

Barak Festival
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025
www.krctimes.com
Mobile: 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.org

PERSPECTIVE

According to a study, your brain works harder to process insults than it does compliments.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The KRC TIMES e-copy will not be published tomorrow (15th August 2026) on the occasion of Independence Day.

Wishing you all a Happy Independence Day 2026 Stay Enriched!

~ Editor, KRC TIMES

Manipur Naga Body Opposes Census Before NRC, Backs Delimitation Forum Campaign

IMPHAL
The Naga People's Union, Imphal (NPUI), has opposed conducting the census in Manipur before the implementation and updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), while extending support to the Joint Forum for Delimitation's (JFD) campaign against the ongoing self-enumeration process.

In a press release, NPUI president M. Ngaranmi said the state government had failed to provide any concrete assurance or positive response to demands for identifying undocumented migrants before the census is conducted.

Ngaranmi said updating the NRC was necessary to identify undocumented migrants and safeguard the land, identity and demographic interests of indigenous communities.

He also expressed concern over what he described as unauthorised settlements and changes in the demographic composition of the state.

Calling for a united and peaceful democratic movement, Ngaranmi urged indigenous communities to collectively raise concerns over immigration and the protection of indigenous land rights.

WHO SAID WHAT

I'm not old enough and not a veteran Parliamentarian yet, but my experience with current opposition MPs is disappointing due to their irresponsible behavior. Protest is the right of every Indian. Protest at any place. MPs are elected to raise public issues inside the Parliament.

~ Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

IIT-Guwahati Researchers Develop Low-Cost Catalyst for Green Hydrogen Production

GUWAHATI
Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati have developed a low-cost and efficient catalyst for producing hydrogen from water, a breakthrough that could support India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and contribute to the transition towards cleaner energy.

Hydrogen is increasingly being viewed as a key component of the global shift towards sustainable energy. Unlike petroleum-based fuels, hydrogen produces water as the only byproduct when used to generate energy. It is also widely used in fuel cells and as a raw material in industries such as fertiliser manufacturing.

The research team, led by Akshai Kumar, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at IIT-Guwahati, developed a coordination polymer-based catalyst using nickel and an anthracene-based organic molecule.

Explaining the research, Kumar said the team synthesised the catalyst by linking anthracene units through nickel nodes using a simple process carried out at room



temperature with the aid of ultrasonic waves.

The resulting material forms an extended network in which metal atoms are connected by organic molecules. According to the researchers, this structure provides a high density of active sites required for the hydrogen evolution reaction while facilitating efficient electron transport.

The development addresses one of the major challenges associated with green hydrogen production. Although hydrogen can be

produced cleanly through water electrolysis, the process requires efficient catalysts. The most effective catalysts currently available often rely on rare and expensive noble metals, limiting their large-scale deployment.

The IIT-Guwahati team instead used nickel salt, which is relatively inexpensive and widely available. However, nickel salt by itself has limited efficiency and stability for hydrogen production. The researchers enhanced its performance by combining it with an

anthracene-based organic framework.

"The results reveal a significant synergic effect in the combination of nickel and the anthracene-based framework, with each component enhancing the performance of the other," said Kalishankar Bhattacharyya, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, who provided theoretical insights into the research.

The catalyst demonstrated stability during long-term operation, while the researchers found that nearly 88 per cent of the electrical energy supplied was effectively utilised for water splitting.

The researchers said minimising energy losses is critical for developing commercially viable systems capable of producing green hydrogen at scale.

The team also conducted chemical analyses and modelling studies to understand the catalyst's performance. The findings indicated that nickel atoms formed a three-dimensional network with the anthracene-based framework, contributing to the material's enhanced catalytic properties.

The study has been published in the Journal of Materials Chemistry A. It was co-authored by Kumar and Bhattacharyya along with research scholars Niharika Tanwar, Jumana Ishrat and Khadimul Islam, all from IIT-Guwahati.

At present, an estimated 90-95 per cent of hydrogen is produced using fossil fuels. Grey and blue hydrogen are produced from natural gas, while brown and black hydrogen are derived from coal. These processes generate greenhouse gas emissions, undermining the environmental advantages associated with hydrogen as an energy source.

Water, by contrast, offers a cleaner feedstock for hydrogen production. The researchers said the development of an inexpensive, stable and efficient catalyst could therefore help address a key technological barrier to expanding green hydrogen production.

The IIT-Guwahati research could contribute to efforts to make water-based hydrogen production more affordable and scalable, supporting India's broader ambitions to build a sustainable hydrogen economy.

Independence Day 2026: Seven Manipur Police Personnel Honoured with President's Medals



IMPHAL
Seven personnel of the Manipur Police have been selected for the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) and Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) as part of the Independence Day 2026 honours, the state police said on Friday.

Arambam Lakhendro Singh, an Armed Police Sub-Inspector, has been conferred the President's Medal for Distinguished Service.

Six other Manipur Police personnel have been awarded

the Medal for Meritorious Service. They are Inspector General Ningshen Worngam, Commandant Sarma Devi Khoisnam, Com m a n d a n t Wungpam Kasar, Havildar Leivon Lemboi Kom, Subedar Irungbam Shyamsunder Singh and Subedar Birla Singh Soraisham.

The honours recognise their distinguished and meritorious service, as well as their dedication and commitment to duty.

The Manipur Police congratulated the awardees and said the medals were a recognition of their exemplary service to the force and the nation.

The awards form part of the Independence Day 2026 honours announced to recognise police and other security personnel for distinguished and meritorious service.

Fresh Violence in Manipur's Kangpokpi Leaves One Dead, Three Critically Injured

IMPHAL
Fresh violence erupted in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Friday morning after suspected militants allegedly opened fire on villagers working in a paddy field at Langka Naga village along the Kangpokpi-Tamenglong border belt, leaving one person dead and three others critically injured.

The deceased was identified as 34-year-old Wiriliangbou Chawang, who sustained gunshot wounds and died at the spot. The three injured were identified as Kawidinang Abonmai, 55, Maliangjininang Abonmai, 52, and Namthiulungbou Primai, 50.

According to a senior police officer, a group of armed men carrying sophisticated weapons allegedly attacked the village at around 8 am.

"W Chawang died on the spot after sustaining gunshot injuries to his head. Three other villagers were injured in the attack," the officer said.

Local residents said the victims were working in a paddy field when the firing began. They also claimed that an armed group from the Naga village retaliated by firing at the suspected attackers. However, the circumstances surrounding the incident and



the identities of those involved had not been officially confirmed at the time of filing this report.

The injured villagers were reported to have sustained serious wounds and may be shifted to Imphal for advanced medical treatment, depending on their condition.

Security forces reportedly rushed to the area following the incident and launched efforts to assess the situation. No detailed official statement was available immediately.

Langka Naga village, located along the Imphal-Tamei Road in the sensitive Kangpokpi-Tamenglong border belt, has witnessed armed confrontations during the prolonged unrest in Manipur and remains vulnerable to fresh flare-ups.

The latest incident has renewed security concerns in Kangpokpi, where sporadic violence has continued despite efforts by the administration to restore normalcy.

The incident came two days after fresh violence was reported from the Champhai area of Kangpokpi, where around 10 houses and a church were allegedly set on fire during the night, triggering renewed tension.

The Liangmai Naga Council (LNC), Manipur, condemned the latest attack and demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible, a time-bound investigation and enhanced security in the affected area.

The renewed violence also comes days after Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh visited Kangpokpi on August 8. During the visit, he announced steps to facilitate free movement of people from all communities along national highways and the resumption of the Imphal-Dimapur bus service as part of efforts to rebuild confidence and restore normalcy.

The latest attack, however, underscores the continuing security challenges in the district and the fragile nature of the peace process in the conflict-affected areas of Manipur.

Militants Open Fire on Assam Rifles Rifles Post in Changlang



DIBRUGARH
An Assam Rifles post in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district came under militant fire on Friday morning, triggering a security operation near the India-Myanmar border ahead of Independence Day.

The incident took place at Longvi under Nampong Police Station, a remote border village in the Jairampur-Nampong area. No casualties were reported, according to security sources.

The attackers allegedly opened fire on the Assam Rifles post from across the India-Myanmar border, following which security personnel retaliated. The exchange of fire reportedly caused tension in the surrounding area.

Sources said the militants opened

indiscriminate fire on the post before Assam Rifles personnel responded with heavy fire. The attackers subsequently fled towards the border area.

Security agencies suspect the involvement of ULFA-I or NSCN-KYA, both of which have previously called for a boycott of Independence Day celebrations. However, the identities of those behind the attack had not been officially confirmed.

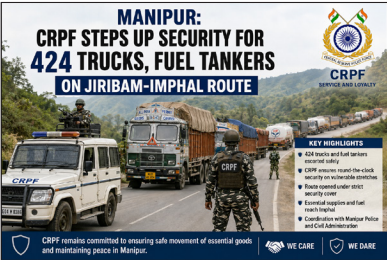
Following the incident, security forces launched a search operation to trace the attackers and intensified surveillance around the Assam Rifles post and adjoining areas.

Longvi's proximity to the international boundary with Myanmar makes the area strategically sensitive, with security forces maintaining heightened vigilance against militant movement and cross-border activities.

Assam Rifles installations in Arunachal Pradesh and other parts of the Northeast have been targeted by militant groups in the past.

The latest firing comes ahead of Independence Day, prompting security agencies to step up monitoring and area domination operations along vulnerable stretches of the international border.

Manipur: CRPF Steps Up Security for 424 Trucks, Fuel Tankers on Jiribam-Imphal Route



IMPHAL
The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has expanded security arrangements for the movement of essential supplies along the Jiribam-Imphal route, deploying additional escorts for a convoy of 424 loaded trucks and fuel tankers amid a continuing transport crisis. The convoy travelling from Jiribam to Imphal along National Highway-37 comprises 400 trucks carrying essential commodities and 24 fuel tankers. The CRPF has deployed dual security escorts for the fleet, significantly exceeding the usual convoy capacity of around 150 vehicles under a single escort.

The move comes after 381 loaded vehicles that had departed Jiribam on August 11 reached Imphal safely on Thursday evening.

However, the movement of vehicles in the reverse direction has remained slow. A separate security escort assigned to 271 empty trucks was yet to reach Jiribam within the expected timeframe, adding to the backlog of vehicles along the route.

The enhanced security deployment

follows growing pressure from transporters and drivers over prolonged disruptions on NH-37.

The Transporters' and Drivers' Council (TDC) had earlier issued an ultimatum to the state government following the death of a stranded driver in Jiribam. The council warned that if authorities failed to clear the backlog, transporters would begin moving trucks in batches of 500, with or without official security escorts.

TDC president Hijam Ranjit welcomed the increased security deployment but said escorts alone would not resolve the transport crisis.

He urged the state government to direct the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to undertake urgent repairs on damaged stretches of NH-37.

According to Ranjit, large potholes and severely damaged sections of the highway continue to slow down vehicle movement despite the additional security arrangements.

He said repairing the vulnerable stretches was essential to reduce travel time and restore the regular movement of essential commodities and fuel to Imphal.

The Jiribam-Imphal corridor remains a critical supply route for Manipur, and prolonged disruption has placed additional pressure on the movement of essential goods into the state. The latest security measures are aimed at facilitating the movement of stranded and loaded vehicles while road repairs remain a key concern for transporters.

Independence Day Security Alert: 15 Live Pistol Rounds Seized in Assam's Sribhumi, Youth Detained

SRIBHUMI
Police recovered 15 live rounds of ammunition during an operation in Assam's Sribhumi district on Friday, a day ahead of Independence Day, prompting heightened security concerns in the area.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid at a mobile accessories shop and detained a youth identified as Nasel Ahmed.

According to police sources, the operation led to the recovery of 15 live rounds of 7.5 mm pistol ammunition from Ahmed.

Ahmed, son of Farid Ali and a resident of Biskut village in Sribhumi district, was taken into custody for questioning, police said.

Investigators are now working to establish the source of the ammunition, the intended purpose for which it was allegedly procured and whether other individuals are linked to the case.

The seizure comes as security agencies across Assam remain on heightened alert ahead of Independence Day celebrations on August 15. Police are continuing their investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the recovery and ascertain whether the ammunition was part of a wider network or criminal activity.



Silchar MP Seeks Centre's Nod for Seven Major Road Projects in Barak Valley



SILCHAR
Silchar Lok Sabha MP and senior BJP Assam leader Parimal Suklabaidya met Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi and sought approval for seven major road projects aimed at improving connectivity across the Barak Valley.

Suklabaidya submitted a proposal outlining the development and upgradation of key road corridors in and around the Silchar constituency, citing persistent congestion and the need for better connectivity to support healthcare, education, trade, agriculture and economic activity.

Among the projects proposed is the four-laning of around 22 km of State Highway-39 between Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) and Dwarbond Bazar. The MP also sought four-laning of a 7-km stretch of NH-306 between Rangirkhari Point and Sonabarighat, along with a 6-km stretch of NH-37 between Capital Point and Silchar ISBT. Another major proposal is the construction of a 12.65-km greenfield bypass linking Silchar Annapurna Bridge with NH-27 at Dolu Bazar.

The proposed bypass is intended to divert heavy freight traffic away from Silchar town and ease pressure on existing urban roads. The other projects include four-laning of the 28.5-km SH-38 stretch between E&D Colony and Kalain, widening of a 13-

km NH-37 section along the Kashipur route and upgrading a 12-km NH-37 stretch along the Rongpur route.

According to the MP, the proposed infrastructure projects would help reduce congestion, improve road safety and facilitate the movement of ambulances, students, farmers, traders, commuters and essential goods.

Suklabaidya also raised the status of road proposals that received "in-principle" approval for National Highway development during 2017-18. He urged Gadkari to expedite the formal approvals and sanctions required to take the projects forward.

Gadkari heard the issues raised by the MP and acknowledged the connectivity challenges facing the Barak Valley. He assured Suklabaidya that the Ministry would examine and prioritise roads that had previously received in-principle approval for National Highway status and work towards expediting the necessary processes. The Union minister also assured the MP that issues relating to the repair and improvement of critical State Highways in the Barak Valley would be communicated to the Assam government for appropriate action. Suklabaidya later thanked Gadkari for considering the region's infrastructure requirements, saying improved road connectivity would be crucial to unlocking the economic potential of the Barak Valley and strengthening its links with neighbouring states.

If approved and implemented, the proposed projects could address several major connectivity bottlenecks around Silchar while improving access to key healthcare, educational, commercial and agricultural centres across the region.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 850

HAR GHAR TIRANGA
A LIVING EXPRESSION
OF NATIONAL UNITY

The Tricolour will once again rise across India as the nation observes Har Ghar Tiranga from August 9 to 17, 2026, alongside the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram. Tiranga Yatras, exhibitions, concerts and a range of public activities will mark the occasion.

Such celebrations are important. A nation needs symbols that bring its people together, and few symbols possess the emotional power of the Indian Tricolour. But the deeper significance of Har Ghar Tiranga lies beyond the act of putting a flag on a rooftop, balcony or vehicle.

The campaign should invite the country to reflect on what the Tricolour actually demands of its citizens.

A flag can unite a nation visually. Only shared values can unite it meaningfully.

The Tricolour is India's most recognisable symbol of collective identity. It rises above differences of language, religion, region, culture and tradition and reminds citizens that diversity does not have to be a source of division. India's strength has always rested on its ability to accommodate extraordinary differences within a common national framework.

That idea deserves renewed emphasis at a time when public life can often appear sharply polarised.

The phrase "Har Ghar Tiranga" should therefore mean more than a flag in every household. It should mean the values of the republic finding a place in every household.

The national flag carries a powerful historical memory. It recalls a freedom struggle in which ordinary men and women, from different regions and communities, contributed to the making of an independent India. The freedom enjoyed today was not inherited without cost. It was secured through courage, sacrifice, perseverance and an unwavering belief in India's ability to govern itself.

Every time the Tricolour is raised, that history is brought back into public consciousness.

But remembering the freedom struggle cannot be reduced to remembering its heroes alone. It also requires understanding the ideals for which generations of Indians struggled.

The Tricolour's three colours and the Ashoka Chakra embody a larger national message. Saffron evokes courage and sacrifice; white represents peace and truth; and green signifies growth, prosperity and the richness of the land. At the centre, the Ashoka Chakra, with its 24 spokes, represents movement, righteousness and the continuous journey of progress.

Together, these elements represent an India that must be courageous without becoming intolerant, peaceful without becoming passive, prosperous without becoming exclusionary and progressive without forgetting its responsibilities.

This is where Har Ghar Tiranga acquires its real significance. The campaign can become an opportunity to remind citizens that patriotism is not simply an emotion. It is also a responsibility. A citizen who proudly hoists the national flag but disregards public property, refuses to follow basic civic norms, discriminates against fellow citizens or spreads hatred cannot claim to have fully understood what the flag represents. National pride must be accompanied by civic responsibility. The Tricolour should therefore inspire citizens to ask difficult but necessary questions. Are we respecting the rights of fellow citizens? Are we protecting public spaces? Are we treating people with dignity? Are we obeying the law? Are we contributing to the welfare of our communities? Are we leaving behind a better country for the next generation?

These are also acts of patriotism.

India's unity cannot be sustained by slogans alone. It requires everyday behaviour that reinforces trust and fraternity.

The Tricolour is particularly significant because it belongs to everyone. No political party, organisation, community or ideology owns it. It is the national flag of every Indian.

That distinction is important.

National symbols should unite rather than become instruments of political or social competition. The strength of the Tricolour lies precisely in its ability to rise above partisan identities.

Har Ghar Tiranga should therefore be a people's movement rather than merely another government programme. Its success should not be measured only by the number of flags displayed, photographs uploaded or events organised. Its real success should be measured by whether the campaign encourages citizens—particularly young Indians—to think more deeply about citizenship. For India's younger generation, patriotism must be made relevant to contemporary realities. The freedom fighters of the past fought colonialism. Today's generation faces a different set of challenges: unemployment, inequality, environmental degradation, misinformation, technological disruption, social polarisation and the pressures of an increasingly competitive global order. Serving the nation today therefore requires different forms of courage. It means acquiring knowledge and skills. It means respecting democratic institutions. It means rejecting misinformation. It means treating people of different backgrounds with dignity. It means protecting the environment. It means paying taxes honestly, obeying laws and performing one's duties even when nobody is watching. The freedom secured by previous generations places an obligation on the present generation to preserve it. This is why the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram alongside Har Ghar Tiranga can provide an additional opportunity for reflection. Songs, symbols and patriotic literature acquire meaning when they connect citizens with the history and aspirations of the nation rather than becoming empty rituals. The objective should not be merely to create an atmosphere of patriotic celebration for a few days. It should be to cultivate a durable sense of belonging. India is too diverse to be held together by uniformity. Its unity must come from a deeper understanding that different identities can coexist within one constitutional and national framework. The Tricolour represents precisely that possibility. When it flies over a village home in Assam, a school in Nagaland, a shop in Delhi, a government office in Kerala or a house in Kashmir, the geographical and cultural differences remain. What changes is the recognition of a shared national identity. That is the quiet power of a national flag. At a time when social media can amplify division within minutes, symbols of shared belonging acquire even greater importance. But symbols work only when the values behind them are respected. The real test of Har Ghar Tiranga will therefore begin after August 17. Will the spirit of unity survive after the flags are lowered? Will citizens continue to respect one another despite differences of opinion? Will young people understand that democracy requires both rights and responsibilities?

Will national pride translate into greater civic discipline?

Will we remember that sovereignty and national strength ultimately depend upon social cohesion?

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I prefer tongue-tied knowledge
to ignorant loquacity.
- Cicero, 63 BC

COL SATISH SINGH LALOTRA

Every August 15, India wraps itself in the tricolour. Patriotic songs fill the air, speeches recall the sacrifices of the freedom movement, and social media overflows with declarations of national pride. For a few hours, the country appears to move as one.

But patriotism that survives only from sunrise to sunset on Independence Day is little more than ceremonial nationalism. The real test of freedom begins on August 16, when the flags come down, the speeches end and the country returns to the difficult business of governing itself.

As India enters its 80th year of Independence, it is no longer fighting colonial rule. Its more complicated challenge is confronting its own contradictions. The greatest threats to the republic today do not necessarily arrive from foreign shores. Many have emerged from within—institutional erosion, shrinking space for reasoned public discourse, widening inequality, an employment challenge that accompanies rapid economic expansion, and a political culture that sometimes rewards spectacle over substance.

The uncomfortable truth is that India is progressing and regressing simultaneously.

Let me begin by extending my greetings to fellow citizens on the 80th Independence Day. I am conscious that this article may appear less celebratory than the conventional Independence Day discourse. That is deliberate. There is no intention to undermine national pride or diminish India's considerable achievements. But if Independence Day is genuinely an occasion for introspection, then someone must ask uncomfortable questions. This article is an attempt to do precisely that.

India's achievements are substantial. The economy has expanded, highways and expressways have multiplied, digital payments have transformed commerce, defence manufacturing has acquired greater momentum and India's geopolitical relevance has risen considerably. India's technological capabilities, space programme and digital public infrastructure have earned international recognition.

These achievements deserve unequivocal applause.

Yet beneath this impressive India lies another India—one whose problems cannot be concealed by impressive statistics or spectacular infrastructure.

The first major issue concerns India's greatest demographic advantage: its young population.

A youthful population can propel a nation towards extraordinary economic and social transformation. But demographics become a dividend only when young people have access to quality education, meaningful employment and opportunities for advancement.

India cannot afford a situation in which educated young people spend years preparing for competitive examinations, only to confront delayed recruitment processes, cancelled examinations or allegations of irregularities. Millions possess academic degrees but struggle to find employment that matches their qualifications. Coaching centres have, in many places, become parallel universities because confidence in formal educational systems has weakened.

This is not merely an employment problem. It is a national security and democratic challenge.

A frustrated generation can become vulnerable to polarisation, misinformation and political manipulation. History, including India's own experience in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere, demonstrates that prolonged alienation among young people can acquire consequences far beyond the immediate economic sphere.

The demographic dividend must therefore be converted into a dividend of opportunity. Otherwise, the same demographic strength that India celebrates could become a source of social anxiety.

The second challenge is the health of public discourse.



A democracy is not strengthened when everybody agrees. It is strengthened when citizens can disagree without treating one another as enemies.

Unfortunately, disagreement in contemporary India is increasingly being interpreted through the language of loyalty and disloyalty. Nuance has become unfashionable. Social media algorithms reward outrage, while television debates frequently turn complex issues into gladiatorial contests. National questions involving economics, federalism, foreign policy, identity or social policy are routinely reduced to simplistic binaries.

One must either applaud unquestioningly or oppose reflexively.

But democracy cannot flourish in such an atmosphere.

A republic requires citizens who can listen, question, disagree and change their minds. Nations become intellectually weaker when conformity replaces curiosity. The ability to disagree respectfully is not a weakness of democracy; it is one of its greatest strengths.

Equally worrying is the erosion of institutional trust.

India has never possessed institutions that were entirely free of flaws. Our universities, investigative agencies, regulatory institutions, media organisations and other public bodies have faced controversies in the past as well. But the credibility of institutions depends upon the public's belief that they operate according to established rules rather than political convenience.

When institutional independence is repeatedly questioned, even without every allegation being proved, the damage extends beyond individual controversies. It affects the confidence of citizens in the republic itself.

The judiciary, universities, media, bureaucracy, regulatory bodies and investigative agencies therefore carry a responsibility that extends beyond their formal mandates. Their legitimacy depends upon professionalism, transparency, independence and public confidence.

The republic cannot remain strong if its institutions become objects of permanent suspicion.

The third contradiction is economic.

India has produced wealth and billionaires at an extraordinary pace. It has built modern cities, expanded infrastructure and created globally competitive companies. Yet prosperity has not always travelled with comparable speed to villages, small towns and informal workers.

Glittering skylines can coexist with fragile livelihoods.

Growth is essential, but growth without inclusion can eventually produce resentment. GDP figures can tell us how rapidly an economy is expanding, but they cannot fully capture the anxiety of a family struggling with medical expenses, expensive education, inadequate savings or uncertain employment.

The quality of economic growth must therefore be judged not merely by the size of the economy but by the opportunities it creates.

India needs growth that generates productive employment, strengthens small enterprises, improves agricultural incomes, ex-

pands social mobility and provides young people with a realistic pathway towards a better future.

Another paradox concerns governance.

Technology has transformed the Indian state's ability to deliver services. Digital payments, online public services, direct benefit transfers and digital identification have brought remarkable efficiencies. The transformation deserves recognition.

But technology cannot replace accountability.

A government can become digitally efficient while remaining administratively insensitive. Citizens ultimately judge governance not by the sophistication of an application but by whether they receive justice, whether an official listens to them, whether a welfare benefit reaches them and whether rules are applied fairly.

The republic must therefore remember that technology is a tool of governance, not a substitute for good governance.

Perhaps the most dangerous development of our time is the replacement of informed citizenship by emotional mobilisation.

Almost every issue can rapidly become a battle of identities—religion, language, region, history and even food. Political mobilisation based entirely on emotion may produce short-term electoral gains, but a nation cannot build a stable future on permanent social confrontation.

India's diversity has always been its defining characteristic. Managing diversity does not mean eliminating differences. It means creating a constitutional framework in which differences can coexist without threatening the unity of the republic.

This becomes even more important as India confronts an increasingly complicated external environment.

India has dealt with external challenges with greater confidence in recent years, while attempting to place national interests at the centre of its strategic calculations. Yet the international environment is becoming more uncertain. An assertive China, instability in India's neighbourhood, technological competition, artificial intelligence, cyber threats and fragile global supply chains demand strategic clarity rather than rhetorical confidence.

National power is not merely military power. It rests upon economic resilience, technological capability, institutional credibility, social cohesion and the confidence of citizens in their own country.

That brings us back to the question of the republic's compass.

India still possesses enormous democratic strengths. Unlike authoritarian systems, it retains constitutional freedoms that allow citizens to vote governments out of office, courts to intervene, journalists to investigate, civil society to organise and universities to debate.

These democratic correctives are among India's greatest comparative advantages.

But democratic institutions do not preserve themselves automatically.

They require citizens to defend constitutional values, institutions to uphold professional standards, governments to respect account-

ability and political parties to recognise that winning an election is not the same as possessing unlimited authority.

The strength of a republic is measured not by how loudly it celebrates itself but by how honestly it examines itself.

At 79 years of Independence, India has much to celebrate. It has survived enormous challenges, transformed its economy, expanded its technological capabilities and emerged as an increasingly influential power. Millions of Indians have moved out of poverty, infrastructure has improved and the country's global ambitions are no

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Friends, Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra's Bar Council of India spent 14 CRORES on meetings and conferences in just one year. Today, he had to withdraw a portion of his outrageous order on NALSAR students within 1 hour. So where and how is this 14 crores being spent? 12 crores was also spent on travel and accommodation. But what has been the result? If Mr. Mishra is capable of issuing such a draconian order against young students, then what welfare has he been doing for young lawyers and law schools? He's been in the position since 2012 and will be till 2030. Time's up, Mr. Mishra! #LegalCockroachesUnite and hold him accountable. @Cockroachisback

~ Saurabh Das, Co-Convenor, Cockroach Janata Party



onger in doubt.

But ambition without introspection can become arrogance.

The national question before India is therefore not whether the country is progressing. It clearly is. The more important question is whether the benefits of that progress are reaching enough citizens, whether institutions are retaining public trust, whether disagreement remains legitimate and whether economic and technological advancement is accompanied by social cohesion.

The freedom movement gave India more than political independence. It gave the country a constitutional imagination built around liberty, equality, justice and fraternity.

Those principles cannot remain confined to speeches delivered on August 15.

They must be visible in the classroom, the workplace, the police station, the courtroom, the polling booth, the marketplace and the ordinary citizen's interaction with the state.

Perhaps, therefore, the 80th Independence Day should not only be a celebration of how far India has travelled. It should also be an opportunity to ask where it is going.

Has the national compass begun to deviate?

If so, the answer is not despair. It is recalibration.

India does not need to choose between patriotism and criticism. True patriotism demands both pride in the country's achievements and courage to confront its shortcomings.

The republic does not need louder nationalism. It needs stronger institutions, better opportunities for its young people, inclusive growth, responsible public discourse and a renewed commitment to constitutional values.

The freedom fighters who envisioned an independent India did not merely dream of a powerful country. They dreamed of a free one.

As the tricolour rises again this August 15, let us celebrate India's journey—but also examine its direction.

For the real test of Independence begins the morning after the celebration.

And that is when the national compass matters most.

IMD Gave Seven-Day Rainfall Alerts Before July Floods in Upper Assam: Centre

GUWAHATI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued rainfall forecasts and warnings up to seven days in advance before heavy to very heavy rainfall triggered flooding across parts of Upper Assam in July, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

In a written reply, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh said the IMD issued district-level rainfall forecasts and colour-coded warnings for districts including Jorhat, Golaghat, Sivasagar and Charaideo before and during the period of intense rainfall from July 18 to

20.

The forecasts included daily warnings covering the subsequent seven days, according to the ministry.

The response comes against the backdrop of severe flooding across Upper Assam during July, with Sivasagar, Charaideo and Jorhat among the affected districts. Intense rainfall and rapid rises in river levels caused widespread disruption and affected thousands of people.

Multiple weather systems triggered heavy rain

According to the Centre, the intense rainfall was associated with a combination of weather systems, including a low-pressure area over Gangetic West

Bengal and adjoining areas and an upper-air cyclonic circulation over Northeast Assam.

The circulation subsequently moved towards Central Assam and adjoining Nagaland and remained active until July 20.

The ministry said the IMD evaluates its extreme rainfall forecasts across different regions of Assam using indicators such as probability of detection, false alarm ratio and the Critical Success Index.

Northeast Assam recorded the highest detection performance among the four regions assessed.

The Probability of Detection was 0.7229 for forecasts issued one day in advance, but declined

to 0.1857 for forecasts issued five days ahead. The False Alarm Ratio rose from 0.3913 on Day 1 to 0.5538 on Day 5, while the Critical Success Index fell from 0.4275 to 0.19 over the same period.

The figures show that forecast accuracy generally declines as the lead time increases.

Seasonal forecasts not enough to assess flood risk

The Centre said seasonal rainfall forecasts take into account broader climate patterns, including the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

However, these factors alone cannot determine flood risks in the Northeast, where short-duration extreme rainfall, river

levels and local catchment conditions play a significant role.

Flood forecasting is carried out by the Central Water Commission (CWC), which combines IMD rainfall forecasts with river gauge observations, hydrological information and forecasting models.

The Centre said efforts are underway to improve weather forecasting at the sub-district level across the Northeast.

The high-resolution Bharat Forecasting System (Bharat-FS), with a resolution of 6 km, has been operationalised to provide forecasts at block and panchayat levels.

Under Mission Mausam, the government has also in-

troduced the Multi-Hazard Early Warning-Decision Support System (MHEW-DSS) for real-time monitoring and forecasting.

The weather observation network across the Northeast is being expanded with additional monitoring systems to improve the availability and accuracy of local weather data.

The government said the combination of advance rainfall forecasts, river-level monitoring, hydrological modelling and enhanced observation infrastructure is intended to strengthen early-warning capabilities and improve preparedness for extreme weather and flooding across the region.

Supreme Court Allows Appeal in Assam's Karimganj Lok Sabha Election Case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court allowed a civil appeal challenging the dismissal of an election petition concerning the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Assam's No. 7 Karimganj Parliamentary Constituency.A Bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice K. Vinod Chandran heard Civil Appeal No. 7474 of 2025, Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury vs Kripanath Mallah & Others, arising from Election Petition No. 1 of 2024.

The appeal was filed under Section 116A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, against a judgment of the Gauhati High Court dated April 4, 2025.

The High Court had dismissed the election petition at the threshold following an application by the returned candidate under Section 86 of the Representation of the People Act.

Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury, who contested the 2024 parliamentary election from Karimganj, had filed the original election petition.According to the appeal papers, Choudhury polled 5,26,733 votes, while the returned candidate secured 5,45,093 votes, resulting in a margin of 18,360 votes.The election petition included allegations of corrupt practices under Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act.

However, the allegations were not examined on their merits because the Gauhati High Court dismissed the petition at the threshold.The High Court's decision was based on objections concerning compliance with statutory requirements relating to copies and attestation of election petitions.

Before the Supreme Court, Choudhury challenged the correctness of the High Court's decision, arguing that the requirements under Section 81(3) of the Representation of the People Act

NIA Arrests Man in Manipur IED Attack That Killed Two Children

IMPHAL

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a man in connection with an improvised explosive device (IED) attack on a residential house in Manipur's Bishnupur district that killed two minor children and injured another person in April.

The accused, identified as S. Palal Thadou, was arrested as part of the NIA's investigation into the alleged larger conspiracy behind the attack, the agency said on Wednesday.The incident occurred on April 7 at Tronglao-bi Awang Leikai, when suspected militants allegedly launched an explosive device from a hillside towards the locality. The device struck the wall of a residential house and exploded, seriously injuring three members of a family.Two of the injured, both minor children, later succumbed to their injuries.An unexploded improvised rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was also recovered near the

site, according to the NIA.

Case taken over by NIA
The case was initially registered at Moirang Police Station before being taken over by the NIA. The agency re-registered the case on April 23 as RC-04/2026/NIA/IMP under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Explosive Substances Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.During its investigation, the NIA said it uncovered evidence allegedly indicating Thadou's involvement in the attack.The accused had previously been arrested by Churachandpur Police in connection with FIR No. 17(02)/2026 and later by Bishnupur Police in connection with FIR No. 12(03)/2026 registered at PGCI Police Station.The NIA described Thadou's arrest as the first arrest in the case and said it is aimed at uncovering the wider conspiracy behind the attack and identifying other individuals allegedly involved.

Assam-Arunachal Border Tension Escalates as Protesters Clash with Security Forces

GUWAHATI

Tensions along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border intensified on Thursday as an ongoing economic blockade over a recent firing incident escalated into stone-pelting, leaving police and CRPF personnel under attack from protesters.

The situation remained tense along the Silapathar-Likabali highway and in parts of Assam's Dhemaji and Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Siang districts, following a border firing incident that has heightened tensions between members of the Mising and Galo communities.

The firing took place on August 10 at Mingmang Basti along the inter-state border under the Gogamukh revenue circle of Gerukamukh police station in Dhemaji. Twelve people were injured in the incident, which reportedly followed a dispute over alleged encroachment on Assam land by people from Arunachal Pradesh.

Economic blockade disrupts connectivity

In response to the incident,



the Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK) launched an indefinite economic blockade on August 12, disrupting road connectivity between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh at several points.

The blockade has particularly affected the Silapathar-Likabali route, a key road link between the two states. Vehicles bearing Arunachal Pradesh registration numbers have reportedly been stopped at several entry points as part of the protest.

The situation deteriorated further on Thursday when protesters allegedly resorted to stone-pelt-

ing. Police and CRPF personnel deployed to manage the situation were reportedly targeted from both sides.

Authorities have appealed to protesters and residents to exercise restraint and maintain peace, warning against actions that could further aggravate tensions between the neighbouring states.

Protest groups demand arrests
The TMPK, along with the Mising Mimag Kebang (MMK) and Takam Mising Mahila Kebang (TMMK), has demanded the arrest of those allegedly involved in the August 10 firing and their hando-

ver to Assam Police.

The organisations have also called for an early settlement of the long-standing Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary dispute and demanded an end to what they describe as encroachment on Assam territory.

The latest confrontation has revived concerns over the potential for local disputes along the inter-state boundary to trigger wider tensions between communities living on either side.

Border dispute remains unresolved

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804.1-km inter-state boundary, with several areas along the border remaining disputed.

The two states have been pursuing a negotiated settlement through regional mechanisms and the Namsai Declaration framework. However, periodic disputes over land and alleged encroachment continue to create tensions in border areas.

Centre Pushes Sustainable Agarwood Cultivation, Exports in Tripura and Northeast

NEW DELHI

The Centre has stepped up efforts to promote legal and sustainable agarwood cultivation, value addition and exports in Tripura and other northeastern states, with measures aimed at improving traceability, simplifying procedures and strengthening rural livelihoods.Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh informed Parliament that agarwood has significant potential to generate employment in rural areas, boost exports and provide ecological benefits. The minister was responding to a question raised by Tripura East MP Kirti Devi Debbarman.For Tripura, the Centre has fixed an annual export quota of 22,500 kg of plantation-grown agarwood chips, powder and sawdust, along with 1,047 kg of agarwood oil, for the financial years 2024-25 to 2026-27.The quotas were determined based on the recommendations of the 2024 Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) Study, which assessed the availability of cultivated agarwood for sustainable exports.The government has also included promotion of agarwood cultivation through agroforestry systems among the announcements made in the Union Budget 2026-27.

Agarwood, valued for its aromatic properties and widely used in perfumes, incense and traditional products, has emerged as a potentially important commercial crop for the

Northeast.The Centre has also taken steps to simplify procedures relating to the transit, certification and export of cultivated agarwood and its value-added products.The minister said representations from the Tripura government and other stakeholders seeking easier procedures had been examined through consultations involving various ministries, state governments, exporters and industry associations.As part of efforts to improve the ease of doing business, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), in consultation with the Environment Ministry, has developed a dedicated Certificate of Origin module for agarwood on the Trade Connect ePlatform.The digital system enables exporters to submit information relating to the origin of the produce, available stock, chain of custody and inspection records.The system is intended to improve transparency and traceability and help ensure that exported agarwood is sourced legally from cultivated stocks.

The government is also promoting scientific inoculation of agarwood trees to improve cultivation practices.

The Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, is providing technical assistance to growers and helping protect cultivators from exploitation by unregulated service providers.

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) is

Arunachal Makes PRC, APST Certificate, Tribal Language Mandatory for Government Jobs

ITANAGAR

The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet on Thursday approved a new set of uniform eligibility conditions for direct recruitment to government posts, making a Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC), Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST) certificate and proficiency in an indigenous tribal language mandatory for candidates.

The new provisions will take immediate effect and apply to direct recruitment through competitive examinations for state government departments, public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and local authorities.

The requirements will be incorporated into the Recruitment Rules and Service Rules for Group A, B and C posts and their equivalents, according to an official statement issued after the Cabinet meeting.

Under the new norms, applicants must be Indian citizens and inhabitants of Arunachal Pradesh holding a valid PRC. They must also be original inhabitants of the state and possess an APST certificate issued in accordance with the Scheduled Tribe list notified by the Centre.

Candidates will additionally be required to demonstrate proficiency in at least one indigenous tribal lan-

guage from a list to be notified by the state government.

The Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APSPC) and Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board (APSSB) have been directed to incorporate the new eligibility conditions into future recruitment advertisements and rules. The government will separately establish a mechanism to assess candidates' proficiency in indigenous languages after they join government service.

The decision comes amid sustained pressure from student and tribal organisations seeking stronger safeguards for employment opportunities for indigenous people and demanding the removal of the existing 80:20 recruitment ratio.

The All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) has been demanding mandatory PRC and APST certificates for government recruitment and had submitted its recommendations to the High Power Committee examining the state's recruitment policy. The committee accepted the recommendations, including the requirement for proficiency in an indigenous language.

Under the existing 80:20 arrangement, 80 per cent of state government jobs are reserved for local Scheduled Tribe candidates, while the remaining 20 per cent is open to general competition.

However, the Cabinet did not announce any change to the 80:20 system on Thursday. The decision instead establishes uniform eligibility requirements for direct recruitment based on residence, indigenous status and language proficiency.

AAPSU has set August 15 as the deadline for the government to announce its position on the recruitment ratio and has warned of a 12-hour statewide bandh on August 17 if its demand is not addressed.

The Arunachal Frontier Tribal Front (AFTF) has also demanded complete removal of the 80:20 ratio, along with mandatory ST and PRC certificates and proficiency in an indigenous language or dialect for government recruitment.

Promotion norms relaxed for school education officials

The Cabinet also approved a one-time two-year relaxation in the qualifying service requirement for promotion to the posts of principal and Deputy Director of School Education (DDSE) under the Recruitment Rules, 2010.

The minimum qualifying service for headmasters, vice-principals and district adult education officers seeking promotion to these positions has been reduced from eight years to six years.

The government said the move would help fill vacant principal posts in government higher secondary schools and address a long-standing demand from public and student organisations. It is also expected to strengthen school administration and improve academic performance.

Industrial development bill approved

Among other decisions, the Cabinet approved the draft Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development Area Bill, 2026, for introduction in the state Assembly.

The proposed legislation seeks to

establish a statutory framework for the development, management and maintenance of industrial development areas in the state, which currently lacks dedicated legislation for the purpose.

The Cabinet also approved amendments to the Senior Statistical Assistant Recruitment Rules, 2000, under the Agriculture Department. The amendments cover the pay scale, age limit, educational qualifications, recruitment procedure, composition of departmental promotion committees and consultation with the APSPC.

PWD divisions to be restructured
The Cabinet further approved a one-time relaxation in the qualifying service requirement for promotion from Executive Engineer to Superintending Engineer in the Public Works Department.

The measure is intended to fill vacant Superintending Engineer posts and address cadre shortages affecting project supervision, infrastructure works and departmental management.

It also approved the relocation of the existing Rupa Highway Division of the PWD to Nafta in Bichom district, with the division to be renamed the Nafta PWD Division.

The restructuring follows the transfer of Frontier Highway works from the PWD to the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The government said the move would also strengthen administrative infrastructure in the newly created district.

STUDENT 5E for SUCCESS

INTERNSHIP

STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.

APPLY NOW

Seforsuccess@gmail.com

Live Project

Incentives

Certificate

Free Training

ONOE panel mulls safeguards against ‘unscrupulous’ PM, CMs dissolving Houses: JPC chair



NEW DELHI

Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on One-Nation-One-Election (ONOE) PP Chaudhary on Thursday indicated that the panel is seriously looking at ways to further strengthen the provisions under Articles 85(2) and 174(2) to eliminate the possibility of an “unscrupulous” Prime Minister or Chief Minister getting the Lok Sabha or a state Assembly dissolved midway.

Article 85(2) empowers the President of India to dissolve the Lok Sabha on the aid and advice of the Prime Minister, while Article 174(2) empowers the Governor of a state to dissolve a state Assembly on the aid and advice of the Chief Minister.

Chaudhary, the BJP MP from Pali Lok Sabha seat, said the Union government, too, cannot arbitrarily dismiss an elected state government or dissolve its Assembly, as such action can be challenged in court.

The use of Article 356, which provides for President’s Rule, has also become significantly more difficult following

the Supreme Court’s landmark SR Bommai judgement, he said.

Elaborating on the evolution of the ONOE proposal, Chaudhary said there was broad agreement within the JPC on the merits of holding simultaneous elections and that members were convinced that the provisions of the Bill before the committee would not disturb the basic structure of the Constitution, including the federal structure.

It only aims to fix a calendar for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, the BJP MP added.

In this photo from March 25, 2025, Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), PP Chaudhary, speaks during the JPC meeting on the ONOE Bill in New Delhi.

In this photo from March 25, 2025, Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), PP Chaudhary, speaks during the JPC meeting on the ONOE Bill in New Delhi.

Chaudhary said members of the Congress, including Priyanka Gandhi, had acknowledged the merits of the proposal, although the committee was primarily focused on finding a workable mechanism for its

implementation.

“There is complete unanimity among members of the committee on the merit and advantages of holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. But the question we are looking at is how to implement the scheme,” he said.

The committee, he added, is conducting extensive consultations with stakeholders across the country and examining the constitutional, legal and practical aspects of the proposal.

It is also engaging prominent legal experts, including former Chief Justices of India, as it weighs different options.

According to Chaudhary, the JPC is grappling with two fundamental questions: how to synchronise national and state elections, and how to maintain that synchronisation over time. “These are exactly the issues on which we are brainstorming and meeting people,” he said.

The committee is also examining every clause of the proposed legislation and attempting to evolve a consensus among its members before finalising its report, which will be submitted to Parliament.

‘May this day deepen our resolve to preserve harmony, brotherhood’: PM Modi



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday marked Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, paying tribute to those who suffered during the Partition and recalling the courage of people who rebuilt their lives despite immense loss and displacement.

In a post on X, PM Modi said: “Today we mark Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. We recall the courage of all those who were impact-

ed by Partition. It was a moment in history that tore apart several lives... families were uprooted, loved ones were lost, and immense suffering was endured.”

“At the same time, overcoming this, people rebuilt their lives from nothing, turned adversity into achievement and contributed immensely to our nation’s progress. Their life journeys remind us of the strength of the human spirit. May this day deepen our resolve to pre-

serve harmony and brotherhood in our nation and collectively work towards building a Viksit Bharat,” he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also remembered the victims of Partition and described August 14, 1947, as one of the most brutal chapters in history.

In a post on X, HM Shah said: “The day of 14 August 1947 stands witness to one of the most brutal chapters in history, in which mil-

lions of people had to lose their lives enduring inhuman suffering, and tens of millions were forced to abandon their homes, property, and loved ones and become displaced. This scar of the country’s partition, which is a gift from the Congress, will never be forgotten by history. I pay my respectful homage to all those who lost their lives in this catastrophe and to those who struggled against the atrocities.”

“Through Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, the Modi government is reaching the memories of this tragedy to the youth, so that the forces seeking to divide the country again can never succeed and ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ (One India, Excellent India) becomes our supreme goal,” he added.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also paid tribute to those who lost their lives during Partition and said the event was not merely a division of geographical boundaries but also a breaking apart of families, relationships and emotions.

In a post on X, Yogi Adityanath said: “The Partition of 1947 was not merely a division of boundaries. It was also a shattering of the dreams, relationships, and emotions of countless families.”

“Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” reminds us to recall that unimaginable pain, learn from it, and conveys the message of holding the unity and integrity of the nation above all.

A humble tribute to the innocent citizens who lost their lives in this horrific fragmentation. Their memories will forever inspire us to build a strong, united, and indivisible India.”

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed on August 14 to remember the suffering, displacement and loss of lives associated with the Partition of India in 1947. Partition led to one of the largest movements of people in modern history, as millions crossed newly created borders amid widespread communal violence and upheaval.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif warns India over Indus Waters Treaty in Independence Day address

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has once again dipped into its familiar playbook of indulging in empty and hollow rhetoric against India, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif threatening a “direct response” over water even as Islamabad grapples with a mounting share of crises at home – from worsening militant violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to unrest and human-rights abuses in Balochistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), alongside the continued imprisonment of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Yet, rather than confronting these failures, Sharif has once again chosen India as the target of his rhetoric.

Sharif, speaking at an event on the eve of Pakistan’s Independence Day on Thursday, sought to portray India as an “enemy of peace” over New Delhi’s decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following the Pahalagam terror attack on April 22, which led to the death of 26 innocent individuals and ranting about the treaty as a national “red line”.

Following the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalagam, India kept the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance after a Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting on April 23, 2025 and asserted that the conditions under which the treaty was negotiated have fundamentally changed.

India has stated that the treaty can no longer function in its present form and will remain in abeyance until Pakistan “credibly and irrevocably” ends its support for cross-border terrorism.

“The Prime Minister said that India has proven itself an enemy of peace by unilaterally and illegally suspending the Indus Waters Treaty. He announced that every drop of Pakistan’s water is our red line. There will be no compromise on the water issue. If India does not come to the right path, we will give it a direct response,” the Pakistan Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement on X.

A government presiding over deepening instability across multiple regions of the country is once again attempting to

project toughness by threatening India, even as its own citizens continue to face violence, political repression and insecurity amid growing economic pressure and instability.

Pakistan’s carefully cultivated image of national unity is facing one of its sharpest challenges in Balochistan, where nationalist voices have called for August 14, Pakistan’s Independence Day to be observed as a “Black Day”. Baloch leader and activist Mir Yar Baloch has urged Baloch people across the world to reject Pakistan’s Independence Day celebrations, calling for black flags and armbands as a symbol of opposition to Islamabad’s rule. His remarks came amid an alleged Pakistani military strikes in the Surab region that caused civilian casualties.

“The Pakistani military is attempting to celebrate 14 August under the shadow of guns, but it also knows that the people of Balochistan regard Pakistan as an occupying country and its military as the killers of the Baloch,” he said in a post on X. Human rights activist Dr Mahrang Baloch, who is currently in confinement with Pakistani forces, has also slammed Islamabad for carrying out airstrikes in populated areas and causing civilian deaths. “Last night in Sorab, as a result of bombing by Pakistani warplanes, 27 people were killed and injured, including children,” she said. She further argued that treating the deaths of civilians in populated areas as a routine military operation would amount to something far more serious. According to Human Rights Defender and Baloch Activist Zara Baloch, more than 20 civilians, including innocent children, were killed in a strike by Pakistani forces.

“Bombing civilian populations and taking the lives of innocent children is a blatant violation of international humanitarian laws. If the international community does not respond immediately, the humanitarian crisis in Balochistan will intensify further,” she said in a post on X.

The continuing reports have underlined the depth of distrust between

Islamabad and large sections of Baloch society. For a country celebrating its independence, the spectacle of a region within its claimed territory calling the national day a “Black Day” exposes a profound crisis of legitimacy that threatens against India cannot conceal.

While Sharif speaks of responding to India, Pakistan continues to struggle with violence from militant groups operating within its own borders.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a suicide bombing near the Kabal Police Station in Swat killed 17 people, including seven policemen, while 27 others were injured, according to local authorities cited in reports. The attack occurred as people were protesting deteriorating law and order in the area. The episode serves as another reminder that Islamabad’s claims of having brought militancy under control remain sharply at odds with the security reality faced by ordinary Pakistanis. Instead of explaining why its citizens continue to die in terrorist attacks, the Pakistani leadership repeatedly finds political mileage in escalating rhetoric against India. PoJK has witnessed prolonged protests, clashes, use of excessive force and serious questions surrounding the conduct of their “so-called” 2026 legislative elections. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) has led protests over political representation and other grievances, while allegations have emerged of manipulation, restrictions, internet shutdowns and the use of force against demonstrators.

On Thursday, JAAC stated that in PoJK’s Rawalakot, two people have been injured following firing by security forces in the region. In a post on X, JAAC said, “The use of force against civilians is deeply alarming. We call for an immediate end to violence and urge international human rights organisations and the media to closely monitor the situation on the ground.” India has called on the international community to hold Pakistan accountable for its human rights violations in the region. “We believe that the international com-

munity should hold Pakistan accountable for the deaths of so many people in the recent violence,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

He said public discontent had been met with “bullets and blackouts and repression and oppression” and stated that more than 90 people had been killed in recent months. Whatever Islamabad’s preferred narrative may be, the persistence of unrest in PoJK demonstrates that Pakistan’s governance problems are not confined to its western frontier. Pakistan’s political crisis is equally stark. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan remains behind bars, while his sons, Sulaiman Khan and Kasim Khan, have raised concerns about their father’s access to family, lawyers and doctors.

“We have no updates because his family, doctors and lawyers haven’t been allowed to see him for seven months,” they told CNN earlier this month.

Khan has remained imprisoned since 2023 following convictions in multiple cases. He and his supporters have repeatedly alleged that the cases against him are politically motivated and designed to prevent his political comeback.

The continued imprisonment of Pakistan’s most prominent opposition figure, coupled with the crackdown on his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, has further damaged Islamabad’s claims to democratic credibility.

Sharif’s latest warning over India’s water is therefore less a demonstration of Pakistan’s strength than another reminder of the country’s tendency to look outward when confronted with uncomfortable realities at home.

Islamabad wants to portray itself as a regional power capable of issuing warnings to India. But the picture inside Pakistan is far less reassuring: terrorist attacks continue, Balochistan remains deeply alienated, PoJK is witnessing political unrest, allegations of human rights abuses persist, and the country’s principal opposition leader remains in prison.

US takes U-turn, says Tehran’s nuclear programme not priority in Iran war as focus shifts to lowering oil prices



WASHINGTON

The top US priority now in the Iran war is no longer its nuclear program but to bring gasoline prices down for American consumers, the vice president said Thursday, with the treasury secretary adding that new economic punishment to wear down Tehran is imminent.

The comments by Vice President JD Vance and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent illustrate the powerful leverage Tehran has gained by shutting down the Strait of Hormuz.

Preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, consistently touted by President Donald Trump as his main reason for the war, now takes a back seat to getting oil flowing again freely through the strait, Vance said on Fox News. Vance’s comments underscored the stark reality that the war now centers on control of the Strait of Hormuz, the critical fuel supply conduit that was open before Trump started the war along with Israel in late February.

Iran has all but shut it down in retaliation and thus found a crucial bargaining chip against Trump as he struggles to find a way out of the war and shies away from resuming large-scale attacks.

The 80-year-old president’s

approval rating is plummeting, the war is unpopular among Americans and midterm elections are approaching in November.

Republicans fear Trump and the war, which has caused gasoline prices to soar, will cost them their control of Congress.

“I know that oil is down today and it’s way down from the highs in the early days of the conflict,” Vance said on Fox News. “That’s goal number one – keep oil and gas cheap for Americans all over our country.” “And then obviously goal number two is ensure that Iran never gets a nuclear weapon,” he added. The vice president has been among the members of the administration most skeptical of the offensive launched against Iran in late February.

These remarks, however, appear to confirm the more cautious approach now favored by the US president, which involves maintaining strong economic pressure on Iran by blockading its ports and preventing it from selling oil.

Heralding more economic punishment, Bessent threatened to subject Iran to economic isolation “like the world has never seen before.” He said new measures are expected next week.

Only days ago Trump had said an agreement to reopen the strait was imminent. Now his

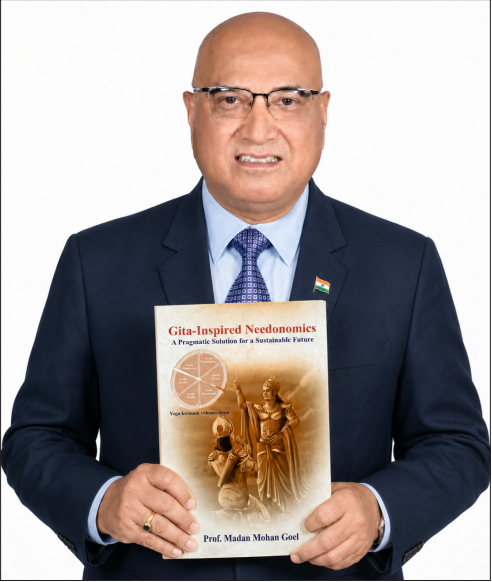
administration seems to be digging in, with diplomacy on hold as he hopes economic suffering will cause Iran to yield.

“We are low-keying it,” Trump said Sunday. “We are only semi-negotiating with them. We are just watching Iran with its huge inflation and the fact they have no money,” Trump told the news outlet Axios.

The US military reportedly burned through stockpiles of costly high-tech missiles and other weapons in the months since the war started at a cost of billions and is now reportedly running low, limiting Trump’s options for resuming attacks on Iran. “Sometimes we’re focused on the energy piece of it because we want Americans to be able to afford the price of oil and gas. Sometimes we’re obviously focused on the military... on the nuclear program,” Vance also said. Trump had said recently he would hold off on attacking Iran again only if an agreement were reached quickly to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Now Iran has set a list of conditions for reopening the passageway that the Trump administration is unlikely to accept: an end to the war on all fronts, the lifting of the US blockade of Iranian ports, the end of sanctions, the release of frozen assets and compensation for wartime damage.

India's 80th Independence Day: Freedom with Discipline and Responsibility in the Needonomics Way



PROF M.M. GOEL

Needonomics School of Thought (NST) extends warm greetings to all stakeholders on India's 80th Independence Day, August 15, 2026. For NST, the true meaning of independence lies not merely in freedom from external control, but in the freedom to live with discipline, responsibility, self-balance and purpose.

1 Independence Means Self-Discipline

Independence is meaningful only when freedom is guided by responsibility. True freedom requires us to understand the balance between rights and duties, liberty and discipline, aspirations and responsibilities.

The Needonomics Way reminds us that freedom should never become a licence for excess. It must become an opportunity for responsible self-governance, ethical conduct and purposeful action.

2 Freedom from Dependence and Inner Negativity

NST believes that dependence is a curse, while independence of mind is a blessing. A truly independent mind is free from unnecessary doubt, darkness, fear, greed, anger and negative thinking.

The wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, the heart of Krishan, teaches us that doubt weakens and can destroy the mind. Therefore, mental freedom is the foundation of meaningful independence. A nation becomes truly strong when its citizens possess clarity of thought, confidence of purpose and discipline in action.

3 Learning from "Palli Palli" Culture

India can draw an important lesson from the Republic of Korea, which shares August 15 as its Independence Day, through its 'Palli Palli' culture of speed, efficiency and timely action, reminding us to overcome the habit of unnecessary delays and procrastination."

For Viksit Bharat @2047, we need to overcome avoidable delays and inefficient processes. Speed with responsibility, efficiency with ethics and action without unnecessary delay should become part of our national work culture.

The Needonomics message is simple: Do the right thing, do it efficiently and do it without avoidable delay.

4 Daily Discipline of Freedom

Freedom begins with the discipline of our everyday life. NST encourages a simple but meaningful routine: sleep with satisfaction in the mind and awaken early with enthusiasm, hope and a sense of purpose.

Daily introspection



should become a habit. We need to examine our thoughts, actions, needs and responsibilities regularly. Such self-reflection enables us to correct our mistakes, control our desires and enjoy freedom with inner peace and self-balance.

5 Youth and the Needonomics Vision

NST places high hopes on the youth of Bharat, who will shape the country's future. Young Indians need to understand and practise Needonomics, the economics of needs, by placing:

Needs before greed, Duty before entitlement, Values before volumes, and Purpose before procrastination.

The youth must transform independence into innovation, entrepreneurship, ethical leadership, productive work and responsible citizenship.

6 Freedom in the Right Direction

Independence acquires meaning only when it is used in the right direction. Political freedom must be supported by economic responsibility, social harmony, ethical conduct and personal discipline.

NST therefore calls for a culture where citizens enjoy their rights while consciously fulfilling their duties. Institutions must become more responsive, governance more efficient and individuals more self-disciplined.

This is the Needonomics approach to building a self-reliant, responsible and Viksit Bharat @2047.

7 Conclusion:

On the 80th Independence Day, let us celebrate not only the freedom India achieved but also the responsibility that freedom places upon every citizen. Let us cultivate independent minds, disciplined habits, responsible actions and purposeful lives. Let us replace dependence with self-reliance, delay with timely

action, greed with need and negativity with hope. May India's freedom become a force for discipline, dignity, development and human well-being, taking Bharat confidently towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

"Be free in mind, disciplined

in action, responsible in duty, and purposeful in using independence."

— Needonomics School of Thought

Jai Hind!

KRC TIMES

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@krctimes.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@krctimes.org
For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krctimesplacements>
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.aspx, 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 InfoComSolutions@krctimes.org
Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

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



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, Bhubaneshwar, Bangalore, Guwahati, Silchar

APPLY NOW & BE PART OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING!

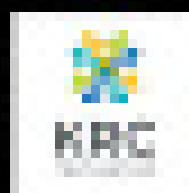


InfoCom

DIARY



An Initiative of
KRC Foundation

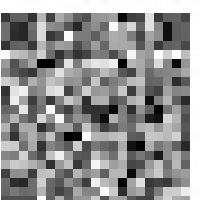


info@info.com.krc@gmail.com
www.krcfoundation.org
Tel: 0728038518

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

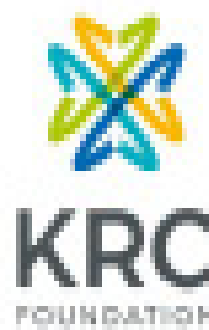
Scan and pay Rs. 300
Send the screen shot in our
WhatsApp: 8721838313
e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com



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