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PERSPECTIVE

Nobody said life was easy. Just keep going.

Guwahati airport to get 21-room transit hotel under Adani's Swirl network

GUWAHATI

Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati is set to get a 21-room transit hotel as Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) expands its Swirl hospitality network across its airports. The proposed Swirl Transit Hotel will be located on Level 3 of the Arrivals area within the airport-secured zone of Terminal 2. It will offer both hourly and overnight stays, besides dining and other hospitality services.

AAHL announced the Guwahati project on Tuesday following the launch of its first Swirl Transit Hotel at Navi Mumbai International Airport.

The Guwahati facility is expected to cater to transit passengers, arriving travellers, passengers facing extended waiting periods and business travellers. Dedicated workstations and meeting-friendly spaces will also be provided for passengers who need to work while waiting for flights.

The Swirl Transit Hotel at Navi Mumbai International Airport has 80 rooms and is located on the Arrivals Level of Terminal 1. It offers four-hour and overnight stays, along with shower facilities, dining and business amenities.

AAHL said the concept is designed for passengers with long layovers, early departures, late arrivals and other short-stay requirements.

"Swirl Transit Hotel brings accommodation into the airport environment, giving travellers greater flexibility to rest, work or refresh between flights," said Suchit Bansal, CEO, Non-Aero Business, AAHL.

Bansal said the company sees scope to expand the transit hospitality concept to other airports across its network.

WHO SAID WHAT



GYANESH, IT'S DONE, BRO.

Time to resign. ~ Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition (LS)



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Manipur faces 1200 crore GST revenue decline: CM Khemchand

BISWADEEP GUPTA

IMPHAL :Chief Minister of Manipur Yumnam Khemchand Singh today called upon the people of Manipur to contribute towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, stating that peace, mutual trust and collective efforts are essential for Manipur to become an active participant in the country's development journey. The Chief Minister was speaking at the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan held at Yaorang Sabal Community Hall, Patsoi Part IV, Imphal.

Speaking on the public service of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister highlighted his 25 years of public service, from serving as Chief Minister to becoming the Prime Minister of India. He said that India has emerged as one of the world's largest economies during this period.

The Chief Minister recalled that India was ranked 11th among the



world's largest economies before Narendra Modi became Prime Minister and said that under his leadership, India had risen to the fourth position among the world's largest economies. The CM's reference was to the country's earlier rise to fourth place. Referring to the difficulties faced by Manipur following the conflict that began on May 3, 2023, Yumnam Khemchand

Singh said that the people and the government have endured significant collateral damage. He stated that the conflict had also adversely affected the State's GST revenue, resulting in a decline of more than Rs. 1,200 crores. The Chief Minister further highlighted the difficulties faced by daily wage earners and other sections of society due to bandhs and blockades. He said

that a single day of bandh can cause an economic loss of around Rs. 20-25 crore, with ordinary people and daily earners bearing much of the impact.

Appealing to the people and civil society organisations, Yumnam Khemchand Singh urged all concerned not to resort to bandhs, stating that such disruptions adversely affect the livelihood of the common people and the overall economy of the State. Speaking on the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the goal of transforming India into a developed nation by the time the country completes 100 years of Independence. He stressed that Manipur must also contribute to and benefit from this national development journey. The Chief Minister said that peace is essential for Manipur's development and emphasised the need to remove the trust deficit among different communities. He called for greater

mutual understanding, trust and co-operation among the communities so that the State can move forward on the path of development. He also advised the government officials present at the programme to take all necessary measures within their respective responsibilities for the welfare of the people and ensure that government schemes and services reach the intended beneficiaries effectively. More than 30 service stalls and counters set up by various government departments were opened during the programme, providing people with access to government services, information and welfare schemes. The programme was attended by the MLA of Patsoi Assembly Constituency, Sapam Kunjakeswor (Keba) Singh, Deputy Commissioner (Imphal West) Mayanglabam Rajkumar Singh, senior government officials, representatives of various departments, local representatives and a large number of people from the constituency.

Liangmai Naga family's house gutted in suspected militant arson in Manipur



IMPHAL

The blaze completely destroyed the house and household belongings, including important documents and other valuables.

A video circulating on social media, purportedly showing the incident at Leimakhong Chingmang, showed a structure engulfed in flames with thick smoke rising into the night. Security personnel were reportedly present in the vicinity.

The Konsakhul (Kon-saram) Village Authority condemned the incident, calling it a deliberate attack on a member of the Naga community.

In a statement, the village authority alleged that cadres of the Kuki National Front-Progressive (KNF-P) and Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) were responsible for the arson. Both groups are signatories to the tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement.

The village body said armed groups covered under the SoO framework should not be allowed to target civilians or destroy private property with impunity.

It described the incident as particularly disturbing at a time when efforts are continuing to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur.

The Konsakhul Village Authority urged the Central government to take immediate steps to restrain armed Kuki groups and called on the Centre and Manipur government to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident.

It also demanded that those responsible for the attack be identified and brought to justice at the earliest.

CJP alleges police pressure on activists ahead of October 10 Delhi protest

NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday alleged that Maharashtra Police were putting pressure on party activists ahead of the organisation's planned protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on October 10.

Addressing a press conference in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Dipke claimed that Chandrapur police had served notices on CJP activists, asking them not to participate in the proposed agitation and questioning them about the source of funds for their travel to Delhi.

The CJP has announced the October 10 protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. "I have said multiple times that the Maharashtra Police is the best police force in the country, and the Delhi Police should learn from them. But it is heartbreaking that the Chandrapur police served notices to CJP workers, telling them not to participate in the agitation at Jantar Mantar," Dipke said.

He questioned the basis for anticipating that the proposed demonstration could turn violent and objected to alleged directions to activists against making social media posts that could potentially lead to violence. "We speak about (Mahatma) Gandhi and BR Ambedkar. Do they think it is violent?" he asked. Dipke also criticised the BJP-led government over its "One Nation, One Election" proposal, claiming that while the stated formulation was "one nation, one election", the alleged objective was "one nation, one political party".

The proposed protest comes amid opposition criticism over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and reports of differences within the three-member Election Commission.

Nimisha murder accused Asik Ali shifted to GMCH with two bullet injuries



GUWAHATI

Asik Ali, the 26-year-old man accused in the murder of Gauhati University student Nimisha Thakuria, was admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) on Tuesday morning with two bullet injuries to his right leg.

Ali was brought to GMCH around 5.30 am and admitted to the Orthopaedics Department for treatment, doctors said.

GMCH superintendent Dr Devajit Choudhury said both injuries had entry and exit wounds. One bullet struck Ali's knee joint from the rear and exited through the front, while the other caused an injury near the ankle joint.

"The blood vessels and nerves are intact," Choudhury said, adding that Ali was currently out of danger.

Ali was initially taken to Garol for medical treatment before being shifted to GMCH. Doctors said they found no visible injuries on other parts of his body.

"We do not know under what circumstances he was brought here. We are treating him as a patient," Choudhury said.

Ali was allegedly shot during an encounter in connection with the murder case. Further details about the circumstances leading to the shooting were not immediately available.

Ali has been accused of involvement in the death of 21-year-old Nimisha Thakuria, whose body was recovered from a homestay in Guwahati on September 25.

Thakuria, a Sociology student at Gauhati University, was a resident of Dharapur under the Azara police station area. Her body was recovered from Rudra's Kitchen Homestay late on September 25, following which police reached the spot and launched an investigation.

The circumstances surrounding her death and the events leading to Ali's shooting are under investigation.

200 Assam private schools face admission curbs over recognition, safety lapses

GUWAHATI

Around 200 private educational institutions across 25 districts of Assam could face restrictions on fresh admissions after the Education Department rejected their applications for administrative recognition over violations of prescribed norms. The institutions were found deficient in areas including land documents, lease agreements, approach roads and infrastructure. In some cases, schools were also found operating from residential buildings, raising concerns over student safety and fire-fighting access.

The action followed scrutiny by the Administrative Recognition Committee under the Assam Non-Government Educational Institutions (Regulation and Management) Act, 2006, as amended in 2018. The Directorate of Secondary Education has directed the concerned Inspectors of Schools to immediately inform the institutions and ensure that they do not operate without valid administrative recognition. The directorate has also sought early compliance reports. Director of

Secondary Education Mamata Hojai said several institutions had obtained initial permission but failed to complete the mandatory process for final recognition. "Many institutions which had applied for permission in 2020, 2022 and 2023 have still not completed the process for final administrative approval," Hojai told e, stressing that the violations also raised serious student safety concerns, including fire safety. According to Hojai, some institutions did not possess proper land documents or lease agreements, while others had inadequate roads leading to their campuses. "In some cases, the streets are so narrow that in the eventuality of a fire incident, there would be no space for fire-fighting access," she said. Under the prescribed procedure, applicants seeking to establish private educational institutions must apply through the Education Department's online portal. District authorities examine requirements relating to land, management, classrooms and other infrastructure before granting prior permission, generally for two years.

AGARTALA

Tipra Motha Party (TMP) chief Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma on Tuesday urged the Centre to begin implementing the Tiprasa accord, a day after his party registered a sweeping victory in Tripura's tribal areas village committee elections.

Debbarma said the Centre must now honour its commitment to the state's indigenous population, which he said had waited for years for the agreement to be implemented.

"How can I go to the people again?" Debbarma said while stressing the need for the Centre to act on its commitment ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections.

The village committee elections were held for 4,594 seats across 587 bodies after a gap of nearly a decade. Official figures showed the TMP winning 3,428 seats, while the BJP secured 859 and its ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) won 33.

Thanking voters for backing the party, Debbarma said the polls would restore elected village bodies across the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) after a prolonged gap.

He said he had approached the Tripura High Court and subsequently the Su-



preme Court seeking the conduct of the elections. Following the Supreme Court's direction, the State Election Commission eventually held the polls after nearly 10 years.

With the elections now over, Debbarma said the focus must shift to the implementation of the Tiprasa accord, signed

in March 2024 by the Centre, the Tripura government and the TMP to address the development and other concerns of the state's indigenous population.

According to Debbarma, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured him during a meeting in Delhi that implementation of the accord would begin after

Durga Puja in the presence of Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha.

"We hope the Centre to honour the commitment given to the people of tribal areas," he said.

Debbarma warned that any further delay could erode the trust of the indigenous population and make it difficult for him to seek their support in the 2028 Assembly elections.

He, however, emphasised that the TMP was not opposed to any community living in Tripura and said communal harmony remained in the larger interest of the state.

At the same time, he called for stronger protection of the legitimate rights of indigenous people, particularly their land rights in the TTAADC areas.

"We are not speaking against any community residing in our small state, but legitimate rights, including land rights, must be protected for the indigenous people in tribal council areas," he said, referring to protections available in other Sixth Schedule areas of the Northeast.

The TTAADC, governed by the TMP, covers nearly two-thirds of Tripura's geographical area and has a predominantly indigenous population.



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India's Technology Boom

India is no longer merely a country that writes software for the world. It is increasingly becoming a country that builds digital platforms, develops artificial intelligence, manufactures electronics, experiments with semiconductors, launches space ventures and places technology at the centre of everyday life. The transformation is visible almost everywhere.

A vegetable seller can accept a digital payment within seconds. A student in a small town can attend an online class taught hundreds of kilometres away. A patient can consult a doctor without travelling to a major city. A small trader can sell products beyond the local market. A startup can build a global business from Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune or even a smaller Indian city.

This is not simply the story of technological progress. It is the story of an economic and social transformation.

But there is an important question that India must now confront: Are we merely becoming better users of technology, or are we becoming genuine creators of the technologies that will shape the next economy?

That distinction will determine how far India's technology story ultimately goes.

India's technology success has deep roots. For decades, its biggest strength was its enormous pool of engineers and professionals working in software services, outsourcing, business-process management and information technology.

Cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Gurugram and Noida became global technology centres. Indian professionals became an important part of the international technology workforce.

But the technology economy has now moved far beyond IT services.

Startups are building financial platforms, healthcare solutions, educational technologies, logistics systems, software products and artificial-intelligence tools. Indian companies are increasingly looking beyond domestic markets and attempting to compete globally.

That transition matters.

A service-based economy can generate employment and foreign exchange. But a product-driven technology economy can create intellectual property, globally recognised brands and much greater economic value.

India therefore needs to move from coding for the world to creating for the world.

Perhaps no device has transformed India's technological landscape as dramatically as the smartphone.

For millions of Indians, the smartphone is not simply a communication device. It is a bank, classroom, marketplace, entertainment centre, workplace and gateway to government services.

Cheap data and widespread smartphone adoption have created an enormous digital population. Once millions of people began using digital services every day, businesses had a powerful incentive to build more of them.

This created a cycle of adoption and innovation: more users encouraged more digital services, and more services encouraged more people to come online.

Digital payments are perhaps the clearest example of this transformation. Technology has altered the way Indians pay, receive money, shop and conduct business.

But the next phase cannot be measured merely by the number of transactions. The real question is whether digitalisation improves productivity, expands opportunity and makes economic participation easier for people who were previously excluded.

Artificial intelligence could become the defining technology of India's next decade.

Businesses are already using AI for customer service, fraud detection, data analysis, automation, content creation, software development and decision-making. Generative AI has lowered the barrier further, allowing even small businesses and individuals to use powerful technological tools.

For India, however, AI presents an opportunity that goes beyond productivity.

A country with hundreds of languages and enormous linguistic diversity has a particularly strong reason to develop AI systems capable of understanding regional languages and local contexts.

If artificial intelligence works only in English, its benefits will remain concentrated. If it can communicate naturally in Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Manipuri, Mizo, Khasi and other Indian languages, it could become a powerful instrument of inclusion.

But AI also raises uncomfortable questions.

What happens to jobs when automation becomes cheaper and more capable? Who owns the data used to train these systems? How do we prevent algorithmic discrimination? Who takes responsibility when an AI system makes a damaging decision?

India cannot treat AI merely as another commercial opportunity. It needs a serious public debate about the social rules surrounding it.

There is perhaps no better test of India's ambition than semiconductors.

Modern economies depend on chips. Smartphones, automobiles, medical equipment, telecommunications networks, computers, defence systems and artificial intelligence infrastructure all depend on them.

India has considerable expertise in chip design. Manufacturing, however, is a different challenge.

Building a semiconductor ecosystem requires enormous investment, reliable power and water, sophisticated supply chains, specialised skills, advanced manufacturing facilities and long-term policy consistency. The objective, therefore, should not be limited to establishing a few manufacturing plants.

India needs an ecosystem encompassing design, fabrication, packaging, testing, equipment, components, research and skilled manpower. If that ecosystem develops, the benefits could extend far beyond semiconductors. Electronics, electric vehicles, telecommunications, defence technology and AI hardware could all gain. India's growing electronics manufacturing sector is another important development.

More smartphones and electronic products are being assembled in the country, creating jobs and supporting logistics, suppliers, testing facilities and other businesses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

All passions are good when one masters them; all are bad when one is a slave to them. Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Manipur's 1,500-Refugee Rehabilitation: A Fake-Letter Scam?

SR. PROF. K. YUGINDRO SINGH (RETD.),

1. INTRODUCTION

The said fake letter mentioned in the title of this article bears letter No. 31(68)/66-RH IV dated 30.1.1967(See Encl.-1) and it was purportedly issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation being addressed to the Government of Manipur. Para 3 of the said impugned fake letter dated 30.1.1967 laid down that Burma Repatriates would be provided housing loan up to Rs. 2 (two) lakhs per loanee for Every Year, in addition to business loan up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000/- per family. (Notably, ₹2 lakh in 1967 is equivalent to approximately ₹1.2 crore today based on cumulative inflation.) Thesaid provision in para 3 for housing loan up to Rs. 2 (two) lakhs per Loanee for Every Year contradicts completely the then existing norm of the Government of India according to which the maximum limit for housing loan was Rs. 2,250/- per family in Rural Areas and it was one- timevide Statement II of the “Note giving information required by Ministry of External Affairs regarding Burma Repatriates” circulated by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on 13.6.1968 (See Encl.-2). Further, the spelling of the name of signatory officer is incorrect as it was typed as “R.S. Saksana” in lieu of the correct name “R.S. Saksena” which has been confirmed from the File notes of R.S. Saksena available with the Ministry of Rehabilitation e.g. page 16 of File No. 3(1)/65-RH IV (See Encl.-3). Moreover, vide letter No. 6/14/81-Desk V(B) dated 6.3.1982 (See Encl.-4), the Ministry of Rehabilitation stated categorically that the maximum limit mentioned in para 3 of the impugned fake letter dated 30.1.1967 was ‘obviously wrong’ and also that the relevant file of the Department was ‘not readily available’. However, in a File noting made by an official (S. Jayasankar) of the same Ministry on 1.3.1982 in para 3 at page number 4 under File No. 6/14/81-Desk V(BR) (See Encl.-5),reported that the relevant file i.e., 31(68)/66-RH IV was destroyed in 1974.

Furthermore, para 2 of the impugned letter No. 31(68)/66-RH IV dated 30.1.1967 gave the wrong impression that repatriates of Indian origin from Burma included persons who would come by overland route (by road) and also that the State Government could be guided by the report submitted by the Police Department. On the other hand, bonafide repatriates from Burma required that they should arrive in India either by sea or by air after obtaining an identity certificate issued by the Indian Embassy in Rangoon. As per the norms of the Government of India, bonafide repatriates from Burma were those who were holders of ‘Foreigners Registration Certificates in Burma’ or ‘Emergency Certificates issued to Burmese citizens of Indian origin’vide copy of the Secret letter No.S.3/2/64-Cons. Pt. III(a) dated 21.1.1966 issued by Shri S. E. Joshi, First Secretary, Embassy of Burma, Rangoon (See Encl.-6).

Thus, in view of the above facts, it is established beyond any doubt that the impugned letter No. 31(68)/66-RH IV dated 30.1.1967 was a fake letter.

2. IMPACT AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE FAKE LETTER

Towards the end of 1967, an exodus of a very huge number of Kukis from Burma into Manipur took placeand Shri Baleswar Prasad, IAS, then Chief Commissioner, Manipur was taken by surprise. At that point of time, Manipur was under President's Rule (25.10.1967 to 18.2.1968). The Chief Commissioner informed the matter immediately to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Vide his letter No. 37/7/67/-R dated 6.2.1968, the Chief Commissioner reported to the Centre that a total of 500 Kuki families consisting of approximately 2400 persons had crossed over from Burma into Manipur. He suggested a loan scheme for settling of these persons on land @ Rs 725/- per family. In response to the Chief Commissioner's letter dated 6.2.1968, the Ministry of Home Affairs approved an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 3,62,500/- for permanent rehabilitation of 500 Kuki families who had migrated from Burma to Manipur vide Ministry's letter No. 14/45/67-HMT dated 20.3.1968 (See Encl.-7). Subsequently, S.C. Vaish, then Deputy Commissioner, Manipur District (Manipur was then a single district) took up the task of rehabilitation of the Burma Kuki refugees in Churachandpur, Tengnoupal, Sadar Hillsand Ukhrul. In his letter No. B-R/67/DC/13146 dated 8.6.1968 (See Encl.-8)addressed to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Ukhrul and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Tengnoupal, the Deputy Commissioner(S.C.Vaish) sought reports regarding re-settlement of Kuki refugees from Burma. Again, in another letter No. B-R/67/DC/1318 dated 8.6.1968 (See Encl.-9) addressed to the Under Secretary (Settlement Branch), Government of Manipur, the Deputy Commissioner-reported that he was not in a position to give comments regarding the legality of the entry of a large number of Kuki tribes

al refugees from Burma.

Vide a letter dated 15.2.1973 (See Encl.-10), Henkosei Haokip, Chairman and Shochung Haokip, Secretary of the Burma Kuki Refugees' Association, Manipur petitioned to the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, Government of India stating that about 1500 Kuki families had been repatriated from Burma. They requested for special sanction of relief and rehabilitation financial assistance in favour of the Kuki refugees. Shri Hokhomang Haokip, then Industries Minister, Manipur pursued the petition of the Burma Kuki Refugees' Association with the Ministry of Rehabilitation, ultimately leading to formulation of Revised Estimates, 1972-73 and Budget Estimates, 1973-74 in favour of the Kuki refugees for their rehabilitationin Manipur. Again, citing the case of 1500 families of Kuki refugees from Burma who had crossed over to Manipur in the month of December, 1967, Paokai Haokip, then Member of Parliament pleaded to Shri K. C. Pant, then State Minister of Home Affairs for extending maximum possible financial assistance in the form of business and agricultural loans vide letter dated 20.6.1973(See Encl.-11). Official records show that even in 1980's, though they were not bonafide repatriates in terms of the standing norms of the Government of India, many families of Kuki refugees who had arrived in Manipur 1967, continued to obtain relief and rehabilitation assistance including business loan and housing loan in terms of several lakhs of Rupees from the fund of the Government of India, meant for bonafide repatriates.

3. THE KUKI REFUGEES FROM BURMA WERE NOT BONAFAIDE REPATRIATES

Those Kuki refugees who landed in Manipur in 1967 were not bonafide Burmeserepatriates as testified by the fact that they did not possessany document related to repatriation including identity card, family card, emergency certificate.The File noting on page 10 under File No. 17(7)/88-BURMA DESK (See Encl.-12) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Internal Security Division) reported categorically that, as per a District Police report (vide Report No. SP-SPT/19/6/87(C) dated 5.9.1987 issued by Superintendent of Police, Senapati District, Manipur)(See Encl.-13), the Kuki Refugees of 1967 listed by the Burma Kui Refugees' Association were not bonafide repatriates. Vide the file noting dated 4.6.1973 under File No. 11/30/71-HMT(NE) (See Encl.-14), R.C. Iyer, then Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs wrote categorically that “The individuals involved in the case were not repatriates, but were Kuki migrants of the doubtful nationality”. In addition,vide letter no. 6/14/81-Desk.V(B) dated 1.9.1982 (See Encl.-15), the Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) wrote “A doubt, therefore, arose as to whether, the Kuki tribes who claim to be Indian nationals coming from Burma are really Indian nationals or Burmese crossed over to India with a view, not only to avail of the opportunities available in India but also to obtain the assistance that is given to the repatriates. It may be added that these persons are not in possession of any document about repatriation. Nor any identity card or family card or emergency certificate has been issued to them.”

Very surprisingly, all of the Kuki refugees were given ST certificate soon after their entry into Manipur thereby implying that they have become legal citizens of India.As per norms, Indian citizenship can be acquired only by those repatriates from Burma who hold Foreigners Registration Certificates in Burma, are given Emergency Certificates by the Indian Embassy in Rangoon and repatriated to India vide copy of the letter No. SI/431/1/66 dated 5.1.1966issued by Shri S. Verghese, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (See Encl.16).Granting of ST status blindly to the Kuki Refugees who are not qualified even to become bonafide repatriates isin total violation of the provisions of the Constitution of India and it makes the legal framework of India a great mockery.

4. WHO COULD BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FAKE LETTER?

During those days(25.10.1967 to 18.2.1968) of the President's Rule in Manipur, the Home Secretary to the Government of Manipur was ThangkhapaokKipgen, a Kuki supremacist who earlier founded the Kuki Impi(as Founding President) and Kuki National Assembly (as Founding Secretary) in 1946, always longing for a larger confederation of Kuki-Chin tribes and Paokai Haokip, also a Kuki supremacist, who had similar aspiration as that of Mr. ThangkhopaoKipgen, was the Member of Parliament (1967-1977). Thus, during those days of the President's Rule, Manipur was virtually under the administrative grip of the two Kuki supremacists and most likely, just at the onset of the President'sRule in Manipur, they

created ingeniously the impugned fake letter No. 31(68)/66-RH IV dated 30.1.1967 and managed to send it to the concerned authority of the Government of Manipur from Delhi in conspiracy with some officials in the Ministry of Rehabilitation. This scenario can provide the only explanation as why the relevant file i.e., 31(68)/66-RH IV was destroyed in 1974. Most likely, Paokai Haokip, then MP took the lead roles to reach out to the Chin/Kuki kins residing in Burma and lured them to migrate with their families from Burma to Manipur, citing paras 2 and 3 of the said impugned letter dated 30.1.1967.

5. KHANDAWMI OPERATION

A large number of Indian nationals who have been residing in Burma started returning to India since 1st June 1963 consequent upon nationalisation of trade and imposition of certain restrictions on foreigners by the Government of Burma under General Ne Winfollowing his 1962 military coup.As per the information furnished by the Ministry of External Affairs, the number of repatriates from Burma who arrived in India as on 13.7.1968 was 1,63,099 including 3 persons admitted to the camp in Manipur. As per official records, no distinct state campaign was directed by General Ne Win against the Chin/Kuki people in December 1967. The prelude given by Kuki scholars and Politicians like Paolienlal Haokip, a sitting Kuki MLA in Manipur that a military action called” Khadawmi Operation” was carried out in the Kabaw valley in December 1967 in which villagers lacking National Identity Card (NIC) were served eviction notices requiring them to vacate their homes within 48 hours, is absolutely untenable being not supported by official records maintained by the Government of Burma.The story of Khadawmi Operation is a concocted piece of story first constructed by Paolienlal Haokip in 2002vide his commentarydated on 23.5.2002 published by Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) (See Encl.17).

6. OTHER FACTORS FOR MIGRATION OF THE KUKIS FROM BURMA TO MANIPUR

The Chin/Kuki people in Burma (now called Myanmar) and the Kuki communities in Manipur have shared common ancestry, languages, and family networks. The Chin/Kuki people have preference to live in India for better economic security, safety and easier living hood. Once such people get the opportunity to settle in Manipur, they can get easily the status of Scheduled Tribe under the patronage of Kuki chiefs and thus, they get protection under the Constitution of India. Other factors for migration of the Chin/Kuki people from Myanmar to Manipur are political instability, civil conflict, and military rule in that country. For the Chins/Kukis of Burma, moving to Manipur means joining their kin communities who can offer refuge.

7. COCLUSION

Manufacturing of the impugned fake letter No. 31(68)/66-RH IV dated 30.1.1967 requires ingenious creativity and skills with administrative experiences.Obviously, it is a serious crime of highest order carried out by meticulously by a network comprising of Kuki bureaucrats, Kuki politicians and some officials in the Ministry of Rehabilitation. It should be looked upon as a sinister design of conspiracy of highest order to disturb the integrity of Manipur apart from being a serious criminal act of cheating against the State and Central Governments and the indigenous people of Manipur. Since that impugned letter caused exodus of 1500 families of Kukis from Burma into Manipur in 1967 who have been provided permanent rehabilitation, the socio-economic and political implications rendered by the presence of these Kuki rehabilitates in Manipur are far reaching. The presence of the Kuki rehabilites as full-fledged citizens of India has badly affected the share of political power and demographic structure in Manipur. It is a fit case for the State Government to institute a high-level probe into the Refugee Scam so that whoseever accountable for this crime be dealt with iron hand as per laws of the country and the wrongs done be rectified. It may be added that the Kuki rehabilites dominantly reside inSaitu (Kangpokpi district), Saikot (Churachandpur) and Kangpokpi.Paokai Haokip passed away on 6.6.2021. In the obituary message published in print and electronic media, the Kuki Impi Manipur, its federal units and frontal organisations recounted Paokai Haokip, the first Kuki MP, as being instrumental in the creation of Assembly Constituencies of Saitu (Kangpokpidistrict) and Saikot (Churachandpur district) and Kangpokpi (See Encl.18).

REFERENCES:

1. Letter No. 31(68)/66-RH IV dated 30.1.1967purportedly issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation being addressed to the Government of Manipur

(Encl.1).

2. Statement II of the “Note giving information required by Ministry of External Affairs regarding Burma Repatriates” circulated by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on 13.6.1968 (Encl.-2).

3. File notes of R.S. Saksena available with the Ministry of Rehabilitation at page 16 of File No. 3(1)/65-RH IV (Encl.-3).

4. letter No. 6/14/81-Desk V(B) dated 6.3.1982 issued the Ministry of Rehabilitation(Encl.-4).

5. File noting made by an official (S. Jayasankar) of the Ministry of Rehabilitation on 1.3.1982 in para 3 at page number 4 under File No. 6/14/81-Desk

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

The story matters, So does how you get it! Guidelines for journalists. ~ Delhi Police



V(BR) (Encl.-5).

6. Secret letter No.S.3/2/64-Cons. Pt. III(a) dated 21.1.1966 issued by Shri S. E. Joshi, First Secretary, Embassy of Burma, Rangoon (Encl.-6).

7. Letter No. 14/45/67-HMT dated 20.3.1968issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Encl.-7).

8. Letter No. B-R/67/DC/13146 dated 8.6.1968 addressed to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Ukhrul and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Tengnoupal, issued by S. C. Vaish, Deputy Commissioner, Manipur (Encl.-8).

9. Letter No. B-R/67/DC/1318 dated 8.6.1968addressed to the Under Secretary (Settlement Branch), Government of Manipur, issued by S. C. Vaish, Deputy Commissioner, Manipur(Encl.-9).

10. Letter dated 15.2.1973 written by Henkosei Haokip, Chairman and Shochung Haokip, Secretary of the Burma Kuki Refugees' Association, Manipur to the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, Government of India(Encl.-10).

11. Letter dated 20.6.1973written by Paokai Haokip, Member of Parliament to Shri K. C. Pant, State Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India(Encl.-11).

12. File noting on page 10 under File No. 17(7)/88-BURMA DESK of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Internal Security Division)(Encl.-12).

13. Report No. SP-SPT/19/6/87(C) dated 5.9.1987 issued by Superintendent of Police, SenapatiDistrict, Manipur (Encl.-13).

14. File noting dated 4.6.1973 under File No. 11/30/71-HMT(NE) done by R.C. Iyer, Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs(Encl.-14).

15. Letter no. 6/14/81-Desk.V(B) dated 1.9.1982issued by the Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation)(Encl.-15).

16. Letter No. SI/431/1/66 dated 5.1.1966 issued by Shri S. Verghese, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (Encl.16).

17. Paolienlal Haokip's Commentarydated 23.5.2002 published by Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) (Encl.17).

18. Obituary message on the death of Paokai Haokip, first Kuki Member of Parliament, published at e-pao.net on 7.6.2021 (See Encl.18).

Sr. Prof. K. Yugindro Singh (Retd.), Former Acting Vice Chancellor, Manipur University

NEC clears three Assam projects worth Rs 11.55 crore, sanctions Rs 4.42 crore for new schemes

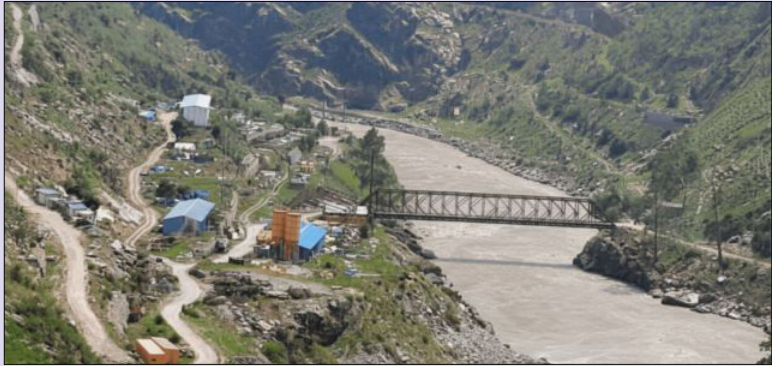
GUWAHATI

The North Eastern Council (NEC) has closed three development projects in Assam worth a combined Rs 11.55 crore, while releasing another Rs 4.42 crore for new initiatives in Kokrajhar and Tinsukia.

The three completed projects are located in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong and focus on service delivery and rural development.

They include a Rs 4.97-crore project covering key identified services at Lumbajong Development Block, a Rs 1.97-crore scheme at Sarmen Hanse village under the same block, and a Rs 4.61-crore project at Chinthong Block in West Karbi Anglong.

The projects were among 14 major development and infrastructure schemes across the Northeast that



the NEC declared completed or closed in September. Together, the projects were valued at Rs 45.48 crore.

Assam also received Rs 4.42 crore in fresh NEC funding during the month. The funds will support stu-

dent hostels at Bineswar Brahma Engineering College in Kokrajhar and initiatives involving the Singpho community in Tinsukia.

Across the northeastern region, the NEC released Rs 42.63 crore in

September. Of this, Rs 35.21 crore was allocated directly to the northeastern states, while Rs 7.42 crore went to regional institutions and agencies for capacity building, infrastructure and technology-related programmes.

Nagaland received the largest state allocation at Rs 11.92 crore. The funding included support for cluster-based coffee value-chain development and a cultural activity complex at Pflutseromi village for the Chakhesang community.

Mizoram received Rs 6.29 crore for projects including an auditorium at Bethel Veng in Champhai, cultural tourism infrastructure at Vangchhia, Mizo ginger cultivation, IT-based mineral mapping and community infrastructure in Siaha district.

Sikkim was allocated Rs 4.17 crore for town CCTV surveillance and a

multipurpose hall at Government Degree College, Rhenock. Arunachal Pradesh received Rs 3.40 crore for a nursing hostel at District Hospital, Yingkiong, the Acheso tourism complex in Dibang Valley and the Ziro Signature View Point.

Tripura and Manipur also received instalments for ongoing projects, including a model haat for tribal youth, upgrades to Khumulwng Eco-Park, medicinal plant documentation, a museum-cum-library and river debris collection units.

Among regional agencies, Rs 2.88 crore was released to the North Eastern Council Bamboo Development Centre for bamboo artisan clusters, Rs 2.35 crore to the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation for handloom skill development, and

Rs 1.24 crore to NECTAR for STEM laboratories in remote schools.

Other projects closed by the NEC in September included a Rs 9.28-crore cultural complex of Seng Khasi Ri Raid Laban in Shillong, a Rs 9.17-crore Music and Youth Activity Centre in Kohima, a Rs 4.27-crore girls' hostel at JN College in Pasighat and a Rs 4.53-crore scheme for the Limboo community in Sikkim.

The NEC also closed seven bamboo-processing prototype projects worth Rs 2.10 crore, an Rs 11.08-crore IT Education Programme covering 150 schools in Mizoram, and initiatives focused on AVGC and IT-ITES training, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, NSSS 2026 and the She-Friendly Programme covering 20 institutions in Shillong.

Woman allegedly molested on way home with infant; 3 arrested



SILCHAR

Three youths have been arrested in Cachar district for allegedly molesting a woman and attempting to sexually assault her while she was returning home with her nine-month-old baby.

The incident was reported on the night of October 3 in an area near Hathichara Tea Estate under Udarbond police station.

The arrested accused have been identified as Hasim Uddin Khan (27), Mannan Laskar (35) and Rezaul Hussain Laskar (25). Another accused, Manzur Hussain Laskar, is reportedly absconding.

According to the FIR, the woman was carrying her infant when she was allegedly intercepted by the accused on NH-27 near Hathichara Tea Estate. The complaint alleges that the men subjected her to obscene behaviour and attempted to molest her.

The woman's cries alerted local residents, who rushed to the spot. The accused allegedly tried to flee when people arrived. Hasim Uddin Khan was reportedly caught by the residents and handed over to the police.

Police later arrested the other two accused after registering a case based on the woman's complaint.

All three arrested accused were produced before a court in Silchar on Monday.

Police have launched a further investigation into the allegations and are also continuing efforts to trace the absconding accused.

Assam employees, teachers intensify stir for restoration of Old Pension Scheme

GUWAHATI

Various employees' and teachers' organisations in Assam have decided to intensify their agitation demanding restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for all categories of state government employees. A meeting convened under the aegis of the All Assam Government NPS Employees' Association at the Assam College Teachers' Association conference hall in Solapara, Guwahati, on Sunday also decided to launch a series of protests seeking the immediate release of five months' pending dearness allowance (DA) for state government employees.

Association president Achyutananda Hazarika said government employees and teachers have been demanding restoration of the OPS since 2018, citing concerns over financial security after retirement.

He also questioned the clarity surrounding the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) introduced by the

Centre last year.

According to Hazarika, although the Assam government has issued a notification to implement the UPS on the Central model, employees are still unclear about the benefits they would receive after retirement and the procedure for accessing them.

The association also claimed that the state government's decision to extend OPS benefits to employees whose recruitment process began before 2005, including some who were appointed after 2005, has not been fully implemented. The joint platform said employees were facing rising living costs while waiting for their pending DA and demanded that the Assam government restore the OPS and release the five months' outstanding DA immediately.

The meeting decided that if the demands are not addressed, a continuous agitation programme would be launched from this month.

Naga students' body condemns reported drone attack on civilians in Myanmar's Naga-inhabited area

DISPUR

The Naga Students' Organisation (NSO) has condemned a reported drone attack on a civilian home in Langkho village of Lahe Township in Myanmar's Naga-inhabited area, claiming that two civilians, including a nine-year-old schoolgirl, were injured.

In a statement issued on October 4, the organisation said the incident took place around 1 am on October 3, when two drones allegedly dropped four bombs on a residential house located in the middle of the village.

According to the NSO, two of the bombs exploded, while the other two failed to detonate and remain buried at the site, posing a continuing risk to local residents.

The organisation said a nine-year-old Class 5 student and an adult man were injured in the reported attack.

The NSO claimed that six civilians were staying in the house



and that none of them were armed or involved in any armed activity.

It expressed particular concern over the presence of unexploded ordnance at the site, saying it posed an immediate threat, especially to children and other residents. The organisation also claimed that no qualified personnel were currently available to safely locate, remove or defuse the unexploded bombs.

Describing the reported targeting of a civilian home in the middle of a village as a serious matter, the NSO said the incident raised concerns over civilian protection, territorial integrity and international law.

The organisation referred to

the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law principles relating to the protection of civilians during armed conflicts. It said the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution were essential safeguards for civilian populations.

The NSO called on the Government of India to immediately launch a transparent investigation into the reported incident and ensure that anyone found responsible for unlawful conduct is held accountable under applicable Indian law and international legal obligations.

It also urged Indian security forces to exercise maximum restraint and ensure that military operations do not put civilian

communities across the international border at risk.

The organisation appealed to the Myanmar government to investigate what it described as repeated attacks on civilians in Naga-inhabited areas and take steps to protect affected communities.

It further called on the United Nations, international human rights organisations and humanitarian agencies to take note of the reported attacks and sought an independent, impartial and transparent investigation.

The NSO said civilians affected by the reported attacks, including the injured child, deserved protection, justice and accountability.

The organisation also appealed to Naga communities to remain united and peaceful amid what it described as continuing insecurity and uncertainty, stressing that unity and solidarity were essential to protecting vulnerable communities and their rights.

Manipur Police to Mark 135th Raising Day with Statewide Events

IMPHAL

Manipur Police is set to celebrate its 135th Raising Day on 19th October, 2026 with a series of sporting, adventure, community outreach and public engagement programmes across the State. The celebrations are aimed at fostering closer police-public relations, promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles, encouraging youth participation and reinforcing the collective fight against social challenges, particularly the menace of drugs.

The highlight of the Raising Day celebrations will be the Ceremonial Raising Day Parade to be held at 1st Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal, on 19th October, 2026, where officers and personnel of Manipur Police will participate in a display of discipline, professionalism and commitment to public service.

As part of the run-up to the Raising Day celebrations, sever-



al major events have been planned and are being organized by various units and district police formations.

A key highlight of the celebrations will be the Manipur Police Half Marathon 2026, scheduled to be held on 18th October, 2026, which is expected to attract more than 3,000 participants. The event will feature multiple race categories and is envisioned as one of the largest public sporting events organized by Manipur Police in recent years.

Another major attraction will be the Manipur Police Football Cup

2026, being organized in collaboration with the All-Manipur Football Association (AMFA). The tournament will witness the participation of 16 local football teams, providing a platform for young talent while promoting sportsmanship and community engagement.

In a unique initiative to promote adventure, environmental awareness and physical fitness, Senapati District Police will undertake a trek to Mount Iso, the highest peak in Manipur, while Ukhrul District Police will organize a trek to the scenic Shirui Hills. These activities are intended to encourage youth participation, appreciation of Manipur's natural heritage and the spirit of endurance and teamwork.

In addition, a wide range of events are being conducted throughout the State, including football and badminton tournaments, running competi-

tions, essay writing competitions, community outreach programmes, awareness campaigns, cleanliness drives and various district-level events involving police personnel, students, youth and members of the public.

Manipur Police warmly invites citizens, youth, students, sports persons, civil society organizations and all stakeholders to actively participate in the various events associated with the 135th Raising Day celebrations. The support and cooperation of the public will contribute significantly to the success of these programmes and help strengthen the bond between the police and the community. Through these activities, Manipur Police seeks to promote the spirit of unity, service, fitness, social responsibility and collective action towards building a safer, healthier and drug-free society.

33rd Silchar Book Fair to Be Held from December 14 to 25



OUR CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR: The 33rd Silchar Book Fair-2026 will be held from December 14 to 25, it was decided at an important meeting of the organising committee held at the residence of Bhasha Senani Paritosh Pal Choudhury at Subhash Nagar in Silchar on Sunday. The meeting was chaired by noted journalist and book fair committee chairman Haran Dey. Members unanimously decided to organise the annual book fair over 12 days and also formed the new organising committee for the 33rd edition. Under the new committee, Haran Dey will continue as chairman, while Subir Bhattacharjee, Shankar Das and Shankar Dey will serve as vice-chairmen. Biplab Pal Choudhury has been appointed general secretary-cum-treasurer, with Gautam Talukdar as joint secretary. Pradip Chandra Das and Bahar Uddin Chowdhury have been appointed assistant secretaries. Santosh Chanda will serve as cultural secretary, assisted by Dr Shrabani Sarkar. Suprabha Rajkumari has been appointed literary secretary, with Mridula Bhat-

tacharjee as assistant. Joy Roy will serve as publicity secretary, assisted by Raju Choudhury. Tannoy Chakraborty, Biswajit Bhattacharjee, Nandendra Kishore Sinha and Tapash Nath are among the executive members. The advisory committee includes MP Parimal Suklabaidya, MLA Dr Rajdeep Roy, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar Gupta, Gurucharan University Vice-Chancellor Professor Niranjan Roy, Yugashankha group chief Bijoy Krishna Nath, poet Atin Das, Dr Kasturi Home Chowdhury and Gosthalal Das, among others. According to the organisers, book trusts and publishing houses from Kolkata, Guwahati, Agartala and Silchar will participate in this year's fair. The book fair will feature cultural programmes and literary sessions every evening. A souvenir will also be published as part of the event. The organising committee has appealed to book lovers and members of the literary and cultural fraternity across Silchar and Barak Valley to extend their support and participate in the 33rd Silchar Book Fair-2026 to make the event a success.

Wildlife conservation must become a people's movement: Manipur forest chief



Quest!

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IMPHAL

Wildlife conservation in Manipur cannot remain limited to forests and protected areas and must evolve into

a wider "people's movement", Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force Anurag Bajpai said on Monday.

Bajpai was speaking at a state-wide photography exhibition-cum-competition on resident birds organised by the Manipur Forest Department as part of Wildlife Celebration Week 2026.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about Manipur's rich bird diversity and encourage students, young people, photographers, birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts to observe and document the state's avian life.

Manipur's forests, wetlands, rivers, grasslands and agricultural landscapes support a wide range of resident as well as migratory birds. According to the Forest Department, the arrival of migratory species also reflects the ecological links between Manipur and habitats far beyond the state and the country.

Bajpai said birds were not simply part of Manipur's natural landscape but also important indicators of ecosystem health and an integral part of the state's natural heritage.

"Through this initiative, we want to encourage people, particularly our young generation, to observe nature more closely, develop an appreciation for biodiversity and become active partners in its conservation," he said.

'Photograph, don't disturb'

The Forest Department has urged participants to follow the principle of "Photograph, Don't Disturb" while documenting birds and other wildlife.

Participants have been advised to maintain a safe distance, avoid disturbing nests and breeding sites and ensure that photography does not interfere with normal wildlife behaviour.

Photographs selected for the exhibition were displayed to showcase Manipur's birdlife while providing a platform for emerging photographers and nature enthusiasts.

Bajpai said photography could help strengthen the connection between people and nature, particularly at a time when digital cameras and mobile phones have made wildlife documentation more accessible.

The Forest Department said the initiative is also aimed at encouraging citizen-led biodiversity documentation, conservation education and responsible nature tourism across Manipur.

"We would like to see this initiative evolve into a wider citizen-based effort for biodiversity documentation, awareness and conservation across the State," Bajpai said.

He stressed that while photography and public participation can help build awareness about wildlife, the welfare of animals and birds must remain the priority.

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INTERNSHIP

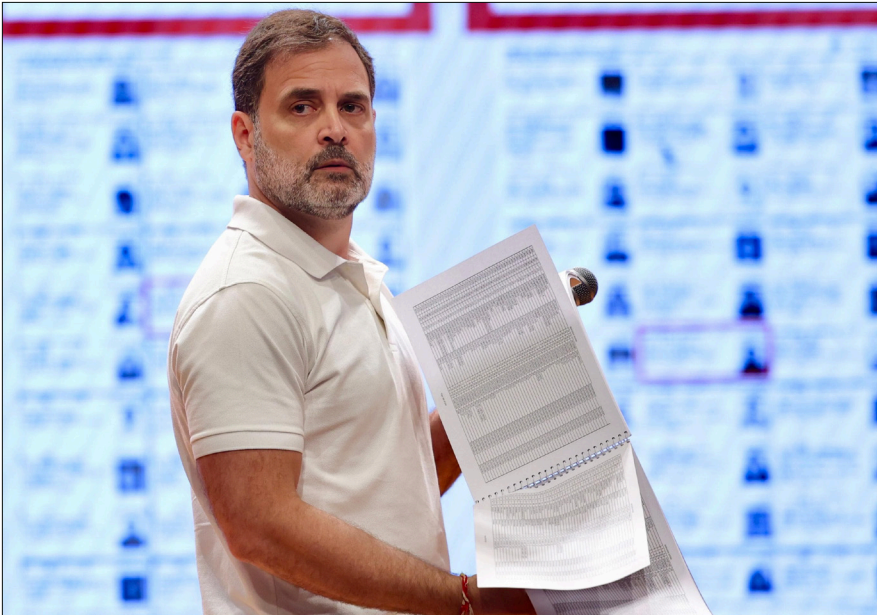
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No change in Form 6, Rahul Gandhi's claim over it misleading: ECI



NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has rejected Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's claim that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar "changed Form 6 illegally and unilaterally", terming the assertion misleading.

Gandhi, in a post on X, alleged that Kumar had altered Form 6 to favour the BJP and accused him of "abusing his position". He said those involved in what he described as a "criminal assault on our democracy" would be held accountable.

Gandhi's post also reproduced the ECI's September 26, 2026 press note, highlighting its clarification on the declaration attached to Form 6 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Countering the claim, the ECI said the order for the Bihar SIR issued on June 24, 2025, was approved unanimously by the Commission. It further pointed

out that the exercise had been upheld by the Supreme Court in its May 27, 2026 judgment.

The poll panel also referred to its Press Note No. 120 dated September 26, 2026, which stated that the declaration attached to Form 6 for SIR had been upheld by the Supreme Court. "For periods outside the SIR exercise, the forms prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, would continue to apply," it had said.

Separately, the ECI also dismissed claims circulating on social media that it had removed the September 26 press note from its official website. The Commission said the document "is available on the ECI website and was never taken down", adding that the X post containing the press note also remained available.

Sources in the Commission said Form 6 itself had not been changed. According to them, the declaration attached to the form for the SIR exercise was an "additional document" forming part of the process. They also pointed to the

Supreme Court's earlier ruling upholding the Bihar SIR, in which the declaration was part of the exercise.

The clarification came after the Supreme Court observed on Monday that it had not approved any modified version of Form 6. The court was hearing pleas seeking the suspension of CEC Gyanesh Kumar and challenging decisions allegedly taken by the ECI without the approval of its two other members.

In its May 27, 2026 judgment, the Supreme Court had unanimously upheld the Bihar SIR exercise, holding that adopting a procedure different from routine electoral-roll revisions did not, by itself, make the exercise unconstitutional.

The latest exchange between the ECI and Gandhi centres on whether the additional declaration used during the Bihar SIR amounted to an alteration of Form 6, with the Commission maintaining that the statutory form itself remained unchanged.

INDIA bloc MPs begin 'Save Democracy' march to EC demanding CEC's resignation

NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc MPs have launched the 'Save Democracy' march from Parliament towards the Election Commission headquarters on Tuesday to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar amid allegations of irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls.

Heavy security deployment and barricading were put in place in and around Parliament and the Election Commission headquarters ahead of the planned march. Security personnel were stationed in the area much before the MPs began arriving.

Leaders of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, respectively, TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav are expected to join the march.

The MPs gathered at Parliament's Makar Dwar and later began their march to Nirvachan Sadan, the Election Commission headquarters, at 11 am.

Ahead of the march, opposition MPs questioned the security arrangements and stepped up their demand for Kumar's resignation, citing the Supreme Court's observations on changes to Form 6, the statutory application for enrolment as a voter.

Congress MP Imran Masood accused Kumar of eroding public trust in the Election Commission.



"Across the country, the institution that Gyanesh Kumar headed was an institution the entire country trusted, an institution the entire country took pride in and felt proud of. Questions were never raised over its impartiality. One person has broken that trust," he told.

"And an entire nexus is working together. We will question Gyanesh Kumar, and the BJP chief ministers will start giving the answers," he alleged.

CPI MP P Sandosh Kumar said the Supreme Court's observations on Monday had strengthened the opposition's objections to the additional declaration attached to Form 6 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"On September 26, there was a press statement by the Commission and it was stated that the entire process related to Form 6 has been ratified by the Supreme Court. Whereas it has been proven that it is an entirely misleading statement," he alleged.

Calling the CEC a "Cheating Election Commissioner", the CPI leader said opposition parties had been agitating against the provisions since 2025 and would intensify their movement.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut questioned the scale of security deployment ahead of the march, saying the MPs intended to proceed peacefully.

"We are MPs. We are members of Parliament. We are also citizens of this

country. Why is there a need to deploy such a large force to stop us? We will walk and go. We are unarmed," he said.

Raut claimed that Border Security Force and CISF personnel had been deployed and security outside ministers' residences increased.

Accusing Kumar of misleading the public over the Supreme Court's position on Form 6, he said the CEC had "no moral right" to continue in office.

The Supreme Court on Monday said it had not approved any modified version of Form 6 and would examine the Election Commission's records to ascertain whether changes had been made and who had authorised them.

The observations were made while hearing a petition challenging alleged unilateral decisions by Kumar.

In its September 26 statement, the Commission had said the declaration attached to Form 6 for SIR had been upheld by the Supreme Court, while forms prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, would be used outside the SIR period.

The march comes amid an opposition campaign over alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise and reports of differences within the three-member Commission. The poll body has rejected suggestions of a split and maintained that decisions relating to SIR were taken unanimously.

INTERNATIONAL

India, Switzerland sign five pacts to deepen trade, investment ties after Modi-Parmelin talks



NEW DELHI

India and Switzerland on Monday signed five agreements and agreed to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, defence, nuclear energy and infrastructure following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swiss President Guy Parmelin.

The agreements include a migration and mobility partnership, an exchange programme for young professionals and a pact to promote cooperation in transportation technologies, mobility systems and infrastructure development.

Parmelin began his three-day state visit to India on Monday. It is his first state visit to the country and his second visit this year after he attended the AI Impact Summit in February.

The two sides also agreed to expand market access for Indian exports to Switzerland and facilitate greater Swiss investment in India.

Modi said the move would boost

exports of Indian agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, textiles and engineering goods while attracting Swiss investment in sectors including biotechnology, life sciences, banking, insurance, food processing and sustainability.

Switzerland is a major economic partner for India in Europe, with more than 330 Swiss companies operating in India across sectors such as engineering, services, precision instruments, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin, witness the exchange of MoUs during a joint press statement, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Ambassador of Switzerland to India Maya Tissafi are also seen.

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the four EFTA states — Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and

Norway — came into force in October. Modi described the pact as an "ambitious blueprint" for investment, innovation and jobs.

"Through this, we will realise our goals of USD100 billion in investment and one million direct jobs in India over the next 15 years," Modi said.

Parmelin said Switzerland hoped to conclude an investment protection agreement with India soon to further facilitate investment flows. He also stressed the importance of progress on intellectual property protection.

On infrastructure cooperation, Modi highlighted Swiss involvement in projects such as the ropeway in Varanasi, Jewar Airport in Noida and railway and tunnelling projects in hilly regions. He invited Swiss companies to participate in large-scale investments, capacity building, design and manufacturing in India.

The two leaders also discussed expanding military exchanges and

defence production and agreed to deepen cooperation in nuclear energy. New joint research projects in health, clean energy and space are also expected to be launched, Modi said.

The migration and mobility agreement seeks to facilitate movement between the two countries while addressing irregular migration and human trafficking. It provides for multiple-entry visas of up to five years, with stays of up to six months per visit, as well as renewable one-year student permits.

Under the young professionals exchange scheme, up to 300 people from each country can participate annually, with the number potentially rising to 500. The programme is aimed at young people taking up temporary employment to develop professional and language skills.

The Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia also figured in the discussions. Modi said India and Switzerland supported meaningful efforts towards peace and backed reforms of global institutions to address emerging challenges.

The two sides also discussed artificial intelligence, with a focus on promoting innovative and equitable AI governance.

Parmelin said his visit marked the first anniversary of the implementation of TEPA and described the agreement as beneficial to both countries.

The Swiss president is accompanied by a large delegation of senior business leaders. The India-EFTA Prosperity Summit, scheduled for Wednesday, is expected to focus on translating the trade and investment partnership into concrete outcomes.

Modi also congratulated Switzerland on hosting the next Geneva AI Summit, saying both countries would work towards making AI "responsible, inclusive, and human-centric".

Trump 'personally' believes Iran responsible for attack by Omani co-pilot on FlyDubai flight



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Monday (local time) said he "personally" believes Iran was behind the attack carried out by an Omani co-pilot aboard a FlyDubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

"I do. I personally do," Trump said when asked whether he believed Iran was responsible for the attack on the flydubai flight. He was responding to media queries on the White House premises.

The remarks came following the foiled mid-air hijacking and crash attempt aboard flydubai Flight FZ1073 on September 30, when Omani co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami attacked Indian Captain Smit Machchhar inside the cockpit.

The Omani co-pilot attacked Captain Machchhar with an axe in an attempt to bring down the aircraft. Despite suffering severe injuries, Captain Machchhar managed to unlatch the cockpit door, allowing passengers and off-duty

crew members to enter and restrain the attacker.

The confrontation triggered a steep descent, with the aircraft dropping approximately 16,000 feet within two minutes before a hijacking distress signal was transmitted.

The aircraft was subsequently diverted and made an emergency landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, with all 180 occupants disembarking without injury. Reports published on Sunday by The Times of Israel said al-Hammami had planned to direct the aircraft into Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. The reports, citing Hebrew media sources, said the Omani co-pilot was detained and undergoing interrogation in the United Arab Emirates.

President Donald Trump arrives at a campaign rally at the Pinnacle Bank Expo Center, Monday, Oct. 5, 2026, in Grand Island, Neb.

According to the reports, al-Hammami told investigators that his alleged plan was to operate the flight routinely

after incapacitating Captain Machchhar, obtain the mandatory landing clearances and then crash the aircraft into an airport facility or a stationed aircraft.

The attack was thwarted after Captain Machchhar, despite being severely injured, succeeded in opening the cockpit door.

Captain Machchhar later described the impact of the initial assault, saying that after attempting to stop the attacker, his vision became severely blurred. The incident has drawn attention to the actions of Machchhar, who was praised by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "hero of Israel, India, and the world" during a video conference while the pilot was recovering.

Following a direct phone call between Netanyahu and Machchhar, the Israeli government officially invited the Indian pilot and his family to attend Israel's Independence Day celebrations in May 2027.

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KRC TIMES NEWS DESK
NAINITAL

A Pink Rally was organised in Nainital on Saturday by the Asha Foundation to raise awareness about breast cancer and the importance of early detection and timely treatment.

Hundreds of people, including students from Birla Vidya Mandir, St. Xavier's, St. Mary's, Long View Public School and nursing institutions, participated in the rally. The participants carried the message of regular screening, prevention and timely treatment of breast cancer.

Participants gathered at the DSA Ground at 8 am. The rally was flagged off at 9 am by Chief Guest Justice Alok Mehra, IG Kumaon Nivedita Kukreti and MLA Sarita Arya, along with other guests. It proceeded from the DSA Ground through Mall Road to India Hotel before returning to the DSA Ground.

Asha Foundation president Asha Sharma said the initiative aimed to create awareness among women and their families about early detection, regular screening and a healthy lifestyle. She stressed that early detection can make timely treatment possible.



Being alone weakens your body. Having friends strengthens your body.

Dr Anand Mishra said October is observed as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and noted that this year's theme is "Every Story Is Unique, Every Journey Matters." Explaining PINK as Prevention, Investigation, No Fear and Knowledge, he urged people to avoid myths surrounding breast cancer and undergo timely screening. He also advised women to conduct breast self-examination once a month.

Nainital Municipal Board chairperson Dr Saraswati Khetwal, Dr Smita Singh, historian Prof Ajay Rawat, Sushma Rawat, Dr Y.S. Bhakuni, PMS Dr Draupadi Garbyal, Dr M.S. Dugtal, Birla School principal Anil Sharma, Maruti Nandan Sah, Isha Sah, Rama Montessori principal Neelu Elhens and Geeta Sah were among those present.

The Nainital Hotel and Restaurant Association arranged refreshments for the participants. The programme was conducted by Prof Lalit Tiwari, Meenakshi Kirti and Deepak Kumar.

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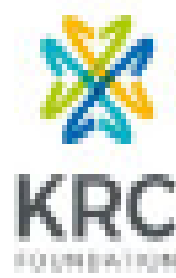
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