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**PERSPECTIVE**

One of the best things in life is seeing a smile on a persons face and knowing that you put it there.

**Goods Trucks Resume Entry into Manipur Under Police Escort After Days of Border Disruption**

**IMPHAL**  
The movement of goods-laden trucks along the Assam-Manipur border resumed under police escort on Tuesday after hundreds of vehicles remained stranded for several days amid security concerns, disrupting the flow of essential supplies into Manipur. Authorities began facilitating the passage of trucks carrying food grains, fuel, consumer goods and other essential commodities under security cover to ensure safe transit and prevent any untoward incidents along the route.

The disruption had led to long queues of vehicles along the border corridor, with transport operations severely affected and supply chains to Manipur facing significant delays.

Truck drivers and helpers who had been stranded during the stoppage alleged that they faced severe hardships, including shortages of food, drinking water and medical assistance. Several drivers reported spending days in their vehicles with limited access to basic necessities. Some transport workers claimed they were forced to depend on nearby streams and natural water sources for drinking water, raising concerns about health and sanitation among those stranded on the highway.

The prolonged halt also affected cargo being transported into the state. Perishable goods reportedly deteriorated inside parked vehicles, while transporters and traders suffered financial losses due to delayed deliveries and extended waiting periods.

Drivers said the uncertainty surrounding the movement of vehicles had created both economic and psychological stress for those stranded along the route.

**WHO SAID WHAT**



We may be the last generation able to set the terms on which humanity and machines coexist. If AI is to be powerful, it must be governed. If AI is to be trusted, those who build it must be accountable. If AI is to be global, it must be fair. And if AI is to serve the future, it must not consume the future. Let's build a future of AI by humanity, with humanity, for all humanity.

- Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, UN

**Bangladesh Objections Stall Fencing Along 4.35 km of Assam Border: Assembly**

**GUWAHATI**

The Assam government informed the Legislative Assembly that fencing work along a portion of the India-Bangladesh border in the state remains incomplete due to objections raised by Bangladesh authorities, while significant stretches along riverine areas continue to pose logistical challenges for border management.

Replying to a question raised by AGP MLA Diptimayee Choudhury, Assam Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora said that barbed-wire fencing has been completed along 228.541 km of Assam's 267.5-km international border with Bangladesh, covering sections in the districts of Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar, Cachar and Sribhum.

However, fencing could not be undertaken along a 4.35-km stretch in Sribhum district due to objections from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). According to the minister, the disputed section lies along the banks of the Kushiyara River, where Indian citizens reside close to the international boundary.

"Fencing work along 4.35 km of the border could not be undertaken due to objections by the Border Guard Bangladesh.



Indian citizens reside along the bank of the Kushiyara River in Sribhum district," Bora told the House.

The minister further informed legislators that an additional 34.609 km of the border remains unfenced because it passes through riverine terrain, where conventional fencing is difficult to install and maintain. Of this, 30.37 km falls in Dhubri district and 4.239 km in South Salmara-Mankachar district.

To address security concerns in these vulnerable stretches, the Border Security Force (BSF) has deployed technological

surveillance systems and enhanced river patrol mechanisms.

"In the unfenced riverine stretches, the BSF monitors the border through the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) and boat observation outposts," Bora said.

The disclosure comes amid continued national efforts to strengthen border infrastructure and curb illegal cross-border movement. In May this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre planned to establish a robust security grid along India's borders with

**Manipur Govt Promises Tough Action After Ukhrul Ambush Claims Lives of Two Assam Rifles Personnel**  
NSCN-IM Distances Itself from Ukhrul Ambush, Says Peace Talks Must Not Be Derailed

**IMPHAL**

The Manipur government has vowed swift action against those responsible for the deadly ambush on an Assam Rifles convoy in Ukhrul district that left two security personnel dead and several others injured, as security forces intensified search operations across the area.

The attack took place on Monday near Nungshangkong under the jurisdiction of Ukhrul Police Station when suspected militants targeted an Assam Rifles convoy. Two personnel later succumbed to their injuries, while several others were wounded in the assault.

Condemning the attack, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh and Home Minister Govindas Khonthoujam expressed grief over the loss of the soldiers and extended condolences to their families.

In a statement, Governor Bhalla described the deaths of the Assam



Rifles personnel as a tragic loss and said such acts of violence have no place in society. He maintained

that attacks on security forces would not weaken the collective resolve to safeguard peace and se-

curity in the state.

Chief Minister Khemchand Singh also condemned the incident and assured that those behind the ambush would be brought to justice. He stated that the state government would not remain a silent spectator and would work closely with security agencies to ensure accountability.

Home Minister Govindas Khonthoujam echoed similar sentiments, praying for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel and reaffirming the government's commitment to maintaining law and order.

Following the attack, security forces launched extensive combing and search operations in Ukhrul district to track down those responsible. Officials said efforts are underway to identify the attackers and prevent any further escalation of violence in the region.

State leaders called on citizens to stand united in honouring the sacrifice of the slain soldiers and

reiterated the importance of preserving peace, security and harmony across Manipur.

Meanwhile, security sources have reportedly linked the attack to the Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland (GPRN), the political wing associated with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah).

However, the NSCN-IM has strongly denied any involvement in the July 6 ambush. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the outfit said it had neither participated in nor had prior knowledge of the attack and reaffirmed its commitment to the ceasefire agreement with the Government of India and the ongoing Indo-Naga peace process.

The incident has triggered heightened security measures across parts of Manipur, with authorities continuing investigations into one of the most serious attacks on security personnel in the state in recent months.

**Assam to Get Gauhati High Court Benches in Dibrugarh and Barak Valley, Law Minister Announces**



**GUWAHATI**

In a significant move aimed at decentralising judicial services and improving access to justice, Assam Law Minister Susanta Borgohain on Monday announced in the State Assembly that benches of the Gauhati High Court will be established in Dibrugarh and Barak Valley.

The proposed benches are expected to bring judicial services closer to people in Upper Assam and southern Assam, reducing the need for litigants to travel to Guwahati for court proceedings. The move is also expected to lower litigation costs, shorten travel time, improve case disposal rates and strengthen judicial infrastructure across the state.

While making the announcement, the minister did not provide a timeline for the establishment of the two benches, nor did he outline their territorial jurisdiction or operational framework.

The Gauhati High Court, headquartered in Guwahati, serves as the common High Court for the states of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from its principal seat in Guwahati, the court already operates permanent benches in several northeastern states.

The proposed Dibrugarh bench is expected to provide substantial relief to litigants from Upper Assam, who currently travel long distances to access judicial services at the principal seat. Legal practitioners and residents in the region have long advocated for a local bench to

improve the efficiency and accessibility of the justice delivery system.

The announcement is particularly significant for Barak Valley, where the demand for a permanent High Court bench has persisted for decades. Lawyers' associations, political groups, civil society organisations and residents of the region have repeatedly called for a local bench, arguing that the absence of one places an additional burden on litigants from the southern districts of the state.

The development comes amid renewed momentum behind the demand in Barak Valley. The High Court Bench Establishment Demand Implementation Committee recently stated that the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court had agreed to meet a 12-member delegation on July 16 to hear representations supporting the establishment of a permanent bench in the region.

Earlier this year, members of the committee submitted a detailed 112-page memorandum to the Chief Justice, outlining legal, administrative and public-interest arguments in favour of a Barak Valley bench. The memorandum highlighted longstanding concerns over accessibility, travel expenses and delays faced by litigants from the region.

Legal observers view the government's announcement as a major step toward addressing regional disparities in access to judicial institutions.

However, stakeholders are expected to seek further clarity regarding the implementation roadmap, infrastructure requirements, staffing arrangements and timelines before the proposal can be translated into reality. If implemented, the new benches in Dibrugarh and Barak Valley would mark one of the most significant expansions of judicial infrastructure in Assam in recent years, potentially benefiting thousands of litigants and legal practitioners across the state.

**Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang Receives 'Best Chief Minister Award'**

**NEW DELHI/GANGTOK**

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has been conferred the "Best Chief Minister Award" at the 7th Edition of the Asia's Leadership Summit & Six Sigma Healthcare Excellence Awards 2026, in recognition of his contributions to governance, public service and inclusive development in the Himalayan state.

The award was presented during a ceremony held at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi, attended by policymakers, senior government officials, healthcare experts, members of the armed forces, industry representatives and other distinguished guests from across the country.

The honour was received on behalf of the Chief Minister by Tshering Thendup Bhutia, who represented the state government at the event. According to the organisers, the award was conferred following an extensive evaluation process carried out by a jury panel. Nominees were assessed on a range of parameters, including administrative effectiveness, governance standards, public service delivery, innovation and developmental initiatives. The recognition highlights the Sikkim government's efforts under Tamang's leadership to promote inclusive growth, strengthen welfare programmes and improve governance mechanisms across the state. The summit served as a national platform to acknowledge excellence in governance, healthcare, leadership and public administration, with awards presented to individuals and institutions for their contributions to public service and nation-building. Responding to the recognition, Chief Minister Tamang expressed gratitude to the organisers and dedicated the award to the people of Sikkim. In a statement, he said the honour belonged to every citizen of the state whose trust, cooperation and support had contributed to Sikkim's development journey. He described the award as an encouragement for the government to continue pursuing policies aimed at strengthening public welfare and sustainable growth.

**Nagaland Seeks Rs 10,000-Crore Package for Eastern Region, Plans Special Assembly Session on FNTA**

**KOHHIMA**

The Nagaland government has stepped up efforts to operationalise the proposed Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA), with the state Cabinet deciding to convene a special session of the Assembly to enact legislation for the new body while seeking the Centre's approval to grant it legislative powers.

The decisions were taken during an emergency Cabinet meeting held on Monday with members of the Eastern Nagaland Legislators' Union (ENLU) and senior government officials amid growing concerns over delays in implementing the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed on February 5 by the Government of India, the Nagaland government and the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO).

In a significant move, the Cabinet also resolved to request the Centre to double the proposed development package for eastern Nagaland from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crore, arguing that enhanced financial support would be necessary to address the region's developmental needs.

According to a statement issued by the Home Department, a high-level delegation led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, along with ENLU members, will travel to New Delhi to seek guidance, approval and support from the Union government on the proposed legislation and the issue of legislative powers for the FNTA.

The developments come at a crucial juncture as the ENPO has announced a public rally and shutdown across eastern Nagaland on July 10 to protest delays in imple-

menting the agreement. The state government has appealed to the organisation to reconsider the proposed agitation, citing ongoing efforts to establish the authority.

The proposed FNTA is envisioned as a special administrative body for eastern Nagaland and forms the centrepiece of efforts to address long-standing demands for greater autonomy and development in the region. Officials said the legislation under consideration would include provisions allowing the FNTA to exercise legislative authority over subjects and departments transferred to its jurisdiction. However, such powers would be subject to consultation with and approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs and must remain consistent with constitutional provisions. The government noted that a draft FNTA Bill had already been prepared and introduced during the Budget Session of the Nagaland Assembly. Its passage, however, was deferred after the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the state that constitutional questions concerning the conferral of legislative powers on the authority were still under examination.

Reaffirming its commitment to protecting the state's constitutional safeguards, the Cabinet stressed that the provisions of Article 371(A) remain inviolable.

"The safeguards under Article 371(A) are sacred and sacrosanct and will not be diluted or altered," the government stated, seeking to reassure stakeholders that the proposed authority would not affect Nagaland's special constitutional status.

**NH-27 Missing Link to Barak Valley Set for September Completion, Assam Govt Tells Assembly**

**GUWAHATI**

The Assam government has informed the Legislative Assembly that the crucial missing link on National Highway-27 connecting Guwahati with the Barak Valley is on track for completion by September 2026, a development expected to significantly improve all-weather road connectivity to the region.

Responding to a question from Congress MLA Aminur Rashid Choudhury, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who also holds the Public Works Department portfolio, acknowledged the recurring disruption of road connectivity between Guwahati and the Barak Valley during the monsoon season. "The government is aware of the severe disruptions caused to the Guwahati-Barak Valley road link via Meghalaya and Haflong during every monsoon, where even minor rainfall can affect connectivity," the Chief Minister said in a written reply tabled in the Assembly.

Citing information provided by the National Highways Authority

of India (NHAI), Sarma said the NH-27 stretches from Lanka to Nrimbanglo and from Balachera to Silchar fall under the jurisdiction of the NHAI's Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in Silchar.

The Chief Minister noted that several vulnerable locations along the Meghalaya route have been identified as major landslide-prone zones. Extensive slope failures on both the hill and valley sides have repeatedly damaged road infrastructure and disrupted traffic movement, particularly during heavy rainfall. To address these challenges, authorities have undertaken a series of engineering interventions aimed at strengthening the highway and improving slope stability. These include micro-piling, horizontal boring with perforated drainage pipes, gabion retaining walls, subsurface drainage systems, geo-textile reinforcement, geo-grid-based road layers, slope benching with lined drains, elevated viaducts in sinking zones and reinforced retaining structures.



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## MANIPUR'S DANGEROUS DRIFT

**T**hree years after ethnic violence first erupted in Manipur, the state remains trapped in a cycle of division, displacement and distrust. What began in May 2023 as a confrontation between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities has now evolved into a far more fragmented and dangerous conflict landscape. The recent violence involving Kuki and Naga groups is a stark warning that unresolved ethnic conflicts rarely remain confined to their original fault lines. Left unattended, they acquire new dimensions, draw in new actors and become increasingly resistant to resolution.

The killing of three church pastors associated with the Thadou Baptist Association of India while returning from peace talks, followed by retaliatory abductions and the subsequent murder of six Naga civilians, marks a disturbing escalation. Beyond the immediate tragedy, these incidents reveal a deeper reality: violence is no longer limited to a single confrontation between two communities. It is spreading across Manipur's already fractured social fabric, creating new grievances and hardening old ones.

The state today stands physically divided. Thousands remain displaced from their homes. Villages have been destroyed, economic activity disrupted and social trust shattered. While the deployment of central security forces has prevented an even greater catastrophe, the persistence of violence despite such a massive security presence demonstrates a fundamental truth: military containment is not a substitute for political resolution.

Manipur's crisis has never been merely a law-and-order problem. It is a crisis of governance, legitimacy and political responsibility. Security forces can separate warring groups, secure highways and prevent immediate outbreaks of violence. They cannot, however, restore trust between communities, heal collective trauma or create conditions for coexistence. These tasks belong to political leadership, and it is precisely here that the greatest failure has occurred.

The descent into mutually reinforcing ethnic hatred represents one of the most serious breakdowns of democratic politics in contemporary India. The role of political leadership, particularly during moments of communal tension, is to calm passions, reassure vulnerable groups and preserve confidence in the neutrality of the state. In Manipur, the opposite occurred. Administrative decisions became subjects of ethnic interpretation. Political rhetoric deepened suspicions rather than reducing them. Competing communities increasingly came to view state institutions through the lens of ethnic allegiance rather than constitutional impartiality.

As confidence in government weakened, space opened for militant organisations, armed groups and ethnic mobilisers to fill the vacuum. Narratives of fear, victimhood and exclusion gained strength. Communities retreated into their respective identities, while moderate voices struggled to be heard. In such an environment, every act of violence reinforces existing prejudices and every failed peace initiative strengthens extremist arguments that coexistence has become impossible.

The symbolic significance of the recent killings should not be overlooked. The murder of religious leaders engaged in peace-building efforts is not simply another criminal act. It is an attack on the very idea of reconciliation. Those who advocate dialogue often become targets because peace threatens the relevance of those who thrive on division. Every successful effort to rebuild trust weakens the influence of extremists; every fresh atrocity strengthens their claim that communities can no longer live together.

The implications of Manipur's instability extend beyond the state's borders. Located along India's frontier with Myanmar, the state occupies a strategically sensitive position in a region already vulnerable to insurgency, arms trafficking and narcotics networks. Weak governance and prolonged political fragmentation create opportunities for such networks to expand their influence. What appears today as an internal ethnic conflict carries broader implications for security across the Northeast.

It is also becoming increasingly evident that time alone will not heal Manipur's wounds. The longer displacement continues, the more entrenched ethnic segregation becomes. Children are growing up in relief camps, communities remain isolated from one another and social interaction across ethnic lines has virtually disappeared in many areas. Such realities create the conditions for long-term instability, where grievances are inherited rather than resolved.

The central and state governments must recognise that the status quo is unsustainable. A credible political roadmap is urgently needed-one that goes beyond security management and addresses the deeper issues of trust, representation and reconciliation. This requires sustained engagement with all affected communities, transparent governance and an unequivocal commitment to administrative neutrality. Above all, it requires political courage to confront the forces that profit from division.

Manipur's tragedy is not simply the product of ethnic differences. Diverse communities have coexisted in the state for generations despite periodic tensions. The current crisis is the result of a profound failure to manage those differences within a democratic framework. When institutions lose credibility and political actors embrace polarisation, divisions that might otherwise have been contained can quickly spiral into sustained conflict.

The killings, abductions and retaliatory violence witnessed in recent weeks should dispel any illusion that Manipur is gradually returning to normalcy. The conflict is becoming more fragmented, more communal and more difficult to contain. Each new episode of violence creates additional fault lines and pushes reconciliation further out of reach.

India cannot afford to view Manipur merely through the prism of security. The state requires political healing as much as it requires security management. Unless confidence in constitutional governance is restored and a genuine reconciliation process begins, Manipur risks becoming a permanent theatre of overlapping ethnic conflicts with consequences that will extend far beyond its borders.

The longer political leaders postpone difficult decisions, the higher the cost will be-not only for Manipur, but for the democratic promise that the Indian state is meant to uphold.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

Our goals can be reached with a plan in which we must believe, and upon which we must vigorously act!

- Samuel Amoo

# THE ENDURING LEGACY OF DR.SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE: INSTITUTIONS, IDEAS AND NATION BUILDING



GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

History often remembers great leaders through the political battles they fought. Yet the most enduring contribution of statesmen is rarely confined to politics alone. Their real legacy lies in the institutions they create, the ideas they nurture and the values they leave behind for future generations. As the nation commemorates the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Kesari Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee, it is worth revisiting an aspect of his public life that deserves far wider attention: his lifelong commitment to institution building as the foundation of nation building.

Independent India did not emerge merely from a political struggle. It had to build universities capable of educating its citizens, research institutions that could advance scientific knowledge, industries that could generate economic self-reliance, cultural organisations that would preserve civilisational heritage, and public institutions that could uphold democratic values. Dr.Mookerjee understood early that a nation's future depends not only on visionary leadership but also on strong institutions that outlast individual leaders and governments.

His remarkable academic career reflected this conviction. Appointed the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, he assumed office at a time when higher education was becoming central to India's intellectual awakening. For him, universities were not merely places that produced graduates; they were institutions that shaped informed citizens capable of contributing responsibly to public life. Education, in his view, was inseparable from the larger task of nation building.

His commitment to scientific and technological advancement extended well beyond the university campus. As a member of the Court and Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, he contributed to

strengthening one of India's premier centres of scientific research. In 1947, he laid the foundation stone of the Department of Power Engineering, recognising that engineering education and technological capability would become indispensable to an independent India's economic progress. Long before innovation became a central policy objective, he had recognised that scientific excellence and industrial development would determine the country's long-term strength.

This vision found practical expression after Independence when Dr.Mookerjee became India's first Minister for Industry and Supply. During those formative years, the newly independent nation faced the enormous challenge of creating an industrial base almost from scratch. Institutions such as the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the Sindri Fertilizer Factory were established not merely as manufacturing units

structure or administrative efficiency. It demands compassion, public spirit and a deep sense of moral responsibility. These qualities were evident during the Bengal famine of 1943, when Dr.Mookerjee devoted himself to organising large-scale relief efforts for those affected by one of the greatest humanitarian tragedies of the twentieth century. Following Partition, he worked extensively for the rehabilitation of displaced persons, recognising that national reconstruction involved healing human suffering as much as rebuilding institutions.

His public life also reflected a profound appreciation of India's civilisational heritage. As President of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, he played an important role in strengthening India's cultural and spiritual ties with Buddhist nations. He participated in welcoming the sacred relics of the Buddha's chief disciples, Arhant Sariputra and Arhant Maudgalyayana, to India, recognising the enduring significance of civilisational diplomacy. Even today, India's efforts to share these holy relics with countries such as Mongolia demonstrate how cultural heritage continues to strengthen international goodwill and deepen historical bonds.

Equally revealing was his concern for literature and scholarship. His correspondence shows the assistance he extended to the eminent poet Kazi Nazrul Islam during a period of personal difficulty. Such episodes remind us that public leadership is often measured not only by major policy decisions but also by quiet acts of generosity that seldom attract public attention.

Dr.Mookerjee carried the same institutional outlook into the Constituent Assembly. Describing the framing of the Constitution as "a great responsibility" and "a solemn and sacred trust", he underlined the moral obligations that accompany constitutional governance. Those words remain strikingly relevant today. The strength of the Constitution ultimately depends not only on its written provisions but also on the integrity of Parliament, the independence of public institutions, the rule of law and the civic responsibility of citizens. Constitutional democracy flourishes only when institutions command public trust and operate with integrity. As India advances towards the goal of becoming a devel-

oped nation, Dr.Mookerjee's vision offers an important reminder. Economic growth alone cannot define national progress. Lasting development requires sustained investment in education, scientific research, technological innovation, cultural preservation and institutions that inspire public confidence. Roads, airports and factories are

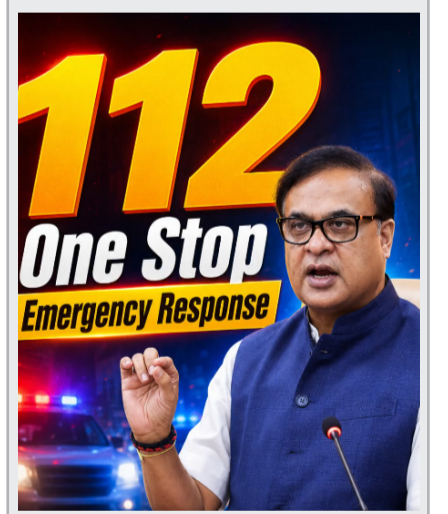
indispensable, but so are universities that encourage inquiry, laboratories that expand knowledge, museums that preserve heritage and

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

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**~ Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam**



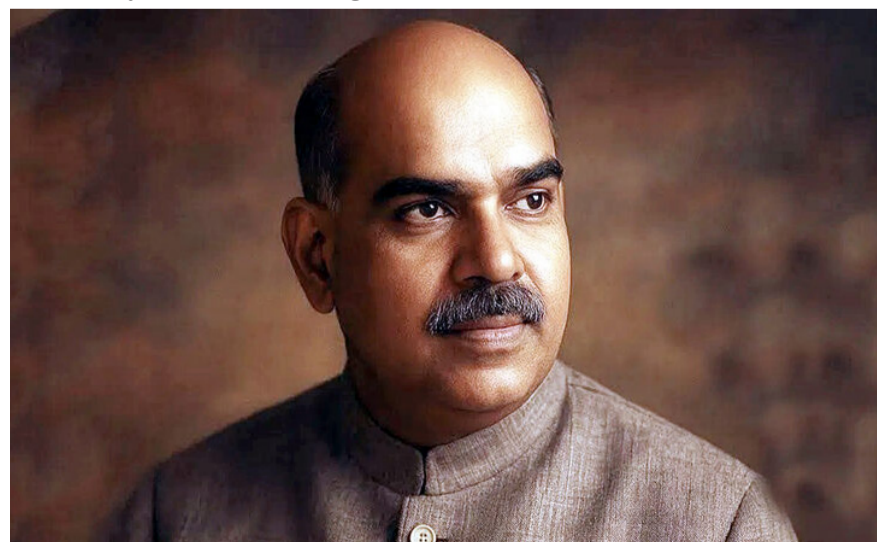
public institutions that safeguard constitutional values.

Institutions possess a remarkable quality: they outlive governments, political movements and even generations. They preserve accumulated knowledge, provide continuity amid change and enable societies to pursue long-term national goals. Leaders may shape history, but institutions sustain civilisation.

That perhaps is the most enduring lesson of Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public life. His legacy rests not merely in the offices he held or the debates in which he participated, but in his unwavering belief that strong institutions are the true custodians of a nation's aspirations.

As India continues its journey of development, strengthening those institutions that promote knowledge, scientific temper, cultural confidence and constitutional values would be the most meaningful tribute to his memory.

(The Author is Union Minister for Culture & Tourism, Government of India)



but as symbols of India's determination to achieve technological competence and economic self-reliance. For Dr.Mookerjee, industrialisation was never an end in itself; it was an investment in national capability and collective confidence.

Institution building, however, requires more than physical infra-

structure or administrative efficiency.

# Manipur CM Provides Rs.1 Lakh Medical Assistance to 26 Chronically Ill Displaced Persons

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Monday distributed financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each to 26 internally displaced persons (IDPs) suffering from chronic illnesses, reaffirming the state government's commitment to supporting vulnerable families affected by the ongoing crisis.

The assistance was provided during a programme held at the Manipur Trade Expo Centre Relief Camp at Lamboikhongnangkong in Imphal West district. The beneficiaries, all residents of the relief camp, are currently undergoing treatment for serious health conditions, including cancer, kidney disease and other chronic ailments.



Addressing the gathering, the chief minister said the financial support was intended to ease the burden on displaced families struggling to cope with medical expenses while living away from their homes.

He stated that the government had decided to extend special assistance to internally displaced persons suffering from chronic diseases and assured that similar support measures would continue in the future.

"The assistance is meant to provide relief to families facing difficult circumstances and help them meet their medical needs," Singh said.

The chief minister also reflected on the hardships endured by

thousands of people displaced by the prolonged unrest in the state, noting that many families continue to live in relief camps and remain unable to return to their native villages and localities.

"It is unfortunate that people are unable to live in their own homes," he said, adding that the prevailing situation has forced many individuals and families to remain separated from their communities for an extended period. The programme also featured announcements aimed at improving livelihood opportunities for camp residents. Rajya Sabha MP Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi said weaving machines and assistance for other income-generating activities would be provided to women stay-

ing at the relief camp to help them achieve greater economic self-reliance. The event was attended by Sanasam Premchandra Singh, Imphal West Deputy Commissioner Mayanglambam Rajkumar Singh, government officials and members of the displaced community.

The distribution of financial aid forms part of the state government's ongoing efforts to support internally displaced persons affected by the ethnic violence and unrest that has disrupted normal life across several parts of Manipur. Authorities have indicated that welfare measures, including healthcare assistance and livelihood support, will continue as part of broader rehabilitation efforts for displaced families.

## Two Die in Separate Incidents in Manipur's Thoubal; JAC Seeks Probe into Youth's Mysterious Death

IMPHAL

Two separate incidents in Manipur's Thoubal district claimed two lives over the past 24 hours, with one involving the unexplained death of a young man and the other a fatal road accident on Asian Highway-1. The first incident has triggered public concern after the body of a 25-year-old man was found under mysterious circumstances near the Khekman Ningthibi Khong Canal on July 5. The deceased, identified as Sapam Swami of Leisangthem Keliakhong, had reportedly left his home for work on the morning of July 4 but failed to return. His body was later recovered by police from the canal area. A police team, assisted by forensic experts, inspected the site and sent the body for post-mortem examination to ascertain the cause of death. Authorities have launched an investigation into the case. The incident has led to the formation of a Joint Action Committee (JAC), with local residents and family members demanding a thorough inquiry. Alleging possible foul play, the committee has called for a government-led investigation and the identification of those responsible. Swami's wife, Roshibina, along with members of the JAC, has reportedly refused to claim the body until the circumstances surrounding his death are clarified. JAC convenor Sapam Mocha stated that the committee would continue its demand for justice and accountability before accepting the mortal remains. In a separate incident, a 17-year-old boy lost his life while another youth sustained injuries after a scooter crashed into the rear of a parked vehicle along Asian Highway-1 near the Wangling Toll Tax point shortly after midnight. Police identified the deceased as Elangbam Mahesh, son of E. Biren from Heirok Part-II Keithel Maning. He was travelling as a pillion rider on a TVS NTORQ scooter when the accident occurred at around 12:10 am under the jurisdiction of Thoubal Police Station.

## Ajmal Calls for Stronger INDIA Bloc, Says Opposition Should Not Be Intimidated by BJP

GUWAHATI

All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) president Badruddin Ajmal has called for greater unity among opposition parties under the INDIA bloc, urging alliance partners to remain united and not be intimidated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing reporters in Guwahati on July 6, Ajmal said opposition parties should continue to strengthen their collective efforts to challenge the BJP, expressing confidence that political dynamics would eventually shift in favour of the opposition.

"Eventually, it will be PM Modi's turn. People will break him too. We should not be afraid," Ajmal said while stressing the importance of maintaining opposition solidarity. The AIUDF chief argued that the INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi, must remain cohesive and focused if it hopes to emerge as an effective counterweight to the BJP in future electoral contests. "We should not be afraid. The INDIA alliance-the coalition Rahul Gandhi is leading-needs to be strong," he said. Ajmal also commented on the

political landscape in West Bengal, suggesting that better coordination among alliance partners could have helped avoid electoral competition within the opposition camp.

Referring to the functioning of the INDIA bloc in the state, he said alliance partners should avoid contesting against one another in regions where a constituent party already holds a strong political position.

"If Rahul Gandhi hadn't contested in Bengal, perhaps Mamata Banerjee wouldn't be in this condition; when there is an alliance, one shouldn't go there," Ajmal remarked, apparently alluding to opposition strategy and seat-sharing arrangements among INDIA bloc constituents.

His comments come at a time when opposition parties are engaged in discussions on improving coordination and strengthening cooperation ahead of upcoming electoral battles. The remarks also reflect ongoing debates within the INDIA alliance over political strategy, regional leadership and the need for greater cohesion among its member parties.

## Assam Education Minister Rejects 'Missing Students' Claim, Attributes Enrolment Dip to Demographic Changes and Data Cleanup

GUWAHATI

Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu refuted allegations that government schools in the state have witnessed a massive decline in student enrolment, attributing the reduction primarily to demographic changes and the removal of unverified records from official databases.

Responding to claims made by Rajior Dal chief Akhil Gogoi that Assam lost 2,12,768 students over the past two years and more than 25 lakh students between the 2021-22 and 2024-25 academic sessions, Pegu described the figures as misleading and mathematically untenable.

Speaking to reporters outside the Assam Legislative Assembly, the minister said enrolment in Assam had declined by 4.1 per cent, which is slightly lower than the national decline of 4.4 per cent during the same period.

According to Pegu, one of the key reasons behind the reduction in enrolment figures is the ongoing cleansing of the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) database, which had contained a significant number of unverified or duplicate student records.

"For the last three years, we have been cleaning the database. Around three lakh student names without proper verification have been removed," he said, adding that the exercise was aimed at ensuring greater accuracy and transparency in educational data.

The minister argued that the decline in enrolment should be viewed in the context of broader demographic trends rather than as evidence of a crisis in the education sector. He noted that Assam's falling Total Fertility Rate (TFR), now below the national average, has resulted in fewer children en-

tering the school system.

Citing data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Pegu said India's TFR has fallen from 3.4 to around 2.0, while Assam's rate has declined from 3.5 to 1.9. This demographic shift, he said, has had a direct impact on enrolment at the pre-primary and primary levels.

"Because of this demographic trend, enrolment at the pre-primary and primary levels has declined. The reduction of around 2.12 lakh students is mainly in these classes," the minister explained.

Rejecting the allegation that Assam had lost more than 25 lakh students, Pegu said such a claim was inconsistent with the state's overall student population.

"Assam has around 50 lakh students. If 25 lakh students had disappeared, it would mean a 50 per cent decline. Anyone applying

common sense would realise that such a claim is unrealistic," he remarked.

The minister also highlighted what he described as positive trends in secondary education. While secondary school enrolment at the national level reportedly declined by 0.6 per cent, Assam recorded a 0.9 per cent increase, with approximately 10,000 additional students enrolled in Classes IX to XII.

Pegu attributed this growth to improving public confidence in government schools and ongoing reforms in the state's education sector. Addressing concerns over school closures, the minister clarified that only a limited number of institutions had been merged under the government's rationalisation programme. He maintained that Assam continues to have approximately 44,000 schools across the state.

## KSU Demands Meghalaya Assembly Resolution Against Uranium Mining, Alleges Attempts to Acquire Uranium-Rich Land

SHILLONG

The Khasi Students' Union (KSU) has called on the Meghalaya Assembly to pass a formal resolution opposing uranium mining in the state, alleging that influential individuals are quietly acquiring land in uranium-rich areas of West Khasi Hills in anticipation of future mining projects.

Addressing the media after a visit to Domiasiat on July 4, KSU president Raymond Kharjana claimed that certain individuals, including former legislators, were attempting to purchase land from local villagers through intermediaries.

According to the student body, the alleged land acquisitions are part of a larger strategy to facilitate future transfers to agencies that may seek to revive uranium mining operations in the region.

"We heard people coming to this area and trying to persuade the villagers to mine uranium. We



will not remain silent and will fight until uranium mining projects are completely scrapped from the state," Kharjana said.

The KSU alleged that the land is being purchased with the intention of later selling it at higher prices to organisations interested in extracting uranium deposits from the area. However, the organisation did not publicly provide evidence supporting the allegations.

Kharjana said the issue was raised with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma during a meeting on July 1.

"We have sought that a resolution be passed in the Assembly against the mining of uranium at Domiasiat and adjoining areas," he said.

According to the KSU, a formal resolution adopted by the state legislature would send a strong message regarding the government's position and help prevent any future attempts to revive uranium extraction projects in Meghalaya. The organisation has also urged the state's autonomous district councils to adopt similar resolutions, arguing that coordinated opposition from elected institutions would reinforce public concerns over the environmental and health implications of uranium mining. Meghalaya is home to some of India's largest known uranium reserves, particularly in the Domiasiat area of West Khasi Hills. Exploration activities began in the 1960s, while significant uranium deposits were identified during the 1980s. In the following decades, the Uranium Corporation of India

Limited (UCIL) proposed mining operations in the region. However, the project faced sustained opposition from local communities, civil society groups and organisations such as the KSU, which cited concerns over environmental degradation, radiation risks and the impact on indigenous livelihoods.

After years of protests and resistance during the 1990s and early 2000s, efforts to initiate mining operations in Domiasiat were eventually shelved.

The latest remarks from the KSU indicate that opposition to uranium mining remains a politically sensitive issue in Meghalaya, where concerns over environmental protection, land ownership and community rights continue to shape public discourse surrounding natural resource extraction.

The state government has not yet publicly responded to the KSU's latest demand for a legislative resolution against uranium mining.

## Assam Government to Prioritise Development Over Politics Until 2028, Says CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said his government will focus primarily on development and governance over the next two years, signalling that political mobilisation will take a back seat as the administration concentrates on implementing its electoral promises.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting on Sunday, Sarma said the BJP-led government had received a decisive mandate from the people and was now committed to delivering tangible results across key sectors of the state's economy.

"Election results have given us 102 seats. Our task now is to work for the people. For the first two years, development work will be our focus. From around 2028, perhaps, we can get back to politics," the chief minister said.

His remarks come ahead of the Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced on Monday. State Finance Minister Jayanta Malabarua is scheduled to present the state budget on July 10.



According to Sarma, the upcoming budget will serve as a blueprint for Assam's economic development over the next five years and will be closely aligned with the commitments made by the government during the recent Assembly elections.

"The budget will reflect the five-year plan, based on our election manifesto.

It will be our government's economic vision for the next five years," he said.

The chief minister indicated that the government's policy priorities would include strengthening the agricultural sector, promoting industrial growth, supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), empowering self-help groups, generating employment

opportunities and expanding renewable energy initiatives.

The emphasis on development comes as the government seeks to accelerate economic growth and improve infrastructure across both urban and rural areas of the state. Officials have indicated that the forthcoming budget is expected to contain measures aimed at boosting investment, enhancing livelihood opportunities and expanding welfare programmes.

Sarma also responded to reports of opposition parties exploring the possibility of a united political front in Assam. Downplaying the prospects of any immediate challenge to the ruling party, he asserted that the BJP had established a strong organisational and electoral base in the state.

"BJP cannot be shaken in Assam for the next 25 years; such strong foundations have been laid," he said.

The chief minister's comments underscored the ruling party's confidence following its strong electoral performance and set the tone for a governance-focused approach as the state prepares to unveil its fiscal roadmap for the coming years.

With the budget expected to outline sector-specific strategies and long-term economic goals, attention will now turn to the Assembly proceedings, where the government is likely to present its vision for Assam's development trajectory through 2031.

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## Sixth indigenous Project 17A stealth frigate, INS Mahendragiri, to join Navy this week

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy will commission INS Mahendragiri, the sixth of seven indigenous Project 17A stealth frigates, at Visakhapatnam on Saturday, adding another advanced frontline warship to its fleet as China steadily expands its footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), the 6,670-tonne guided missile frigate was delivered to the Navy on April 30 after completing sea trials. It will join the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command.

The commissioning marks another milestone in the Navy's indigenous warship-building programme, which has gathered pace over the past year. INS Taragiri was commissioned in April, while INS Dunagiri joined the fleet last month. With Mahendragiri, only one Project 17A frigate remains to be inducted.

Designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau, the Nilgiri-class frigates are a significant

upgrade over the earlier Shivalik class. They feature reduced radar and infrared signatures, improved survivability and greater automation, enabling lower crew requirements and better combat efficiency.

The frigate is armed with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine warfare weapons, advanced electronic warfare systems and an integrated combat management system. Powered by a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODAG) propulsion system, it combines high speed with long endurance for sustained blue-water operations. The induction comes amid heightened maritime competition in the Indo-Pacific. Chinese naval task groups, survey ships and intelligence-gathering vessels have made increasingly frequent deployments into the IOR, while Pakistan is inducting Chinese-built frigates and submarines, underlining the need for a capable and persistent Indian naval presence.

With over 75 per cent indigenous content, Mahendragiri

reflects the growing maturity of India's defence manufacturing ecosystem. The programme has involved a wide network of domestic industries, including numerous MSMEs, in line with the government's push for self-reliance in defence production.

The Rs. 45,000 crore Project 17A programme, approved in 2015, comprises four frigates being built by MDL in Mumbai and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata. Though the project faced delays in its early years, deliveries have accelerated, signalling that production at both shipyards has stabilised.

Named after the Mahendragiri peak in the Eastern Ghats, the warship is the first Indian naval vessel to carry the name. It is expected to undertake a wide spectrum of missions, including sea control, maritime security, anti-submarine warfare, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and sustained deployments across the Indo-Pacific.

## Visit to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand will further strengthen India's Act East Policy: PM Modi



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his visit to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand will reinforce India's Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR Vision and commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

In his departure statement ahead of the three-nation tour from July 6 to 11, Modi said the visit would also build on the strong momentum in India's bilateral ties with all three countries.

"My visit to Indonesia and Australia in the Eastern and Southern Indian Ocean, respectively, followed by New Zealand,

will further strengthen India's Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR Vision as well as our outlook towards a free and open Indo-Pacific," Modi said in the statement.

MAHASAGAR, or Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions, is India's vision for security and growth across the region.

The prime minister will begin the tour with a visit to Indonesia from July 6 to 8 at the invitation of President Prabowo Subianto.

Highlighting the growing partnership between the two countries, Modi said, "India and Indonesia elevated bilateral ties

to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during my first visit to Indonesia in 2018."

He noted that this would be his first bilateral visit to Indonesia since the relationship was elevated and comes after President Prabowo's state visit to India as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2025.

"India and Indonesia share strong civilisational and people-to-people ties, and my visit will further deepen all aspects of our multifaceted partnership," he said. During the Indonesia visit, Modi will also interact with members of the Indian diaspora and, along with President Prabowo,

visit the Prambanan Temple complex in Yogyakarta, describing it as "another remarkable testament to the close cultural ties between the two countries."

From Indonesia, Modi will travel to Melbourne at the invitation of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"My visit will strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and I shall, in my discussions with Prime Minister Albanese, take forward our relations in the areas of defence and security, trade and investments, education and mobility and people-to-people ties," he said.

The prime minister said he would also engage with the Indian diaspora in Melbourne, calling it an important pillar of the India-Australia strategic partnership.

"Further, this visit will also provide an opportunity for India and Australia to deepen our bilateral ties in the areas of emerging and critical technologies, sports and sports science," he said.

The final leg of the tour will take Modi to Auckland at the invitation of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

"My visit will meaningfully build upon the strong momentum in our bilateral ties pursuant to the visit of Prime Minister Luxon to India in March 2025," he said.

Modi said discussions with Luxon would focus on expanding economic, trade and commercial engagement between the two countries. He noted that India and New Zealand have committed themselves to strengthening bilateral trade and commercial ties through the signing of a Free Trade Agreement. "Our bilateral ties have seen significant contribution from the Indian diaspora, and during this visit, I look forward to addressing a large gathering of the Indian community who have excelled in all spheres of life," he said.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Make NATO European? How Trump is reshaping the alliance



BELGIUM

As doubts swirl over US President Donald Trump's commitment to protecting NATO, both sides of the Atlantic agree: Europe needs to take more responsibility for its own defence.

The shift away from relying on America's might will be a key focus as leaders from the 32-country alliance meet for a summit in Ankara this week.

From what's happening to how far it could go, here are some of the key issues:

Trump has not been shy about his criticisms of NATO -- most recently lashing out at European allies over their response to his war against Iran.

The mercurial leader has repeatedly undercut faith in the United States by casting doubt on whether he would stand by the alliance's Article Five mutual defence clause.

But it's not just words coming from Washington now.

Since Trump's return to power,

his administration has made it crystal clear it wants Europe to take the lead on defending the continent as the United States focuses on other parts of the globe.

Washington rattled NATO by abruptly announcing in May that it would pull 5,000 troops from Germany and halt a deployment to Poland, before flip-flopping.

The Pentagon then told allies it was scaling back the military assets it puts at NATO's disposal and has announced a six-month review of its forces in Europe.

"We're doubling down on our effort to make NATO what it always was supposed to be, a balanced alliance with Europe in the lead for its own defence," US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said.

European countries started ramping up military budgets after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine -- but pressure from Trump sent those efforts into warp speed.

After decades of underinvestment

by Europe, NATO leaders agreed at a summit last year to increase defence-related spending to five percent of GDP by 2035.

"There's truly a revolution going on in the alliance," said one European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "This burden shifting that we decided will fundamentally change this alliance."

While the United States remains by far the biggest spender, Europe and Canada together are aiming in the coming years to match Washington's budget. Powerhouse Germany has led the way, while spending by countries closest to Russia is already near NATO's target.

Across the alliance there is now an understanding that the United States pulling back is inescapable -- and that won't change even once Trump leaves.

"It's not about Trump. It's a structural long-term change," said Claudia Major of the German Marshall Fund

think tank.

"It can be shaped but not avoided." While Europe can already fill in some of the gaps Washington is leaving in NATO's defence plans, key assets such as long-range missiles will take time to substitute.

"It's very clear that the US role is changing anyway, and the main hope is to do damage control and to get predictability," said Major.

US President Donald Trump NATO chief may have to match his made-for-Trump sales pitch to keep a summit on the rails

- What's changed so far? -

Despite the headline-grabbing spats and announcements, the changes on the ground have so far not been too dramatic.

The United States still has some 80,000 troops in Europe and there are plenty of pro-NATO voices in Washington who want them to stay.

America's nuclear umbrella also remains the ultimate safeguard for European security and the Trump administration is not talking about stepping that back.

There has been some shuffling of NATO commanders with Europeans now taking over all the regional headquarters.

But the United States still holds the top overall military post and also has control over the air, land and sea commands. "The alliance is slowly transforming itself. In a couple of years, Europe will be much more relevant," said a second diplomat.

For now no one at NATO is publicly talking about the Europeans needing to go it alone -- or replacing the alliance entirely. At the summit in Ankara diplomats say the leaders are set to call for a "stronger Europe in a stronger NATO" and the aim is to keep the United States as engaged as possible.

Going forward Europe may increasingly look to bind Ukraine -- and its battle-tested forces -- more closely into the continent's security architecture.

But with the path to Kyiv joining NATO firmly blocked for now, those efforts are mainly focused on Ukraine's push for EU membership.

### China says successfully conducted test missile launch in Pacific Ocean; foreign countries express concern



BEIJING

China's navy said it successfully conducted a test missile launch in the Pacific Ocean on Monday, after nations in the region warned that Beijing was planning to test an intercontinental ballistic missile.

"At 12:01 pm on July 6, a strategic nuclear submarine of China's People's Liberation Army Navy successfully launched a... strategic missile carrying a training simulation warhead into the relevant high seas of the Pacific Ocean, accurately landing in the designated sea area," spokesperson Wang Xueming said in a statement posted on a navy WeChat account.

"This missile test launch is a routine arrangement of China's annual military training, and relevant countries were informed in advance," Wang said. The launch came on the same day that China and Russia were due to begin their annual joint naval exercises off Qingdao, a

major military port and seaside resort in China's east.

It was not immediately clear if the missile launch was part of those drills.

Papua New Guinea's foreign minister and a New Zealand government source told AFP earlier on Monday that China was preparing to test-fire a nuclear-capable missile into the Pacific Ocean. "Yes, China has briefed me. I was personally called by the Chinese ambassador," Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Justin Tkatchenko said when asked if he had been warned. A New Zealand government source also told AFP China had alerted them about an upcoming intercontinental ballistic missile test. They did not make clear where the missile was expected to land.

China's elite Rocket Force fired a dummy warhead into the sea near French Polynesia in September 2024, its first long-range missile launch over international waters in more than 40 years.

It appeared to be one of China's advanced Dong Feng-31 missiles, analysts said at the time, a weapon capable of delivering a thermonuclear warhead.

The long-range missile splashed into a patch of ocean long designated a nuclear-free zone under an international treaty.

New Zealand's Defence Force has privately warned that Beijing's naval forays and ballistic missile tests would become a "persistent" feature of the Pacific, according to an internal document obtained by AFP last month. Australia's foreign minister has said China's test launch of a long-range missile in the South Pacific risks "destabilising" the region. "Australia has been clear with China that we regard this as destabilising to the region," Foreign Minister Penny Wong told reporters.

China confirmed the test hours after Australia signed a landmark defence alliance with its Pacific island neighbour, Fiji.

# Street SMART Leadership: The Needonomics Blueprint for CEOs in Viksit Bharat 2047



**PROF. M.M. GOEL & DR. MAYANK GOEL CEO, FINAGLE FINANCIAL SERVICES, GURUGRAM**



The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 calls for more than rapid economic growth. It demands ethical leadership, sustainable development, responsible corporate governance, and inclusive prosperity. As India moves towards becoming a developed nation, the private sector will play a decisive role in generating employment, fostering innovation, strengthening institutions, and creating wealth. At the heart of this transformation stand Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), whose decisions influence not only business performance but also the well-being of employees, consumers, investors, communities, and the nation.

The Needonomics School of Thought (NST), a Kurukshetra-based think tank inspired by the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, offers a holistic framework for modern corporate leadership. It advocates a transition from greed-driven management to need-based leadership, where organizational success is measured not merely by financial gains but by its contribution to human welfare, environmental sustainability, and long-term stakeholder value.

**1 Why CEOs Need Needonomics**  
Today's CEOs operate in an increasingly volatile and complex business environment shaped by technological disruption, geopolitical uncertainty, climate change, changing consumer expectations, and heightened demands for corporate accountability. Conventional management approaches often prioritize short-term profit maximization, sometimes at the cost of ethics, employee welfare, and environmental responsibility.

Needonomics broadens the purpose of business by emphasizing:  
Need over greed.  
Duty over entitlement.  
Service over self-interest.  
Sustainability over exploitation.  
Long-term value over short-term gains.

This philosophy resonates deeply with the Bhagavad Gita's principle of Nishkama Karma, which teaches performing one's duty with sincerity, excellence, and detachment from selfish outcomes. For CEOs, this means focusing on organizational purpose, stakeholder welfare, and ethical governance rather than becoming excessively driven by quarterly earnings or personal recognition. Such an approach builds resilient organizations capable of creating enduring value.

**2 Street SMART CEO**  
The Needonomics School of Thought proposes that every CEO should aspire to become a Street SMART leader—one who combines managerial competence with ethical wisdom and social responsibility.

**S—Simple**  
Simplicity is a hallmark of effective leadership. Simple leaders communicate clearly, think logically, and focus on what truly matters.

They avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and complexity that often slow decision-making. Simplicity also encourages efficient utilization of resources, reduces waste,

**Sometimes you have to go through the worst in order to get to the best.**

and enhances organizational agility. In an era of information overload, simplicity becomes a strategic advantage.

**M—Moral**  
Morality forms the foundation of sustainable leadership. Ethical CEOs cultivate trust by demonstrating honesty, integrity, fairness, and accountability in every decision. Whether dealing with employees, customers, suppliers, regulators, or shareholders, moral conduct strengthens corporate reputation and builds lasting stakeholder confidence. Ethical leadership is no longer optional; it is a strategic necessity for long-term success.

**A—Action-Oriented**  
The Bhagavad Gita repeatedly emphasizes the importance of purposeful action. Vision without execution remains merely an aspiration. Successful CEOs possess the courage to take timely decisions, implement innovative ideas, and remain committed to continuous improvement. Action-oriented leaders convert organizational goals into measurable outcomes while inspiring confidence among their teams.

**R—Responsive**  
Leadership today requires sensitivity to rapidly changing stakeholder expectations. Responsive CEOs actively listen, adapt, and respond to emerging opportunities and challenges. They remain attentive to customer needs, employee aspirations, technological innovations, environmental concerns, and societal expectations. Responsiveness enhances organizational resilience and enables businesses to remain relevant in dynamic markets.

**T—Transparent**  
Transparency is indispensable for good corporate governance. Open communication, ethical reporting, financial integrity, and responsible disclosure foster accountability and public trust. Transparent leaders create a culture where information flows freely, employees feel respected, and stakeholders develop confidence in organizational decisions. Transparency ultimately reduces governance risks while attracting responsible long-term investment.

**3 Needonomics and Sustainable Corporate Performance**  
Needonomics demonstrates that ethical leadership and superior corporate performance are not contradictory; rather, they reinforce each other. Organizations guided by need-based decision-making often enjoy stronger stakeholder relationships and greater long-term resilience.

The benefits include:  
Higher stakeholder trust and credibility.  
Greater employee commitment and workplace satisfaction.  
Stronger customer loyalty and brand reputation.

Reduced legal, compliance, and governance risks.  
Sustainable profitability through responsible growth.  
Enhanced social legitimacy and public goodwill.

When organizations prioritize genuine needs over excessive greed, they create balanced growth that benefits shareholders as well as society. Such businesses are better equipped to withstand economic uncertainty while maintaining public confidence.

**4 CEOs as Nation Builders**  
Within the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, CEOs are far more than corporate managers; they are architects of national development. Their strategic decisions influence industrial growth, em-

ployment generation, technological innovation, environmental sustainability, financial inclusion, and skill development.

Needonomics encourages CEOs to align corporate objectives with national priorities by:  
Generating meaningful and dignified employment.  
Promoting ethical and responsible business practices.

Supporting environmental conservation and climate resilience.  
Investing in employee learning, health, and skill development.

Encouraging innovation that addresses societal challenges.  
Advancing inclusive and equitable economic growth.

Such leadership transforms corporations

into engines of social progress rather than merely profit-generating institutions.

**5 Gita-Inspired Leadership for the Twenty-First Century**

Gita, the heart of Krishan offers timeless guidance for leaders facing uncertainty, competition, and ethical dilemmas. Its teachings on self-discipline, emotional intelligence, equanimity, courage, humility, and duty remain remarkably relevant for today's corporate world.

A CEO grounded in these principles develops inner stability while navigating external challenges. Such leaders make balanced decisions under pressure, inspire confidence during crises, and build organizations based on trust rather than fear.

Needonomics translates these spiritual values into practical management principles by integrating economic efficiency with ethical responsibility. It encourages CEOs to pursue excellence without attachment to personal gain, thereby creating organizations that are resilient, compassionate, innovative, and socially responsible.

**6 Learning Needonomics in Totality**  
The Needonomics School of Thought is not merely a management technique but a comprehensive philosophy of life and leadership. It encourages CEOs to integrate professional competence with moral character, emotional maturity, spiritual wisdom, and social commitment.

By understanding Needonomics in its totality, business leaders learn to harmonize economic objectives with human values. This holistic perspective enables organizations to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development while maintaining competitive excellence in a rapidly changing global economy.

**7 Conclusion**

The journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a new generation of corporate leaders who combine business excellence with ethical responsibility and social consciousness. The Needonomics School of Thought provides a practical, value-based, and Gita-inspired framework for nurturing such leadership. By embracing the Street SMART qualities of being Simple, Moral, Action-Oriented, Responsive, and Transparent, CEOs can significantly enhance their effectiveness while building organizations founded on trust, sustainability, innovation, and stakeholder welfare. Ultimately, the future of Indian corporate leadership lies not in maximizing profits alone but in harmonizing economic success with human values, environmental stewardship, and national development. Gita-inspired Needonomics offers CEOs a timeless pathway to achieve this balance, enabling them to become not only successful business leaders but also responsible nation builders contributing meaningfully to the realization of Viksit Bharat 2047.

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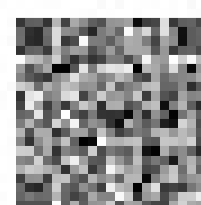


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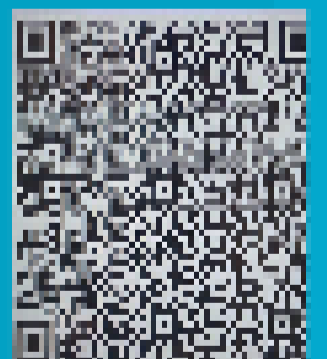
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| 5 CATEGORY | 8 NE STATES |  
| 5 BROAD TOPICS |

## Writing Star Contest

**MAY-NOV 2026**

DIGITAL PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE  
THE SELECTED ARTICLE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON  
[WWW.KRCTIMES.COM](http://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](http://www.krcetimes.com)

email articles: [info@krcfoundation.org](mailto: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](http://www.krcfoundation.org)

<https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest>

e-mail articles at: [info@krcfoundation.org](mailto:info@krcfoundation.org)