



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

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

~ Desmond Tutu

Meghalaya makes migrant worker registration mandatory, employers face fines

SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government has made registration mandatory for all migrant workers employed in the state under the Meghalaya Identification, Registration (Safety & Security) of Migrant Workers (MIRSS) Act and Rules, 2020.

According to a notification issued by Labour Commissioner Banteilang Kharsahngi, every migrant worker must register with the authorities and obtain a separate Registration Card. Employers and contractors have been directed to ensure that workers complete the process, failing which they could face penalties under the law.

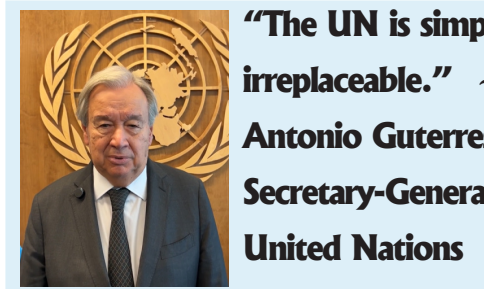
Migrant workers must apply online to the Registering Officer concerned in the area where they are employed and pay a registration fee of ₹50. Applications can be submitted through the Labour Commissioner's Portal, Invest Meghalaya Portal, Meghalaya State Public Service Commission website, Common Service Centres and district labour office help desks.

Under the amended MIRSS Rules, 2026, applicants must submit a government-issued identity document other than Aadhaar. Accepted documents include a Voter ID, driving licence, PAN card and BPL card. A police verification report is also mandatory.

The State Police Department will conduct verification through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS). Police may issue provisional verification while the process is underway, with the final verification required to be completed within 30 days.

Once issued, the Registration Card will remain valid for 179 days. Workers seeking renewal must apply at least 30 days before the card expires.

WHO SAID WHAT



"The UN is simply irreplaceable." ~ Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations



KRC TIMES
STAY ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 886 | **SILCHAR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION** | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com , www.krctimes.com



North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026
Registrations **OPEN**

WhatsApp: +91 935 083 0083
www.northeastintegrationrally.in

NIA arrests two more in Manipur CM convoy ambush, another in IED attack case



IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three people in two separate Manipur cases, including two alleged accused in the June 2024 armed ambush on the convoy of the

then Chief Minister and another in an IED attack that killed two children.

In the convoy ambush case, the NIA arrested 44-year-old Jangminlun Singson alias Franky and 21-year-old Thangjoel Haokip alias Thangboi. The

agency said they are the third and fourth accused arrested in connection with the attack.

The ambush took place on June 10, 2024, when the convoy of the then Chief Minister was travelling through Kangpokpi district. The incident had raised

security concerns along the route connecting Imphal with the state's hill districts.

The NIA said the latest arrests were made as part of its probe into the alleged conspiracy behind the attack. The agency is investigating the wider network and the possible involvement of other people.

In a separate case, the NIA arrested 48-year-old Thangmang Haokip of Churachandpur on September 25 in connection with an IED attack at Tronglaobi in April that killed two children and injured another person.

Haokip is the second accused arrested in the case. The NIA had earlier arrested S Palal Thadhou Kuki on August 12. He is currently in judicial custody.

According to the agency, the attack took place on April 7 when unidentified militants allegedly launched an explosive device from a hillside towards

a house at Tronglaobi Awang Leikai. The device struck the residence, seriously injuring three members of a family. Two children later died of their injuries.

An unexploded improvised rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was also recovered near the site, the NIA said.

The case was initially registered at Moirang police station and was later re-registered by the NIA on April 23 under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Explosive Substances Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Following his arrest, Haokip was produced before the Special NIA Court-II in Imphal, which remanded him to 12 days of police custody.

The NIA said investigations in both cases are continuing to identify other alleged conspirators and establish the wider networks behind the attacks.

Silchar civic polls: AJP questions qualifications of 13 BJP candidates



GUWAHATI

The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) has raised questions over the nomination papers and educational qualifications of 13 BJP candidates contesting the first Silchar Municipal Corporation election.

Addressing a press conference in Guwahati on Wednesday, AJP leader Kunki Chowdhury alleged that complaints against the 13 candidates had been submitted to the State Election Commission and district election authorities but remained unresolved.

One of the cases highlighted by Chowdhury involved BJP candidate Kanchan Deb from Ward 6. She alleged that Deb's election affidavit stated that he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sikkim International University in 2018, and questioned the declaration based on her claim about the university's establishment date.

"We want to know how a degree could have been obtained from an institution available to us, was established later. The election authorities should verify this declaration and make the facts clear," Chowdhury said.

She also questioned the educational declarations of BJP candidates Pratishka Deb of Ward 14 and Paplee Karmakar of Ward 15, alleging that they had

declared degrees from Jodhpur National University obtained in 2013 and 2019, respectively.

Referring to media reports about the university, Chowdhury questioned whether the certificates submitted by the candidates had been independently verified by the election authorities.

Another case cited by the AJP leader involved BJP candidate Uttam Kumar Gowala of Ward 39. She questioned an educational record that, according to her, listed HSLC qualification in 1999 and Higher Secondary qualification in 2024.

Chowdhury also questioned the handling of complaints by returning officer Rahul Kumar Gupta and called for greater transparency in the scrutiny process.

The allegations come amid an ongoing controversy over the educational qualifications of some candidates in the inaugural civic poll. Earlier, similar complaints had been raised against several BJP nominees. However, all candidates cleared the formal scrutiny of nominations.

In a separate case, a Silchar court had issued summons to BJP candidate Ataur Rahman Laskar of Ward 17 following a legal challenge to the educational qualification declared in his nomination affidavit.

The AJP said it would continue to raise questions over the conduct of the election and called for verification of all nomination documents.

The Silchar Municipal Corporation election is scheduled for October 3. The civic body has 42 wards, with polling to be held in 40 wards after BJP candidates were elected unopposed in two wards. The final contest involves 133 candidates, according to available election data.

Lovlina Borgohain enters Asian Games 75kg final with 3-2 win over Bogdanova



NISHIO

India's Lovlina Borgohain booked her place in the women's 75kg boxing final at the 2026 Asian Games after edging past Kazakhstan's Natalya Bogdanova in a closely fought semifinal.

The victory assured the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist at least a silver medal and a second consecutive Asian Games podium finish.

Lovlina had to recover after Bogdanova took the opening round. The Indian boxer responded strongly in the second, using her reach and combinations to regain control. The final round was tightly contested, with both boxers exchanging punches until the final bell. Lovlina held on to secure the bout and advance to the gold-medal contest.

The Assam boxer had earlier defeated South Korea's Seong Suyeon 5-0 in the quarterfinals to secure a medal.

Lovlina, who won silver at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games, will now fight for gold in the final. China's Bao Ziyi is set to be her opponent in the title bout. Bao won the women's 75kg gold at the 2026 Asian Boxing Elite Championships.

Lovlina will be looking to improve on her silver-medal finish from the previous Asian Games when she returns to the ring for the final.

Meghalaya begins process for curfew along Bangladesh border amid infiltration concerns



SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government has directed district administrations along the India-Bangladesh border to initiate the process for imposing curfew in border areas amid concerns over infiltration.

The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Prestone Tynsong with officials of the Border Security Force (BSF) and Meghalaya Police on Tuesday.

Tynsong said district administrations have been asked to consult traditional heads, including Rangbah Shnongs, before proceeding with curfew measures in the border areas. He said Village Defence Parties (VDPs) have also been activated in villages along the international border. The government is coordinating with traditional leaders, village headmen and VDP members to strengthen surveillance along the border belt.

Addressing concerns over cross-border movement despite the presence of the BSF, Tynsong point-

ed to Meghalaya's difficult terrain and limited accessibility as major challenges.

He said the state's border landscape differs significantly from the plains, making continuous surveillance difficult in some stretches, particularly during the night. Incomplete border infrastructure and unfenced stretches also remain challenges for security agencies.

Tynsong said the BSF and Meghalaya Police were working together to strengthen security and prevent unauthorised cross-border movement. The state government has previously used night curfews along parts of the international border under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), including restrictions on movement near the zero line and activities such as smuggling.

Tynsong said the government's objective was to bring infiltration down to "zero level" and stressed the need for continued coordination among security agencies, district administrations and local communities.

Assam plans over 8,000 MW new power capacity, focuses on renewables

GUWAHATI

Assam is set to add more than 8,000 MW of power generation capacity in the coming years, with a major focus on solar and other renewable energy sources, official sources said.

Of the proposed capacity, around 3,200 MW will come from conventional sources, while the remaining capacity will be generated through non-conventional energy projects.

A 3,200 MW supercritical thermal power plant is under development at Chapar in Dhuri district. The project is expected to be commissioned in phases from December 2030.

Statutory clearances have also been obtained for power projects with a combined capacity of 4,900 MW in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts, with sites already identified, sources said.

Several renewable energy projects are also at different stages of development and commissioning.

A 70 MW AC grid-connected, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic project at Khudigaon Pt-II in Bilasipara, Dhuri district, has already



been commissioned under the build-own-operate model.

A 50 MW AC grid-connected ground-mounted solar PV project is being developed at No. 3 Sitalmari village under the Borsola Revenue Circle in Dhekiajuli.

The Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) has also formed a joint venture with NLC India Renewables Ltd to develop 1,000 MW of solar power projects. Land identification for the projects is underway.

Another joint venture between APDCL and SJVN Green Energy Ltd has been formed to develop 1,000 MW of renewable power projects, with land identification in progress.

Assam has so far installed around 1,300 MW of aggregate solar capacity, generating an estimated 1,872 million units of electricity annually. The figure is calculated because actual generation from individual rooftop solar plants is not currently being recorded; APDCL records only the solar energy exported to the grid.

Under the PM Surya Ghar scheme, around 1,85,581 households have installed rooftop solar systems with a combined capacity of 612

MW in the residential sector.

On wind power, officials said Assam's potential remains considerably lower than that of states such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) had earlier installed wind-monitoring masts at several locations in Assam at a hub height of around 80 metres. Assessments at that height found limited potential for conventional utility-scale wind power at most monitored sites.

However, preliminary assessments suggest that some valleys and elevated areas could record higher wind speeds at greater hub heights, particularly around 120 metres. Officials said such locations could be studied further through detailed assessments using 120-metre-class monitoring masts or LIDAR technology.

Sites with adequate wind speeds, suitable terrain, land availability and grid connectivity could subsequently be considered for pilot or commercial projects, although large-scale wind development is not currently considered viable across the state.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 886

Who Gets to Inspect a Government School?

A government school is one of the most visible faces of the State in the daily lives of ordinary families. Its classrooms are built with public money, its teachers are appointed through public institutions and its students depend on a system designed to expand opportunity. That makes the condition of government schools a legitimate public concern. Parents can ask questions, citizens can flag shortcomings and political organisations can demand answers. But democracy also depends on another distinction: the right to question a public institution is not the same as the legal authority to inspect it. That distinction matters in Assam after the announcement by CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka that the organisation would take its "School Thik Karo" campaign into the state. CJP has described similar activities elsewhere as school "audits" and "inspections", aimed at identifying deficiencies in infrastructure and basic facilities.

There is nothing inherently wrong with drawing attention to problems in public education. The question is institutional: when a political organisation visits a government school and calls the exercise an inspection, what authority does that inspection carry?

The answer cannot be determined by terminology alone. Assam already has an administrative framework for school supervision and inspection. The Directorate of Elementary Education lists inspection and supervision among its functions, while the Assam Right to Education Rules provide for the Director as the apex authority for coordinating supervision and inspection of schools under his control, with authorised education officials undertaking such responsibilities.

Official inspection, therefore, is part of a defined administrative chain. It involves responsibilities, procedures and accountability. A political organisation does not acquire those powers simply by describing its own assessment as an "inspection" or "audit".

That does not place government schools beyond public scrutiny. Quite the opposite.

If parents discover that a school lacks drinking water, adequate toilets, classrooms or other essential facilities, they should be able to raise the matter. A civil-society group can document the problem and submit it to the authorities. A political party can raise the issue publicly and demand action. Such scrutiny is a normal part of democratic life. But an observation remains an observation until the competent authority verifies it.

That distinction is important because an official inspection forms part of a system of administrative accountability. An authorised officer works within prescribed rules, examines relevant records and conditions, assesses compliance with applicable standards and reports findings through the appropriate chain of command. Those findings can trigger administrative action.

An independent campaign assessment may identify something that deserves attention. It does not, by itself, acquire the legal or administrative consequences of an official inspection.

There is another reason for caution: schools are not ordinary public offices. Children are present. Students are minors, and their privacy, dignity and safety require particular protection. Any outside activity involving photography, videography, interviews, interaction with children or access to school records must be governed by appropriate safeguards and permissions. A campaign intended to improve education should not inadvertently turn children into material for political publicity.

The controversy surrounding similar school visits by CJP in other states, including questions over access to school premises and photography or videography involving students and teachers, demonstrates why these safeguards matter. Whatever the political arguments surrounding those incidents, one principle remains straightforward: public ownership of a school does not mean unrestricted access to its premises.

Assam need not choose between public scrutiny and administrative authority. It can accommodate both. If CJP members or any other organisation identify a genuine problem, they can place the evidence before the education department. Officials can independently verify the allegation. If the deficiency exists, corrective action can follow. If the claim is inaccurate or incomplete, that too can be established. That is how citizen vigilance can strengthen administration without creating a parallel inspection system. If an organisation chooses to describe its exercise as a "school audit", however, transparency becomes essential. What schools were selected? What criteria were applied? Were school authorities consulted? Were records examined? Were observations compared with government standards? Were teachers and administrators given an opportunity to explain? How were photographs and videos involving children handled? And were the findings independently verified before being presented as evidence of wider systemic failure?

These are not questions designed to shut down scrutiny. They are questions that determine whether scrutiny is credible. The government, meanwhile, has its own responsibility. The existence of an official inspection mechanism cannot become an excuse for ignoring information supplied by parents, citizens or civil-society organisations. A responsive administration should welcome credible complaints, investigate them and act where necessary. In fact, the education system can benefit from outside scrutiny precisely because citizens may notice problems that official mechanisms miss.

But strengthening an existing system is not the same as replacing it. This is also why language matters. The word "inspection" can suggest that those conducting the exercise possess official powers or that their findings constitute departmental conclusions. If an activity is actually political advocacy, citizen observation or independent documentation, describing it accurately would make the process more transparent.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In seeking wisdom, the first step is silence; the second, listening; the third, remembering; the fourth, practicing; the fifth, teaching others."

— Mivar ha-Penimim

PAKISTANI GENERALS AS ISLAMIC WORLD'S GO-TO SECURITY EXPORT

LT. GEN BHOPINDER SINGH (RETD)

There is a revealing pattern in Pakistan's 'military diplomacy' when Islamic countries need experienced security leadership, they repeatedly look toward Rawalpindi General Headquarters. The latest example is Lt Gen (Retd) Nauman Mahmood, appointed this week as the first Secretary General of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. His job is not expected to be ceremonial. He will establish and lead the alliance's secretariat in Riyadh as the three countries translate a political agreement into institutions, procedures and practical defence cooperation.

Lt Gen Mahmood brings an ostensibly rich résumé for the assignment. He commanded an infantry division in North Waziristan during Pakistan's counterterrorism campaign, served in senior intelligence and analytical roles, and spent years in professional military education, including as chief instructor at the Command and Staff College. He subsequently headed the Pakistan Military's National Defence University.

That combination explains something important about Pakistan's appeal - their Veterans are bloodied in combat experience. Pakistani Generals are not merely military men; many have spent decades operating at the intersection of combat, intelligence, strategy, diplomacy and institution-building. And Pakistan has, over generations, effectively exported that experience to the wider Muslim world.

The first and most obvious precedent is former Pakistani Army Chief, General Raheel Sharif. After retiring, Gen Sharif was appointed commander of the Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition in 2017. The coalition brought together 41 Muslim countries and was designed to coordinate counterterrorism efforts across military, ideological, communications and counter-terrorist-financing domains. This was an extraordinary post-retirement appointment - Saudis chose a Pakistani General as opposed to one from Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia or even one of its own. Sharif had commanded one of the world's

stated purpose was counterterrorism. The choice was consequently more practical than ornamental - Riyadh was buying access to a senior commander who had already spent years dealing with the kind of security problems the coalition was supposed to address.

Fact is, Pakistani stock in the other Islamic countries is an old story and Raheel Sharif and Nauman Mahmood are just the more recent examples, but the relationship is much older. Pakistan's military relationship with Saudi Arabia dates to the 1960s. Pakistani officers served as trainers, advisers and engineers, while Saudi personnel were trained in Pakistan. By 2023, Arab News reported that 1,522 foreign cadets from 31 countries had trained at the Pakistan Military Academy, including personnel from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain and Palestine. The relationship subsequently expanded into deployments, advisory missions, joint exercises and institutional cooperation. Pakistani personnel have served in Saudi Arabia for decades, while Saudi officers have repeatedly come to Pakistan for professional military education.

Pakistani history extends beyond Saudi Arabia. During the 1970s, Pakistan concluded military cooperation arrangements with Saudi Arabia, Libya, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, the UAE and Kuwait; by the end of that decade, Pakistani military advisers and trainers were serving across the Middle East. This is why the Nauman Mahmood appointment should not be viewed as an isolated personnel decision. It is the latest expression of a decades-old model. Pakistan has developed a niche in the Muslim world as a "value for money" provider of military human capital. The reason is straightforward - Pakistan's senior officers tend to arrive at retirement having accumulated three kinds of experience that are particularly useful to states building or coordinating security institutions.

Firstly, combat experience. Pakistan's army has spent decades conducting conventional operations, counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaigns. Officers who have commanded formations in places such as the tribal areas have dealt with insurgency, intelligence networks,

ally passed through a long sequence of command, staff, instructional and strategic appointments. Mahmood's career, for example, combined field command with intelligence and military education. Thirdly, familiarity with the institutional machinery of multinational security cooperation. Pakistani officers have spent decades training foreign militaries, serving abroad, conducting joint exercises and interacting with Arab defence establishments. That makes the proposition relatively economical as instead of building the experience from scratch, a Gulf or Muslim-majority state can recruit someone who has already spent thirty-plus years acquiring it.

There is also a cultural advantage, but it needs to be understood carefully. It is tempting to describe Pakistani officers as having a "natural fit" in the Islamic world because Pakistan is a Muslim-majority country. That explanation is too simplistic. The more interesting advantage is institutional and cultural familiarity. Pakistani officers have spent decades working with Arab militaries, training Arab cadets and operating in environments where religion, national identity, territorial sovereignty and security are often closely intertwined. That familiarity matters when the assignment involves not simply defeating an adversary, but operating within a political environment in which the defence of territory, protection of holy sites, counterterrorism and the wider security of Muslim societies can carry religious as well as strategic significance.

The 1979 seizure of the Grand Mosque in Makkah is the most dramatic historical illustration of that intersection. Pakistani special forces participated in the operation alongside Saudi and French elements, although accounts differ over the precise nature and extent of Pakistan's operational role. The lesson from the broader relationship is less about religion than about accumulated familiarity. Pakistan's military establishment understands the operating environment.

Raheel Sharif demonstrated that a Pakistani former army chief could become the military face of a multinational Islamic security organisation. Nauman

defence arrangement. That is a significant form of strategic capital.

The irony is that Pakistan's domestic political economy often struggles to monetize the expertise accumulated by its military establishment. Abroad, however, that expertise can be highly sought after. For Pakistan, the benefit is equally tangible. Every such appointment extends Islamabad's diplomatic reach without requiring another embassy, another treaty or another billion-dollar weapons system. It is 'military diplomacy' by personnel. And Lt Gen Nauman

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

In an intelligence-led joint operation with ATS Gujarat, and Central Intelligence Agency, @IndiaCoastGuard units interdicted a suspicious Iranian dhow in the Arabian Sea, west of #Lakshadweep. Positive detection, sustained tracking and a hot pursuit culminated in tactical boarding, successfully neutralizing a major transnational narco-smuggling vector.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 526 kg of high-grade heroin and methamphetamine valued at over ₹3,000 crore, alongside the apprehension of five #Pakistani crew members. The apprehended vessel along with crew has been escorted to Mumbai for multi-agency investigations and followed by prosecution.

Bharatiya Tatrakshak remains fully postured & committed to secure our maritime borders, dismantle drug syndicates to ensure #NashaMukBharat, and protect the nation from transnational organised crimes. ~ Indian Coast Guard



Mahmood's appointment suggests that, nearly six decades after Pakistani officers first began



largest armies after a career shaped by Pakistan's own battles against Al Qaeda, the Taliban and other militant organisations. His experience was therefore directly relevant to an organisation whose

border security and irregular warfare as operational realities rather than classroom concepts. Secondly, longevity within a professional military system. A senior Pakistani general has nor-

Mahmood now demonstrates that the model extends beyond operational command - a Pakistani General can also be entrusted with building the institutional architecture of a new regional

helping build Gulf military institutions, this particular Pakistani export remains very much in demand. (The author is former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar islands & Puducherry)

Nagaon bypoll: Sarma says BJP in ‘winnable position’, hits back at Rakibul Hussain

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the BJP was in a “winnable position” in the Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll, citing grassroots campaigning and what he described as a positive response from voters.

Sarma made the remarks while addressing a campaign meeting at Raidongia on the second day of his campaign for the October 6 bypoll. He later addressed a public meeting at Gandhi Field in Morigaon.

“It’s a difficult constituency for the BJP and to assert that BJP will win is a difficult proposition. But going by the work our grassroots workers have been doing and the response of the people, it points towards a winnable position,” Sarma told reporters after the meeting.



The Chief Minister also claimed that the BJP was receiving support from minority voters, referring to the party’s performance in Lahorighat during the 2024 election.

“In 2024, BJP won 47,000 votes in Lahorighat. It is not that we do not get votes, but this time, the votes will double or triple,” he said.

Sarma also made development a key part of his campaign pitch, referring to Batadrava’s religious and cultural significance and saying his role was to support the development plans of incumbent MLA Rupak Sarma.

“Rupak Sarma has a lot of plans for Nagaon and my job is to support his aspirations. The Rs 1.5 lakh crore that we will utilise for the development of Assam will benefit the Nagaon constituency as well,” he said.

The Chief Minister also hit back

at Congress leader and Dhubri MP Rakibul Hussain, who had criticised Sarma a day earlier over his alleged remarks concerning “Miya” votes, mosques and madrassas.

Referring to protests and demonstrations against Hussain during his recent visit to Samaguri, Sarma said the Congress leader should “introspect” before targeting him.

Sarma alleged that people had protested against Hussain and that stones were pelted at his convoy during the visit. He also referred to Hussain’s political family background, noting that his father had served as a minister from the constituency and his son, Tanzil Hussain, is the sitting MLA.

“What does it mean when Hussain had his father as a minister in the constituency and his son is currently

the incumbent legislator, yet he gets such a response from the locals?” Sarma asked. Hussain had on Monday said his criticism was directed at Sarma over remarks he attributed to the Chief Minister about Muslims, mosques and madrassas.

“I am not targeting the Chief Minister. I am targeting the man who had said that ‘Islam ko khatam kar dunga’,” Hussain had said, adding that he would continue to protest against such statements.

The Nagaon bypoll is witnessing a three-way contest between BJP candidate and former Nagaon district commissioner Devashish Sharma, Congress candidate Shibamoni Bora and AIUFD chief Badruddin Ajmal.

Polling will be held on October 6, with counting scheduled for October 9.

Mizoram-Manipur bus service to link Sairang with Churachandpur from October 1

IMPHAL

A regular bus service connecting Sairang in Mizoram with Churachandpur in southern Manipur will begin on October 1, providing a new transport link between the two neighbouring northeastern states.

Mizoram Transport Minister Vanlalhlana launched the service on Tuesday ahead of its formal start. The service will be operated by a private transport company. Two 21-seater buses will run between Sairang, around 22 km from Aizawl, and Churachandpur, the headquarters of Manipur’s Kuki-Zo-majority hill district. The journey covering nearly 360 km is expected to take around 12 hours. The fare has been fixed at ₹2,500 per passenger, with tickets available through the VK Tawna Bus Service mobile application. The service comes amid continuing travel difficulties in Manipur following the ethnic violence that began in May 2023. Thousands of people, particularly from the Kuki community, fled to Mizoram after the violence erupted, with many continuing to stay in the neighbouring state. Mizos in Mizoram share close ethnic ties with Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur.

Speaking at the launch, Vanlalhlana said improved connectivity would help strengthen ties among Zo kindred communities living across different hill areas.

He described Mizoram as a “central home” for its kindred communities and stressed the importance of unity among Zo tribes. The minister expressed hope that the new service would ease difficulties faced by people travelling between Mizoram and Manipur. Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) MLA and Chief Minister’s Adviser (Technical) H Ginzalala said improved connectivity was an important part of development. He also said the Manipur crisis had strengthened solidarity between Mizos in Mizoram and ethnic Zo communities in Manipur.

Supreme Court closes Kuki women’s plea after NH-2 blockade lifted

IMPHAL

The Supreme Court has disposed of a plea filed by the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights after the Manipur government informed the court that the blockade on National Highway 2 (NH-2) had been cleared and the movement of essential goods restored.

The petition, filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, had sought the removal of prolonged economic blockades in Manipur’s Kangpokpi district. The petitioners had claimed that the blockades were disrupting the supply of essential commodities, including food, fuel and medicines, to Kuki-Zo-inhabited hill areas. A three-judge Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana heard the matter.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the Bench that NH-2 was fully opera-

tional and that commercial vehicles carrying essential goods had resumed movement.

Senior Advocate Anand Grover, appearing for the Kuki Women Organisation, referred to a Manipur government order issued on August 28 directing the immediate removal of highway obstructions. He said the petitioners’ concerns would stand addressed if the state government fully implemented the order.

The Supreme Court noted that the highway had been reopened and that the state administration had submitted a compliance status report.

In view of the developments, the Bench held that the petition had become infructuous and closed the proceedings.

The court also took note of administrative measures being undertaken to clear remaining blockades on other regional routes.

SILCHAR

The Governor of Assam has declared October 2 and 3, 2026, as dry days in the Silchar Municipal Corporation (SMC) areas in connection with the ensuing municipal corporation election. The restriction will also remain in force on October 6, the scheduled date of counting, until completion of the counting process, as well as on the day of any repoll, if ordered.

The order has been issued in pursuance of a W.T. message received from the Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Excise Department, under Section 135(C) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Rule 326(A) of the Assam Excise Rules, 2016.

Under the order, possession of intoxicants by any person or group of persons has been prohibited within the specified period. The sale of liquor and the giving



or distribution of spirituous, fermented or similar intoxicants at hotels, eating houses, taverns, shops or any other place, whether public or private, has also been prohibited. Accordingly all wholesale and bonded warehouses, IMFL and beer retail “OFF” and “ON” shops, including Club “ON” establishments, Hotel “ON” establishments and Country Spirit Shops falling within the Silchar Municipal Corporation areas will

remain closed during the notified period. The order further prohibits the sale, storage, transportation and possession of intoxicants during the period of restriction. The measures will apply to the entire area falling under the Silchar Municipal Corporation.

The dry day restrictions are part of the regulatory arrangements being enforced in connection with the conduct of the municipal corporation election.

The restrictions will cover the day preceding the poll, October 2, the day of poll, October 3, and the counting day, October 6, until the counting process is over. In case a repoll is held, the restrictions will also apply on the day fixed for such repoll. The authorities have cautioned that any violation of the order will invite strict penal action under the relevant provisions of the Assam Excise Acts and Rules and Section 135(C) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The restrictions are expected to remain an important part of the enforcement arrangements during the election period, with enforcement agencies required to ensure compliance across the notified municipal corporation areas.

This is stated in a press release issued by the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations Barak valley Zone Silchar Assam.

Manipur CM Khemchand Singh urges unity among 36 communities, recalls Hijam Irawat’s ideals



IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday

called for unity among the state’s 36 communities, saying the ideals of social justice, harmony and collective progress associated with Jana

Neta Hijam Irawat remain relevant today.

Speaking at the state-level observance of Jana Neta Hijam Irawat Day 2026 at Irawat Square in Imphal, Khemchand Singh urged government employees, civil society organisations and students to uphold Irawat’s spirit of sacrifice, public service and social responsibility.

The chief minister paid floral tribute at Irawat’s memorial during the programme.

Describing Irawat as a prominent figure in Manipur’s social and political history, Khemchand Singh highlighted his contributions to social reform, literature and journalism.

He recalled that Irawat published Meitei Chanu in 1922 to create social awareness and raise issues affecting Manipuri society.

The chief minister also referred to Irawat’s decision to give up the

privileges associated with his marriage into the royal family and dedicate himself to public causes. He said Irawat travelled across Manipur, mobilised people and worked for social and political change.

Referring to Irawat’s vision of peaceful coexistence, Khemchand Singh said the 36 communities living across the hills and valley of Manipur should remain committed to unity and social harmony.

He said Irawat’s principles of unity, social justice and collective progress should continue to guide the people of the state.

Art and Culture and Tourism Minister Khurajam Loken Singh and several MLAs attended the programme. Former MPs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and Lorho S Pfoze, Chief Secretary Rajeev Singh Thakoor, senior government officials, police personnel and students were also present.

Rs.24.50 lakh in Bangladeshi currency seized near Tripura border, one detained

AGARTALA

Security and enforcement agencies in Tripura seized Bangladeshi currency worth ₹24.50 lakh from a vehicle near the India-Bangladesh border in Sepahijala district and detained one person, officials said. The seizure was made on September 29 during a joint operation by the Border Security Force (BSF), Customs Department and Tripura Police at Motinagar, near a BSF camp. Acting on a tip-off, personnel of the 81 Battalion BSF, along with Customs officials and police from Sonamura Police Station, intercepted an Eco Van bearing registration number TR01BZ0219 around 11.30 am.

A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of Bangladeshi currency worth ₹24.50 lakh. The driver, identified as 38-year-old Tapas Sarkar, a resident of North Kalamchoura under Kalamchoura Police Station in Sepahijala district, was detained in connection with the seizure.

The seized currency and Sarkar were later handed over to the Customs Department,

which took custody of them after completing the required legal formalities.

Customs Superintendent Alok Kumar said the operation was carried out jointly by the BSF, Customs Department and Tripura Police. He said an investigation was underway to establish the source and intended use of the currency.

Preliminary information indicated that the vehicle was travelling from Bishalgarh towards Sonamura subdivision in Sepahijala district.

Officials are also examining whether the currency entered India through an unauthorised route along the international border.

“We are investigating the actual reason behind the movement of such a large amount of Bangladeshi currency. The facts are expected to emerge during the investigation, and appropriate legal action will be taken against those found involved,” Kumar said.

The Customs Department is continuing the probe to identify other people who may be linked to the movement of the currency.

Death of Eight Manipuri Ponies in Kakching a concern, Laboratory Diagnosis Awaited

IMPHAL

The death of eight Manipuri ponies in the Wabagai area of Kakching District has caused serious concern among the polo, equine community and pony owners of Manipur. The matter was highlighted at a press conference held at the Manipur Press Club today, where the representatives of leading equestrian and pony organisations called for continued vigilance and timely veterinary intervention.

The press conference was addressed by Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan, President, Manipuri Pony Society, in the presence of H. Deleep Singh, President, Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association; N. Bedajeet Singh, Technical Chairman; and N. Ibungochoubi, Secretary General, Manipur Equestrian Association.

Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan stated that the reported deaths are alarming, particularly because the Manipuri pony is an important part of the State’s cultural heritage, traditional sporting traditions and equine culture. He informed that, as of the time of the press conference, eight ponies had died in the affected area. The first death was reported on August 13, 2026, after which further cases were reported from the area.



He said that the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services, Government of Manipur, responded to the situation and its personnel have remained on alert.

The departmental veterinary personnel have been working continuously to monitor and attend to the affected ponies. Symptomatic treatment is presently being carried out under veterinary supervision.

According to the information shared at the press conference, samples were collected on September 26 from eight ponies and sent to the ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines, Sirsa Road, Haryana, for detailed diagnostic examination. The final laboratory findings are awaited. The representatives emphasised that no definitive conclusion regarding the cause of the

illness should be drawn until the laboratory diagnosis is received.

Veterinary doctors attending to the affected animals have observed clinical symptoms including high temperature, dyspnoea, nasal discharge, swelling and coughing, among other symptoms. Continuous observation and appropriate symptomatic treatment are being undertaken by the veterinary authorities.

The representatives also appreciated the response and efforts of the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services and stressed the importance of close coordination between the Department, pony owners, equestrian organisations and local authorities during the present situation.

N. Ibungochoubi, Secretary General,

Manipur Equestrian Association, appealed to all pony owners, equestrian clubs and other stakeholders across the State to remain alert but not panic. He said that, so far, there have been no reports of similar sickness from Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal districts.

He urged pony owners to carefully observe the health of their animals and immediately report any unusual symptoms, sickness or suspected cases to the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services at the earliest. Early reporting, he said, would enable the veterinary authorities to examine the animal promptly and take appropriate measures.

The representatives appealed to pony owners and clubs not to conceal suspected cases and to cooperate fully with veterinary personnel so that the situation can be properly assessed and contained. They also stressed the importance of following veterinary advice and maintaining appropriate care and monitoring of ponies.

The Manipuri pony, popularly known as Sagol, occupies a distinctive place in the cultural, historical and sporting traditions of Manipur. The present situation therefore warrants close attention, responsible reporting and coordinated action by all concerned.

The equestrian and pony organisations expressed confidence that the ongoing veterinary efforts and laboratory investigation would help establish the nature of the illness and guide further appropriate measures.

STUDENT 5Efor SUCCESS INTERNSHIP

STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.

APPLY NOW

5eforsuccess@gmail.com

Use Project Incentives Certificate Free Training

Quest!

Cats can remember love and kindness shown to them, and return it in the future.

SC slams medicine pricing, calls cancer drug’s 10-fold MRP markup ‘carnage’



NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday once again expressed strong displeasure over the huge margins charged by hospitals and the pharma trade on medicines for serious illnesses like cancer, after noting that “this is carnage, plain and simple.”

The court said that when a cancer drug is available to the retailer for just Rs 2,700, but its Maximum Retail Price (MRP) is fixed at Rs 27,000, it puts a huge burden on the common patient and taxpayers.

“This is carnage. Plain and simple. The cancer drug is priced at an MRP of Rs 27,000 despite being supplied to retailers for Rs 2,700. Corporate hospitals don’t spare anyone. They won’t allow even the dead body to be taken out. The pharma sector is not bothered,” the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre.

The top court made these scathing observations after hearing petitions concerning regulation of medicine prices, generic prescriptions and controls on medical devices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.

The court asked the Centre to consider the possibility of fixing a uniform 16 percent margin on all medicines. A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta observed during the hearing that complaints about corporate hospitals forcing patients to buy medicines from their own chemist or a particular pharmacy are also serious.

The court asked Mehta why there should be a difference in margin between essential and non-essential medicines. He said that a 16 percent margin on MRP could be considered for every medicine. Mehta further replied that if a patient is undergoing treatment under a government scheme, the burden of the cost of the medicine ultimately falls on the taxpayer.

The bench questioned why, when the retail price of a cancer drug is Rs 2,700, its MRP is Rs 27,000 and who is benefiting from the money earned from this tenfold difference. It said that in this system, ultimately it is the honest taxpayer and the common patient who suffer.

The bench said that many corporate hospitals ask patients to buy medicines only from their own chemists and there

are instances where they say they will not guarantee treatment if medicines are purchased from outside.

Directing the Centre to also examine these issues, the court fixed the matter for further rehearing to October 12.

Mehta asserted the court that the Centre will hold a meeting with officials in the matter and explore a way to strike a proper balance. He said that prima facie, it appears that the benefit of this huge difference is going not to pharma companies, but to private hospitals.

The bench said it will examine in detail both aspects - the price of medicines and ethical practices in the medical sector.

In the last hearing on September 22 also, the Supreme Court had said, “It is absolutely shocking that the MRP of an essential cancer drug is Rs 27,000, while it is being given to the retailer for Rs 2,700.”

The court had asked, “If this is not extortion, then what is? People sell their homes and jewellery to get treatment.” Regarding this difference in drug prices, the court said, “This is a completely unbridled situation. Patients are being robbed in broad daylight.”

India in talks with China for alternative route amid Pakistan airspace closure

NEW DELHI

India is holding talks with China to use its airspace for mitigating the impact of Pakistan’s airspace closure on Indian carriers, which has been in place for over 17 months.

A senior official told the media on Tuesday that Indian officials have repeatedly explored the possibility of flying over Hotan in China’s northwestern Xinjiang region during multiple rounds of talks with their Chinese counterparts.

The official said the discussions have been underway for more than a year through the Ministry of External Affairs.

Parts of Xinjiang’s airspace are controlled by the military, making it difficult to obtain clearance.

Following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers for a month on April 24. India reciprocated. Both countries have since extended the restrictions every month, with the latest extension in place until October 24.

Indian airline flights to and from the US and Canada have had to take circuitous routes, increasing travel time for passengers and fuel consumption. The longer routes also require airlines to deploy additional cockpit crew because of flight-duty limitations.

Flights between India and China were suspended following the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020. However, bilateral ties have improved over the past year. After a gap of 5.5 years, the first flight between India and China resumed operations on October 26, 2025.

IndiGo currently operates three routes to China: Delhi-Guangzhou, Kolkata-Guangzhou and Kolkata-Shanghai. Air India resumed flights between Delhi and Shanghai on February 1, 2026. China Southern Airlines began operating between Guangzhou and Delhi a week ago, while Air China resumed flights between Beijing and Delhi on April 21.



Flights between India and China were suspended following the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020. Air India, a leading Indian operator to the US, Canada and Europe, has been significantly affected by the longer routes. An airline source told TNIE last year, “We had requested the government some time ago to take efforts to impress upon China to permit the usage of a portion of its military airspace in Xinjiang for Indian aircraft.”

“The ban on airspace by Pakistan has forced us to use a circuitous route to reach the Western

nations, which has caused a surge in operational costs. This has taken a heavy financial toll on us,” the source said.

“Routes Asia 2027” will be held at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi from March 16 to 18 next year. The three-day event is expected to bring together representatives from more than 55 countries and 115 airlines.

An official release from the Ministry said, “The upcoming edition is expected to attract over 2,000 delegates, including decision-makers from leading airlines, airports and tourism authorities.”

India formally assumed hosting responsibilities for Routes Asia 2027 from China West Airport Group during the closing ceremony of Routes Asia 2026 in Xi’an, China, in April last year, with the Airports Authority of India receiving the hosting baton.

India plans to use the event to explore new regional and international air connectivity opportunities by engaging with airlines and countries, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said during a curtain-raiser event for Routes Asia 2027.

INTERNATIONAL

G20 trade officials meet under shadow of tariffs, overcapacity



WASHINGTON

G20 trade ministers are set to open talks Wednesday in the United States, in meetings strained by President Donald Trump’s tariffs as Washington targets partners regarding forced labor and overcapacity.

The gathering of officials from the Group of 20 major economies – which includes China, India, Russia, Japan, Germany and France – takes place in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee.

But analysts expect the two days of talks to be deadlocked as Trump’s tariffs weigh on relationships while China rejects concerns about its exports, which critics see as driven by excess industrial capacity.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer defended Washington’s approach

at a Tuesday roundtable in Milwaukee, saying the administration “is not anti-trade.”

He added that countries are facing similar challenges with global overcapacity and “non-market policies.”

This week, key US trading partners like Canada and the European Union are also expected to push for deeper trade ties outside the United States.

“Don’t expect any breakthroughs in Milwaukee,” Josh Lipsky of the Atlantic Council think tank told AFP, noting Trump’s preference for bilateral negotiations.

Even as G20 partners will be anxious to find ways to cooperate with the world’s biggest economy, “they will also be under pressure to voice their concerns with tariffs,” added former US trade official Wendy Cutler, now at the

Asia Society Policy Institute.

The United States holds the rotating presidency of the G20, which comprises 19 nations plus the EU and the African Union.

The gathering of officials from the Group of 20 major economies, which includes China, India, Russia, Japan, Germany and France, takes place in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee.

Trump has unleashed a barrage of tariffs on trading partners since last year, separately targeting sectors like steel and autos.

Although the Supreme Court struck down Trump’s country-specific tariffs in February, Washington has since alleged insufficient action against forced labor to slap new tariffs on 60 economies.

These include China, India and the EU.

The president’s sectoral duties remain intact too, straining ties.

And Washington is investigating 16 partners over excess industrial capacity, a complaint commonly levied at China. Critics say this floods markets, unfairly suppressing prices.

But ongoing US probes go beyond the world’s number two economy, bringing the threat of more tariffs to the EU and G20 countries like Japan and South Korea.

Cutler expects some countries will “mince no words” regarding the investigation, feeling “they are being unfairly targeted.”

China “will continue to deny the issue of exporting overproduction,” by trying to convince others that it is doing good by providing high-quality and low-priced goods, she said.

“This will be a hard sell,” Cutler told AFP, as countries see employment and commercial fallout from waves of Chinese imports.

“Meanwhile, members are wondering how much they should agree to with the Trump administration, given trade policy could change in the US after 2028,” Lipsky said, referring to the next US presidential election.

The gathering of officials from the Group of 20 major economies, which includes China, India, Russia, Japan, Germany and France, takes place in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee.

With Trump’s trade wars, all eyes are on G20 members’ efforts to deepen trade ties outside the US, or strike deals with his administration.

Canada and the EU are expected to try and boost trade and investment with others, as a spat between Ottawa and Washington intensifies.

Canada’s international trade minister Maninder Sidhu stressed Ottawa’s support for “open, predictable and rules-based trade.”

He plans to speak with partners to “reinforce a multilateral trading system,” as officials try to diversify an economy they see as too reliant on an increasingly protectionist United States.

Others like India could finalize a long-awaited trade deal with the United States. Observers are also monitoring for signs of further pressure on Iran.

Outside the G20, workers and activists are protesting what they see as the Trump administration’s broken promises to improve conditions for workers, farmers and smaller businesses.

John Drew, who chairs the political arm of the United Auto Workers union in Wisconsin, laments the loss of manufacturing jobs in the state.

While the UAW does not rule out using targeted duties to protect jobs, he said, Trump’s sweeping “use of tariffs has done nothing to bring back jobs and rebuild manufacturing.”

Iran releases 25-page letter urging US voters to reject Trump allies ahead of midterms



TEHRAN

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has issued a 25-page open letter directly addressing the American public, urging voters to reject President Donald Trump’s policies and reconsider support for his allies in Congress ahead of the November midterm elections, a Reuters report said.

The letter, according to the report, calls on Americans to oppose U.S. military and financial support for Israel and broader American military involvement overseas. It also argues that Washington and Tehran could peacefully coexist if the United States changes its current foreign-policy approach.

The IRGC accused Trump of misleading Americans about Iran’s nuclear program, claiming that Tehran’s ambitions are peaceful. It also challenged U.S. assertions about the effectiveness of Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil shipping route. Reuters reported that Iranian officials maintain the waterway remains under significant Iranian control, while oil-tracking data indicates that exports through the strait have partially recovered.

IRGC spokesman Hossein Mohebbi acknowledged that the appeal was unlikely to immediately change the Trump administration’s policies. However, he said Tehran hoped to

bypass Washington and communicate directly with American voters, arguing that greater knowledge of developments in the conflict could lead them to make different political decisions.

The appeal comes as the United States and Iran remain locked in a prolonged conflict and as diplomatic efforts continue. Qatar is conducting shuttle diplomacy between the two sides in an effort to broker a ceasefire and address the dispute over the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, Trump has continued to take a hard line toward Tehran, while his campaign has begun a 32-day tour ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

Sikkim, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park team up to support 250 startups



The Sikkim government has entered into a three-year partnership with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) to strengthen the state's startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem, with a target of supporting 250 startups and enterprises through incubation and acceleration programmes.

The 36-month initiative, signed between the state's Commerce & Industries Department and IIMCIP, will be implemented through the Sikkim Innovation Hub under the Sikkim INSPIRES programme.

The programme will also focus on establishing and operationalising four district-level incubation centres, creating more than 1,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities and increasing participation of women entrepreneurs. At least 40 per cent of the enterprises supported under the programme are expected to be women-led.

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed at Manan Kendra in Gangtok on September 27 by Commerce & Industries Secretary Karma D. Youtso and IIM Calcutta Innovation Park Chief Business Officer Gaurav Kapoor. Special Secretary-cum-Director Choden Gyatso was also present at the signing ceremony.

IIMCIP to lead incubation support

Under the agreement, IIMCIP will serve as the Lead Incubation Partner and provide structured assistance to entrepreneurs at different stages of business development.

The support will begin with developing and validating business ideas and extend to incubation, market access, investment mobilisation and scaling up.

The Sikkim Innovation Hub in Gangtok will serve as the central platform for the programme. District-level incubation centres will function as satellite facilities, taking entrepreneurship support to aspiring entrepreneurs and businesses outside the state capital.

Existing incubation centres at ATTC, Bardang, and CCCT, Chisopani, along with additional centres proposed under the programme, will be brought into a hub-and-spoke model.

The district centres will focus on identifying promising local business ideas and entrepreneurs, conducting outreach activities and running pre-incubation programmes.

Dedicated incubation managers will work with entrepreneurs and help connect them with technical experts, mentors, investors and other relevant resources.

Support from idea to market

The programme will offer a range of activities, including bootcamps, startup clinics, ideathons, workshops and entrepreneurship awareness programmes.

The initiatives will target young people, students, women, first-generation entrepreneurs, startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Entrepreneurs will receive support in areas such as business-model development, market validation, prototype development, financial planning, branding, regulatory compliance, intellectual property and growth strategies.

The programme will also seek to strengthen the connection between educational institutions and the state's emerging startup ecosystem.

The government and IIMCIP will establish Entrepreneurship Promotion Cells in higher educational institutions to identify students and young innovators with entrepreneurial potential. These cells will also help connect them with incubation facilities and other support available through the state network.

Expanding market and investment access

Another key component of the partnership is to connect Sikkim-based enterprises with national incubation networks, investors, industry partners and technology providers.

The initiative will also help local startups explore markets beyond the state, with the objective of enabling enterprises to expand their customer base and build stronger commercial networks.

The government and IIMCIP will monitor the programme through a set of outcome indicators. These will include the number of new ventures launched, prototypes developed, revenue generated, jobs created, investments mobilised and enterprises gaining access to new markets.

The participation and growth of women-led enterprises will also be tracked as a specific outcome.

Linked to Sikkim Startup Policy

The partnership is aimed at supporting the implementation of the Sikkim Startup Policy 2025 and developing a more structured support system for startups, MSMEs and innovators across the state.

By combining the Sikkim Innovation Hub in Gangtok with district-level incubation centres, the programme

seeks to decentralise access to entrepreneurship support and make it available to businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs beyond the capital.

IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, a not-for-profit Section 8 company established under IIM Calcutta, has been involved in startup incubation and investment support. According to the organisation, it has supported more than 2,000 startups and seed-funded 152 ventures. Its portfolio companies have collectively raised more than Rs 2,000 crore.

The partnership will bring IIMCIP's incubation network and expertise into Sikkim's entrepreneurship ecosystem while creating a framework for local startups to access mentors, investors, technology, markets and other business support.

With 250 startups and enterprises targeted over three years, the initiative represents a major expansion of organised incubation support in the state, with a parallel focus on employment generation, women-led enterprises and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people.



EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE WITH BRAIN VISION CLASSES

At Brain Vision Classes, we provide the ultimate blueprint your books leave out, featuring:

- Advanced Logic
- Modern Skills
- and Career Focus

For Students (Classes VI-X)

- Cutting-edge Online Modules
- Hands-on Practical Training

Scan to Enroll

[Know More](https://bit.ly/KRCBrainVision)

www.krcfoundation.org

REGISTER TODAY! <https://bit.ly/KRCBrainVision>

info@krcfoundation.org

+91 - 9330830083

SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

PLACEMENT

Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com

To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krcfoundation.org

For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcplacements>

Apply here: <https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm>

VOLUNTEERS REGISTERS @ 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@krc@gmail.com

Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate.

Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com

For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcstudentinternship>

or www.krcfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation 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:

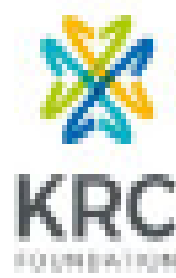
For News: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313

For Advertisement: info@krcfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083

For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313

Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313

Avoiding people who lower your vibe is self-care.



KRC TIMES E-COPY

Daily NE Edition



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
- Subscribe @ Rs.300 for 365 Days

www.krctimes.com

Why e-paper

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

Clean journalism

KRC TIMES e-copy, is a sincere efforts to provide non-biased news and information

For Whom

Students, youths, entrepreneurs, parents & professionals ...

Send your number to get your copy
WhatsApp: 8721838313
e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com



CONTACT US
+91-8721838313

<https://bit.ly/whykrctimes>



Presents



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

Writing Star Contest

MAY-NOV 2026

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

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

TOPICS

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

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

Each entry will receive a digital participation certificate

There is NO fee for participation

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

email articles: info@krcfoundation.org

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

FOR RULES AND DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT

www.krcfoundation.org

<https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest>

e-mail articles at: info@krcfoundation.org

NOMINATE YOUR
FAVOURITE
TEACHER



YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.

Celebrating and Honouring the Educators
who Inspire, Empower and Transform

Nominations are open for

North East Integration Rally
Teacher Excellence Award

2026-27



Who Can Nominate?

Students | Schools | Parents | Citizen | Self Nominate

Scan the QR & Fill the Google form

<https://bit.ly/NEIRTEA>

www.krcfoundation.org