



Barak Festival

NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION





Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025

www.krctimes.com
Mo: 8721 838313

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

A person who truly loves you will never let you go, no matter how hard the situation is.

Kuki-Zo Council seeks Centre's intervention to restore supplies, end blockade in Manipur

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has urged the Centre to intervene in the worsening humanitarian situation in Manipur, citing acute shortages of essential commodities in Kuki-Zo-inhabited areas amid the ongoing economic blockade.

A delegation of the council met Intelligence Bureau Director Mahesh Dixit and senior officials of the Union Home Ministry in New Delhi on Monday, seeking immediate steps to restore the supply of food, fuel and medicines to affected districts. The delegation also pressed for an early political settlement to address the community's long-standing demands.

Speaking after the meeting, KZC chairman Henlianthang Thanglet said the delegation highlighted the hardships faced by Kuki-Zo residents due to continued violence and disruptions in the movement of essential commodities.

According to Thanglet, the Intelligence Bureau chief assured the delegation that the concerns raised, including the disruption of supply lines and security issues, would be examined by the authorities.

The council reiterated its demand for a political solution to the ongoing crisis, including a separate administrative arrangement for the Kuki-Zo community.

KZC spokesperson Ginza Vualzong claimed that conditions for the community had not improved despite the restoration of the elected government in Manipur on February 4 following nearly a year of President's Rule.

He alleged that at least 15 Kuki-Zo individuals had been killed and 14 villages set ablaze during the latest phase of unrest, and criticised the state government for failing to adequately address the concerns of the community.

Vualzong said the KZC continues to advocate for the creation of a Union Territory with a legislature as a long-term political solution to the conflict.

WHO SAID WHAT

India formally launches its campaign for United Nations Security Council 2028-2029. ~ Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India





STAY ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 822 | SILCHAR TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com ,www.krctimes.com

Assam to establish 17 day care cancer centres, expands treatment network across state

GUWAHATI

The Assam government has announced a major expansion of its cancer care infrastructure, with plans to establish 17 Day Care Cancer Centres across the state to improve access to treatment, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Bolin Chetia in the Legislative Assembly on cancer prevention and treatment among women and children, Health Minister Ashok Singhal said the initiative forms part of the state's broader effort to strengthen cancer care services through the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF).

The minister informed the House that the State Cancer Institute (SCI) in Guwahati has been developed into a premier cancer treatment facility, while specialised cancer centres at Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Tezpur, Nagaon and Silchar are providing advanced oncology services, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, cancer



surgery and diagnostic facilities.

To decentralise treatment and bring services closer to patients, the government has approved the establishment of 17 Day Care Cancer Centres across Assam.

According to Singhal, 12 of these centres have already been

set up at Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lakhimpur, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Diphu, Goalpara, Tinsukia and Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). The remaining centres are expected to become operational in phases.

The minister said the centres

have been equipped with modern facilities to provide chemotherapy and follow-up care, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances to access routine cancer treatment.

The Assembly was also informed that the Assam Cancer Care Foundation has treated 315 children diagnosed with cancer since 2022.

Official data presented in the House showed that 113 paediatric cancer patients received treatment at the State Cancer Institute in Guwahati, followed by 81 at Dibrugarh Cancer Centre, 46 at Barpeta Cancer Centre, 20 at Tezpur, 19 at Darrang, 18 at Kokrajhar, 11 at Lakhimpur, five at Jorhat and two at Silchar. Highlighting preventive healthcare initiatives, Singhal said the government has intensified awareness and early detection programmes through community outreach campaigns, mobile medical units and Village Health Outreach Programmes (VHOP).

The Assam Cancer Care Foundation is also conducting free can-

cer screening camps across the state and providing free medicines to eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

The minister said vaccination programmes are playing an important role in the state's cancer prevention strategy. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is being implemented to reduce the risk of cervical cancer among adolescent girls, while Hepatitis-B vaccination under the Universal Immunisation Programme is expected to help lower future cases of liver cancer.

Singhal said the government's objective is to ensure that quality cancer diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care are accessible to citizens across Assam, regardless of their location.

The expansion of the cancer care network, he added, is aimed at reducing the financial and logistical burden on patients while strengthening the state's public healthcare system and improving long-term health outcomes.

NSF raises concern over illegal immigration, calls for stricter ILP enforcement in Nagaland



DIMAPUR

The Inner Line Regulation Commission (ILRC) of the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has expressed concern over reports of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar attempting to enter and transit through various parts of the Northeast, warning that unchecked migration could pose significant challenges to indigenous communities.

In a statement issued on Monday, the commission said illegal immigration has the potential to create demographic, socio-economic, cultural and security concerns across the region.

"Such developments, if left unchecked, pose serious demographic, socio-economic, cultural and security challenges to the indigenous people," the ILRC stated.

The commission urged the Nagaland government to strengthen surveillance and enforcement measures at all entry points into the state. It called for strict implementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, comprehensive verification of identity documents, intensified inspections and closer coordination among enforcement agencies to prevent unlawful entry, movement and settlement.

The ILRC also appealed to deputy commissioners, district administrations, law enforcement agencies, village councils, town councils, colony

and ward authorities, as well as other stakeholders, to remain vigilant and ensure compliance with the provisions of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, and other applicable laws.

According to the commission, no individual should be allowed to reside, work or carry out any activity in Naga areas without adhering to the legal requirements governing entry and stay in the state.

At the same time, the ILRC cautioned against the misuse of the ILP system by individuals or groups engaging in extortion, harassment, intimidation or exploitation of non-Naga residents, students, workers and visitors under the pretext of enforcing permit regulations.

The commission described such activities as illegal and a serious misuse of the ILP mechanism, stating that they undermine the credibility and reputation of the Naga community.

"These actions are wholly unacceptable and tarnish the goodwill and integrity of the Naga people," the statement said. Reiterating that only legally authorised authorities can enforce ILP regulations, the ILRC said no individual or organisation has the right to collect money, impose penalties or intimidate people in the name of the permit system.

The commission warned that anyone found engaging in such activities would be identified and reported to the competent authorities for appropriate legal action.

The ILRC further appealed to citizens to assist in safeguarding the state's regulatory framework by reporting suspected cases of illegal entry, unauthorised settlement, violations of ILP provisions and incidents of extortion or illegal collection of money carried out in the name of the permit system.

Assam to Launch Dedicated OTT Platform for Regional Content:Himanta

KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

GUWAHATI: Assam is set to launch its own dedicated over-the-top (OTT) platform to showcase and promote Assamese cinema, folk music, documentaries, literature and other regional content, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Sunday.

Sharing the update on social media platform X, the Chief Minister said the initiative is part of the vision outlined in the Assam Budget 2026.

"Dear OTT platforms, make some room, Assam's joining the list," Sarma wrote, adding that the proposed platform will provide a dedicated digital space for Assamese films, music, documentaries, literary works and other regional creative content. He said the Assam Budget 2026 had envisioned "a dedicated OTT platform for Assamese cinema, folk music, documentaries, literature & more," describing it as "a new place to binge stories closer to home." The proposed platform is expected to strengthen Assam's cultural and creative industries by offering filmmakers, musicians, writers and content creators a wider digital audience while preserving and promoting the state's rich cultural heritage.

The announcement has been welcomed by members of Assam's film and cultural fraternity, who believe the platform will provide a significant boost to regional content and create new opportunities for local artists and storytellers.

Suspected IED blast on Assam Rifles convoy in Nagaland leaves one dead, four injured



SUKHOVI

One person was killed and four others were injured after a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) blast targeted Assam Rifles vehicles near Sukhovi in Nagaland's Chümoukedima district on Monday, officials said.

According to a preliminary statement issued by the Defence Public Relations Officer (PRO) for Kohima and Imphal, the explosion occurred in the vicinity of an Assam Rifles convoy moving through the area.

"A suspected IED blast is reported near Sukhovi on Assam Rifles vehicles. One fatality and four injured," the Defence PRO said in a brief update.

Following the explosion, security forces launched a search and area domination operation to secure the site and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Officials said the identity of

the deceased and details of the injured personnel had not been disclosed immediately. The condition of those injured was also not known at the time of filing this report. The blast triggered heightened security measures across the area, with additional forces deployed as part of the ongoing operation.

Authorities have not yet confirmed the group or individuals responsible for the suspected attack. Investigators are examining the nature of the explosive device and the sequence of events leading up to the blast.

Security agencies are expected to conduct a detailed forensic examination of the site as part of the investigation.

The incident comes amid heightened security concerns in parts of the Northeast, where security forces continue to carry out counter-insurgency and area security operations

National conference on governance reforms opens in Shillong, spotlight on AI-driven administration

SHILLONG

A two-day National Conference on NEXTGEN Administrative and E-Governance Reforms commenced in Shillong on Monday, bringing together policymakers, senior bureaucrats and governance experts to discuss the future of public administration, digital transformation and artificial intelligence-driven governance.

The conference has been organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in collaboration with the Meghalaya government.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh inaugurated the event in the presence of Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Secretary Dr. Shakil Ahamd and senior officials from the Centre and the state government.

Addressing the inaugural session, Singh said the Centre has increasingly adopted a decentralised approach to national conferences to strengthen engage-



ment with state governments and promote the exchange of governance best practices.

"The popularity of these decentralised national conferences is evident from the enthusiasm shown by officers to participate despite their demanding schedules," he said.

The minister praised Meghalaya for its governance initiatives, particularly the New Shillong Administrative City project and the state's efforts to integrate

digital technology into public administration.

"We learn from the best practices of each other, and Meghalaya has set an example with the New Shillong Administrative City. The digital model of governance being developed here is something that was difficult to imagine a decade ago," Singh said.

Highlighting the Centre's digital governance initiatives, he said DARPG currently manages nearly 25 lakh public

grievances through an AI-enabled platform designed to improve responsiveness and efficiency.

"In spite of the large number of grievances, we remain responsive and prompt, and the system is also AI-driven," he said.

Singh also outlined several technology-based reforms undertaken by the government, including multilingual chatbots operating in 22 languages, Digital Life Certificates for pensioners and the use of facial recognition technology in service delivery.

He announced plans to expand the chatbot system to additional languages and strengthen grassroots governance through initiatives such as the proposed Prashasan Gaon Heroes programme.

The minister further highlighted the Swachhta Campaign launched in 2021, stating that it had not only generated revenue through the disposal of scrap and obsolete materials but also encouraged cleaner and more efficient workplaces across government departments.

While acknowledging rapid technological advancements, Singh stressed that administrative thinking and insti-

tutional culture must evolve at a similar pace. "The mindset is not changing at an equal pace, and we are not able to make optimal use of all the options and tools available," he said, calling for continued reforms in governance and public administration.

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Reform, Perform and Transform", Singh said future governance reforms would increasingly focus on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and the removal of outdated regulations.

Speaking at the conference, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma emphasised that administrative reforms must ultimately improve efficiency and public service delivery. He urged officials to overcome resistance to change and adopt practical reforms that can make governance more responsive and effective.

Highlighting Meghalaya's digital governance initiatives, Sangma referred to the CM Connect programme, which combines technology and direct citizen engagement to address public grievances. "The ultimate goal should be to serve the public and make a difference in their lives," he said.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of regular feedback from frontline government officials who interact directly with citizens and understand ground-level challenges. He pointed to Meghalaya's Cabinet Retreat mechanism as an effective platform for inter-departmental coordination, allowing departments to present plans, discuss challenges and align policy priorities.

Sangma concluded by urging officials to maintain a positive outlook, learn from both successes and failures, and work collaboratively to improve governance outcomes. The opening day of the conference featured presentations on Meghalaya's governance best practices, award-winning public administration initiatives recognised under the Prime Minister's Awards scheme and development projects undertaken by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

The conference is expected to generate recommendations on next-generation governance models, digital service delivery and the use of emerging technologies to strengthen public administration across the country.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 822

THE FRAGILE TRUCE

Barely three weeks after it was celebrated as a diplomatic breakthrough, the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States and Iran appears to be unraveling. Signed remotely on June 17 by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, the agreement was intended to halt a devastating conflict that had already shaken the Middle East, disrupted global energy markets, and heightened fears of a wider regional war. Today, however, the ceasefire framework stands on precarious ground, with fresh military exchanges, maritime confrontations, and escalating rhetoric threatening to push the region back into open conflict.

The rapid deterioration of the agreement highlights a hard truth about peace processes in conflict zones: diplomatic documents alone cannot substitute for political trust, strategic realism, and effective command structures. The Islamabad MoU was ambitious in its objectives. It sought to establish a 60-day roadmap toward a permanent cessation of hostilities, facilitate conditional sanctions relief, and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important maritime energy corridors. Yet the agreement was built on fragile foundations that now appear increasingly incapable of supporting a durable peace.

A central flaw lies in the mismatch between diplomatic expectations and geopolitical realities. Washington appears to have approached the agreement from a position of assumed strategic superiority, expecting Tehran to comply with terms that many within Iran interpreted as bordering on capitulation. While the United States demonstrated overwhelming military power during the conflict through extensive air operations targeting Iranian military infrastructure, air campaigns alone rarely compel complete political submission. The absence of a decisive military victory has complicated efforts to enforce a post-war settlement on terms that resemble unconditional surrender.

This disconnect has created a dangerous dynamic. For the United States, maintaining a firm posture is seen as necessary to deter further Iranian provocations and reassure allies. For Iran's leadership, however, excessive compliance risks appearing weak before domestic constituencies already grappling with economic hardship and political uncertainty. Such competing pressures have transformed negotiations into a contest of national prestige rather than a process of mutual de-escalation.

Nowhere is this tension more evident than in the Strait of Hormuz. The waterway is not merely a regional concern; it is a critical artery for global energy supplies. The reopening of the strait was one of the most significant promises of the Islamabad agreement. Instead of becoming a symbol of renewed stability, however, it has emerged as the principal flashpoint in the collapse of the truce.

Reports of Iranian efforts to regulate maritime traffic through designated routes and warnings issued to commercial shipping have raised serious concerns about freedom of navigation. Subsequent attacks involving commercial tankers and the resulting military responses have further eroded confidence in the ceasefire framework. Regardless of competing narratives regarding responsibility, the practical consequence has been the same: renewed confrontation and an escalation cycle that threatens both regional security and global economic stability.

Yet the crisis cannot be understood solely through the lens of US-Iran rivalry. Equally important is the internal political landscape within Iran itself. The assumption that Iran operates as a unified state actor often obscures the complex relationship between its civilian leadership and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The recent conflict appears to have intensified these internal divisions.

President Pezeshkian's government has strong incentives to pursue diplomatic engagement. Economic pressures, sanctions, and the need to stabilize domestic conditions make international accommodation an attractive option. However, segments of the IRGC may view concessions differently, seeing resistance as essential to preserving both ideological legitimacy and institutional influence. Such divergences create a serious implementation challenge. International agreements require coherent decision-making and unified execution. When political leaders and military actors operate with differing priorities, the credibility of commitments inevitably suffers.

The result is a dangerous gap between diplomacy and action. Agreements negotiated at the political level become vulnerable when military actions on the ground appear inconsistent with official policy. This lack of alignment undermines trust and provides opponents with justification for retaliation, creating a cycle that becomes increasingly difficult to break.

The broader regional environment further compounds the problem. Recent military exchanges indicate that both sides remain fully mobilized and prepared for escalation. Every strike invites a counter-strike. Every retaliatory action generates new political pressures. Under such conditions, the space for diplomacy narrows rapidly.

Economic incentives, which were meant to support the peace process, are also weakening. Sanctions relief and access to frozen assets were expected to provide tangible benefits that could strengthen support for the agreement within Iran. However, renewed tensions have placed those prospects in doubt. Without visible economic gains, advocates of engagement within Tehran lose influence, while hardline voices gain strength. Similar dynamics operate in Washington, where political leaders face pressure to demonstrate resolve rather than flexibility.

The collapse of trust is perhaps the most alarming development. Successful ceasefires depend not merely on the absence of violence but on confidence that all parties possess both the willingness and the capacity to honour their commitments. At present, neither condition appears secure. Washington doubts Tehran's ability to enforce compliance across its security apparatus, while Tehran questions whether the United States is prepared to negotiate on terms that acknowledge Iran's strategic interests and sovereignty concerns.

The implications extend far beyond the Gulf. A renewed US-Iran confrontation would reverberate through global energy markets, international shipping routes, and regional security architectures. Countries across Asia, Europe, and the developing world would feel the consequences through higher energy costs, disrupted trade, and heightened geopolitical uncertainty. The world has already witnessed the economic and political shockwaves generated by the conflict earlier this year. A return to sustained warfare would carry even greater risks.

The Islamabad MoU may not yet be formally dead, but its future appears increasingly uncertain. What was envisioned as a pathway to peace has become a test of whether diplomacy can survive in an environment dominated by mistrust, military escalation, and internal political fragmentation. Unless both sides demonstrate restraint and a renewed commitment to meaningful dialogue, the agreement could soon become another reminder of how fragile peace can be in one of the world's most volatile regions.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Don't listen to yourself; listen to the advice that you give others. -

Michael Lottner

RAM MANDIR'S BETRAYAL: SHOULDN'T MODI SPEAK TO RESTORE TRUST?



K B JANDIAL

The recently exposed "Charawah Chori" (theft of offerings) at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya has traumatised millions of Hindu devotees worldwide. This incident has sparked intense anguish and disbelief among those who regard the temple as the ultimate symbol of faith and centuries of civilizational aspiration, prompting calls for immediate severe punishment. For devotees, the temple represents a symbol of Hindu religious faith and centuries of civilizational yearning. The loot inside cannot be dismissed as just an administrative lapse; it raises fundamental questions regarding institutional integrity, public trust, and the moral conduct of those chosen to manage the sacred site.

With no sign of regrets and owning responsibility for the serious lapse, the Trust's powerful & controversial General Secretary, Champat Rai, and Trustee Anil Mishra announced their moral-grounds resignations on 26th June but continued to work till their resignations were finally accepted by the Trust at its meeting on 6th July. Neither the Trust nor those who resigned felt the urgency to call an immediate meeting to accept the resignations. How lightly things moved even after the exposure of this highly embarrassing scandal!

The SIT probe exposed severe vulnerabilities in the temple's original cash-handling system. Staff counted currency from 14 to 35 donation boxes while seated at tables wearing regular, pocketed clothing. Personal belongings, including mobile phones, were not strictly prohibited. Although CCTV cameras monitored the counting room, investigators discovered blind spots. Furthermore, video recordings were automatically overwritten every 45 days, severely limiting evidence preservation. This allowed CCTV footage to record 77 separate instances of theft over a 40-day period without supervisors noticing.

Despite the gravity of these revelations, all members of the Ram Mandir Trust mandated to oversee administration, finances, and security showed little immediate acceptance of moral responsibility. To gauge how powerful and arrogant the Trust General Secretary Champat Rai was, one needs to listen to the interview (gone viral on social media) with the Ex-Home Secretary S. Lakshminarayan who had donated a Ram-charitmanas in gold.

Compounding the accountability gap, the Pune-based Trust's Treasurer, Swami Govind Dev Giri Ji Maharaj publicly distanced himself from the scandal, stating he had no operational role in the collection, counting, or banking of offerings. He has been busy meeting nationwide spiritual commitments and could visit Ayodhya hardly once every one and a half or two months. Now, he appears to have become the spokesperson. A question arises: what was the necessity of making such a spiritual leader of national repute a Treasurer?

An arrested accused, Tinnu Yadav-Champat Rai's former driver-exerted massive and unquestioned influence within the temple administration. Many believed that they reduced this sacred space to their fiefdom, granting access to every area, including donation counting halls to their favourites who were swindling offerings unchecked. Once the scam was busted, they distanced themselves from their responsibilities toward Ram Mandir. Why only two members? All members should have at least offered their resignation owning moral responsibility for this scam. But it was not to be so.

The Ayodhya scandal highlights a much broader issue regarding accountability in the management of India's vast "temple economy." Collectively, India's estimated 2.5 million Hindu temples and shrines generate an economy exceeding ₹3 lakh crore annually, heavily driven by cash, gold, and silver donations. Major pilgrimage centres receive immense annual contributions,

with the Tirupati Temple generating between Rs 1,400 crore and Rs 2,000 crore, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi collecting approximately Rs 500 crore. The Shirdi Sai Baba Shrine receives between Rs 360 crore and Rs 480 crore, Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple brings in around Rs 125 crore, and Kerala's Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple accumulates between Rs 50 crore and Rs 100 crore.

Despite the scale of these funds, financial operations remain curiously opaque. Information is restricted to a small circle of powerful individuals who lack public accountability. Financial irregularities frequently stay hidden because whistleblowers fear severe retaliation from influential temple administrators or their associates.

In the case of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, a former Accounts In-charge Mahipal Singh acted as the whistleblower. Serving from January 2021 to May 2022, he detected the systematic theft of cash and precious metals. He reported the discrepancies internally to senior Trust officials in 2021, but no action was taken. Instead of addressing his complaints, the Trust sacked him. Singh later went public, describing how employees bypassed established documentation protocols, before withdrawing from the public eyes due to death threats.

Public confidence has been shaken ever since the financial scandal has come to light. Data tracking temple engagement reveals sharp declines. Direct offerings dropped from Rs 153 crore in 2024 to roughly Rs 82.78 crore in the subsequent year period up to February. Interest income fell from approximately Rs 173 crore to Rs 138 crore. Most starkly, visitor footfall plummeted from 9.5 cr during the high-profile inauguration year to 4.8 crore in 2025, and down to 1.1 crore during the first six months of 2026. While multiple external factors influence tourist and pilgrim trends, the financial scandal has undeniably fuelled public scepticism. In response, many devotees have shifted toward digital UPI donations to bypass physical donation boxes.

A deeply unsettling aspect of this shameful theft inside Ram Mandir for many Hindus is the continued silence of P M Narendra Modi. He has been deeply attached to the project ever since the Supreme Court's historic land judgment delivered on November 9, 2019. Devotees who view him as a primary guardian of Hindu interests expected a strong public expression of concern regarding the betrayal of the religious trust, that too at historic Ram Mandir. His words could have restored some sort of public confidence in the management.

Critics argue that by omitting the issue

from popular platforms like his monthly Mann Ki Baat-where he could have spoken broadly about need for honesty in management of religious & spiritual institutions and the moral weight of public faith. Modi created an impression of political distance, prioritizing image management over religious sentiments. Conversely, some supporters justify it, arguing that refraining from comment ensures investigative agencies can work independently without political interference.

Politically, analysts view his silence as a calculated move to prevent the controversy from ballooning into a national debate. But it is already a part of repeated debate at national TV channels almost every evening where BJP spokespersons put their brave faces and launch counter criticism of opposition parties saying that either they had never visited temple for lack of faith or their Govt in UP in the past had killed thousands of Kar sevaks. Many disapprove their logic that the opposition has no right to question the Govt on 'Chori' in side Ram Mandir for not attending the historic Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony held on 22nd January 2024 or had been questioning the existence of Lord Rama . A poor defence, indeed. The Govt and Public Trusts are accountable to the people for the good governance and sanctity of religious places. Some also questions Yogi Govt's failure to apply "bulldozer justice" against these religious scoundrels. Analysts also feel that, as the things stand today, it has inadvertently handed to the Opposition a potent tool to question the Government's commitment to transparency and its fallout could influence public opinion ahead of future elections in Uttar Pradesh.

To restore public trust, the Ram Mandir Trust has implemented aggressive security updates based on the SIT's recommendations. Tables and chairs have been removed from the counting hall, ensuring the entire body of each counting employee is visible on camera. Personal bags, mobile phones, smartwatches, and footwear are strictly banned. Staff must wear custom-designed, pocketless uniforms that prevent the physical concealment of currency, and mandatory frisking is enforced at both entry and exit. CCTV coverage has been expanded to eliminate all blind spots, and dedicated personnel monitor live feeds continuously.

Administratively, a three-member Search Committee, comprising former

Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court Justice Permod Kohli (a son of the soil), Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Vishnu Kant Chaturvedi, and Trustee Suresh Haware-has been formed to appoint a full-time, professional Chief Executive Officer to oversee financial administration.

The Ayodhya's Charawah Chori is not an isolated financial scandal. Whistleblowers have exposed similar loot in major religious institutions like Tirupati Balaji, Sree Padmanabhaswamy, Jagannath Puri, and Shirdi Sai Baba. Historically, temples across India have frequently been run as personal fiefdoms of local influential persons. The Ram Mandir scandal highlights a critical and urgent need for reforms including separating religious authority from

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Imagine working in Guwahati without having to rent a place in the city.

Planned under #AssamBudget2026, the Guwahati Metro and commuter rail network will make it easier for people from nearby districts to commute seamlessly, saving both time and money. ~

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam



financial and administrative accountability across all major shrines, forcing a national resurgence of moral and fiscal discipline.



Manipur intensifies push for fish self-sufficiency, cuts imports and boosts indigenous production

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Monday reviewed the performance of the state's fisheries sector and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening indigenous fish production, reducing dependence on imports and improving the livelihoods of fishing communities.

Chairing a review meeting with officials of the Fisheries Department, the chief minister assessed ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing fish production and promoting sustainable aquaculture across the state.

Officials informed the meeting that Manipur has significantly reduced its expenditure on fish imports in recent years. While the state previously procured fish worth around Rs 400 crore annually due to low domestic production, imports have now been



reduced to approximately Rs 200 crore as local output continues to rise.

According to official data, Manipur currently produces about 4.5 crore kilograms of fish annually against an estimated demand of 6.75 crore kilograms, indicating

steady progress towards achieving self-sufficiency in the sector.

In a social media post following the review meeting, Singh said the government remained committed to promoting sustainable pisciculture and strengthening

the economic condition of fishing communities. "The Government remains committed to strengthening the fisheries sector by promoting sustainable pisciculture and enhancing the livelihoods of our fishing communities," the chief minister stated.

Fish remains a staple part of the diet in Manipur, making the expansion of domestic production a key priority for the state government. Officials said annual table fish production has reached nearly 37,125 metric tonnes, driven largely by the adoption of scientific aquaculture practices in lakes, wetlands and privately owned ponds.

As part of efforts to conserve and promote indigenous fish species, the Directorate of Fisheries recently released around 10 lakh fish fingerlings into Loktak Lake near Moirang. The department has also undertaken an extensive river ranching programme covering 12 major rivers, in-

cluding the Imphal, Nambul and Thoubal rivers.

The state government, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), has expanded reservoir fisheries activities in the 1,100-hectare Mapithel Reservoir in Kamjong district. The initiative is aimed at generating alternative livelihood opportunities for tribal communities living in the surrounding areas. Officials further highlighted the role of the Loktak Livelihood Mission, which promotes integrated aquaculture and encourages the productive use of invasive phumdis, or floating biomass, by converting them into organic fertiliser.

Welfare measures for fishermen are also being implemented under the National Welfare for Fishermen scheme. The programme provides financial assistance to economically weaker fishers for the con-

struction of low-cost housing, community tanks and tube wells.

To support fish farmers and encourage entrepreneurship in the sector, the government continues to promote events such as the annual Emoniu Fish Festival and National Fish Farmers' Day. These platforms help local producers access wider markets while showcasing indigenous fish varieties. The Fisheries Department also conducts regular training programmes on reservoir fisheries management, scientific fish farming and induced carp breeding to enhance the skills of fishermen and women across the state. The review meeting reflects the government's broader strategy to increase domestic fish production, conserve indigenous aquatic resources and reduce the state's dependence on imported fish while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities in the fisheries sector.

Record tourist influx drives expansion of hospitality infrastructure near Kaziranga: Atul Bora

GUWAHATI

Assam Tourism Minister Atul Bora has said that Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has recorded its highest-ever tourist footfall this year, prompting the state government to strengthen tourism infrastructure, including plans for the construction of premium hotels under the Hyatt and Taj brands near the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Bora said Kaziranga has witnessed an unprecedented surge in both domestic and international visitors, reflecting the growing global appeal of Assam's flagship wildlife destination.

"A record number of tourists are visiting Kaziranga this year, not only from different parts of India but also from abroad," the minister said.

Bora attributed the sharp rise in tourist arrivals to a series of high-profile visits that brought international attention to the national park. He noted that visits by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu and Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck had significantly enhanced Kaziranga's visibility on the global tourism map. "There is tremendous interest in Kaziranga after visits by the Prime Minister, the President and the King of Bhutan. Based on our annual assessments, this year has witnessed the highest influx of tourists so far," he said. To cater to the growing demand for quality accommodation and hospitality services, the state government has initiated measures to facilitate the establishment of luxury hotels under the Hyatt and Taj brands in the Kaziranga region.

Badruddin Ajmal slams panel proposal on PM, CMs; claims Parliament has over 65% lawmakers facing criminal cases

GUWAHATI

AIUDF chief and Binnakandi MLA Badruddin Ajmal on Monday criticised a proposed recommendation by a parliamentary panel to suspend, rather than remove, Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers who remain in judicial custody for 30 days, arguing that such measures would do little to ensure political accountability. Reacting to the proposal, Ajmal questioned whether lawmakers would ever enact stringent provisions that could be used against themselves. "Who will punish whom? Tomorrow the punishment will fall on the same people who imparted the punishment," he told reporters.

The former Lok Sabha MP alleged that the political establishment often protects its own interests and suggested that meaningful reforms were unlikely to emerge from within the system.

"All of them are thieves. No

one will hang anyone. No one will make laws against anyone. This is a business of fooling people," Ajmal said.

The AIUDF leader further claimed that a significant number of elected representatives have criminal cases against them.

"How many criminals are there in our Parliament today? More than 65 percent of people are criminals," he alleged.

Ajmal also targeted the BJP over the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), accusing the ruling party of raising the issue primarily for political and electoral considerations.

"The BJP government will implement the UCC wherever it is in power. But nothing is going to happen," he said.

Linking the debate to upcoming elections, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Ajmal claimed the issue was being pushed to consolidate votes.

Silchar civic groups give Assam govt July 17 deadline to fix roads, threaten 'Road Strike'

SILCHAR

A coalition of 16 civil society organisations in Silchar on Monday launched a symbolic "Thank You" campaign to draw attention to the worsening condition of roads, persistent waterlogging and traffic congestion in the town, while setting a July 17 deadline for the Assam government to initiate corrective measures.

The protest, organised under the banner of United Citizens at Meherpur, focused on the deteriorating condition of the arterial road linking major institutions, including Silchar Medical College and Hospital, Assam University and the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Silchar.

Protesters alleged that the road has remained in poor condition for years despite repeated complaints and representations to the authorities. They said the damaged stretch has become a daily challenge for thousands of patients, healthcare workers, students, teachers and



commuters who depend on the route.

According to the organisers, even moderate rainfall results in severe waterlogging, while potholes and uneven road surfaces frequently cause traffic snarls and increase travel time.

The groups also criticised what they described as unscientific road construction practices, claiming that inadequate planning and poor

drainage infrastructure have aggravated the situation.

Addressing the gathering, representatives of United Citizens at Meherpur said the state government has been given until Friday to demonstrate visible progress on key demands, including road repairs, drainage improvement and measures to ease traffic congestion.

They warned that failure to act within the stipulated period would

lead to a "Road Strike" beginning Saturday.

The organisations further cautioned that if the problems remain unresolved, they would escalate their agitation through larger public demonstrations, sustained protests and, if necessary, a call for a Silchar bandh.

"The condition of this road directly affects healthcare services, higher education institutions and daily commuters. Immediate intervention is needed to prevent further inconvenience to the public," a protester said.

The agitation comes amid growing public dissatisfaction over the state of infrastructure in Silchar, particularly along one of the Barak Valley town's busiest and most strategically important road corridors.

With the deadline approaching, all eyes are now on the state government and local authorities to respond to the demands and avert a broader protest movement in the region.

Tripura attracts Rs 10,000 crore in IT investments through 43 MoUs at business conclave

AGARTALA

Tripura has secured proposed investments worth more than Rs 10,000 crore in the information technology sector after signing 43 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during the Destination Tripura Business Conclave 2026, marking a significant step in the state's efforts to build a technology-driven economy.

The agreements, signed by the Department of Information Technology, cover a wide range of sectors including artificial intelligence (AI), digital transformation, cloud computing, cybersecurity, robotics, data management, IT-enabled services (ITeS) and digital infrastructure.

Officials described the investment commitments as one of the largest technology-sector initiatives undertaken by the state government.

Among the major partnerships, Google India signed an MoU with

the Department of Information Technology to collaborate on digital transformation, AI adoption, cloud infrastructure and the development of a technology ecosystem in the state.

Salesforce also partnered with the state government to support AI-enabled citizen services, customer relationship management (CRM) solutions and digital governance platforms aimed at improving public service delivery.

The department further held preliminary discussions with Tata Consultancy Services regarding future collaborations in the technology sector.

Additional agreements were signed with companies including Da'Spatio Rhotique Laboratory Pvt Ltd, Bodhi Tree Multimedia Ltd, Elvania Energies 369 Pvt Ltd and Indigi Consulting and Solutions Pvt Ltd, focusing on emerging technologies and innovation-driven projects.

A major attraction at the conclave was the Directorate of Information Technology's dedicated IT Pavilion, which showcased the state's IT/ITeS Policy, Startup Policy and Data Centre Policy. Officials also presented upcoming initiatives, including proposed policies on Artificial Intelligence, AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality) and Global Capability Centres (GCCs). The pavilion highlighted several flagship infrastructure projects, including the proposed IT Park, the Tripura IT and Data Ecosystem Zone (TIDEZ), and Bharti Airtel's Rs 200-crore Nxta Data Centre project in Agartala.

Innovations developed by startups and technology entrepreneurs also drew attention, including robotics solutions emerging from the incubation ecosystem at National Institute of Technology Agartala.

Jeya Ragul Geshan B, Director

of the Department of Information Technology, said the state's policy framework was already generating tangible investment outcomes. "Our policies are already delivering results. We have successfully attracted a Rs 200-crore investment from Airtel for a data centre in Agartala. Furthermore, our startup ecosystem is thriving with 134 registered startups, 59 recognised companies and more than Rs 2.7 crore disbursed as fiscal assistance," he said.

The investment commitments are expected to strengthen Tripura's digital infrastructure, create employment opportunities and position the state as an emerging technology hub in Northeast India. With growing interest from leading technology firms and expanding policy support, the government hopes to accelerate the state's transition towards a knowledge-based and innovation-led economy.

Akhil Gogoi slams Assam govt's pushback policy, seeks India-Bangladesh talks on illegal migration

GUWAHATI

Rajior Dal chief and Sibsagar MLA Akhil Gogoi on Monday criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over the state's ongoing pushback of alleged illegal Bangladeshi nationals, alleging that the exercise lacks legal backing and is being used to keep the issue of illegal immigration politically alive. Addressing reporters, Gogoi claimed that the BJP-led government had failed to establish a legally recognised mechanism for deporting undocumented migrants and was instead relying on what he described as an "illegal pushback drama." According to the Rajior Dal leader, the issue of illegal immigration can only be resolved through diplomatic engagement between India and Bangladesh. He said neither the Assam government nor the Centre had created a formal bilateral framework to facilitate the return of undocumented Bangladeshi nationals.

"Himanta Biswa Sarma is turning a non-issue into a political issue. The question of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants can only be resolved through discussions with Bangladesh. Till now, no bilateral mechanism has been established to push back illegal migrants," Gogoi said.

While acknowledging that ille-

gal immigration remains a serious concern for Assam, Gogoi argued that the state's pushback strategy had no legal validity.

He urged the Government of India to initiate talks with Bangladesh and reach an agreement for the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals found to be residing illegally in India. "As a country of India's stature, we should ensure that Bangladesh accepts its citizens who are staying illegally in India. This issue must be resolved through proper diplomatic channels," he said. The Rajior Dal leader also raised the issue of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for six communities in Assam, reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a promise made during the 2016 Assembly election campaign. Gogoi said it had been more than a decade since the Prime Minister assured ST status for the Tai Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Matak, Koch-Rajbongshi and Tea Tribes (Adivasi) communities.

"It is now 2026 and 11 years have passed since the promise was made. I want to remind the Prime Minister of his commitment to these communities," he said.

Rejecting the government's position that the matter was still under examination by a committee, Gogoi maintained that the process had already advanced sufficiently.

Over 91,000 D-voters still on Assam electoral rolls, CM Sarma informs Assemblies



Quest!

1.3 million Earths could fit into the sun.

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday informed the Assembly that 91,385 "Doubtful Voters" (D-voters) continue to remain on the state's electoral rolls, despite ongoing efforts to resolve

citizenship-related cases through Foreigners' Tribunals.

Replying to a question raised by Congress MLA Nurul Islam during the Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Sarma said Sonitpur district has the highest number of D-voters at 13,719, followed by Barpeta with 8,081. Udalguri and Nagaon districts each have more than 7,800 D-voters.

The Chief Minister noted that the process of marking individuals as D-voters has been in force since 1997 under Election Commission guidelines for persons whose citizenship status is considered doubtful or disputed.

Responding in his capacity as Minister in charge of the Home and Political Department, Sarma said Foreigners' Tribunals have so far declared 56,728 D-voters as foreigners. In addition, 831 individuals were declared foreigners through subsequent court proceedings after approaching the Gauhati High Court. At the same time, tribunals have ruled in favour of 65,171 D-voters, declaring them Indian citizens. The Gauhati High Court and the Supreme Court have also recognised 42 and three individuals, respectively, as Indian citizens, he added.

Replying to a separate question from Congress MLA Wazed Ali Choudhury, Sarma said Assam had 1,99,596 D-voters when the category was first introduced in 1997. Since then, 2,44,144 D-voter cases have been referred to Foreigners' Tribunals.

According to the Chief Minister, 2,05,659 of these cases have been disposed of, resulting in 56,728 individuals being declared foreigners.

Sarma further informed the House that the Assam Border Police has separately referred 1,90,657 suspected foreigner cases to Foreigners' Tribunals. Of these, 1,55,490 cases have been disposed of, leading to 1,15,945 persons being declared foreigners.

Of the total number of individuals declared foreigners through the tribunal process, 31,789 have been expelled from Assam, he said.

The D-voter category, introduced by the Election Commission in 1997 and unique to Assam, applies to individuals whose citizenship status is under scrutiny. Persons marked as D-voters are barred from voting until their cases are adjudicated by Foreigners' Tribunals and, where applicable, reviewed by higher courts. The issue remains one of Assam's most politically sensitive subjects, closely linked to longstanding debates over illegal immigration and citizenship verification. Individuals suspected of being illegal immigrants are often marked as D-voters if their names appear on electoral rolls, while their status is examined through the legal process.

The Chief Minister said any deletion or regularisation of D-voters is carried out strictly in accordance with the orders of Foreigners' Tribunals and subsequent judicial rulings.

STUDENT 5E for SUCCESS

INTERNSHIP

STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.

APPLY NOW

5eforsuccess@gmail.com

Live Project

Incentives

Certificate

Free Training

Badrinath offering row: CCTV trail leads to arrest of suspended temple employee



DEHRADUN

A special investigation team (SIT) of Chamoli Police has arrested suspended Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) employee Pramod Nautiyal over the alleged theft of cash and valuables donated by pilgrims at the Badrinath shrine, police said on Monday.

Nautiyal was detained from his Dehradun residence late on Sunday by a plainclothes police team and taken to Chamoli for questioning. He will be produced before a court in accordance with legal procedure, officials said. Chamoli Superintendent of Police Surjeet Singh Panwar said the arrest followed an examination of CCTV footage, witness statements and other evidence.

“The investigation is impartial and thorough. Strict action will continue against anyone who plays with the faith of devotees, and no guilty person will be spared,” he said.

The case was registered at Badrinath police station on July 8, 2026, under Sections 306 and 316(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, following a complaint by acting temple officer Yudhveer Pushpwan. The complaint came after alleged irregu-

larities were detected during the counting of offerings on July 2.

A preliminary departmental inquiry alleged that Nautiyal had secretly taken cash and other offerings into his possession. Given the seriousness of the accusation, Panwar constituted the SIT under the supervision of Circle Officer Madan Singh Bisht.

Investigators inspected the counting room, questioned employees and witnesses, and reviewed the surveillance recording in detail. Police claimed the footage showed Nautiyal repeatedly concealing money and other offerings beneath his mobile phone or placing them in his pocket before leaving the room.

Police said items allegedly taken at different times included Rs 500 notes, packets containing gold and silver coins, a Shaligram stone and packets of saffron. The SIT is also scrutinising committee documents, registers and related records. Officers said other people could come under the scanner and further arrests would depend on the evidence gathered during the investigation.

Before his arrest,

Nautiyal had approached the Uttarakhand High Court in Nainital, challenging both his suspension and the first information report, and seeking protection from arrest. The court had sought the BKTC’s response. His petition was listed before Justice Alok Mehra for hearing on July 16, but the SIT arrested him before the scheduled proceedings.

The allegations were first raised publicly by Bhairav Sena founder Sandeep Khatri, who claimed that donations and offerings made by pilgrims were being stolen. The disclosure triggered political controversy across Uttarakhand and led to demands for an independent investigation.

As the row intensified, BKTC chairman Hemant Dwivedi formed a four-member inquiry panel. The state government subsequently constituted a separate three-member high-level committee.

The arrest marks the first police action in the case, which has drawn attention because Badrinath is one of Hinduism’s most revered pilgrimage centres and receives offerings from devotees across India.

PM Modi to launch India’s first hydrogen-powered train during Haryana visit on July 17



CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh on July 17 and inaugurate a host of projects, including the country’s first hydrogen-powered train from Jind.

Modi will inaugurate the country’s first hydrogen-powered train from Jind. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India is rapidly advancing towards modern technology and world-class infrastructure. The selection of Haryana as the launch site for the country’s first

hydrogen-powered train reflects the state’s leading role in innovation and development.

The train will operate between Jind and Sonapat. Powered entirely by hydrogen fuel, it will be an environmentally friendly mode of transport that will help reduce pollution while promoting sustainable and clean mobility. Saini also said that during his visit to Jind on July 17, Modi will dedicate several other development projects to the people of Haryana. These initiatives are expected to accelerate the state’s growth and provide direct benefits to citizens. Saini appealed to the people of Haryana to be part of this

historic occasion. He said extensive arrangements have been made to ensure that the event is conducted in an eco-friendly manner.

Expressing confidence in the project’s impact, Saini said the launch of the hydrogen-powered train will provide a new direction to green energy-based rail transport in India and further strengthen Haryana’s position as a leader in modern, clean and technology-driven development.

Haryana Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi said that on July 17, Modi will address a massive public gathering at the ground opposite

Eklavya Stadium. In virtual mode, he will also inaugurate and launch several development projects across different parts of the state.

He said Modi will inaugurate two newly built Ram Medical Colleges in Bhiwani and Narnaul, as well as the 10-kilometre-long Kurukshetra Elevated Railway Track. The track is expected to ease traffic congestion by eliminating long waits at nearly six railway crossings in the area.

Bedi further said that the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Ambala-Kala Amb Greenfield Four-Lane Corridor, the Haryana section of the Delhi-Katra Expressway, and the Jind-Gohana NH-352A project. He will also launch the expansion of the Hisar-Barwala Four-Lane Road and the Bikaner-Siwani-Sonapat Road Project, besides laying the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art Sikh Museum in Kurukshetra. All these projects will be inaugurated or launched virtually during the public meeting in Jind.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu had recently said that Modi will visit Punjab on July 17. While reviewing the ongoing redevelopment of Jalandhar Cantt railway station, being undertaken at a cost of Rs 100 crore, Bittu had stated that the Prime Minister will inaugurate railway projects in Jalandhar, Chandigarh and other places.

Modi will also visit the Union Territory of Chandigarh and inaugurate the Advanced Neurosciences Centre and the Mother and Child Health Centre at PGIMER, along with a multi-purpose auditorium on the South Campus of Panjab University in Sector 25.

The 2,400-seat multi-purpose auditorium on the South Campus of PU will host convocations, academic conferences and cultural events. The main event is likely to be held at Punjab Engineering College (PEC) in Sector 12. Modi had last visited the city on December 3, 2024, for an event on the implementation of the three new criminal laws.

INTERNATIONAL

‘Trump wants to exhaust the possibility of achieving an agreement on Iran nuclear issue’: Netanyahu



TELAVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that US President Donald Trump wanted to “exhaust the possibility” of a diplomatic agreement with Iran before considering other options on its nuclear programme.

In an interview with NBC’s Meet the Press, Netanyahu said Trump would not hesitate to use military force if Tehran failed to honour its

commitments.

“I think President Trump wants to exhaust the possibility of achieving an agreement, especially on the nuclear issue, through negotiations. But he is obviously not shy about using force when the Iranians break every commitment they make—and usually a few hours or a few minutes after they make it. So, I think we should let the President have his opportunity,” Netanyahu said.

The Israeli Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the US-Israel cooperation in countering Iran’s nuclear ambitions, stating that their joint efforts had prevented Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. “You know, Israel is keenly grateful for the fact that America joined—and Israel joined forces—to prevent Iran from getting the nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them, not only against

us but against the entire West and against the United States,” he said.

Netanyahu noted that many people do not realize how close Iran had come to advancing its nuclear capabilities, adding that recent military operations by the US and Israel had significantly set back Tehran’s program.

“The fact that we had these two operations, which are called Midnight Hammer and Epic Fury... we call them Rising Lion and Roaring Lion; we actually drove it back,” he added.

These remarks come against the backdrop of renewed tensions between the US and Iran. On Sunday, the United States launched strikes on 140 Iranian military targets using precision munitions deployed by land- and sea-based fighter aircraft, drones, and naval vessels. Targets included Iranian missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, ammunition storage facilities, communication networks, and coastal surveillance locations.

This development followed an attack by the IRGC on the Cyprus-flagged container vessel M/V GFS Galaxy in the Strait of Hormuz.

Further, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran claimed it has carried out a “heavy and surprise” attack on logistics support centres and refuelling platforms used by US aircraft carriers at the Port of Duqm in Oman, according to the IIRB state broadcaster. The IRGC’s public relations office told IIRB that the sites were “destroyed” in the attack, as cited by Al Jazeera.

Fresh Iranian attacks drew sharp condemnation from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and triggered formal diplomatic protests as the standoff on the Strait of Hormuz continues.

Iran says ‘under no circumstances’ will it allow US interference in Hormuz



WASHINGTON

Iran’s military warned on Monday that it would not allow the United States to “interfere” in the management of the Strait of Hormuz, shortly after President Donald Trump said that the US is taking over the strategic waterway.

The spokesman of Khatam Al-Anbiya military command said in a video message that Tehran “under no circumstances will allow... the United States to interfere in the management” of the strategic waterway, while warning Gulf countries that any cooperation with the US would be considered “an act of war.”

The statement shortly after Trump declared that US would be “taking over” the Strait.

“We’ll become the guardian of the Strait,” Trump told “Fox and Friends,” adding that the

US had been guarding it for “nothing” but now would be reimbursed by wealthy nations.

“We’re going to get paid for guarding it. A lot of money, but we just want to be reimbursed for doing all of this, for putting our people in danger.”

The US president’s comments came after US and Iranian attacks of a scale unseen since an April ceasefire in the conflict in the Middle East, adding to doubts about efforts to bring a permanent end to the war that has halted shipping through the strait.

The past week’s hostilities have centered on the critical energy trade route, the control of which is a key point of dispute between Washington and Tehran.

In his Monday interview, Trump complained about the tactics of Iranian negotiators seeking changes in what was

agreed during hours of talks at the weekend.

“We’re taking over the Strait. They have nothing. They’ve got nothing,” Trump said. “Yesterday, they had an 11-hour meeting ... And everything was agreed to yesterday. And they leave the room, and they call back, and they say we had to make a couple of changes,” he added, without elaborating on what changes were sought.

Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman said Monday the government was talking with mediators from Qatar, Pakistan and Oman in a bid to prevent an escalation in the war. Iran’s powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps says that the Strait of Hormuz is “closed” but the US maintains it is open to maritime traffic and not controlled by Iran.

“RANI GAIDINLIU: THE DAUGHTER OF THE HILLS WHO CHALLENGED THE BRITISH EMPIRE”



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

While the names of many freedom fighters are celebrated across India, countless heroes from the North-East remain unknown to much of the nation. Among them stands Rani Gaidinliu, a fearless tribal leader whose courage shook the foundations of British rule long before India achieved independence. Arrested at just sixteen years of age and imprisoned for nearly fourteen years, she became one of the youngest revolutionaries to sacrifice her youth for the freedom of her people and her country.

A Childhood in the Hills.

Rani Gaidinliu was born on 26 January 1915 in the village of Longkao (then Nungkao) in present day Manipur (Manipur was officially granted full statehood on January 21, 1972, under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. Prior to becoming a full state, it was administered as a Union Territory from 1956 and as a princely state that acceded to the Indian Union in 1949), among the Rongmei Naga community. She belonged to a simple tribal family that deeply respected its ancient customs, traditions, and spiritual beliefs. Like many children of the remote hills during that era, she received little formal education because schools were virtually non-existent. Yet the forests, mountains, village elders, and tribal traditions became her classroom, shaping her into a courageous and determined young girl.

The Beginning of a Revolution.

At the age of just thirteen, Gaidinliu came under the influence of her cousin and spiritual guide, Haipou Jadonang, founder of the Heraka movement. The movement initially sought to revive the traditional faith and cultural identity of the Zelian-grong tribes. However, it gradually transformed into a powerful movement against British colonial rule. The British administration imposed taxes, interfered in tribal customs, and attempted to weaken indigenous institutions. Jadonang urged his people to resist these injustices peacefully but firmly. Young Gaidinliu quickly emerged as one of his most devoted disciples. Her leadership qualities, courage, and spiritual conviction impressed the tribal communities, who began to see her as a future leader.

Carrying Forward the Struggle.

In 1931, the British arrested Jadonang on charges widely regarded as politically motivated and executed him by hanging. His death shocked the tribal communities but failed to crush their spirit.

At only sixteen years of age, Gaidinliu assumed leadership of the movement. She called upon the people to refuse British taxes and reject colonial authority. Under her leadership, tribal volunteers organized themselves into small guerrilla groups, using their intimate knowledge of the difficult terrain to evade British forces. The British administration viewed this young tribal girl as a serious threat. Rewards were announced for information leading to her capture, and military expeditions were launched into the forests and hills of present day Manipur, Nagaland, and Assam.

Arrest and Long Imprisonment.

In October 1932, British forces finally captured Gaidinliu after surrounding one of her hideouts.

Shillong, Aizawl, and Tura. During her imprisonment, she never abandoned her ideals. Her courage inspired many others across the North-East to continue resisting colonial rule.

In 1937, Jawaharlal Nehru met her in Shillong Jail. Deeply moved by her bravery, he called her the “Daughter of the Hills” and bestowed upon her the title “Rani”, meaning Queen. Despite his efforts, the British refused to release her because they feared she would once again unite the tribal people against their rule.

Freedom at Last.

India became independent in 1947, and Rani Gaidinliu finally walked out of prison after spending nearly fourteen precious years behind bars. Most people would have retired from public life after such suffering. Instead, she devoted herself to the welfare of the Zelian-grong people, preservation of tribal heritage, promotion of education, and national integration.

She strongly believed that the tribal communities of the North-East were an inseparable part of India. At the same time, she emphasized preserving their unique traditions, languages, and culture.

Recognition for Her Service.

Independent India gradually recognised her immense contribution to the freedom struggle. She received the Tamrapatra Freedom Fighter Award in 1972, the Padma Bhushan in 1982, and the Vivekananda Seva Award in 1983. After her death in 1993, the Government of India honoured her with a commemorative postage stamp and later issued a commemorative coin in her memory.

These honours acknowledged not merely an individual but the sacrifices of countless tribal freedom fighters whose stories deserve equal recognition in India's national history.

A Legacy Beyond the Battlefield.

Rani Gaidinliu's contribution extends far beyond armed resistance. She proved that patriotism is not measured by one's education, wealth, or position. A young girl from a remote tribal village challenged one of the world's greatest colonial empires through determination, faith, and leadership. Her life also reminds us that India's freedom struggle was fought not only in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, or Lahore, but equally in the forests, mountains, and remote villages of the North-East.

Lessons for the New Generation.

The story of Rani Gaidinliu offers timeless lessons. Young Indians must understand that age is never a barrier to leadership. Courage grows from conviction, not from power. National unity becomes stronger when every culture and community receives equal respect. Above all, forgotten heroes deserve remembrance because they shaped the India we proudly call our own. To sum up, today, when India speaks of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, the life of Rani Gaidinliu carries renewed relevance. She united spirituality with patriotism, tribal identity with national integration, and personal sacrifice with public service. Her story deserves to be taught in every school, remembered in every home, and celebrated across the nation. The brave girl who entered prison as a teenager emerged as one of India's greatest daughters a beacon of courage whose light continues to shine across the hills of the North-East.

Author's Note.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Rani Gaidinliu, whose extraordinary sacrifice remains one of the least known chapters of India's freedom movement. As a soldier and student of history, I believe that honouring such forgotten heroes strengthens our understanding of the nation's shared heritage and reminds us that freedom was won through sacrifices made in every corner of India.

About the Author.

Col (Dr.) Ashwani Kumar, MiD, VSM (Retd.), writing under the pen name Ashk Machhanvi, is a retired Indian Army officer, intelligence professional, researcher, curative historian and author. His writings focus on India's military history, strategic affairs, civilisational heritage, and the lives of unsung national heroes, especially from regions that have remained underrepresented in mainstream historical narratives.

Disclaimer:

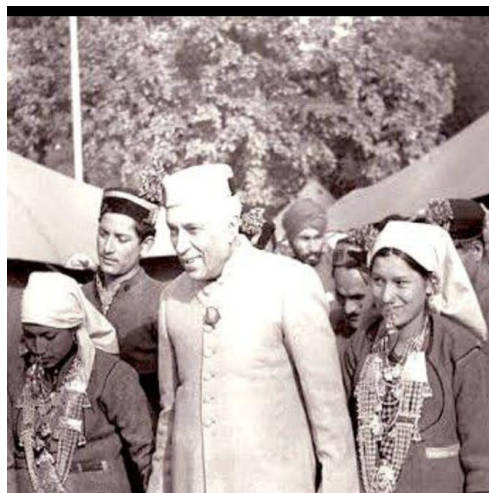
This article is based on historical records, published research, government publications, and other publicly available sources. It has been written for educational and public awareness purposes. Every effort has been made to ensure factual accuracy, however, readers are encouraged to consult additional scholarly sources for deeper study. Images accompanying this article, if any, remain the property of their respective copyright holders and are used solely for historical and illustrative purposes.



(i) Young Rani Gaidinliu “Rani Gaidinliu in her youth, when she led the resistance against British rule in the hills of Manipur and Nagaland.”

(ii) Rani Gaidinliu with Jawaharlal Nehru “Jawaharlal Nehru, who called her the ‘Daughter of the Hills,’ greatly admired her courage and sacrifices.”

(iii) Rani Gaidinliu with Family and Supporters “Rani Gaidinliu in later years with members of her community, continuing her work for tribal welfare and national integration.”



GROW YOUR BRAND WITH US!

KRC TIMES

Our media platform can help elevate your brand's reach and build awareness to a niche market and cover the last miles that align with your business goals and purposes.

OUR PLATFORMS:

Website

YouTube

Social Media

Magazine

E-Copy

Events

For more information, please contact us at:

www.krctimes.com

info@krcfoundation.org

DOWNLOAD ADVERTISEMENT RATE CARD

<https://bit.ly/krctimesratecard>

SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

PLACEMENT

Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com
To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krcfoundation.org
For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krclplacements>
Apply here: <https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm>

VOLUNTEERS REGISTERS @ NEIR 2026

We are looking for volunteers across NE & West Bengal Interested candidates (College students, youths) can register at https://northeastintegrationrally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspxor, send an email: neintegrationrally@gmail.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to InfoCom.Solutions@krctimes.com
Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com
For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krctudentinternship> or www.krcfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation certificates. Send articles at: info@krcfoundation.org
For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest>
www.krcfoundation.org/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest

CONNECT@ KRC TIMES

KRC TIMES

To engage with KRC TIMES, please use the following e-mails and WhatsApp Nos:
For News: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313
For Advertisement: info@krcfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083
For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313
Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313

Brain VISION

The key to happiness and success: Dream big, work hard, stay focused, and surround yourself with good people.

Published by KRC Foundation.H.No. 15, Old Kalibari Road, Malugram, Silchar, Assam 788002. Editor-in-chief: Biswadeep Gupta. Tel: 8721838313, e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com www.krctimes.com



WE'RE
HIRING

TECHNICAL
SALES
EXECUTIVE

ABOUT JIGYASU

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

ROLE

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

RESPONSIBILITIES

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

REQUIREMENTS

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

DETAILS

₹25,000-₹35,000/month + incentives

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

APPLY NOW & BE PART OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING!

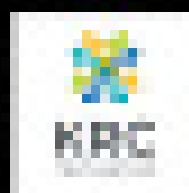


InfoCom

DIARY

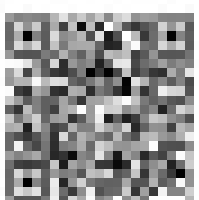


An Initiative of
KRC Foundation

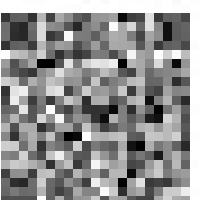


info@info.com.krc@gmail.com
www.krcfoundation.org
Tel: 0728038518

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

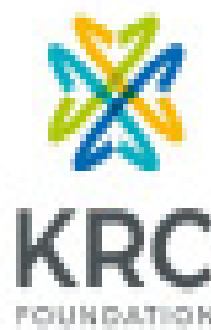
Scan and pay Rs. 300
Send the screen shot in our
WhatsApp: 8721838313
e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com



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
- SE 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