

Barak Festival
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025
www.krctimes.com
Phone: 8721838313

KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026

Registrations OPEN

www.northeastintegrationrally.in
+91 935 083 0085

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 795 | SILCHAR MONDAY, JUNE 08, 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
Success is falling nine times and getting up ten.

NPP Leader James P K Sangma Files Nomination for Meghalaya Raja Sabha Election

SHILLONG
National People's Party (NPP) leader and former legislator James P K Sangma on Monday filed his nomination papers for the upcoming Raja Sabha election from Meghalaya as the consensus candidate of the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA).

Sangma submitted his nomination before Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretary Malthous S Sangma in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, cabinet ministers, MLAs and representatives of alliance partners.

The ruling MDA has unanimously backed Sangma's candidature for the lone Raja Sabha seat, with support coming from coalition partners, including the United Democratic Party, Bharatiya Janata Party and Hill State People's Democratic Party, besides independent legislators.

Speaking after filing his nomination, Sangma expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, Deputy Chief Ministers Prestone Tynsong and Sniawbhalang Dhar, as well as all supporting legislators for placing their confidence in him.

He said that, if elected to the Upper House of Parliament, he would work to highlight unresolved issues concerning Meghalaya and strengthen the state's representation at the national level.

Sangma also noted that his nomination emerged from consultations among alliance partners and said he was prepared to shoulder any responsibility entrusted to him by the ruling coalition.

WHO SAID WHAT



India slams Pakistan at UN
Pakistan's campaign of military airstrikes against Afghanistan is causing huge civilian casualties and suffering to the Afghan people. Such unconscionable acts of violence are a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to the region's peace and stability.

SILCHAR

Amid growing public concern over deteriorating road conditions and recurring waterlogging in Silchar, local MLA Rajdeep Roy has urged Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to prioritise comprehensive road repairs and long-term infrastructure improvements in the constituency.

Following a meeting with the Chief Minister, Roy said he submitted a series of proposals concerning road maintenance, widening of key stretches and construction of new roads within the Silchar Legislative Assembly constituency.

According to the MLA, the Chief Minister reviewed the issues and issued directions for immediate repair works and necessary follow-up measures to address the concerns.

"I met Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma and apprised him of various issues concerning Silchar, particularly the condition of roads, widening of important stretches and proposals for new road construction. I sincerely thank the Chief Minister for patiently hearing these concerns and for issuing necessary directions for immediate repair works," Roy said.

The MLA stressed that road repair



works, particularly those undertaken by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, should move beyond temporary patchwork solutions and focus on durable, long-term improvements.

"I have clearly stated that proper inspections must be carried out and that works related to NHIDCL roads should be reviewed in a comprehensive manner. We do not want a temporary solution. What Silchar needs is a permanent solu-

Three Manipur Personnel Honoured with Gallantry Awards



IMPHA
Three servicemen from Manipur have been decorated with prestigious gallantry awards, including two Vir Chakras and a Shaurya Chakra, in recognition of their exceptional courage and distinguished service to the nation. The honours were conferred during the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-I) held in New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards to military and security personnel for acts of bravery and sacrifice.

Among the awardees was Sub-Inspector (CT/GD) Deepak Chingakham of the Border Security Force (BSF), a native of Yairipok Yambem in Imphal East district,

who was posthumously awarded the Vir Chakra for his exceptional courage and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. The honour was received on his behalf by his parents, Chingakham Ibemhal Devi and Chingakham Bonbihari Singh.

Another recipient of the Vir Chakra was Rizwan Malik, a Squadron Leader from Keikhu in Imphal East district. He was recognised for displaying exceptional bravery and distinguished service during Operation Sindoor.

Meanwhile, Leishangthem Deepak Singh, a Major with 11 Para (Special Forces), was conferred the Shaurya Chakra for demonstrating outstanding courage, pro-

fessionalism and dedication while carrying out his duties.

Congratulating the awardees, Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh described the honours as a moment of immense pride for the state. He said the awards reflected the courage, discipline and commitment that Manipur's servicemen have consistently displayed in safeguarding the nation. The Chief Minister noted that Sub-Inspector Deepak Chingakham made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the country, while Squadron Leader Rizwan Malik and Major Leishangthem Deepak Singh exemplified exceptional valour and unwavering devotion to duty. "Their achievements embody the highest traditions of service to the nation and serve as an inspiration to future generations," Singh said.

He added that the contributions of the three decorated personnel towards protecting India's sovereignty and integrity further strengthened Manipur's longstanding legacy of producing brave and dedicated defenders of the nation.

Saluting their service and sacrifice, the Chief Minister said the achievements of the awardees had brought honour not only to Manipur but also to the country as a whole.

Manipur Deploys 13 Mobile Medical Units to Expand Healthcare Access in Hill Districts



IMPHAL
Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Tuesday flagged off 13 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) aimed at improving healthcare delivery in the state's remote hill districts under the Pradhan Mantri

Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA). The flag-off ceremony was held at the Directorate of Health Services in Lamphel, Imphal, where the Chief Minister was received by Sumant Singh, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department.

The initiative seeks to strengthen healthcare services in tribal and hill areas where access to medical facilities remains limited due to difficult terrain and inadequate infrastructure. The deployment forms part of the state government's efforts to ensure equitable healthcare access for communities living in geographically remote regions.

According to officials, the 13 mobile medical units will deliver a wide range of healthcare

services directly to villages and underserved populations. These include outpatient consultations, basic diagnostic services, distribution of essential medicines, maternal and child healthcare, oral health services, health awareness programmes and referral support for patients requiring specialised treatment. The units will also undertake screening and early detection of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, which continue to pose significant public health challenges.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Khemchand Singh said the mobile medical units would help bridge healthcare gaps in the hill districts by bringing essential medical services closer to people living in remote areas. He stated that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to improving public health outcomes and ensuring that quality healthcare reaches every section of society, irrespective of location. "The mobile medical units will significantly enhance healthcare accessibility in the hill districts and ensure that even the most remote villages receive essential medical services," the Chief Minister said. In a social media post following the programme, he reiterated that the deployment of the units would strengthen healthcare delivery systems in underserved areas and improve access to timely medical care.

Assam Cabinet Raises DA and DR to 60%; Over 8 Lakh Employees and Pensioners to Benefit



GUWAHATI

The Assam Cabinet has approved a 2 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for state government employees and pensioners, raising the rate from 58 per cent to 60 per cent with effect from July.

Announcing the decision on Tuesday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the move reflects the government's continued commitment to the welfare of its workforce and retired personnel, who play a vital role in the state's development.

Sharing the update on social media platform X, Sarma said the enhanced

DA and DR would provide additional support to employees and pensioners in the face of rising living costs.

"Our employees and pensioners are valued partners in Assam's growth story. To further support them, the Assam Cabinet has approved a 2% increase in DA and DR, taking it from 58% to 60% from this July. We remain committed to their welfare and wellbeing," the Chief Minister stated.

According to the government, the revised rates will benefit more than eight lakh state government employees and pensioners across Assam.

The increased allowance and relief will come into effect from July, and the enhanced amount will be credited to eligible beneficiaries accordingly.

The latest revision is expected to provide a financial boost to government employees and retirees while strengthening social security support for pensioners. The decision also underscores the state government's emphasis on employee welfare as part of its broader governance and development agenda.

Officials said the hike would ensure that employees and pensioners receive greater compensation against inflationary pressures, helping them maintain purchasing power amid increasing household expenses.

Assam Cabinet has approved a 2% increase in DA and DR, taking it from 58% to 60% from this July. We remain committed to their welfare and wellbeing.

Tripura Adopts 5 Day Work Week, Declares All Saturdays Government Holidays

AGARTALA

The Tripura government has introduced a significant administrative reform by declaring all Saturdays as holidays for state government employees and revising office hours to a five-day work week system. Under a notification issued by the General Administration Department, government offices across the state will now function from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The revised schedule replaces the earlier office hours of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and ends the existing practice of observing holidays only on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

According to the government, the additional one-hour working period on weekdays is intended to offset the closure of offices on Saturdays, ensuring that administrative efficiency and public service delivery are not affected.

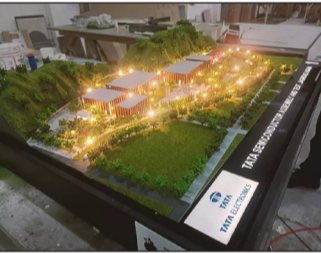
Announcing the decision, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha described the move as a progressive step aimed at balancing employee welfare with effective governance.

He said the new arrangement would allow government employees more time for family commitments, personal development and mental well-being while maintaining accountability and productivity in public administration.

Speaking to ANI, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that the reform would positively impact both the professional and personal lives of government employees. He noted that public servants, like employees elsewhere, require adequate time to spend with their families, pursue personal interests and focus on self-improvement.

Dr. Saha also pointed out that the decision brings Tripura's work schedule closer to the five-day work week followed by the Central Secretariat in New Delhi and several other government institutions across the country.

Japanese Firms Eye Role in Assam's Tata Semiconductor Project as Investment Talks Advance



GUWAHATI

Japanese companies are expected to play a key role in Assam's emerging semiconductor ecosystem, with discussions progressing on their involvement in the supply chain of the Tata semiconductor project being developed at Jagiroad. Sources in the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi said Japan has identified several sectors for potential cooperation and investment in Assam and the wider Northeast region, with the semiconductor sector emerging as a major area of collaboration.

The proposed partnership is centred on the semiconductor manufacturing facility being set up by Tata Electronics at Jagiroad in Assam, one of the country's flagship semiconductor initiatives.

According to sources, two Japanese logistics companies with expertise in handling and transporting highly sensitive semiconductor products are likely to become part of the project's supply chain network. Discussions between the Tata semiconductor project and the Japanese firms are reportedly at an advanced stage.

Officials from the companies have already visited the project site at Jagi-

road to assess logistical requirements and explore opportunities for collaboration, sources said.

Semiconductor manufacturing requires highly specialised transportation systems to ensure the safe movement of delicate components and finished products. The participation of Japanese firms, known globally for precision logistics and supply-chain management, is expected to strengthen the project's operational capabilities.

Apart from the semiconductor sector, Japan has also expressed interest in exploring investment and cooperation opportunities across various sectors in Assam and the Northeast, reflecting growing economic engagement between the region and Japan. However, sources noted that tourism remains an area with untapped potential. Japanese visitors are still relatively unfamiliar with the Northeast despite its rich cultural and natural attractions. Additionally, travel regulations requiring special permissions for foreign nationals to visit certain areas in the region have been cited as factors limiting tourist inflows.

The growing interest from Japanese companies is seen as a significant boost for Assam's industrial ambitions, particularly as the state seeks to position itself as a key hub in India's semiconductor and advanced manufacturing ecosystem. The involvement of specialised international partners is expected to enhance the project's global competitiveness while creating new opportunities for investment, technology transfer and skilled employment in the region.

Guns N' Roses to Rock Guwahati on November 17 During India Tour

GUWAHATI

Legendary American rock band Guns N' Roses is set to return to India for a two-city tour in November 2026, with Guwahati emerging as one of the destinations for the iconic group's Asia tour.

The band will perform at Khanapara Ground on November 17, following an earlier concert at Nice Grounds in Bengaluru on November 14. The events will be produced and promoted by BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment arm of BookMyShow.

The announcement comes a year after the band's 2025 India visit, which marked its first performance in the country in over a decade. The upcoming concerts will be Guns N' Roses' second consecutive tour of India, underscoring the growing popularity of large-scale international music events in the country. Formed in 1985, Guns N' Roses remains one of the most influential rock acts in modern music history. The band is renowned for chart-topping classics including Welcome to the Jungle, Paradise City, Sweet Child O' Mine and November Rain.

The India performances form part of the band's ongoing world tour, which follows an extensive



run of shows across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. The tour also coincides with the release of two new singles, 'Nothin' and Atlas, their first new music since 2023.

Ticket sales have already opened for members of the band's Nightrain Fan Club through an exclusive pre-sale window, which runs until 10 a.m. on June 9. General ticket sales will begin at 11 a.m. on June 9 through BookMyShow.

Commenting on the announcement, Naman Pugalia, Chief Business Officer of BookMyShow Live, said the band's return reflects India's rising profile as a destination for major international live entertainment events. He noted that while Bengaluru has long been a strong market for rock music, Guwahati's inclusion highlights growing demand for large-format concerts in emerging entertainment hubs.

HEAVY SCHOOL BAGS

Every April, as schools reopen, I find myself writing the same words. The fact that I must repeat them year after year is proof enough that the issue remains unaddressed.

Walk past any school gate in the morning and you'll see the same troubling sight: children bent under the weight of bags almost as big as themselves. Despite the promises of the

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which clearly calls for lighter bags, bagless days and activity-based learning, many schools continue with old routines.

This is not a small issue. It is an alarming signal for the future. Heavy bags are not uncomfortable; they are harming our children. Many studies (Chaudhari et al., 2021; Hussain et al., 2022; Kumar & Kumar, 2025; Perrone et al., 2018) across the world have shown that children often suffer back pain because their school bags weigh far more than what's considered safe: (more than) ten percent of their body weight (as per NEP 2020 guidelines). Doctors warn that this can lead to posture problems and even long-term spinal issues. The impact is not only physical. Research has found that children carrying heavier bags often felt tired and struggled to concentrate in class.

Joyful learning is not just a nice idea. It's backed by research. Studies show that emotions and thinking are closely linked throughout life. When learners feel positive emotions, their minds open up. They become more flexible, curious and ready to explore. This openness helps them discover new knowledge, build relationships and develop skills (Fredrickson, 2013, p. 815). In short, joy doesn't distract from learning. Rather it drives it. In this regard, Li & Kangas (2024) highlight that teachers are not just facilitators, but can act as co-players in playful learning environments, marking a significant pedagogical shift toward participatory and game-like approaches in early education.

Yet many schools today feel less like places of learning and more like machines. Their main job seems to be ticking off chapters, rushing through lessons and completing the syllabus. In this process, children are treated like outputs on a conveyor belt, not living, breathing individuals. When education becomes mechanical, it loses its soul: the joy, curiosity and human connection that make learning meaningful.

Bagless days, lockers and lighter textbooks remain a distant dream. In most schools, 'bagless' simply means a token Saturday, when children are already drained from the week.

Parents pay high fees and trust schools with their children's well-being, yet their voices are often ignored. Emails and appeals go unanswered, as if parents do not matter. But parents are key stakeholders. They live with the child's reality every day: the heavy bags, the exam stress, the joy when learning feels playful. Schools, by contrast, focus on timetables, curriculum and outcomes from a distance. When parents' insights are sidelined, policies lose their humanity. Real change: lighter bags, flexible routines, joyful classrooms can only happen when parents are heard.

The School Bag Policy 2020 under NEP was never meant to be a vague directive. Rather, it is a carefully designed, research-backed concept created by top experts. Its guidelines are simple, practical and child-friendly: keep bags within 10% of a child's body weight, split textbooks semester-wise, provide lockers and introduce bagless days filled with playful, vocational activities. None of this requires extraordinary resources; it only requires schools to do their bit.

Yet, across India, implementation remains patchy. While Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and government schools in Himachal Pradesh stand out as strong examples enforcing weight limits, providing lockers and adopting bagless days; most schools still treat the policy as advisory rather than mandatory. Private schools continue with heavy timetables and state schools struggle with uneven rollout. Compliance is often self-reported.

This gap between policy and practice is glaring. Schools proudly print "Aligned with NEP 2020" on the cover of textbooks, but the spirit of NEP is missing in reality. If this policy is to truly serve children, there must be proper surveillance and timely surprise checks by concerned authorities. Without accountability, the promise of NEP 2020 risks remaining only words on paper.

The real celebration of NEP 2020 will not be in slogans or cover-page claims: it will be in the day we hear good news from every school in India: the School Bag Policy has been implemented. That moment will mean children finally walk lighter, study freer and learn with joy. Until then, the promise of NEP remains incomplete and the celebration still awaits.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

— Mark Twain

What India and Nepal debate often misses



R. BISWAS

This civilisational context does not eliminate the need for boundary demarcation or protecting national interests. It provides the trust necessary to address difficult questions through dialogue rather than confrontation.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah's recent remarks in Nepal's Parliament on the India-Nepal boundary issue have generated considerable debate. Yet much of the discussion has focused on individual words rather than the larger significance of what was said.

At its core, the Prime Minister's message reflected an important reality: territorial concerns and civilisational ties are not competing ideas. A mature state is capable of safeguarding both.

By asserting Nepal's concerns regarding the Kalapani area while acknowledging the deep cultural and familial ties that bind Nepal and India, he highlighted a truth often lost in contemporary discourse—that sovereignty and coexistence can advance together. Recognizing shared lives and livelihoods across the border is not a denial of national interest; it is an acknowledgment of reality.

India-Nepal relations cannot be viewed solely through the prism of maps and boundaries. Unlike many international borders, the India-Nepal border has evolved within a landscape of shared communities. It is shaped not only by treaties and political agreements but also by rivers, forests, mountains, and settlements whose lives have been intertwined for generations. The relationship is rooted in centuries of shared civilizational ties, roti-beti sambandh, pilgrimage routes, and philosophical traditions that have been preserved and nurtured across generations.



Families exist across the border. In the Terai, communities share language, culture, and kinship through Maithili, Bhojपुरi, and Awadhi traditions. In eastern Nepal, longstanding connections link communities with Sikkim, Assam, and West Bengal. In the Far West, these ties with Uttarakhand remain intertwined. Literature, folklore, and everyday life remain testimony to a relationship that has never been confined by geography alone.

In many parts of the frontier, an Indian child may attend a Nepali school because it is closer than the one on the Indian side. A Nepali youth may cross the border daily for work and return home each evening. Communities trade together, celebrate together, and often share family ties through generations of cross-border marriages.

These realities do not weaken sovereignty. They explain why Nepal-India relations require a degree of sensitivity and understanding that goes beyond conventional border politics.

The challenge today is that issues requiring patient dialogue, technical expertise, and sustained groundwork are often overshadowed by narratives designed for temporary political gain. Across South Asia, it is easier to manufacture outrage than to undertake the difficult work of negotiation. It is easier to amplify differences than to acknowledge interdependence. Differences between neighbours are natural, particularly where geography, history, and human settlement have evolved together over centuries. What should concern us is not the existence of differences, but the growing tendency to interpret every disagreement through the lens of mistrust. No boundary issue between neighbours has ever been resolved through social media campaigns, emotional slogans,

or competing nationalist narratives. Durable solutions emerge through dialogue, trust, political courage, and institutional mechanisms.

Prime Minister Shah's remarks are significant precisely because they suggest that national interest and constructive engagement can coexist. A leader can firmly assert a country's position while simultaneously recognizing the human realities that shape bilateral relations.

During my time working at Singha Durbar, I often spent mornings at Pashupatinath Temple reflecting on the civilizational ties that bind Nepal and India. Conversations with scholars on Pashupatinath, Kedar-nath, and Kailash Mansarovar reinforced a simple realization: the Himalayas have long connected peoples, traditions, and pilgrimages across present-day political boundaries.

The same realization emerged while travelling through Mithila Parikrama and the Ramayana Circuit, the Mithila Parikrama, one encounters a living cultural landscape that predates modern borders. Sita Maa or Prince Siddharth's journey cannot be reduced to a territorial claim. These remain shared inheritances of a civilization. This civilisational context does not eliminate the need for boundary demarcation or protecting national interests. It provides the trust necessary to address difficult questions through dialogue rather than confrontation.

The recent visit to India by the Nepali delegation led by Shri Rabi Lamichhane, former Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, reflected the continued importance both countries attach to engagement at the highest levels. Meetings with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, senior officials and political leadership underscored a simple truth: sustained dialogue remains the most credible pathway for advancing holistic cooperation. The significance of such engagement lies not merely in protocol but in its purpose. The real test of leadership is not whether differences exist; it is whether leaders possess the confidence and statesmanship to ensure that those differences do not define the relationship.

The India-Nepal border is shaped by both history and geography. Rivers alter their course, settlements evolve, and patterns of cultivation change. Boundary management therefore requires continuous cooperation, political commitment, and mutual trust. In a region where borders have often reflected the legacies of external historical forces, India

and Nepal have an opportunity to demonstrate that enduring neighbourly relations are built through sovereign dialogue, shared interests, and an unwavering commitment to each other's stability, prosperity, and dignity.

Today, social media appears more interested in winning arguments than understanding the essence of Prime Minister Shah's statement or India's engagement with Shri Rabi Lamichhane. People on both sides are dissecting words and optics while overlooking a larger truth: two countries sharing centuries of civilisational, cultural, and familial ties possess a unique reservoir of trust.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

We had a very productive discussion with @FEBI India, which is accompanying the @EU in India delegation to Assam.

FEBI represents over 250 European companies present in India spanning across more than 6,000 businesses and Assam aspires to engage with each of them to explore partnerships that can create opportunities for our youth, farmers and women entrepreneurs.

Assam's talented workforce along with our customised incentives are ready to support enterprises in futuristic sectors, renewable energy and agri processing among others.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Assam Chief Minister



Shared civilization does not eliminate the need for boundary management; it provides the foundation for dialogue and lasting solutions. As someone who has lived, worked, travelled, prayed, and learned across Nepal, I cannot accept that a relationship shaped by the Himalayas, Darshan Shastra, and countless human connections should be reduced to competing narratives. No matter how many provocative statements emerge, or how much facts are twisted into conjecture, the ship must sail through.

Shared civilisational ethos gives leaders what treaties alone cannot — Trust, the most valuable currency of diplomacy.

The Himalayas may define our geography, but it is trust that will define our future.

The author is a financial, geopolitical, security analyst and an India-Nepal Relations Observer; Views presented are personal.

Assam Steps Up Protection of Reclaimed Land, Eyes Infrastructure Funding and Agri Export Growth

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the state government is strengthening measures to ensure that land reclaimed from encroachers remains free from fresh occupation, while simultaneously pursuing infrastructure expansion and greater agricultural exports with enhanced support from the Centre.

Following a series of high-level review meetings, the Chief Minister outlined key policy priorities across land management, infrastructure development and agriculture in a post on social media platform X.

Sarma said safeguarding government land recovered through anti-encroachment drives remains a major focus of the administration. Accord-



ing to him, the state has reclaimed more than 200 square kilometres of land from encroachers over the last five years.

"Over the last five years, we have reclaimed over 200 sq km from encroachers. We are now taking robust steps to ensure encroachers are never

able to return to these lands," he said. The Chief Minister also directed departments, including Education, Health and Power, to identify projects

that could benefit from the Centre's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme. He noted that the initiative could help improve the financial viability of major public infrastructure projects and accelerate development across the state.

Officials were asked to examine critical projects that may qualify for VGF support, with the aim of leveraging central assistance to strengthen Assam's infrastructure network and sustain economic growth.

In the agriculture sector, Sarma said the government would intensify efforts to attract investment in agricultural infrastructure, support exporters of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged and organic products, and maximise the benefits available under central

schemes. Highlighting the importance of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), he said the Union government has assured Assam of full support under the programme. The state government plans to utilise the scheme to improve post-harvest facilities, strengthen supply chains and enhance market access for agricultural producers.

Sarma further directed departments to facilitate stronger linkages among farmers, producer groups, aggregators and exporters to expand access to domestic and international markets.

The initiative, he said, is aimed at increasing farmers' incomes, promoting value-added agricultural products and strengthening Assam's presence in the global agricultural trade network.

AIUDF Slams Proposed Uniform Civil Code, Terms It 'Discriminatory'

GUWAHATI

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has reaffirmed its opposition to the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC), describing the legislation as discriminatory and alleging that it would adversely impact the Muslim community.

Speaking on the issue, AIUDF leader Rafiqul Islam said the party has consistently opposed the Uniform Civil Code and continues to stand by its position. He noted that the party leadership, including its president, has repeatedly voiced objections to the proposed legislation.

"We opposed the UCC in the past and continue to oppose it today. Our party president has also made the party's stand clear on the matter," Islam said. The AIUDF leader further claimed that the proposed legislation does not represent a genuine Uniform Civil Code and termed it a "black law." According to him, the measure has been introduced with the intention of imposing the customs and legal practices of other communities on Muslims. Islam also questioned the reported exemption granted to tribal communities under the proposed framework. He argued that such exemptions undermine the principle of uniformity that the legislation seeks to promote. "If the law is beneficial for everyone, why have tribal communities been exempted? If it can affect their culture and traditions, then why should Muslims be subjected to it?" he asked. His remarks come amid continuing discussions over the possible implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in Assam and other parts of the country. The proposal has drawn mixed reactions from political parties, community organisations and civil society groups. Supporters of the UCC argue that it would establish a common set of civil laws governing matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance, thereby ensuring legal uniformity. Critics, however, contend that such a move could interfere with religious and cultural practices protected under personal laws.

ED Raids Border Locations in Tripura, Mizoram and Bengal in Drug Money Laundering Probe

AGARTALA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday carried out searches at four locations across Tripura, Mizoram and West Bengal as part of a money laundering investigation linked to a major narcotics seizure by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Officials said the searches were conducted under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The case originates from an NCB complaint related to the seizure of 49.101 kg of methamphetamine and 40 grams of heroin in Tripura on August 21, 2025.

According to investigators, the operation targeted strategically located premises near India's international borders. In Tripura, the searched property is situated approximately 200 metres from the Bangladesh border, while the location in Mizoram lies around 500 metres from the Myanmar border. Another premises in West Bengal was also covered during the coordinated operation.

The ED suspects the existence of an organised cross-border drug

trafficking network that allegedly sourced methamphetamine from Myanmar through the Champhai-Zokhawthar sector in Mizoram before transporting the consignment to receivers in Tripura. Officials said the agency is tracing the financial trail associated with the suspected narcotics syndicate and examining the movement of funds generated through the alleged trafficking activities.

Preliminary findings of the investigation indicate that proceeds of crime worth nearly Rs 142 crore were allegedly layered through multiple bank accounts and shell entities to conceal their origin. The agency is now focusing on identifying the beneficiaries of these transactions and uncovering the wider financial infrastructure that may have supported the cross-border drug network.

The searches are part of the ED's efforts to establish links between the narcotics operation and suspected money laundering activities spanning multiple states and border regions.

Manipur Home Department Says Media Advisories Meant to Safeguard Peace, Promote Responsible Reporting

IMPHAL

The Manipur Government has clarified that media advisories issued by the Home Department are intended to encourage responsible journalism, factual reporting and the preservation of public order during sensitive situations, and are not aimed at curbing press freedom.

The clarification was made by Mayengbam Veto, Joint Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur, during a one-day seminar on "Media for Communal Harmony and Responsible Journalism" held in Imphal on Monday. The event was jointly organised by the Editors' Guild Manipur and the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union would continue to uphold ethical journalism standards.

Addressing the session on "Decoding Media Advisories of the Manipur Government," Dr. Veto explained that the advisories are issued to encourage fact verification, discourage sensationalism and prevent

speculative reporting that could aggravate tensions in conflict-prone situations. He noted that unverified information can have serious consequences during periods of unrest and stressed the importance of caution while reporting on sensitive or communally charged issues. According to Dr. Veto, media content that could potentially undermine social harmony or national integrity should be avoided in the larger public interest. He described the media as a vital stakeholder in the state's development and welfare and expressed confidence that professional bodies such as the Editors' Guild Manipur and the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union would continue to uphold ethical journalism standards.

He further asserted that the advisories do not seek to intimidate journalists or impose additional restrictions on the media. Rather, he said, they are intended to reinforce adherence to ethical norms and guidelines laid

down by the Press Council of India and other relevant authorities. Chief Minister's Media Advisor Oinam Sunil Singh also addressed the seminar and urged national media organisations to refrain from categorising news reports or media institutions based on the ethnic or community backgrounds of journalists. Highlighting the contributions of local journalists, Singh said media professionals in Manipur have played a crucial role in disseminating information related to governance and public affairs. He also acknowledged the efforts of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations in strengthening communication and media outreach across the state.

At the same time, he voiced concern over what he described as a growing trend among some national media outlets to label organisations according to ethnic affiliations. He pointed out that Imphal-based news organisations are often described as

"Meitei media," while publications such as the Ukhrul Times are referred to as "Naga media."

Such classifications, Singh argued, can be counterproductive and detract from the professional identity of media organisations. He emphasised that news outlets should be recognised for their journalistic work and standards rather than their perceived community affiliations. The seminar was inaugurated by Y. Khemchand Singh and attended by journalists, editors and media professionals from across the state. Participants discussed the role of the media in promoting communal harmony, ethical reporting and responsible journalism, particularly during periods of social tension.

The programme concluded with deliberations on strengthening professional standards in journalism and fostering constructive engagement between government institutions and the media in Manipur.

Tripura Exports Organic Produce Worth Rs 17 Crore, Eyes Expansion in Global Markets

AGARTALA

Tripura has exported organic agricultural products worth Rs 17 crore to domestic and international markets, with demand for the state's produce continuing to rise globally, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath said on Monday.

The minister made the announcement after chairing a review meeting on production, marketing and market expansion under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) at the Tripura State Agricultural Research Centre in Arundhutanagar, Agartala.

Nath said the state government is placing significant emphasis on expanding organic cultivation while ensuring higher incomes for farmers and preserving soil health.

"The primary objective is to



increase farmers' income alongside boosting agricultural production," he said.

Highlighting the growth of farmer-led institutions in the state, Nath noted that Tripura had only two Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) before 2018, a figure that has now risen to 53.

The minister said the state is

focusing on the cultivation and promotion of several high-value organic crops, including Kalikhasa rice, Harinarayan rice, scented lemon, Queen and Kew varieties of pineapple, bird's eye chilli, ginger and sesame.

"The demand for our organic products is increasing day by day," he said.

According to Nath, organic produce from Tripura worth Rs 17 crore has already been exported to markets across India and abroad, reflecting growing recognition of the state's agricultural products.

As part of efforts to strengthen market linkages, the minister also flagged off a consignment of 1,000 Queen pineapples destined for Delhi. He said the government plans to further expand organic farming across the state in the coming years.

"Tripura's products are genuinely organic, and our farmers are working tirelessly to cultivate them. Farmer Producer Organisations and the Agriculture Department are continuously working to strengthen the sector," Nath said.

He added that products such as bird's eye chilli, ginger, turmeric and pineapple are witnessing particularly strong demand in external markets.

Mizoram Recorded 9,468 Cancer Cases in Five Years



strengthening both curative treatment and palliative care services.

Lalrinpui also said that data generated by the PBCR has played a significant role in ongoing efforts to establish an advanced cancer hospital in the state with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Highlighting the registry's credibility, she said PBCR Mizoram data has been recognised by the International Agency for Research on Cancer under the World Health Organization and has been included in three volumes of the internationally acclaimed publication Cancer Incidence in Five Continents.

Commissioner and Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department, K. Lalrinzuali, commended healthcare professionals for their dedication and contribution to strengthening cancer care and public health services in the state.

Presenting findings from two decades of cancer research, Dr. C. Lalchandama said Mizoram continues to report the highest cancer incidence in the country. Studies conducted between 2003 and 2020, he noted, indicate a steady rise in cancer cases across the state.

According to the findings, lung cancer remains the most common form of cancer among men, while breast cancer is the leading cancer among women in Mizoram. Dr. Lalchandama also outlined measures aimed at strengthening cancer prevention, early detection, awareness campaigns and treatment facilities to address the growing disease burden.

The programme additionally recognised the contributions of Eric Zomawia for his role in advancing cancer surveillance and strengthening the Population Based Cancer Registry in the state.

The event concluded with technical discussions among researchers, doctors and public health experts on improving cancer registration systems, enhancing data quality and developing strategies to tackle the increasing incidence of cancer in Mizoram.

The latest findings underscore the scale of the cancer challenge facing the state while highlighting the importance of robust data collection and coordinated healthcare interventions in addressing the disease.

Neiphui Rio Launches Four Entrepreneurship and Food Processing Projects Across Nagaland

KOHIMA

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphui Rio on Monday inaugurated four incubation and food processing infrastructure projects aimed at boosting entrepreneurship, value addition and rural livelihoods across the state.

The flagship facility inaugurated by the Chief Minister was the Incubation Centre for Food Processing at the State Industrial Area in Toluvi. The centre is expected to provide farmers, food processors and aspiring entrepreneurs with infrastructure, technical assistance and training to help transform agricultural produce into market-ready products.

Addressing the gathering, Rio said the facility would enable local farmers and entrepreneurs to add value to their produce, improve product quality and access wider markets. He noted that the initiative would help producers develop new skills and establish sustainable enterprises capable of competing in regional and national markets.

In addition to the Toluvi centre, the Chief Minister virtually inaugurated three other projects across Nagaland. These include the Incubation Centre for Entrepreneurs and Infrastructure Devel-



opment at the Industrial Growth Centre in Ganeshnagar, Chümoukedima, the Incubation Centre for Food Processing in Tuensang, and the Modern Aggregation Centre at Longnak in Mokokchung district.

Rio said the projects have been designed to directly benefit local communities by creating economic opportunities closer to home. He noted that the facilities would provide young entrepreneurs with spaces to innovate, develop products and expand their businesses, while also helping farmers secure better returns through improved processing, packaging, storage and marketing systems.

According to the Chief Minister, the initiatives are expected to generate employment opportunities for the youth and reduce migration in search of jobs. By strengthening the farm-to-market value chain, the projects aim to increase income generation and stimulate economic activity in rural areas.

The projects have been implemented by the Department of Industries and Commerce as part of the state's efforts to promote entrepreneurship and industrial development.

Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chairman of the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland, Abu Metha, lauded the department's efforts

and described the launch of four centres across four districts as a significant achievement accomplished within a short span of time. Congratulating Advisor for Industries and Commerce Hekani Jakhalu and her team, Metha said the facilities would set a new benchmark for entrepreneurship promotion, food processing, value addition and livelihood generation in the state. He said the projects would empower local producers, support startups, create jobs and contribute to strengthening Nagaland's rural economy. Metha also highlighted the department's broader vision of building an integrated farm-to-market ecosystem that connects farmers, producers, entrepreneurs and consumers, ensuring greater value realisation for agricultural products.

Officials said the newly inaugurated centres are expected to play a crucial role in advancing Nagaland's entrepreneurial and industrial ecosystem by providing incubation support, business development services and market linkages. The facilities are also expected to accelerate the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) while encouraging innovation and self-employment among the state's youth.

With the launch of the four projects, Nagaland has taken another step towards strengthening its rural economy through entrepreneurship, value-added agriculture and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Quest!

The only impossible journey is the one you never begin

Matter of utmost concern': India calls for immediate de-escalation amid West Asia tensions



NEW DELHI

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia and the Gulf region, India reiterated its call for the immediate de-escalation of hostilities and called the developments a matter of utmost concern to the international community.

India urged a diplomatic solution as the way forward for peace and stability to be restored in the region.

The Ministry of External Affairs noted how the conflict, which has now lasted for over 100 days, has resulted in immense suffering and impacted the global economy.

The statement said, "India deeply regrets the renewed attacks in West Asia. These developments

are a matter of utmost concern to the international community. This conflict has now lasted over 100 days and has already caused immense human suffering. It has also had a debilitating impact on the global economy and energy supplies".

"We call on all parties to immediately de-escalate tensions, ensure that civilians are not harmed and conclude ongoing negotiations for a diplomatic solution so that peace and stability can return to the region", it underlined. New Delhi's call for restoration of peace comes amid the backdrop of the major military escalations over the last 24 hours, which have seen multi-city kinetic engagements, airstrikes on strategic installations, and heavy projectile

salvos across the region.

Marking a sharp escalation in West Asia, Israel and Iran traded fire on Monday, their war's 100th day, putting its already fragile truce in serious jeopardy and threatening to reignite all-out regional war.

Compounding the maritime security matrix across regional choke points, the Iran-backed Houthis announced they were banning Israeli shipping on the Red Sea, a key shipping lane, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The latest round of kinetic actions, including one on an Iranian petrochemical complex and what Iran's Revolutionary Guard said was the targeting of two Israeli bases, came hours after President Trump reportedly called on Israel to refrain from retaliating against Tehran's missiles. The foundational breakdown of the cross-border truce infrastructure escalated after Israel launched airstrikes at Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday, which led to Iran retaliating with its own strike on Israel, then to Monday's attacks and counterattacks.

This sudden re-eruption of hostilities has cast a foreboding shadow over diplomatic efforts to permanently end the war, which originally commenced on February 28. The kinetic escalation severely threatens to derail US President Donald Trump's last-ditch efforts to establish an off-ramp by negotiating a comprehensive nuclear deal with Tehran.

NEW DELHI

Leaders of several opposition parties on Monday underscored the importance of unity within the INDIA bloc and stressed the need to protect democratic values while addressing issues affecting people's livelihoods, as key leaders of the alliance gathered for a crucial meeting in New Delhi.

The meeting, held at the Constitution Club, comes amid signs of strain within the opposition coalition, with differences surfacing among some of its constituent parties in recent weeks.

Opposition leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge of the Congress, Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress, Akhilesh Yadav of Samajwadi Party, Tejashwi Yadav of RJD, Omar Abdullah of National Conference and Mehbooba Mufti of PDP, besides Left leaders attended the meeting.

NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule, CPI(M)'s John Brittas, CPI's D Raja and leaders of some smaller parties were also part of the deliberations. Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Uddhav Thackeray attended the meeting virtually.

The DMK and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are not part of the deliberations as they have opted out of the bloc.

TVK also did not attend the meeting. Sources said parties with MPs and those who were part of the original INDIA bloc were invited.

The leaders began deliberations to help forge unity and rework their strategy to take on the BJP, while ironing out differences within after the defeat of regional outfits like the TMC and DMK in the recent assembly polls.

The meeting also comes at a time when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government completed 12 years in power in its third consecutive term.

Over 20 political parties are at the meeting amid a BJP surge in the country in the run-up to the next assembly election cycle in states and the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

Leaders including Sonia Gandhi,

Unity takes centre stage as Opposition INDIA bloc confronts internal challenges



Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, and several other opposition parties attend the INDIA Bloc meeting in New Delhi.

Asked about the agenda of the meeting, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said decisions would be taken collectively by alliance partners.

"We will decide the agenda in the meeting," Yadav told reporters, adding that efforts would be made to move towards a "bandhu rashtira". It was important to safeguard democratic values, he said.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav declined to comment on the likely outcomes of the meeting, saying details would emerge after discussions among alliance partners.

CPI general secretary D Raja said the meeting was significant as it was being held after a considerable gap and at a time when constituent parties had several issues requiring discussion.

"There is no particular agenda, but there are issues which political parties have. Left parties do have issues concerning the livelihood of the people

and issues confronting the nation as a whole," Raja said.

Recalling that the opposition alliance had come together with the call of "BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao", Raja said the meeting would deliberate on how constituent parties could work together with mutual trust and mutual respect while giving priority to issues concerning ordinary people.

He also referred to concerns raised by some alliance partners over the conduct of parties in states and said opposition leaders should avoid actions that deepen mistrust within the coalition.

The gathering marks the first formal meeting of top INDIA bloc leaders in a long time, with the last such engagement taking place during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign.

Rahul Gandhi had hosted opposition leaders at his residence in August last year, bringing together nearly 50 leaders from over 25 parties.

At that meeting, opposition leaders had raised concerns over alleged electoral manipulation, particularly the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter

rolls in Bihar. Since then, INDIA bloc leaders have met mainly during consultations ahead of Parliament sessions to coordinate floor strategy and identify issues to jointly raise against the Centre.

The meeting comes amid shifts within the opposition alliance. The DMK and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are not participating after distancing themselves from the bloc. While AAP has publicly moved away from the alliance, the DMK had earlier announced its decision to skip the meeting following the Congress ending ties with it in Tamil Nadu and joining the TVK-led government.

Leaders are expected to deliberate on the alliance's future course and attempt to present a united front against the Modi government on key national issues ahead of upcoming state elections and the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

The recent defeat of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal is also seen as a factor prompting renewed opposition coordination amid the BJP's growing political momentum. The TMC is expected to raise allegations of attacks on its leaders in Bengal and seek support from alliance partners.

Recent Assembly election results have also sharpened differences within the bloc. The CPI(M) is expected to raise concerns with the Congress over allegations that the Left had a political understanding with the BJP during the Kerala polls, where the Left government lost power to the Congress-led UDF.

Ahead of the meeting, the BJP dismissed the opposition grouping, saying the alliance is "a figment of imagination" and lacks conviction on the ground.

Responding to the criticism, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that, like India, the "INDIA janbandhan" continues to stand united through its diversity.

The last official meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was held in New Delhi on June 1, 2024, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The bloc was originally formed with the support of over 25 opposition parties.

INTERNATIONAL

China's Xi lands in North Korea for rare visit



PYONGYANG

China's President Xi Jinping hailed an "invincible friendship" with Pyongyang on arrival in North Korea Monday, his first trip abroad this year after hosting back-to-back summits in Beijing.

China, Washington's chief geopolitical rival, has been North Korea's main trading partner by far for decades and a key source of diplomatic and economic support for a country hit by multiple international sanctions.

Military officers lined a red carpet as an Air China plane carrying Xi arrived for his first visit since 2019, video from Xinhua showed.

Kim and his wife Ri Sol-ju welcomed Xi, who was accompanied by his wife Peng Liyuan.

The two leaders shook hands, and children presented flowers to Xi and Peng, while a banner reading "We warmly welcome Comrade Xi Jinping" and hailing the two countries'

"unbreakable friendship" hung below Chinese and North Korean flags.

Xi makes the trip after hosting US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin separately in Beijing and as North Korea's nuclear talks with Washington remain deadlocked.

The White House said last month that Xi and Trump "confirmed their shared goal to denuclearise North Korea" during their summit in Beijing.

However, leader Kim Jong Un's powerful sister said on the eve of Xi's arrival that North Korea's nuclear weapons programme was "the line of no retreat".

South Korea's dovish President Lee Jae Myung said Monday Seoul should not give up on North Korea's denuclearisation, adding that "North Korea is still producing nuclear material even at this very moment".

Minseon Ku, a diplomacy professor at DePaul University, told AFP that "Beijing probably has accepted North Korea as a nuclear state", but Xi "will

probably tell Kim that China wants stability more than anything".

China has "always prioritised stability and is currently having to manage its relations and differences with the US", Ku said.

Seong-Hyon Lee, a visiting scholar at the Harvard University Asia Center, also said Beijing is shifting towards "underwriting regime durability" rather than seeking to coerce North Korea into denuclearisation.

"China's broader regional strategy benefits from a stable, heavily armed, and aligned buffer state that absorbs US and allied military bandwidth," he told North Korea has repeatedly declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear state since Kim and Trump's 2019 summit collapsed over the scope of denuclearisation and sanctions relief.

Kim has also been emboldened by the war in Ukraine, securing critical support from Moscow after sending troops to fight alongside Russian forces. Some analysts say the sum-

mit could be Xi's way of countering Russia's growing influence over North Korea, but DePaul's Ku stressed that "overall, Moscow is not a major power like China".

"Moscow-Pyongyang power relations are more equal than Beijing-Pyongyang; Moscow needs Kim for their war in Ukraine as much as Kim needs technology sharing and food from Russia," she said.

In an article published on the front page of North Korea's Rodong Simmun, Xi pledged closer cooperation.

"No matter how the times change or how the international situation evolves, the traditional friendship between China and North Korea is always invincible," Xi wrote.

Xi last met Kim in September, when he invited the North Korean leader and Putin to a military parade in Beijing marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Jun Sang-gab, 65, a South Korean tour guide who lives near the inter-Korean border, said he hopes that "North Korea opens its economy" and follows China's development model.

"If they (the North) establish themselves economically, there won't be any incidents like armed unification or war" on the Korean peninsula, he told. Trump has made little progress on North Korea, especially on the nuclear front, despite his earlier high-profile summits with Kim. North Korea is also the only country with an official, binding military alliance with China. North Korea could also serve as a useful counterweight to US partners in the region, including South Korea and Japan, analysts said. Long-frosty China-Japan ties have deteriorated since Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, a security hawk, suggested last year that Tokyo might intervene militarily in any Chinese attempt to take self-ruled Taiwan. "As China's international standing rises, Beijing is likely seeking to draw Pyongyang more actively into its diplomatic orbit," said Lim Eul-chul, a North Korea expert at Kyungnam University.

Israel and Iran must 'immediately stop shooting': US President Donald Trump



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Monday that Israel and Iran must stop "shooting," as the two countries attacked each other for the first time since a ceasefire two months ago.

"Israel and Iran must immediately stop 'shooting,'" Trump said on Truth Social.

Iran and Israel on Monday attacked each other's territory for the first time since a shaky ceasefire put five weeks of war on hold, sparking fears the escalation could spark a new full-scale conflict.

Iran fired a barrage of missiles at Israel overnight and Israel responded by targeting military sites in the Islamic republic, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apparently defying calls by his ally President Donald Trump for restraint.

Tehran's strikes followed attacks by Israel against targets of the Iran-backed Lebanese Shia group Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Iran had repeatedly warned it would strike Israel if the Lebanese capital was targeted. Oil prices surged on worries that war

the key Strait of Hormuz trade bottleneck amid fears of global energy and goods shortages. The strikes also came at a critical moment with diplomatic efforts to end the conflict involving mediator Pakistan on a knife-edge.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei warned at a press conference in Tehran attended by AFP that it was "perfectly natural that the diplomatic process initiated to put an end to this imposed war would be affected."

But he added: "Diplomatic consultations are naturally continuing in all circumstances." As he was speaking at the foreign ministry, a huge explosion shook the building, followed by repeated explosions believed to be from air defence systems, the AFP reporter said.

Local media in Iran that a "hostile drone" was shot down over Tehran by air defences.



Half-Truths Are More Dangerous Than Falsehood: Prakhar Shrivastava Devarshi Narada Jayanti Award Bestowed upon Nava Thakuria; Lakshyajit Gohain, Ranjita Rabha, and Mridul Haloi Felicitated



GUWAHATI

In journalism, the propagation and judgment of half-truths pose a greater danger than outright falsehoods. This significant observation was made by Prakhar Shrivastava, Senior Consulting Editor and Anchor at Delhi Doordarshan Kendra, while delivering the keynote address on the occasion of Narada Jayanti.

Organized under the auspices of the Vishwa Samvad Kendra, Assam on 7 June, the event featured the presentation of the Devarshi Narada Award and a felicitation ceremony. This year, the prestigious Devarshi Narada Award was conferred upon veteran journalist and editor of Ishan Darpan, Nava Thakuria. Additionally, three promising journalists namely Lakshyajyoti Gohain (Senior Journalist, NK TV), Ranjita Rabha (Chief Reporter, Pratham Khabar), and Mridul Haloi (Sub-Editor, Dainik Asam) were accorded special felicitations.

Speaking at the event held at Sudarshanalaya in Barbari

unteers) risked their lives to rescue Hindus, Sikhs, and others targeted by fundamentalist attacks in Sindh," Shrivastava stated.

He further highlighted a historical letter written by the then Defence Minister Baldev Singh to Home Minister Vallabhbhai Patel shortly after independence. Sardar Patel had suggested placing the letter before the Cabinet, which urged the government to cooperate with the Sangh's efforts to rescue people stranded in peril in Pakistan following the partition.

This mass violence was perpetrated by a section of self-proclaimed Gandhians, and its first casualties were Dr Narayan Savarkar including the family of Veer Savarkar, who became the first in the country to pay the price of mass lynching."

Shrivastava also commented on the influx of immigrants since the era of Sir Syed Muhammad Sadullah, demographic changes in Assam, and the roles played by Moinul Hoque Choudhury and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. The solemn ceremony witnessed the presentation of the 'Devarshi Narada Award' to Nava Thakuria, which carried a cash prize of 50,000, a selengsador (traditional stole), a citation, a portrait of Bharat Mata,



locality of Guwahati, Prakhar Shrivastava delivered a factual and profound speech addressing the contemporary socio-political landscape and past historical errors. Shrivastava made significant remarks regarding the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS),

which is currently celebrating its centenary year.

"While the media maintains a positive outlook toward the Sangh in today's altered political landscape, such an attitude was rare in the past. When the media paid scant attention to the Sangh, founded in 1925, the nation was on the brink of partition. At that time, senior Congress leaders from Pakistan's Sindh province migrated to India with their belongings. During that tumultuous period, RSS swayamsevaks (vol-

"Regrettably, these developments fueled resentment in Prime Minister Nehru's mind. Nehru imposed a ban on the RSS not primarily due to the allegations surrounding Gandhi's assassination, but rather out of displeasure over the rescue operations conducted by the Sangh in Pakistan during partition," Shrivastava remarked significantly. He added, "The first incident of mass lynching in independent India occurred in the wake of Gandhi's assas-

and a bundle of valuable books.

In his speech, Thakuria remarked that Narada, who created engagement through incisive questioning and well-meaning counsel, remains a guiding light for journalism today. He emphasized that the credibility of the mythological character Narada is immensely relevant to contemporary journalism. Thakuria also pointed out that the western model of institutionalized, individual-centric journalism has adversely affected India's culturally rooted and nature-centric news values.

At the commencement of the program, Kishore Shivam, Secretary of Vishwa Samvad Kendra, presented a brief overview of Devarshi Narada, depicting him as the seeker of knowledge and the eradicator of flaws. Shivam noted that a deeper research into Narada's 84 Bhakti Sutras could enrich the aims and objectives of modern journalism.

The event also featured the unveiling of a souvenir, alongside a captivating rendition of Saraswati Vandana by Tribeni Bujarbaruah. Dr Gouranga Sarma, President of Vishwa Samvad Kendra, also addressed the gathering. The meeting, anchored by Naba Bujarbaruah, concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Guru Prasad Medhi. The event was attended by over three hundred people representing various sections of society.

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 InfoComSolutions@krccfoundation.org Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

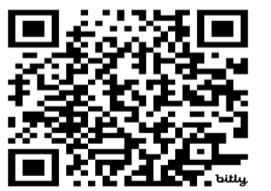
STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

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



To be, or not to be, that is the question.



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!

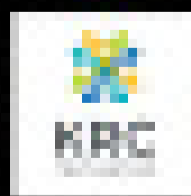


InfoCom

DIARY



An Initiative of
KRC Foundation

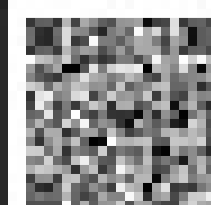


infocom.krc@gmail.com
www.krcfoundation.org
Tel: 0720038513

Know More



Apply Here





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

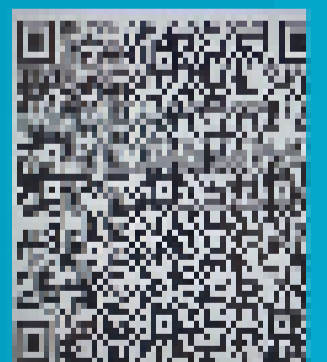
Get the most of the day's news, information, insights, etc. that can be processed quickly every evening

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