necessary precautionary measures. Authorities have also urged commuters to avoid non-essential travel on hilly roads during periods of intense rainfall due to the heightened risk of slope failures and reduced visibility.

Officials noted that while heavy rainfall is a common feature of the monsoon season, recent localised storms have intensified concerns about potential damage to agricultural fields, public infrastructure and rural connectivity.

The alert comes amid growing calls from local communities for stronger disaster preparedness measures. Community representatives have previously raised concerns regarding unresolved flood-related losses and delays in relief assistance following past natural disasters, underscoring the need for proactive mitigation efforts.

Meghalaya Seeks Defence Ministry Support for Strategic Indo-Bangladesh Border Road



SHILLONG

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has sought the support of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for the construction of the strategically significant Ranikor-Ratacherra road along the India-Bangladesh border.

The proposed road project is expected to enhance border connectivity, strengthen infrastructure in remote regions and provide a shorter route linking western and eastern parts of Meghalaya while improving access between Assam's Dhubri region and the Barak Valley.

Speaking about the proposal, Sangma said the road would serve not only strategic and security interests but also contribute significantly to the state's economic development. The route would connect Ranikor in the South West Khasi Hills district with Ratacherra in East Jaintia Hills district, both located along the international border with Bangladesh.

The Chief Minister's vision envisages a continuous road corridor running parallel to Meghalaya's 443-kilometre international boundary with Bangladesh, providing seamless connectivity from Phulbari in West Garo Hills to the eastern edge of the state.

According to Sangma, the project would gain further importance once the proposed connectivity network is integrated with the upcoming Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge, which is expected to improve transportation links between Meghalaya and Assam.

He noted that several road infrastructure projects connecting Ranikor, Dalu and Phulbari are already at different stages of implementation.

"Road connectivity projects from Ranikor to Dalu are in different phases. Dalu will further connect to NH-217 and then to NH-127B, which links to the Phulbari-Dhubri bridge," Sangma said.

The Chief Minister said the Defence Minister responded positively to the proposal and advised him to pursue the matter further with the concerned authorities. Apart from the border road project, Sangma also discussed a range of infrastructure-related issues with Singh, particularly those involving defence land holdings in Shillong. Large tracts of land in the state capital are under the control of defence establishments, making coordination with the Defence Ministry important for future urban development and infrastructure expansion.

Officials believe the proposed Ranikor-Ratacherra corridor could emerge as a major strategic and economic artery, improving mobility, boosting trade, enhancing border management and creating new opportunities for growth in Meghalaya's border districts.

Thadoi Yumnam Crowned Miss Universe Manipur 2026, Secures Spot at National Pageant

IMPHAL

Thadoi Yumnam was crowned Miss Universe Manipur 2026 at the grand finale held at Chandrakriti Auditorium in Imphal on June 21, earning the opportunity to represent the state at the upcoming Miss Universe India 2026 pageant scheduled for July.

The competition brought together 20 finalists from across Manipur, who were assessed through multiple rounds designed to test confidence, leadership qualities, social awareness and personal advocacy. Zeneva Laikhuram was declared the first runner-up, while Alish Maibam secured the second runner-up position.

The state pageant was organised under the leadership of fashion designer and State Director Robert Naorem. The event also partnered with Manipur AIDS Control Society and For Better Kangleipak to promote awareness initiatives focused on women's empowerment and community engagement.



Among those present at the event were Ajay Kumar Bhalla and the First Lady, who attended in a private capacity. Reigning Miss Universe India 2025 holder Manika Vishwakarma was also part of the judging panel.

Speaking after her victory, an emotional Thadoi described the win as the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream. She reflected on her journey, recalling that she had participated in the competition the previous year but was unable to secure the title.

"I failed last year, but still I never gave up, and my resilience has finally been proven. That's why I'm here again," she said.

Thadoi credited her success to the unwavering support of her family, teachers and friends, describing the achievement as the result of a collective effort. She said her next goal is to represent Manipur with pride on the national stage.

Beyond the competition, the pageant highlighted themes of self-acceptance, confidence and inner beauty, encourag-

ing contestants to share personal stories about overcoming challenges, fear and self-doubt.

Vishwakarma praised the finalists for their confidence and clarity of thought, noting that many contestants demonstrated a strong sense of purpose and an ability to communicate important social messages.

Referring to the state's recent challenges, she said the contestants were well-positioned to showcase Manipur's story and aspirations to a wider audience.

She added that past titleholders and the newly crowned winner have helped project values associated with the state, including unity, compassion and resilience.

With the state title now secured, Thadoi will represent Manipur at the Miss Universe India 2026 competition, where she will compete for a chance to advance to the international stage while carrying the hopes and aspirations of her home state.

Assam to Launch Direct Guwahati-Dubai, Abu Dhabi Flights from August 4

GUWAHATI

Assam is set to strengthen its international air connectivity with the launch of direct flights from Guwahati to Dubai and Abu Dhabi beginning August 4, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Monday. The new non-stop international services will be operated by Air India, marking a major step in expanding Assam's global links and positioning Guwahati as a key aviation gateway in the Northeast.

Sharing the announcement on social media platform X, Sarma said the new routes would open fresh opportunities for travel, trade and connectivity between Assam and the wider international community. "Opening new avenues to connect Assam to the global community. Just days after EU member states lifted their travel advisory for Assam, I am happy to share that from August 4, Air India will commence direct flights from Guwahati to Dubai and Abu Dhabi," the Chief Minister stated. With the introduction of the two Gulf routes, the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport will have direct international connectivity

to four countries - the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Singapore and Bhutan. The Chief Minister also indicated that the state government is working to further expand Assam's international aviation network, with Vietnam emerging as the next destination under consideration. "My next goal is to commence direct services to Vietnam and I will keep you posted on that," Sarma said. The announcement comes shortly after the Chief Minister welcomed a decision by member states of the European Union to revise their travel advisories and remove restrictive guidance related to travel to Assam. Describing the development as an encouraging sign for the state, Sarma had said the revision followed a recent visit by European diplomats and reflected growing confidence in Assam's improving security and development landscape. According to the Chief Minister, the easing of travel advisories is expected to boost tourism, business engagement and people-to-people exchanges between Assam and European countries. He also expressed gratitude to Hervé Delphin and the EU delegation in India for their support.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 802

HEADING FOR TWO-PARTY SYSTEM?

While ideologies unite, individuals divide. In the sprawling arena of Indian democracy, where more than 500 parties national, regional, state-level and even unrecognised compete for the mandate to govern a nation of 1.5 billion, a stark truth is emerging. Ideologies can bind disparate groups into coherent movements.

Personalities, however, often fracture them when their aura fades. Across the country, once-mighty regional outfits built around a single leader's charisma, caste arithmetic or linguistic pride are unravelling with surprising speed. The glue that held them together was never abstract doctrine but the promise of proximity to power, and that promise is proving perishable.

Take West Bengal's Trinamool Congress. Mamata Banerjee carved it out of the Congress in 1998, infusing it with a potent mix of anti-Left populism, Bengali cultural assertion and personalised welfare. For two decades, it functioned less as a party and more as an extension of one woman's will.

When electoral reverses struck, the collapse was swift. Within hours, the edifice revealed itself as a patronage network rather than an ideological home. Legislators who had sworn loyalty to 'Didi' discovered that loyalty had always been transactional. Without the assured return to power and the accompanying lifestyle, the flock scattered. It was not the defeat of an idea but the exposure of an individual's diminished capacity to deliver.

A parallel drama unfolded in Tamil Nadu. The Dravidian parties once stood as bulwarks of regional identity, language pride and social justice against perceived northern cultural hegemony. Yet both the DMK and the AIADMK have lost their once-unquestioned dominance.

The DMK's organisational muscle could not prevent an erosion of its core appeal when leadership transitions diluted the ideological fire. The AIADMK, already splintered after Jayalalithaa's passing, found itself led by successors who lacked the commanding presence to hold the flock. Lamentations began migrating towards newer platforms that promised relevance in a changing national landscape.

Maharashtra offers perhaps the clearest textbook case. Shiv Sena, forged by Bal Thackeray as a movement of Marathi pride and later Hindutva assertion, split when Uddhav Thackeray proved unable to match his father's commanding style. Eknath Shinde's rebellion succeeded because a critical mass of legislators calculated that alignment with the national dispensation offered better prospects than loyalty to a diminished legacy.

The same calculus played out in the Nationalist Congress Party. Sharad Pawar, a master strategist who had broken from Congress decades earlier, could no longer shield his flock from the gravitational pull of the ruling coalition. His nephew Ajit Pawar led a section across, recognising that the elder Pawar's stature, however formidable, no longer translated into assured tickets or protection.

Even the Aam Aadmi Party, which burst onto the scene with an anti-corruption, governance-first ideology and secured thumping majorities in Delhi and Punjab, has not been immune. Arvind Kejriwal built a formidable personal brand around welfare delivery and confrontation with the establishment.

Yet several prominent figures quietly shifted allegiance to the BJP, calculating that the national party offered swifter advancement and institutional ballast. These are not isolated tremors. They reflect a deeper structural shift.

The generation of regional satraps who dominated the coalition era—Sharad Pawar, M Karunanidhi, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Jayalalithaa, Naveen Patnaik, Prakash Singh Badal—commanded respect through decades of grassroots work and personal credibility. They could win their own seats and deliver victories for others.

Their successors, often educated abroad and accustomed to different rhythms of life, have struggled to replicate that connect. N Chandrababu Naidu's son Lokesh and TRS founder K Chandrasekhar Rao's son KTR are more global citizens than Telugu biddas. While sons are finding it difficult to rise from East, they are setting in the West.

Barring a few exceptions, the next generation has shown limited appetite for relentless constituency work. The resulting frustration among cadres has accelerated desertions. At the centre of this realignment stands Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has achieved what few leaders manage: the fusion of a commanding personality with a coherent ideological project of assertive nationalism and welfare delivery. Through direct communication, targeted schemes and institutional leverage, he has created a bond with voters that bypass traditional party intermediaries.

Even after the 2024 verdict denied the BJP an outright majority, Modi's authority within the government and the party has arguably grown rather than diminished. For ambitious politicians across the spectrum, the BJP now appears as the most reliable vehicle for electoral success and long-term political security. They cannot reliably shield their members from investigative agencies, nor can they guarantee legislative berths in an era of national consolidation.

The old arithmetic of regional satraps extracting concessions from a weak centre no longer holds. As a result, the political marketplace is witnessing a wave of mergers, acquisitions and quiet realignments. The Congress, after years of attrition, has shown signs of stabilisation. It remains the only national alternative with residual organisational presence in several states, and is viewed by many as the eventual counterweight should the BJP's dominance ever face serious challenge.

The Left, once a formidable ideological force, has receded further as market realities and voter aspirations shifted. The battlefield is narrowing towards a contest between a left-of-centre formation anchored by the Congress and a right-of-centre formation led by the BJP—both increasingly national in character, both led by individuals who have successfully married personality to ideology.

This is not merely the story of individual leaders losing relevance. It is the story of Indian democracy shedding an earlier phase of extreme fragmentation. The coalition era produced vibrant regional voices but also chronic instability, policy paralysis and the elevation of transactional politics over governance.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Do what you feel in your heart to be right, for you'll be criticized anyway.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Abhishek Banerjee: Between Political Inheritance and the Battle for Trinamool's Future



S.BHATTACHARJEE

In the political landscape of West Bengal, few relationships have influenced the trajectory of a party as profoundly as that between Mamata Banerjee and her nephew, Abhishek Banerjee. What began as a familial bond gradually evolved into one of the most significant political partnerships within the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), shaping the party's leadership structure and future direction.

Today, at 38, Abhishek Banerjee occupies a position of considerable influence within the TMC, second only to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Admired by supporters as a moderniser who has brought new-age political strategies to the party and criticised by opponents as a beneficiary of dynastic politics, he has emerged as one of the most consequential figures in contemporary Bengal politics.

However, as the Trinamool Congress navigates a challenging period marked by organisational tensions, electoral pressures and questions over leadership succession, Abhishek finds himself at the centre of an increasingly intense debate over the party's future.

Rise of a Political Heir
Within Trinamool circles, it has long been acknowledged that Abhishek enjoyed a special place in Mamata Banerjee's political universe. The son of her brother Amit Banerjee and sister-in-law Lata Banerjee, he was among the younger members of the family who closely identified with Mamata's political struggle during the years when the Trinamool Congress was fighting to dislodge the Left Front from power.

That association gradually translated into influence within the party. Following the Trinamool's historic victory in the 2011 Assembly elections, Abhishek's political rise accelerated. He was entrusted with leading YUVA, a youth-oriented platform that many observers viewed as an emerging power centre within the organisation.

The move immediately generated discussion within political circles. Some senior leaders reportedly expressed concern that new structures were developing outside traditional organisational

channels. Yet the appointment also sent a strong signal about the direction of the party. Abhishek was no longer simply

the chief minister's nephew; he was becoming an increasingly important political stakeholder.

The transition became even more evident in 2014 when he won the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha seat and entered Parliament. From that point onward, his ascent within the party hierarchy appeared unmistakable.

A Different Political Style
Unlike many senior Bengal politicians whose careers were forged through decades of grassroots activism and street-level mobilisation, Abhishek brought a markedly different approach to politics.

Educated in Kolkata and later trained in business management, he embraced organisational methods that reflected a more corporate and managerial style of functioning. Technology-driven outreach, digital campaigns, structured reviews and data-oriented planning increasingly became hallmarks of his political strategy.

Where the traditional Trinamool Congress often drew strength from agitation politics and mass mobilisation, Abhishek's approach emphasised planning, communication and electoral management. Supporters argued that such methods were necessary to adapt to changing political realities and an increasingly digital electorate.

His influence became particularly visible after the BJP made significant gains in West Bengal during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Facing a formidable challenge, the Trinamool initiated a broad organisational overhaul. Political consultancy firm I-PAC was brought in to assist with campaign strategy, voter outreach and organisational restructuring. The results were significant. In the 2021 Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress secured a decisive victory, successfully resisting the BJP's aggressive electoral push and retaining power with a comfortable mandate.

For many supporters, the victory validated Abhishek's strategic approach and reinforced his standing within the party. Growing Criticism Within the Party

Yet electoral success did not entirely silence internal critics.

As consultants and data-driven meth-

ods became more prominent in the party's functioning, some veteran leaders reportedly expressed unease over what they viewed as a diminishing role for

traditional political instincts and grassroots experience.

Critics argued that long-established organisational networks were being overshadowed by professional campaign structures and external advisers. They questioned whether a party built through decades of street-level struggle could effectively balance its traditional political culture with an increasingly corporate style of management.

These concerns became part of a broader conversation about power distribution within the Trinamool Congress.

While Abhishek officially serves as the party's national general secretary, his influence extends well beyond the formal responsibilities of that position. Within political circles, he is widely regarded as the party's de facto second-in-command.

As a result, many of the party's internal challenges—whether organisational disputes, electoral setbacks or factional disagreements—often lead to renewed scrutiny of his leadership role and decision-making authority.

Leadership Under Scrutiny
The pressure on Abhishek Banerjee has intensified as the Trinamool Congress confronts one of the most uncertain periods in its recent history.

The party faces multiple challenges, including managing internal dissent, sustaining its electoral dominance and preparing for a future leadership transition. In such circumstances, Abhishek's role has become a focal point for both supporters and detractors.

Supporters continue to view him as the leader most capable of guiding the party into a new political era. They credit him with modernising organisational structures, improving communication strategies and helping the party adapt to evolving electoral dynamics.

Critics, however, argue that his rapid rise remains inseparable from his family connection to Mamata Banerjee. For them, Abhishek represents one of the clearest examples of dynastic politics in contemporary India, where political inheritance can accelerate advancement within party hierarchies.

This tension between merit and inheritance has increasingly defined pub-

lic perceptions of his political journey.

Legal controversies that have periodically placed him under public scrutiny. Over the years, Abhishek has faced questioning, notices and investigations by central agencies in connection with multiple cases. He has consistently denied any wrongdoing and has repeatedly maintained that such actions are politically motivated attempts to target opposition leaders.

Nevertheless, the continuing controversies have ensured that his political career remains under constant examination, both by opponents and sections of the public.

The scrutiny has also added another layer to the broader debate about succession and leadership within the Trinamool Congress, particularly as the party prepares for future electoral battles in

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

By this year, #MadeInAssam semiconductor chips will begin rolling out from Assam marking a new era in industrialisation and strengthening Bharat's growing semiconductor ecosystem.

48 million chips/day coming soon.

~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

In just a matter of a few months



channels. Yet the appointment also sent a strong signal about the direction of the party. Abhishek was no longer simply

ods became more prominent in the party's functioning, some veteran leaders reportedly expressed unease over what they viewed as a diminishing role for

lic perceptions of his political journey. Legal and Political Challenges

Adding to the complexity of his position are the various investigations and

an increasingly competitive political environment.

The Burden of Succession
Perhaps the greatest challenge facing Abhishek Banerjee is one that confronts many political heirs: the expectation to prove that their authority stems from capability rather than lineage.

His political career has been shaped by both opportunity and expectation. While proximity to Mamata Banerjee undoubtedly opened doors, it has also subjected him to a level of scrutiny that few other leaders in the party experience. Every success is often attributed to his access to power, while every setback tends to amplify criticism of his growing influence. This dual reality has left him navigating a complex political space between inheritance and achievement.

As the Trinamool Congress enters a critical phase in its evolution, the debate surrounding Abhishek Banerjee is likely to intensify. Whether he ultimately emerges as the architect of the party's next chapter or remains a divisive figure within its ranks will depend on how effectively he addresses the organisational, electoral and leadership challenges confronting the TMC.

For now, he remains one of the most influential and closely watched politicians in West Bengal, standing at the intersection of political legacy, ambition and the uncertain future of the party he is widely expected to help lead.

Governor, CM Lead Manipur's International Yoga Day Celebration in Imphal

IMPHAL

Manipur joined the global observance of the 12th International Day of Yoga on Sunday, with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh leading the state-level celebrations at the Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium in Imphal.

The event drew participation from more than 900 people, including students, government officials, security personnel, yoga practitioners and members of the public, who came together to mark the annual observance under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing."

The Governor joined participants in performing various yoga asanas and encouraged citizens to incorporate yoga into their daily routines as a means of maintaining physical health, mental



well-being and emotional balance.

The programme highlighted yoga's role in promoting a healthy lifestyle and fostering holistic wellness, with participants across Manipur joining millions around the world in celebrating the ancient Indian discipline.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor and Chief Minister described yoga as one of India's enduring contributions to humanity, emphasising its ability to nurture physical fitness, mental resilience and inner harmony.

They noted that regular yoga practice encourages a balanced lifestyle and helps individuals lead healthier and more fulfilling lives regardless of age.

In a message shared on social media, Governor Bhalla called upon citizens to embrace yoga as a pathway to collective wellness and personal growth.

"As we embrace this ancient practice, let us reaffirm our commitment to wellness, mindfulness and a healthier future for all," he stated.

Chief Minister Khemchand Singh also extended his greetings on the occasion and reiterated the state government's commitment to promoting yoga as a tool for building a healthier and stronger society.

Sharing his thoughts on social media, the Chief Minister said he was honoured to participate in the celebration alongside the Governor and Manipur Home Minister K. Govindas Singh.

He encouraged people across the state to adopt yoga as a way of life and make it an integral part of their daily routines for long-term physical and mental well-being.

The event formed part of a broader

series of Yoga Day programmes organised across Manipur, reflecting growing awareness of the health benefits associated with yoga and wellness practices.

Officials said the observance reaffirmed the state's commitment to promoting preventive healthcare, mindfulness and healthy living through greater public participation in yoga and related wellness activities.

The International Day of Yoga, observed annually on June 21, has become a global movement promoting physical fitness, mental health and holistic well-being. This year's celebrations in Manipur underscored the growing acceptance of yoga as an effective tool for improving quality of life and fostering healthier communities.

Assam's Healthcare Expansion on Track as CM Reviews 15 Medical College Projects

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has reviewed the progress of 15 medical college and hospital projects across the state, underscoring the government's focus on timely completion of healthcare infrastructure aimed at expanding access to quality medical services.

The Chief Minister said the review covered 11 ongoing and four upcoming medical college and hospital projects, which form part of what he described as the largest expansion of healthcare infrastructure in Assam's history.

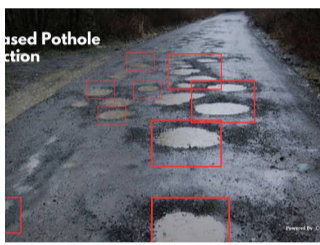
Sharing details of the review on social media platform X, Sarma said the state government is closely monitoring the execution of these projects to ensure they are completed on schedule.

"Assam's healthcare infrastructure is witnessing its biggest expansion ever. I reviewed the progress of 11 ongoing and four upcoming Medical Colleges and Hospitals to ensure timely execution and delivery," the Chief Minister stated.

Sarma said the government's priorities extend beyond the construction of new institutions and include the creation of modern, world-class medical and nursing infrastructure. He also highlighted the importance of developing environmentally sustainable healthcare campuses as part of the state's long-term healthcare vision.

According to the Chief Minister, the ongoing expansion is intended to build a robust healthcare ecosystem capable of meeting the needs of future generations while strengthening public health services across Assam. "Our focus remains on seamless completion of ongoing projects, world-class medical and nursing infrastructure, and green and sustainable healthcare campuses," he said. The state government has been pursuing an ambitious programme to expand medical education and healthcare facilities through the establishment of new medical colleges, teaching hospitals, nursing institutions and allied healthcare infrastructure in different parts of Assam.

AI-BASED ROAD SAFETY SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY NIT SILCHAR RESEARCHER



SILCHAR

Nahid Hussain Mazumder, a researcher from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Silchar, has developed an AI-driven road safety system named "Mausam Suraksha" to reduce the possibility of road accidents and improve driver safety during adverse weather conditions.

A resident of Duliagian, Assam, Mazumder is pursuing an M.Tech in the Department of Civil Engineering at NIT Silchar. The research was partially supervised by Dipanjan Mukherjee, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Mazumder said the AI-based system uses a smartphone camera to

detect road hazards such as potholes, waterlogged stretches, and other obstacles. The information is stored on a digital map and shared with nearby drivers through real-time weather alerts and speed recommendations, helping them make safer driving decisions.

Unlike Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), which are generally available only in high-end vehicles, 'Mausam Suraksha' can be integrated into ordinary cars, taxis, buses, trucks, and auto-rickshaws, making it accessible to a wider section of drivers.

Considering the nearly 1.7 lakh road accident deaths reported annually in India, and Assam records an average of about 7,000 to 8,300 road accidents annually, the platform has also been designed to work offline and supports Assamese, Hindi, English, and Bengali. The innovation is expected to be particularly useful in Assam and the North-East, where heavy rainfall, fog, and floods frequently create hazardous driving conditions.

EU Lifts Travel Advisory for Most of Assam, Boosting Tourism and Investment Prospects

GUWAHATI

In a significant boost to Assam's international image and tourism prospects, the 27 member states of the European Union have withdrawn restrictive travel advisories for most parts of the state, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced.

The revised advisory removes previous restrictions on travel to Assam for European citizens, with the exception of the districts of Charaideo, Tinsukia and Sivasagar, where the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) remains in force.

Welcoming the development, Sarma described the move as an important endorsement of the state's improved security environment and growing international standing.

"This is encouraging news for Assam. Following the recent visit of European Union diplomats to the state, the decision reflects a strong vote of confidence in Assam and opens the door for deeper



engagement with the European Union," the Chief Minister said.

According to Sarma, the decision was communicated to the Assam government by Herve Delphin, who informed the state's Chief Secretary that the revised travel guidance came into effect on Friday.

"After reviewing the situation in Assam, they have withdrawn the negative travel advisory. All 27 EU member states have lifted restrictions for their citizens travelling to Assam, except for the three districts that continue to remain under AFSPA," Sarma said.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to Delphin for his support and efforts in facilitating the review of the travel advisory.

The latest decision follows a series of diplomatic engagements between Assam and European representatives and comes on the heels of similar actions taken by other countries. Sarma noted that both Australia and Japan had withdrawn comparable travel advisories for Assam last year, reflecting increasing international confidence in the state's security and governance environment.

He said the removal of restrictions by the European Union is expected to provide a major boost to Assam's tourism industry, while also encouraging greater business collaboration, invest-

ment opportunities and cultural exchanges.

"This development is a strong vote of confidence in Assam and bodes well for stronger EU-Assam engagement. It will help expand tourism, business cooperation and people-to-people ties," the Chief Minister said.

Sarma added that the state government is continuing discussions with other countries that still maintain restrictive travel advisories for Assam.

According to him, the governments of the United States and Canada have yet to revise their travel guidance, and efforts are underway to persuade them to reassess the situation in light of the state's improving security and development indicators.

The withdrawal of the EU advisory is expected to strengthen Assam's efforts to position itself as an international tourism destination, particularly as the state seeks to attract more foreign visitors, investment and global partnerships in the coming years.

New Brahmaputra Road-Rail Bridge Project Takes Off; Rs 1,400-Crore Assam Link Targeted for 2029

GUWAHATI

Assam is set to witness a major boost in transport infrastructure with the commencement of work on a new road-cum-rail bridge across the Brahmaputra River, following the award of the project contract to L&T Construction Ltd by the Indian Railways.

The ambitious project, estimated to cost around Rs 1,400 crore, is expected to be completed by 2029 and will significantly enhance both road and railway connectivity in the state.

According to railway officials, the bridge component alone is valued at approximately Rs 530 crore. The project has already secured the necessary security clearances, while the tendering process was completed in April this year.

"The total cost of the project is Rs 1,400 crore, but if we consider only the bridge portion, it amounts to about Rs 530 crore. We are aiming



to complete the project by 2029," said Kapinjal K. Sharma, Chief Public Relations Officer of the Northeast Frontier Railway.

Officials said preliminary activities have already begun. Design work and geotechnical investigations have been completed, and construction activities are now underway on the ground. Piling tests, a crucial step in bridge construction, are currently

being carried out.

The proposed structure will span nearly two kilometres across the Brahmaputra and will be built using a composite steel girder design capable of accommodating both road and rail traffic. The dual-purpose bridge is expected to ease transportation bottlenecks and improve connectivity between the north and south banks of the river.

To facilitate construction, the Railways have initiated land-related processes in Amingaon, where parts of the project infrastructure will be developed. Eviction notices have reportedly been issued to individuals allegedly occupying railway land in the area.

"The bridge will be approximately two kilometres long and will support both road and railway infrastructure through a composite steel girder structure. Land acquisition and eviction-related procedures are progressing smoothly," Sharma said.

Beyond improving road transport, the project is expected to strengthen Assam's railway network by enabling the conversion of the remaining single-line railway section between Agiathuri and Kamakhya into a double-line corridor.

Railway officials said doubling work on the Assam mainline network has already advanced up to Kamakhya, while the Kamakhya-Lumding section has been completed. Work on sections beyond Lumding is currently in progress. The new bridge will play a key role in integrating these developments and facilitating a fully double-lined railway network across the state.

Officials believe the project will substantially improve passenger and freight movement, reduce congestion on existing infrastructure, and enhance the efficiency of transportation across the Brahmaputra, further supporting Assam's economic growth and regional connectivity.

Manipur Disburses Rs 1.36 Crore to 6,806 Farmers Under PM-KISAN 23rd Instalment



IMPHAL

The Manipur government has credited Rs 1.36 crore directly into the bank accounts of 6,806 eligible farmers under the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening agricultural livelihoods in the state.

The funds were released as part of the nationwide disbursement of the latest PM-KISAN instalment launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a programme held in Tarakeswar on June 20.

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh watched the live telecast of the event and welcomed the continued financial support being extended to farmers through the flagship central government scheme.

In a social media message, the Chief Minister said PM-KISAN has played a vital role in enhancing the livelihoods and economic security of farmers, whom he described as the backbone of the nation's economy.

Under the scheme, eligible farmer families receive financial assistance of Rs 6,000 annually, distributed in three equal instalments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture, Manipur, has intensified efforts to ensure that eligible beneficiaries continue receiving assistance without disruption. Officials said compliance with electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) requirements and land record verification has been made mandatory for availing benefits under the scheme.

To facilitate the process, the department launched a statewide land record update drive on June 15. Farmers have been advised to complete their eKYC through the official

PM-KISAN portal using OTP-based authentication or by visiting their nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) for biometric verification.

Agriculture department officials have also urged beneficiaries to visit designated help desks established at fertiliser distribution centres with their Aadhaar cards and updated land ownership documents, including Jamabandi records.

In the hill districts, authorities are accepting valid land certificates issued by village authorities and duly authenticated by the concerned Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) for verification purposes.

Officials further stated that benefits have been temporarily withheld in certain cases pending physical verification. These include instances where agricultural land was acquired after February 1, 2019, or where multiple members of the same family have applied for assistance under the scheme.

The state government is simultaneously conducting awareness and enrolment campaigns across rural areas to improve participation in PM-KISAN and other welfare programmes aimed at supporting farmers.

Special outreach initiatives are currently underway in districts such as Ukhrul and Kamjong to encourage eligible farmers to register and access available government benefits.

Officials said the ongoing verification and awareness drives are intended to ensure greater transparency, accurate beneficiary identification and uninterrupted delivery of financial assistance to deserving farming households across Manipur. The latest disbursement forms part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen rural livelihoods, improve agricultural productivity and provide sustained income support to farmers through targeted welfare interventions.

Historic Khaspur hosts grand International Yoga Day celebration

Minister Kaushik Rai calls for yoga led healthy living

SILCHAR

The District Administration, Cachar in association with the District Health Society observed the 12th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and public participation at the historic Kachari Fort, Khaspur on Sunday.

This year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," highlighted the importance of yoga in promoting physical fitness, mental wellness and emotional balance across all age groups.

As part of the nationwide observance of International Yoga Day 2026, participants witnessed the live telecast of the virtual inauguration of the "PM SHRI Gaon-Gaon Yoga Maha Abhiyan" and "Amar Mati-Amar Nayak" programmes by the Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya. The initiatives covering six districts, Kamrup, Cachar, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon aim to deepen public engagement with yoga while fostering awareness about the State's rich cultural and historical legacy.



The programme was graced by Minister for Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs, Housing & Urban Affair & Minister of Cooperation, Kaushik Rai, MLA Udharbond Rajdeep Goala, Additional District Commissioner (Health) Manojyoti Kutum, ACS, Circle Officer, Udharbond, Pranabananda Dowerah, ACS, Joint Director of Health Services Dr. Sumona Naiding, Inspector of Schools, Mithun Jahari, AES, District Sports Officer and senior officials from the Health, Sports, Municipal and Education departments. A large num-

ber of school students, yoga enthusiasts and members of the public also participated, lending a vibrant and festive spirit to the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Kaushik Rai underscored the transformative role of yoga in contemporary life and described it as one of India's greatest gifts to humanity. He said that yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise but a holistic discipline that nurtures the body, mind and spirit. Emphasising the relevance of this year's theme, he urged citizens to make yoga

Quest!

"Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia" is actually the fear of long words.

Jairam Ramesh seeks Centre's clarity on private control, funding of Great Nicobar port

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has sought clarifications from Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal over the proposed International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island, raising questions over private participation, funding and environmental concerns.

In a letter to Sonowal, Ramesh asked the ministry to share the timeline for inviting private participation for the project and the process for selecting the private co-owner and operator of the proposed port.

He also sought clarity on the ownership structure of the project's special purpose vehicle (SPV), pointing out that recommendations of the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) specify that a minimum of 55 per cent shareholding should be held by an Indian-owned and controlled entity.

"I seek clarity on three specific points. Since the minimum private shareholding is to be 55%, does it mean that 100% private shareholding will be allowed, or is there a minimum shareholding by public entities as well?" Ramesh said in his letter.

The Congress leader also questioned whether private ownership of ports would be diversified or whether a situation similar to the airport sector would be allowed.

"Is private ownership of ports to be diversified, or will the airports-like situation be permitted, where only one private company has acquired

the six airports sold off so far," he asked.

Ramesh further sought details on funding after the PPPAC rejected the ministry's request for a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) grant.

"Since the PPPAC has turned down the Ministry's request for a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) grant, will the Ministry provide VGF/capital grant support from its own allocated budget?" he asked.

The letter comes amid Ramesh's repeated objections to the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project, which includes the transshipment port, a civilian-cum-naval airport, a township and a power plant.

Calling himself among those concerned about the project's ecological impact, Ramesh said the government was pushing ahead with the port despite acknowledging major risks.

"You are aware that the PPPAC of the Ministry of Finance had met on March 17, 2026 and March 19, 2026 to consider the proposal of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for the development of an international container transshipment port at Galathea Bay, Great Nicobar Island," Ramesh said.

He cited the PPPAC's record of discussions issued on April 2, which identified two major risks associated with the project — developing a large-scale greenfield port and attracting transshipment traffic away from established ports.

"I take it that these competing well-established ports are Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang — It is extraordinary that even while recognizing these huge risks — quite apart from the

certainty of ecological devastation that will be caused by its construction — the transshipment port is being pushed through," Ramesh said.

Ramesh has previously written to Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Tribal Affairs Minister Jai Oram and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, raising concerns over environmental clearances, tribal rights and defence-related aspects of the project.

On Friday, he wrote to Yadav alleging that environmental impact assessments for different components of the project were "demonstrably inadequate" and questioned the transparency of the approval process.

The Congress has repeatedly criticised the project, claiming the Galathea Bay port would cause large-scale ecological damage, including destruction of coral colonies.

Ramesh has also raised concerns over the impact on tribal rights and has urged the government to ensure implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has also attacked the project, alleging that the government's stated reasons of defence and port development were not the real motivation behind it.

Gandhi had earlier claimed the project was aimed at benefiting a private businessman by enabling the development of hotels and casinos on ecologically sensitive land. He also released a video after his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and urged people to oppose the project through a public campaign.

Yoga can unite India and world: PM



KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said yoga has the unique ability to bring people together, uniting not only the nation but also acting as a catalyzing agent in opening up the path for world peace.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of the 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations at the Red Road in Kolkata, Modi underscored the need for a balanced personal lifestyle that yoga teaches, saying the ancient Indian practice holds relevance beyond personal health and wellness, with the potential to promote collective peace across societies—remarks that assume significance against the backdrop of conflicts and geopolitical tensions across the world.

"Yoga unites everyone and the whole country, and the whole world, looks connected—that is the true power of yoga," he said. Referring to

Maharshi Aurobindo, who had observed that "Our entire life is yoga.. When yoga becomes part of our nature, it becomes the foundation of human unity," the PM emphasised that yoga is far more than a form of physical exercise and is relevant to people of all ages.

"In India, we know and have seen that yoga is a light in human life, a union with consciousness and energy. That is why this year's theme for International Yoga Day has been chosen as Yoga for Healthy Ageing. Even as age advances, we can remain healthy, energetic, and active—yoga shows us the way for this," he said. Invoking the teachings of Lord Krishna from the Bhagavad Gita, he highlighted the importance of balance in life through yoga.

"Balance is the foundation of yoga. Balance is also the foundation of our lives. Yet, in modern times, most people struggle with imbalance in life. Yoga teaches us the art of living in a balanced way. Yoga shows us the dos and don'ts. And when we learn to guide our body properly, health becomes our natural state," he said.

The PM said the values that yoga teaches—fostering balance, self-awareness and inner stability—can help societies navigate divisions and discord. The statements, coming at a time when many regions continue to grapple with conflicts, underscore India's longstanding emphasis on dialogue, coexistence and peaceful resolution of disputes. "Let us pledge not to restrict yoga to only one particular day or to an event; rather, make it a part of our lives and that of our families and our future generations," he added.



INTERNATIONAL

'Turn over a new leaf': Vance opens historic US-Iran talks, says Trump committed to regional ceasefire



WASHINGTON

US Vice President JD Vance on Sunday described ongoing US-Iran negotiations in Switzerland as "historic", saying President Donald Trump remains committed to achieving a comprehensive regional ceasefire and pursuing a diplomatic reset with Tehran to help end the broader West Asia conflict.

The negotiations, being held at the luxury Burgenstock resort overlooking Lake Lucerne, mark the first direct technical-level engagement between the two sides under a framework established by a 14-point Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) agreed on June 17 by both the sides.

Leading the US delegation are Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and senior adviser Jared Kushner, while Iran is represented by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, alongside senior officials from the country's central bank and oil ministry. The talks are being mediated by Pakistan and Qatar.

Addressing reporters at the start of the discussions, Vance framed the meeting as a potentially transformative moment for the region.

"This is a historic meeting," he

said. "The question before us now is how much more can we accomplish together? Can we turn over a new leaf? Can we change relations in the Middle East permanently? Or do we go back to doing things the old way, which is not our preference, but it's certainly very much something that can happen."

Vance said Trump had instructed the US team to pursue a fundamental reset in relations with Iran if Tehran demonstrates a willingness to abandon activities that Washington views as destabilising.

"What President Trump has asked us to do is turn over a new leaf to transform our relationship with the people

of Iran," Vance said.

"If Iran's leadership is willing to give up being a driver of regional instability, if they are willing to give up nuclear weapons ambitions for the long term, then the United States is willing to fundamentally transform our relationship with that country."

He added that the administration's objective extends beyond a temporary cessation of hostilities.

"Trump is committed to seeing a full regional ceasefire," Vance said, acknowledging that enforcing such arrangements can be challenging. "These kinds of ceasefires are always a little bit messy."

Highlighting recent developments on the Lebanese front, he noted, "We've seen great progress over the last couple of days in ensuring the ceasefire in Lebanon holds."

The Vice President also expressed optimism about the ongoing negotiations, saying, "We have made great progress in the last few hours," and described diplomacy as the preferred path toward long-term regional stability. "Iran has been a driver of regional instability," he said. "What we're trying to accomplish is, through diplomacy, to work together to transform the Middle East."

"The question is whether we can change relations in the Middle East permanently," he added, crediting Trump with giving negotiators broad authority to seek comprehensive solutions. "Trump empowered us to find a diplomatic solution to a host of issues."

Despite the conciliatory tone struck by Vance in Switzerland, Trump issued a stark warning to Tehran during the talks. In a post on Truth Social, the US president demanded that Iran rein in Hezbollah's activities in Lebanon.

"If they don't, we'll hit Iran very hard again, just like we did last week, only harder!!!" Trump wrote.

We will go to war: Pakistan Defence Minister's warning to India over Indus waters



ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned that Islamabad could resort to military action against India if it believes the country's water security is under serious threat, escalating rhetoric amid the ongoing dispute over the Indus river system.

In an interview with ARY News, Asif said Pakistan considered water resources a part of its national security and would not hesitate to respond if it felt its access to river waters was being affected.

"The moment we feel that our national security, and water is part of our national security, is being threatened, we will go to war against India. Definitely," Asif said.

He alleged that India was moving towards using water as a strategic instrument and claimed that any attempt to interfere with water flows meant for Pakistan would have serious consequences.

The remarks come amid heightened tensions over the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, a World Bank-mediated agreement that regulates the sharing of the Indus river system between India and Pakistan.

India placed the treaty in abeyance after the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, in which 26 people were killed. New Delhi accused Pakistan-backed terrorists of carrying out the attack and said the treaty would remain in abeyance until Islamabad takes credible and verifiable action against cross-border terrorism.

The development followed a series of strong statements from Indian leaders on the issue of river waters. Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil said India would ensure that its water resources were used in the national interest and asserted that "not a single drop" of India's share of Indus waters should flow outside the country.

The Indus Waters Treaty

has long been considered one of the most important agreements between the two neighbours. Under the pact, India has control over the eastern rivers, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, while Pakistan has rights over the western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. The western rivers are crucial for Pakistan's agriculture and irrigation network, making any dispute over their flow politically and economically sensitive for Islamabad. During the interview, Asif also claimed that Pakistan had previously conducted multiple inspections related to water-sharing arrangements and accused India of withholding information on river flows. However, he acknowledged that he was not aware of all developments that may have taken place over the past year.

Pakistan has repeatedly objected to India's decision to keep the treaty in abeyance, arguing that any disruption to river flows could affect millions dependent on the Indus basin.

Beyond the Uniform: Manipur State Bharat Scouts and Guides Reflects on 39 Years of Building Young Lives

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@krcfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcplacements> 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@krc@gmail.com Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcstudentinternship> or www.krcfoundation.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@krcfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest> www.krcfoundation.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: krcetimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: info@krcfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313



spirit of scouting has long been nurtured in the state through the contributions of individuals and communities who believed in investing in young people. These spaces are not merely buildings but places where friendships are built, skills are learned and young minds discover the values of service and leadership. "Scouting needs to be given importance.

authorities to recognise the contribution of scouting towards building responsible, self-reliant and socially aware citizens. Vice President of Bharat Scouts and Guides, Manipur, Father Francis, who travelled alone by road from Mao to attend the programme, reflected the dedication and commitment that lies at the heart of scouting. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the deeper purpose of the movement — serving humanity with values, compassion and faith. He reminded the gathering that the true essence of scouting is not limited to uniforms, badges or ceremonies, but lies in creating individuals who are ready to serve society with humility and responsibility.

During the celebration, an included scarf presentation

MANGANGCHA

IMPHAL

The 39th Foundation Day celebration of the Manipur State Bharat Scouts and Guides began with the ceremonial hoisting of the Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) flag at the State Training Centre, Langol Game Village, Zone-I, on Saturday. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of pride and purpose as scouts and guides joined in singing the Bharat Scouts and Guides Prayer Song, followed by the Flag Song, marking the beginning of a day dedicated to service, discipline and youth development.

Amid the serene surroundings of the State Training Centre, the occasion reflected not only the journey of an organisation but also the values, hopes and responsibilities carried by generations of young people.

The celebration served as a reminder that youth development extends beyond classrooms and examinations. It is equally about nurturing character, discipline, leadership, compassion and the courage to face the challenges of life.

Addressing the gathering, State Chief Commissioner Shri Mayanglambam Sushil Kumar, IPS (Retd.), highlighted the urgent need for improved infrastructure and a dedicated guest house for Scouts and Guides in Manipur. Citing examples from neighbouring states like Nagaland, where scouting facilities have developed on a much larger scale, he expressed concern that Manipur continues to face limitations in providing adequate space and resources for a movement that plays a vital role in shaping young minds.

At present, the Manipur State Training Centre operates from a modest tubular structure spread over less than an acre, located near the foothills of the Langol Hill range. For an organisation committed to preparing future generations, the need for a permanent and well-equipped centre remains a pressing concern.

However, the journey of creating spaces for scouting in Manipur has its own chapters of dedication and collective effort. Earlier, a guest house at Kakching Mamangching (Khunuda Hills), Kakching District,



the M. Sudhir Singh Scouts and Guides Guest House. The facility was inaugurated in November 1997 by Lt. General Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd.), the then Brigadier of Kakching Lamkhai Brigade.

The existence of such facilities stands as a reminder that the

Our youths need to be engaged in meaningful activities that keep their minds active and prepare them to face the hardships of life through different skills," said the State Chief Commissioner. He appealed to the concerned

was also held as part of the programme. The presentation highlighted the symbolic importance of the Scout and Guide scarf, representing unity, discipline, service and the shared identity of members of the movement. The young participants received the scarves with pride, reflecting the values and responsibilities associated with being part of Bharat Scouts and Guides. Around 70 Scouts and Guides participated in the celebration, representing Kendriya Vidyalaya Langjing, UNACCO School Khongman, Uripok Thamboumacha High School and Alpha & Omega School, Porompat. Scouts Masters, Guide Captains and state officials, including Vice President W. Ingobi, also attended the programme. As the organisation steps into its 40th year, members emphasised that proper guest house and training facilities are not merely physical structures, but a foundation for nurturing the dreams, discipline and leadership qualities of Manipur's youth. The Manipur State Bharat Scouts and Guides has appealed to the Governor of Manipur, who is also the Chief Patron of the organisation, to recognise the importance of scouting and support its wider implementation across schools in the state for the holistic development of young learners.

The programme concluded with various cultural activities presented by the young participants, showcasing their talents, creativity and the spirit of unity that continues to strengthen the scouting movement in Manipur.



The average person will only remember about 18% of information just 28 days after studying it.



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

- Graduate/PG in Science and Engineering
- Good communication skills
- Sales interest & willingness to travel

DETAILS

₹25,000-₹35,000/month + incentives

Locations: Kolkata, Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Guwahati, Silchar

APPLY NOW & BE PART OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING!

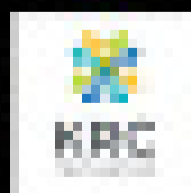


InfoCom

DIARY



An Initiative of
KRC Foundation

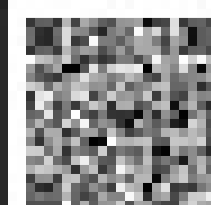


infocom.krc@gmail.com
www.krcfoundation.org
Tel: 0720038513

Know More



Apply Here





SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

KRC TIMES membership e-copy @Rs.300 annually



ABOUT US

KRC TIMES is a Journalistic Initiative from KRC Foundation where we follow our core philosophy of 'Connecting the unconnected'. We cater to the untold and unheard stories with an aim to reach the last mile.

KRC TIMES E-COPY

NE India Edition

- 5 Page e-copy published every evening
- Front Page, Editorial, Regional, National & 5Es/Advertorials

Why e-paper

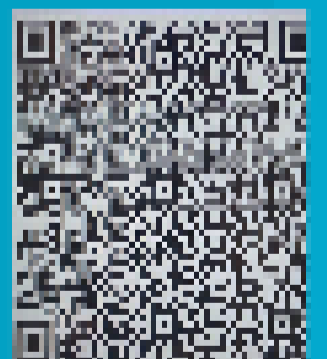
Get the most of the day's news, information, insights, etc. that can be processed quickly every evening

Support clean journalism

By subscribing to the e-copy, you support our sincere efforts to provide non-biased news and information

How to Subscribe

Scan and pay Rs. 300
Send the screen shot in our
WhatsApp: 8721838313
e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com



CONTACT US

+91-8721838313

www.krctimes.com



Presents



OPEN TO ALL FOR
| 5 CATEGORY | 8 NE STATES |
| 5 BROAD TOPICS |

Writing Star Contest

MAY-NOV 2026

DIGITAL PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE
THE SELECTED ARTICLE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON
WWW.KRCTIMES.COM

"I can shake off everything as I write;
my sorrows disappear, my courage is
reborn."
- Anne Frank

TOPICS

- INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NER (ROADS, RAILS, AVIATION, HYDROPOWER & SECURITY)
- PROMOTING TOURISM, MSME, AGRO & HORTICULTURE, ACT EAST DIPLOMACY
- DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ADVENTURE SPORTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
- ART & CULTURE, THEATRE, CINEMA, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT
- 5E FOR SUCCESS- PROMOTING EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYABILITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Open to Students from Class VI to Senior Citizens, divided into 5 categories+topics

Each entry will receive a digital participation certificate

There is NO fee for participation

The selected entry will be published on www.krcetimes.com

email articles: info@krcfoundation.org

5 categories: A- Class- VI, VII, VIII | B- Class- IX, X, XI, XII | C- College & PG Students | D- Working Class & Homemaker | E- Retired & Senior Citizen (60+)

FOR RULES AND DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT

www.krcfoundation.org

<https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest>

e-mail articles at: info@krcfoundation.org