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PERSPECTIVE

No greater shame to mankind than inhumanity

Delhi Police file 3 FIRs over Jantar Mantar protest; CJP announces October 10 agitation

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have registered three FIRs in connection with Friday's protests by student organisations, political parties and civil society activists who attempted to gather at Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Two FIRs were registered at Parliament Street police station and another at Connaught Place police station under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), a senior police officer said on Saturday.

The provision deals with disobedience of an order promulgated by a public servant.

Police said no individual or organisation had been named as an accused in the FIRs. However, details of organisers and organisations that proposed or participated in the demonstrations were mentioned in the complaints, the officer said.

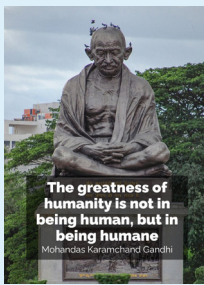
According to police, the protesters violated prohibitory orders imposed across New Delhi district under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The orders, issued ahead of the proposed demonstration, prohibited gatherings of five or more people, processions, demonstrations, picketing, dharnas, slogan shouting and speeches without prior written permission.

Police said the restrictions had been publicly notified nearly three hours before the proposed protest on Friday and warned that violations could attract action under Section 223 of the BNS.

The protests were linked to allegations surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Election Commission's position and responses to the allegations were not detailed in the FIRs.

WHO SAID WHAT



"In these highly charged times, let's summon the courage, empathy, dignity & shared humanity that Gandhi exemplified" ~ Antonio Guterres, General-Secretary, United Nations

The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane
-Mahatma Ghandi

KRC TIMES
STAY ENRICHED

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Assam NRC: Rejection slips for 19 lakh excluded applicants still pending, Centre tells SC



NEW DELHI

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that rejection slips have not yet been issued to around 19 lakh people excluded from Assam's final National Register of Citizens (NRC), as the 2019 register is yet to be formally notified.

In an affidavit filed before the apex court, the Registrar General of India (RGI) said the state NRC coordinator

was still working on a security framework for preserving the NRC data.

The NRC data has not yet been handed over to the RGI, the affidavit said. The final register can be formally notified only after the data is received by the Registrar General.

"Enactment of the security regime for NRC data by the state coordinator is in progress, and hence data has not been shared with the Registrar General of India (RGI)," the affidavit stated.

The Centre further informed the court that the process of issuing rejection slips to those excluded from the final NRC "has not been started yet".

The final NRC was published in August 2019 after a prolonged verification process. It included around 3.11 crore applicants, while 19.07 lakh applicants were left out of the final list.

Rejection slips are significant because they are intended to inform excluded applicants of the grounds for their exclusion and provide a basis for challenging the decision before For-

eigners Tribunals.

The Supreme Court had earlier directed the state NRC coordinator to establish a mechanism for issuing the slips. However, the coordinator informed the RGI in October 2020 that the slips could be issued only after the final NRC was formally notified by the Registrar General.

The apex court on Friday deferred the matter for hearing to November 6 after the Assam government sought additional time to file its response.

The petitions before the court were filed by the Assam State Jamiat Ulama, All Assam Minority Students Union, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others. The petitioners have sought rejection slips for those excluded from the NRC as well as NRC cards for applicants included in the final list.

The latest affidavit leaves the formal status of the 2019 NRC unresolved, with both the notification of the final register and the issuance of rejection slips still pending.

Manipur Congress flags Rs 8,927 crore unspent funds, rising debt citing CAG report

IMPHAL

The Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) has raised questions over the state's financial management, citing the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) State Finances Audit Report for 2024-25 and pointing to unspent budget allocations, low capital expenditure, rising debt and delays in completing projects. The CAG report on Manipur's state finances for 2024-25 was tabled on September 2, 2026, and provides an independent assessment of the state's fiscal position, revenue and expenditure trends, debt and budgetary management. Congress Legislature Party leader Keisham Meghachandra Singh, addressing a press conference at Congress Bhavan, said the audit findings raised serious questions about the implementation of the state budget. He urged the government to fix responsibility for the financial issues highlighted by the report or resign.

According to figures cited by Singh, against a total budget provision of ₹37,392.66 crore in 2024-25, ₹8,927.55 crore remained unspent, accounting for 23.88 per cent of the

total provision.

He also highlighted capital expenditure, saying the state had provided ₹8,969.60 crore under the capital budget but spent only ₹2,704.23 crore.

Singh further pointed to a gap between budgeted and actual receipts under grants-in-aid from the Centre. He said ₹16,015.85 crore had been budgeted under the head, while actual receipts stood at ₹5,473.21 crore.

On the state's borrowing position, Singh said Manipur raised gross borrowings of ₹11,599.08 crore during 2024-25, of which ₹9,420.41 crore, or 81.22 per cent, went towards repayment of earlier principal. According to the figures cited by the Congress leader, the state's gross debt and other obligations increased from ₹18,871.79 crore in 2023-24 to ₹20,846.88 crore at the end of 2024-25. Interest payments during the year stood at ₹1,022.23 crore.

Singh also raised the issue of incomplete projects. He said 138 projects remained unfinished despite expenditure of ₹7,473.53 crore on them, and argued that delays could affect the intended benefits and contribute to cost escalation.

Silchar holds first municipal corporation election, 131 candidates in fray



SILCHAR

Silchar is voting in its first-ever municipal corporation election on Saturday, marking a new phase in the civic administration of the key Barak Valley town following its upgrade from a municipal board to a corporation.

Polling began at 7 am, with around 2.7 lakh voters eligible to cast their ballots. The Silchar Municipal Corporation has 42 wards. However, elections are being held in 40 wards after BJP candidates were elected unopposed in the remaining two.

A total of 131 candidates are contesting across the 40 wards, with 303 polling stations set up across the corporation area.

The district administration has deployed security personnel and made ar-

rangements to maintain law and order at polling stations. Measures have also been put in place to ensure smooth and uninterrupted voting.

The election is significant for Silchar as it will determine the first elected body of the newly constituted municipal corporation.

The outcome will also set the foundation for the corporation's new civic administration, with elected representatives taking charge of local governance in the town, one of the principal urban centres of Assam's Barak Valley.

The transition from a municipal board to a corporation is expected to bring Silchar's civic administration under a new institutional framework, with the elected body responsible for overseeing local development and municipal services.

BJP's Devasish Sharma files FIR against Ajmal over 'killers' remark

GUWAHATI

BJP candidate for the Nagaon Assembly bypoll Devasish Sharma has filed an FIR against AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal over his alleged remarks describing those involved in eviction and pushback operations as "killers".

Speaking on Saturday, Sharma accused Ajmal of using the issue for political gains during the ongoing bypoll campaign and said the FIR was aimed at ensuring legal action over the remarks.

"We have filed an FIR against him and we will ensure there will be action against him," Sharma said.

Sharma defended the government's pushback operations, saying they were carried out in accordance with court orders and that authorities were required to comply with judicial directions. He also questioned Ajmal's earlier silence on eviction and pushback operations, alleging that political parties were now raising the issue for electoral benefit.

The BJP candidate also objected to Ajmal's remarks concerning Mumtaz Begum, a resident of Juria who was sent to Bangladesh after being declared a foreign national by a Foreigners Tribunal.

Sharma said terms such as "encountered" should not be used casually in connection with the case and accused Ajmal of making the allegation to divert attention during the election campaign.

Ajmal had on September 21 announced that he would approach the Supreme Court over the alleged pushback of two women from Juria to Bangladesh.

Addressing an election rally in Nagaon, Ajmal had targeted Sharma, alleging that the women were pushed back during Sharma's tenure as Nagaon Deputy Commissioner. He had also accused the BJP-led government of selectively targeting Muslims during eviction drives in Assam.

PM Modi likely to inaugurate Jagiroad semiconductor plant in Dec-Jan: Himanta

GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Assam in December 2026 or January 2027 to inaugurate the Tata semiconductor assembly and test facility at Jagiroad, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

Sarma made the announcement while addressing an election campaign meeting at Deosal in Jagiroad.

"In the coming month of December or January 2027, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jagiroad to inaugurate the project," the chief minister said.

The under-construction facility is being developed as a major semiconductor assembly and testing unit and is expected to have a production capacity of up to 48 million chips a day once fully operational, according to details released by the Union government and the company.

Describing the project as a major industrial development for Assam, Sarma said Jagiroad had gained international attention because of the semiconductor facility and its potential to drive industrial and economic growth.

"Jagiroad's semiconductor will be the world's largest factory. Chips at this scale have never been manufactured before," he said.

Sarma also highlighted infrastructure projects in Jagiroad, saying four bridges had been

sanctioned in the area following a request from local MLA Pijush Hazarika.

He claimed that the state government was taking decisions more quickly to push forward infrastructure and development projects.

Women-led markets planned in Jagiroad. During the campaign meeting, Sarma also announced plans to establish four to five women-led markets in Jagiroad with government support.

Drawing a comparison with Manipur's traditional Ima markets, he said the proposed markets would provide women with dedicated spaces to sell agricultural produce and other goods.

"Manipur has such women-led markets called Ima markets. Similarly, in Assam we wish to develop markets for women entrepreneurship," Sarma said.

The chief minister also appealed to voters during the campaign for the Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll to support BJP candidate Devasish Sharma.

He said the bypoll would not alter the state government but would provide the BJP with additional political strength to pursue its development agenda.

Sarma also referred to the proposed semiconductor facility and infrastructure projects as examples of the government's development push in the Jagiroad area.

Manipur govt urges JFD to defer deadline, assures action on NRC demand



IMPHAL

The Manipur government has appealed to the Just and Fair Delimitation (JFD) campaign to put its September 30 deadline on hold, assuring that its demands, including conducting a National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise before the Census, are being considered seriously.

Government spokesperson and MLA Sapam Ranjan made the appeal during a press conference at his residence in Konthoujam, Imphal West, on Saturday.

Ranjan said the state government was examining the memorandum submitted by the JFD and was making efforts to translate its demands into action.

One of the organisation's key demands is that an NRC exercise be conducted in Manipur before

the Census. The demand has emerged amid concerns over the state's demographic profile and an ongoing debate over delimitation.

Referring to the postponement of the Census, Ranjan said the government would continue efforts to address the concerns and aspirations raised by people across the state.

"I would like to appeal to the JFD to put the deadline on hold, and then let us all work together," Ranjan said. He said the issues raised by the organisation were linked to Manipur's future and development and had implications for different sections of society. "We are all in the same boat, and we will definitely take every matter with the utmost sincerity," Ranjan said, appealing to the JFD to cooperate with the government.

The government's appeal comes as the JFD continues to press for an NRC exercise ahead of the Census, along with other demands linked to delimitation and the state's demographic concerns.

Society wants security, safety, and peace: Dr Rajdeep Roy

Exclusive interview of BJP Manipur In-Charge



BISWADEEP GUPTA

SILCHAR :Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Silchar Member of Parliament, Dr. Rajdeep Roy, and present MLA, Silchar has officially taken

charge as the party's Prabhari (organisational in-charge) for Manipur. Outlining his roadmap ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, Dr. Roy stated that his primary mission extends beyond electoral arithmetic to restoring lasting peace, fostering inter-community harmony, and driving economic revival in the border state.

Speaking in an exclusive interview from his Silchar residence, Dr. Roy—who previously managed the party's organizational responsibilities in Tripura for two years—acknowledged the severe challenges Manipur has faced over the past two years following waves of ethnic unrest.

Priority on Societal Assimilation and Peace

Dr. Roy highlighted that lasting progress hinges entirely on security and stability.

"Winning elections or forming a gov-

ernment is not the only priority of the BJP. My primary concern would be assimilation—stitching organizational activity with societal aspirations. Society wants security, safety, and peace. If peace is there, development will naturally follow," Dr. Roy remarked.

Reflecting on his tenure in Tripura, where tribal communities comprise roughly one-third of the population, Dr. Roy noted that targeted inclusive policies helped bring communities into the mainstream. He expressed confidence that similar grassroots outreach and dialogue among all stakeholders in Manipur would help bridge social divides.

Economic Revival and Regional Transit Corridors

Addressing the sharp downturn in Manipur's tourism sector and domestic trade, Dr. Roy underscored the need to expand regional commercial corridors rather than looking solely at external borders.

He pointed to key connectivity initiatives linking Manipur with Assam's Barak Valley:

Railway Network: The ongoing broad-gauge railway expansion toward Imphal, expected to reach completion within the next two to three years.

Highway Corridors: Four-laning of the Silchar–Imphal highway to facilitate seamless goods transit through to Moreh.

Market Integration: Creating trade synergy between Manipur's 3 million residents and Barak Valley's neighboring market of approximately 4.5 million people, with which Manipur shares deep cultural and historical ties.

Dr. Roy confirmed that he will undertake a comprehensive visit to Manipur following the conclusion of the Silchar Municipal Corporation elections to conduct ground-level assessments, consult state party functionaries, and interact with community representatives.



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Beyond the Numbers

For decades, the campuses of India's premier institutions carried an unmistakable gender imbalance. The IITs became synonymous with engineering and technology, while the IIMs emerged as gateways to management, corporate careers and leadership. Women were present, but in many classrooms and disciplines they remained a minority.

That landscape is changing. More women are entering India's most competitive institutions, pursuing engineering, technology, science, management and research, and moving into professional spaces that were once overwhelmingly male. The significance of this change, however, lies in more than admission statistics. It reflects a deeper transformation in aspirations, family expectations, access to education and the place of women in India's economic life.

The real question now is not simply how many women enter an IIT or an IIM. It is whether the education and opportunities they receive will translate into sustained participation, professional advancement and leadership.

From admission to opportunity An IIT or IIM degree can open doors far beyond the classroom. Students gain access to research, internships, industry networks, entrepreneurship programmes and global exposure. These institutions can therefore influence not merely what a student studies, but the trajectory of an entire career.

At IITs, women are increasingly entering fields such as computer science, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, electronics, mathematics, data science and renewable energy. At IIMs, women are pursuing careers in consulting, finance, technology, marketing, healthcare, entrepreneurship, public policy and other sectors.

This creates a chain that matters to the country as a whole:

Education ? Skills ? Employment ? Leadership. The more effectively women move through each stage, the greater the potential economic and social impact. What is driving the change?

The reasons are neither mysterious nor singular. Families today are more aware of the value of professional education and the range of careers available to women. Competitive examinations that were once largely associated with a narrow social group are now familiar to students across smaller towns and districts.

Digital learning has also altered the geography of opportunity. Online lectures, test series, study material, mentoring and career information can reach students who live far from metropolitan education centres.

Social attitudes, too, are evolving. The sight of women working as engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, administrators, professors and corporate executives has made professional ambition increasingly normal for younger generations.

Role models matter. A girl who sees another woman occupying a position she once regarded as inaccessible is more likely to imagine herself there.

IITs and the engineering gender gap Engineering remains one of the clearest examples of India's changing gender landscape.

For years, women were significantly underrepresented in several engineering disciplines. Their growing participation is therefore important not merely as a question of campus diversity, but because engineering graduates will help design technologies that affect almost every part of society.

Artificial intelligence, healthcare technology, renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, finance and communications are not gender-neutral worlds in their consequences. The people designing these systems bring their experiences and assumptions to the process.

A more diverse engineering community can therefore broaden the range of problems considered and the perspectives brought to solving them.

But admission numbers alone cannot tell the whole story.

Are women receiving comparable access to research opportunities? Are they equally encouraged to pursue entrepreneurship? Do they enter high-growth technology sectors at the same rate? Do they move into institutional leadership?

These are harder questions-and ultimately more consequential ones.

The IIM classroom is changing too Management education is undergoing a similar transformation.

The IIMs train people who will eventually occupy positions in business, finance, consulting, technology, public administration and entrepreneurship. A classroom with greater female participation is therefore also a reflection of the workforce India is building.

Women entering these programmes are increasingly moving into sectors that were traditionally male-dominated. Their presence can have a multiplier effect. When women occupy managerial and leadership positions, professional success becomes less of an exception in the eyes of younger students.

Yet the transition from management school to corporate leadership remains a longer journey.

Getting women into the pipeline is one challenge. Ensuring that they remain in it and reach senior positions is another.

A placement package is not the measure of equality India's premier institutions often attract attention during placement season because of spectacular salary packages. But the worth of an IIT or IIM education cannot be reduced to the largest number announced on a placement day.

Education is also about analytical ability, professional confidence, networks, research, problem-solving and the capacity to adapt to changing industries.

For women, the workplace raises additional questions. A strong first job does not automatically guarantee a sustainable career. Workplace culture, safety, flexibility, parental responsibilities, mentoring, evaluation systems and opportunities for promotion can determine whether a promising career continues or stalls.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism. - Norman Vincent Peale

SIR: PROTECTING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY, SAFEGUARDING EVERY VOTER'S RIGHT

LALIT GARGG

The greatest strength of Indian democracy is its voter, and the most fundamental democratic identity of a voter is the right to vote. Therefore, an electoral roll is not merely an administrative document; it is the foundation of the democratic system. If an eligible citizen's name is missing from the electoral roll, his or her democratic participation remains incomplete. Conversely, if the name of a person who is deceased, has shifted residence, or is registered at more than one place continues to remain on the roll, it raises questions about the credibility of the electoral process. From this perspective, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is an important administrative exercise. However, its success cannot be measured merely by the removal of incorrect or ineligible names. It must equally be judged by whether the names of all eligible citizens are protected and whether those who have been inadvertently left out are brought back into the electoral rolls.

In 2026, the Election Commission has extended the SIR exercise to several states and Union Territories. The Commission's programme includes house-to-house verification, publication of draft electoral rolls, inviting claims and objections, and publication of the final electoral rolls. It is also important to note that on May 27, 2026, the Supreme Court upheld the legal validity of the SIR conducted in Bihar and held that the Election Commission has the authority to undertake such an exercise under Article 324 of the Constitution and the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act. The Court also recognised that the objective of ensuring the accuracy of electoral rolls and protecting free and fair elections constitutes a legitimate purpose.

The large-scale deletion of names during the SIR has naturally generated political and social debate. However, it is unfortunate when unnecessary controversies are created around the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner. According to the available data, the

scale change in the electoral rolls also underlines the importance of keeping voter lists regularly updated.

This is where the most important test of the entire exercise emerges. If removing the name of an ineligible person is necessary for the purity of democracy, then the erroneous deletion of an eligible citizen's name is equally serious. The real success of SIR lies in maintaining a balance between cleansing the electoral rolls and safeguarding the voting rights of citizens. From this perspective, the Election Commission's recent special campaign is significant. On October 2, 2026, the Commission directed states and Union Territories where the SIR had been completed to undertake a special campaign to re-enrol eligible voters whose names may have been left out during the revision process. Special emphasis has also been placed on the registration of first-time voters and newly eligible young citizens.

Under this campaign, Booth Level Officers have been asked to compare the electoral rolls existing before the SIR with the current rolls and identify people whose names were previously present but do not appear in the final list. Thereafter, house-to-house verification is to be undertaken, and Form 6 is to be accepted on the spot from those found eligible. Each Booth Level Officer has been given a target of verifying 20 to 25 voters every week, with the campaign expected to be completed in approximately one month. The direction to share the relevant lists with Booth Level Agents of political parties is also noteworthy from the standpoint of transparency.

This is precisely where the electoral-roll revision process needs to move beyond political allegations and counter-allegations. Opposition parties have made serious allegations regarding the SIR process, arguing that it could adversely affect the voting rights of eligible citizens. The Election Commission, on the other hand, maintains that its objective is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the electoral rolls. Between these two positions, the final conclusion should emerge not from political rhetoric but from transparent data, documentary evidence, effective mechanisms for claims and

names, access the final SIR electoral rolls, submit Form 6 for new registration, track the status of applications and lodge complaints. Such mechanisms give citizens an opportunity to verify and safeguard their voting rights themselves rather than depending entirely upon the administration.

However, technology alone is not enough. Given India's enormous social and geographical diversity, there are citizens who have limited access to digital facilities. The administration must proactively reach the poor, workers, migrants, homeless persons, elderly citizens, persons with disabilities and people living in remote areas. Under the special campaign, the Commission has also directed that special camps be organised at polling booths as well as at night shelters, workers' settlements and locations serving homeless and other vulnerable groups. This approach connects the electoral-roll exercise not merely with administrative accuracy but with genuine democratic inclusion.

It must also be understood that electoral-roll correction cannot be a one-time exercise. Rapid migration in cities, movement from villages to urban areas, change of residence after marriage, young people attaining the age of 18, deaths and relocation from one place to another are continuous processes. The Election Commission therefore treats voter registration as an ongoing process and provides eligible citizens with the facility to register through Form 6. The real challenge is that behind every name deleted during a revision exercise there may be a genuine citizen. Therefore, every deleted name must be examined carefully, and every grievance must be heard seriously. At the same time, it would not be appropriate to retain every old name merely because it appeared on an earlier electoral roll. The principle governing electoral rolls in a democracy should be clear: no eligible citizen should be left out, and no ineligible person should remain within the electoral system.

The strength of a democracy is not measured merely by a high voter turnout. It also means that every eligible citizen who wishes to vote must have a place on the electoral roll; that

process essential. Therefore, the need of the hour is not merely to take a position for or against SIR. More important is to make the process so transparent, accessible and credible that no eligible citizen has to struggle to protect his or her right to vote.

The strength of Indian democ-

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Modi govt has achieved a historic milestone by securing the deportation of hardened narco-trafficking kingpin Navpreet Singh from Türkiye.

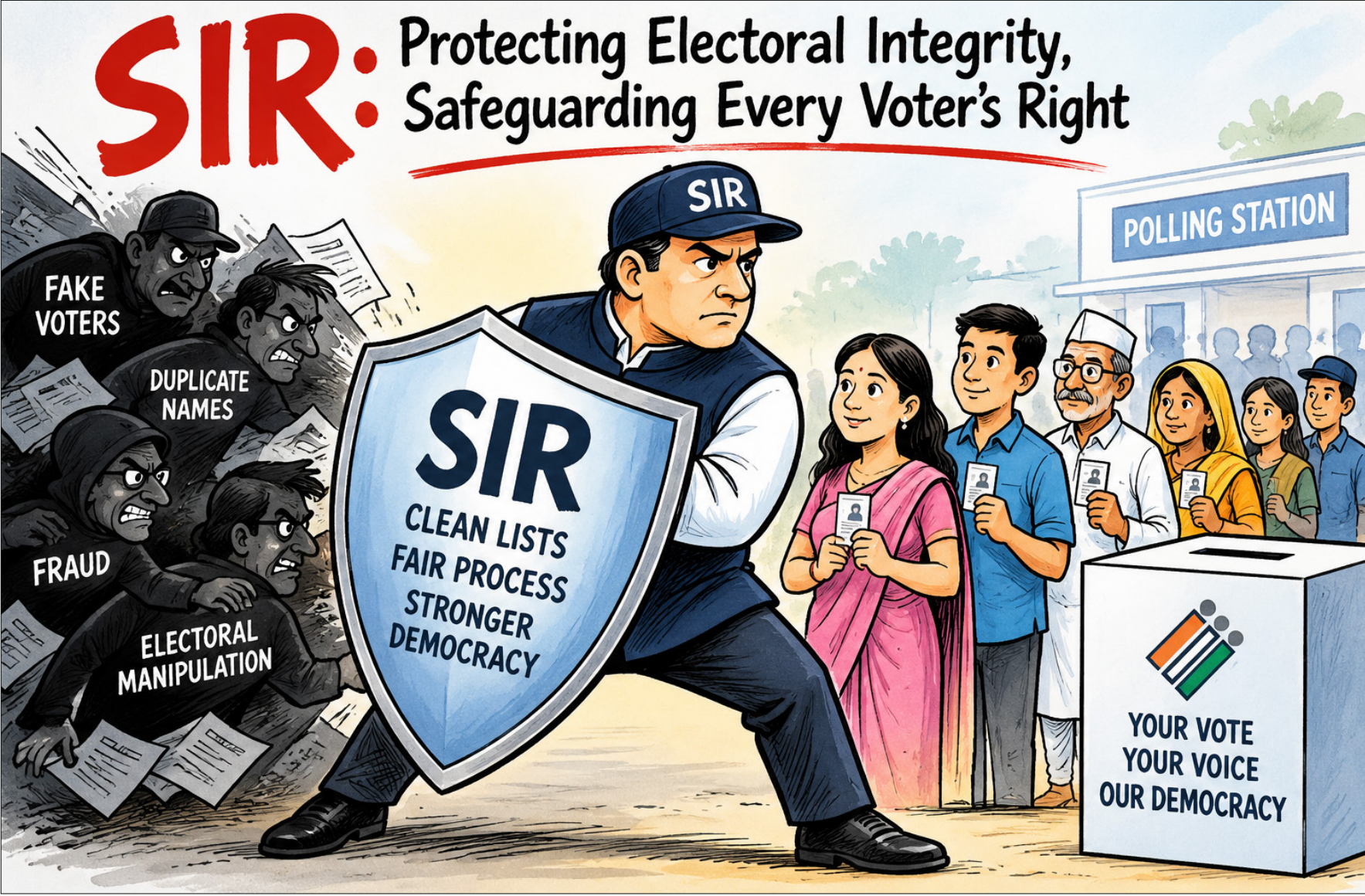
Obtaining Turkish citizenship under the fake identity of Navab Virk, he had continued to smuggle heroin and methamphetamine to India from Afghanistan. Our agencies tracked him down, ripping apart veil after veil to unmask his true identity, and secured his deportation. Today he has been brought back to India and put behind bars in connection with cases involving drug trafficking and other crimes he is accused of. Congratulations to all the agencies for this success.

Modi govt is committed to destroying every narco-cartel before Dec 2029.

~ Amit Shah, Union Home Minister



racy lies not merely in conducting elections, but in ensuring that



combined electoral rolls of nine states and three Union Territories declined by 10.2 percent after the SIR, with the names of 6,688,636 deceased voters being removed. In the same exercise, 63.16 lakh names were also deleted following objections and verification. These figures should not be viewed solely through a political lens. On the one hand, they indicate the administrative necessity of removing the names of deceased, shifted or duplicate voters. On the other, such a large-

appeals, and independent scrutiny. It would be inappropriate either to automatically accept an allegation made by a political party as the truth or to dismiss every grievance merely as a political allegation.

The constitutional role of the Election Commission is of immense importance in Indian democracy. Maintaining the integrity and accuracy of electoral rolls is an essential part of that responsibility. Through its digital portal, voters can search for their

the name of every person who is legally ineligible must be removed through due process; that every complainant must be given an opportunity to be heard; and that final decisions must be taken through a transparent procedure. The Supreme Court's recognition of the legal validity of the Bihar SIR also underscores the constitutional importance of maintaining accurate electoral rolls, while simultaneously making adherence to the safeguards prescribed in the

every eligible citizen receives an equal opportunity to participate in them. Cleansing the electoral rolls is, in a sense, an essential exercise in keeping democracy clean. But the responsibility to ensure that no innocent and eligible citizen is inadvertently left outside that process is equally significant. SIR will fulfil its larger democratic purpose only when electoral accuracy and democratic inclusion move forward together.

Manipur CM Khemchand Singh assures support to Manipuri diaspora in Bangladesh, plans visit

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has assured support for the preservation of the heritage, language and traditions of the Manipuri community in Bangladesh and said he plans to visit the country to interact with the diaspora.

A 23-member delegation of the Manipuri Youth Cultural Organisation (MYCO), Bangladesh, met Singh at the Manipur Secretariat on Friday to discuss issues concerning the community and ways to strengthen cultural ties.

The delegation comprised 19 men and four women and



represented a Manipuri community estimated at between 20,000 and 50,000 people in Bangladesh.

The delegation also invited the chief minister to visit Manipuri settlements in the country.

"I assured them that I would visit Bangladesh to meet and interact with our Manipuri brethren there," Singh said in a post on his official Facebook page after the meeting.

The community has a history in present-day Bangladesh spanning more than two centuries, with migration taking place in several phases during the 18th and 19th centuries.

One major phase occurred

between 1764 and 1789, when groups left Manipur during the reign of King Ching-Thang Khomba amid political upheavals in the region.

A larger movement took place between 1819 and 1826 during the Seven Years' Devastation, when Burmese forces invaded Manipur. Members of the royal family and others sought refuge in the British-ruled Surma Valley, leading to the establishment of Manipuri settlements there.

Another significant migration followed the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 and the subsequent British annexation of Manipur.

Over the years, Manipuri

settlements in Dhaka, Mymensingh and Brahmanbaria have declined amid assimilation. The community, however, continues to have a strong presence in Bangladesh's Sylhet division, particularly in Maulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj.

The Manipuri community is known for its agricultural practices and rich cultural traditions, including the traditional Manipuri Rasa dance.

The meeting between the chief minister and the Bangladesh-based delegation comes amid efforts to maintain cultural links between Manipuri communities across the international border.

Tripura Village Committee poll counting on October 5 at 45 centres

AGARTALA

The Tripura State Election Commission has completed preparations for the counting of votes for the Village Committee elections, with counting scheduled for October 5 at 45 centres across the state amid tight security.

State Election Commission Secretary Anurag Sen said counting would be held across 44 blocks. While most blocks will have a single counting hall, two halls have been arranged in Manu block due to the larger number of seats.

"The counting will be held either at the block headquarters or at other locations identified by the respective Returning Officers. The State Election Commission has made all necessary arrangements to ensure that the counting process is conducted smoothly," Sen said.

The Village Committee elections were held on September 28. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel will be deployed at the counting centres as part of security arrangements to maintain law and order and ensure an uninterrupted counting process. Returning Officers will declare results round-wise as counting is completed in the respective blocks, Sen said.

Meanwhile, the State Election Commission has started preparations for the upcoming urban local body elections in Tripura. Polling stations have been finalised for 21 urban local bodies, with 783 polling stations identified across the state. The draft electoral roll for the civic elections was published on October 1. According to the draft roll, Tripura has 6,31,388 registered electors for the urban local body polls, comprising 3,08,983 male voters, 3,22,360 female voters and 45 third-gender electors.

Voters can inspect the draft electoral roll at designated locations and submit claims or objections within the prescribed period.

Guwahati nightclub manager, event manager arrested over alleged assault of woman by bouncers

GUWAHATI

Guwahati Police have arrested two persons, including a nightclub manager and an event manager, after a woman was allegedly assaulted and partially stripped by bouncers at a nightclub in the Khanapara area, officials said on Saturday.

The alleged incident took place in the early hours of Friday.

Police registered a suo motu case following the incident and launched an investigation. Guwahati Police Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta confirmed that the nightclub manager and the event manager had been arrested in connection with the case.

"The manager and an event manager at the nightclub have been arrested in connection with the case,"

Mahanta told.

According to reports, the woman was allegedly assaulted inside the nightclub and subsequently brought down from the fourth floor of the establishment. The exact circumstances leading to the alleged assault are yet to be established, police said.

The identity of the woman has not been ascertained.

The incident came to light after the woman was reportedly seen outside the nightclub in the Khanapara area. By the time media personnel reached the spot, the nightclub's gate was reportedly locked and its lights had been switched off.

No representative of the establishment came forward to comment on the incident.

Police are examining the circumstances surrounding the alleged assault and are continuing their investigation.

Ajmal's sharp attack on Himanta at Nagaon poll rally; threatens legal action against BJP candidate



NAGAON

AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal made a series of provocative remarks against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, minister Piyush Hazarika and BJP candidate Debashish Sharma during an election rally at Borbori

in Lahorighat as campaigning for the Nagaon bypoll intensified.

Addressing a gathering, Ajmal said he would "gouge out Himanta's eyes" so that the chief minister could not "see Miya people". He also claimed that Sarma and Hazarika would eventually "have to go to Bangladesh".

Over 200 Naga households displaced across three Manipur districts amid fresh tensions

IMPHAL

More than 200 Naga households have been displaced after dozens of houses in eight villages across Manipur's Noney, Tamenglong and Kangpokpi districts were allegedly razed, according to a memorandum submitted to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The memorandum was submitted on October 1 by the Former & Senior Leaders' Forum of Zeliangrong Civil Organisations (FSLFZCOs), which said residents of several frontier settlements had fled their homes fearing further attacks.

The forum named Sempat Naga, Gaidunluang and Chamripeu among the affected settlements and urged the state government to formally recognise the displaced Zeliangrong families as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and extend relief and rehabilitation benefits.



The development comes amid renewed tensions between Naga and Kuki communities in parts of Manipur. The forum also referred to recent incidents in Kamjong district in which civilians were killed.

The FSLFZCOs identified several border villages, including Konsaram

and Chawangking, as vulnerable areas and called for the immediate deployment of security personnel.

The organisation also sought the Governor's intervention to strengthen security along National Highway 37, the Imphal-Jiribam corridor, amid concerns over the safety of

commuters and transport operators.

It proposed security escorts for public vehicles six days a week, with staging points at Keithelmanbi and Tupul Bazar. Alternatively, it sought an 11-hour daily security presence along the highway.

The memorandum referred to a 1994 ambush during the Kuki-Naga conflict, when an insurgent attack on a passenger bus reportedly killed 40 civilians, as the basis for its demand for enhanced security along the highway. The forum also called for formal reorganisation to address inter-district boundary disputes, which it described as a major source of continuing land-related tensions between Naga and Kuki communities.

The allegations regarding the destruction of houses and the circumstances surrounding the displacement require verification by the authorities.

Tawang to host 14th International Tourism Mart from October 29 to 31

NEW DELHI

Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district will host the 14th edition of the International Tourism Mart from October 29 to 31, with the Union Tourism Ministry and the state government joining hands to showcase the Northeast's tourism potential to domestic and international visitors.

The annual event is being organised by the Union Tourism Ministry in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh government.

Tour operators and travel influencers from 27 countries have been invited to the three-day event. The invitees include representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, Nepal, Germany, France, Russia, Portugal, Italy, Poland, Japan, South Korea, the UAE and the Netherlands.

"Stakeholders from the domestic market have also been invited. The Mart will showcase the tourism potential of the North Eastern Region. Participation is subject to confirmation," the ministry said in a post on X. The International Tourism Mart is the Tourism Ministry's annual flagship platform for promoting the North Eastern

Region among domestic and international tourism stakeholders. It highlights the region's natural landscapes, cultural heritage and adventure tourism opportunities, while focusing on sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

The event will return to Tawang after more than a decade. The district last hosted the International Tourism Mart in 2013.

According to the Arunachal Pradesh Department of Information and Public Relations, the event is expected to bring together government officials, tour operators, investors, travel trade representatives, media professionals and delegates from across India and abroad.

The state government expects the Mart to create new opportunities for tourism promotion, investment and sustainable economic development in Arunachal Pradesh.

A preliminary coordination meeting was held at the Tawang Circuit House to draw up a roadmap for the successful conduct of the event.

The three-day Mart will also provide a platform for stakeholders to explore new tourism circuits, strengthen international and domestic travel linkages and highlight destinations across the Northeast.

Assam Governor concludes anti-drug awareness padayatra in Guwahati

GUWAHATI

Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Friday concluded the Nasha Mukta Bharat Sankalp Padayatra in Guwahati, marking the end of a fortnight-long campaign across 10 districts to raise awareness about substance abuse.

Hundreds of students, youth volunteers, NCC and NSS cadets, Scouts and Guides, ex-servicemen, social organisations, civil society representatives, officials and citizens joined the Governor at the concluding programme in Kamrup (M).

The padayatra began on September 17 in Cachar and covered Cachar, Sribhumi, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhubri, Barpeta, Diphu, Hojai, Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts.

Addressing participants at the District Library in Guwahati, Acharya said the campaign was not merely an awareness drive but a collective effort to build a healthy and empowered society.

Recalling the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary,



the Governor stressed values such as truth, self-restraint, cleanliness, discipline and service.

He also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose birth anniversary falls on October 2, and recalled his emphasis on simplicity, integrity, discipline and

service to the nation.

Acharya highlighted the role of young people in preventing substance abuse and called for coordinated efforts by parents, teachers, social and religious organisations, police, administration, media and youth groups.

"Healthy youth can build a healthy

society. Value-based youth can build a value-based society and aware and responsible youth can build a developed nation," he said.

Referring to Assam's development goals, the Governor said a prosperous, healthy, educated, safe and skilled Assam would depend on strengthening human resources and protecting young people from substance abuse.

He thanked students, NCC and NSS cadets, Scouts and Guides, women's groups, armed forces and police personnel, social organisations and citizens for participating in the campaign.

Acharya urged people to renew their commitment to building a drug-free, healthy and disciplined society as part of the broader vision of Viksit Assam and Viksit Bharat.

District Commissioner Swapnil Paul administered the Nasha Mukta Bharat Sankalp pledge to the participants.

Earlier, on Gandhi Jayanti, the Governor visited Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati and paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. He also planted a sapling on the premises.

District Commissioner Swapnil Paul, Joint Commissioner of Police Ankur Jain, GMC Commissioner Chinmoy Prakash Phukan and senior administrative and police officials were present at the programme.

Quest!

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PM Modi was aware of EC restricting EROs' access to ECINet: Congress



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was aware of a dispute over the Election Commission's IT division restricting electoral registration officers' access to the ECINet portal, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has alleged.

Ramesh said a complaint by election commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had reached the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), which comes under the prime minister, and alleged that the decision may have been taken at his direction.

He was referring to a media report that claimed an officer whom the two election commissioners had complained about to the Cabinet Secretary in July continues to hold a key

position within the Election Commission.

"Instead of action being taken against him, the officer is now overseeing the controversial IT division of the Election Commission," Ramesh said in a post on X.

According to Ramesh, the complaint to the Cabinet Secretary followed an order by the officer that removed oversight of the IT division, allowing it to function without what he described as adequate transparency.

Ramesh further alleged that the officer had been given responsibility for overseeing the IT division from August. He claimed this contradicted an Election Commission clarification issued in a press note on 26 September.

The Congress leader said the two election commissioners

had raised concerns that the IT division was restricting electoral registration officers' access to the ECINet voter-roll portal and overriding their statutory authority over additions and deletions from electoral rolls.

"The complaint reached the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), for which the minister responsible is the prime minister himself. So the prime minister is aware of all this, and it is likely taking place on his direction," Ramesh alleged.

He further alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the prime minister had retained the officer to maintain centralised control over the system. Ramesh described the developments as further evidence of what the Congress has termed its "Vote Chori" allegations.

The Congress has repeatedly criticised the functioning of the Election Commission under Gyanesh Kumar and has called for his removal.

The latest allegations follow a report by The Indian Express claiming that Sandhu and Joshi had raised objections on record at least 14 times over a 10-month period to decisions and orders related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The report said the commissioners had objected to decisions they believed had been issued without their knowledge or recommendation.

The Election Commission, facing scrutiny over the reported differences, has said that differing views and observations are a normal part of institutional deliberations. It has maintained that its orders have full legal sanction and are issued in accordance with established statutory procedures.

Former AAP leader Priyanka Kakkar, ex-UP MLA Shyam Sundar Sharma, Journalist Rajat Rakesh Tandon joins Congress

NEW DELHI

In a political turnover, former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Priyanka Kakkar, former Uttar Pradesh MLA Shyam Sundar Sharma, and journalist Rajat Rakesh Tandon have joined the Congress Party on Saturday.

The Congress Party announced in a post on X, "Inspired by the ideology of the Congress Party, today Aam Aadmi Party leader @PKakkar_ joined the Congress. Along with her, Rajat Rakesh Tandon and former MLA Shyam Sundar Sharma joined the Congress Party. Congratulations to all of you and heartfelt best wishes for the future."

During a press conference, Congress General Secretary and In-charge of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh announced that along with Kakkar, former Uttar Pradesh MLA Shyam Sundar Sharma and journalist Rajat Rakesh Tandon also joined the party today.

In a separate post on X, the Congress party welcomed the new members, "Today, three prominent figures are joining the Congress Party: Priyanka Kakkar: Former Chief National Spokesperson of AAP and Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court; Shyam Sundar Sharma: Former MLA from UP; Rajat Rakesh Tandon: From the family of freedom fighter Purushottam Das Tandon and has over 20 years of experience in journalism."

The post further noted, "Today, from Ladakh to Kanyakumari, people are placing their trust in the leadership of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and joining the Congress Party. We welcome everyone with open hearts."

Speaking at the Press conference marked to welcome the new members, Kakkar said that her decision reflects years of experience in politics, leading up to the conclusion that only the Congress party can make a clean, green, progressive, and safe Delhi.

"I am joining the Congress party today with immense pride because I want back the Delhi I grew up in. I want the green, clean, progressive and safe Delhi that was such an important part of my growing-up years. After more than a decade of experience in Indian



politics, I truly believe that only the Congress can make this happen. If there is one leader who is authentic, it is Rahul Gandhi. He is resilient. It is important that we all come together," she said.

Speaking to media after the press conference, she emphasised, "I am joining Congress with immense pride. We don't have to let the votes scatter now. We have to fight against Gyanesh Kumar and also defeat the regressive politics of the BJP."

Speaking at the press conference, Tandon revealed that his family had a long-standing connection with the Congress party. He underlined that while working as a journalist, he has witnessed that the party listens to the general public.

"My family has had a long-standing connection with the Congress Party. Their thinking and understanding were aligned with the Congress Party. As a journalist, I have covered the Congress Party for a long time, and

during this period, I have seen that it is a party where your voice is heard," he said.

Praising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for raising his voice for the youth, he attributed his decision to join the party to his commitment to work.

"The youth of the country are troubled; they are on the streets, but there is no one to listen to them. If anyone has raised a voice for the youth, it is Rahul Gandhi. Many people were suppressed, many fell silent, but there was only one person who stood firm: Rahul Gandhi. That is why I am joining the Congress Party today," he said.

Moreover, Shyam Sundar Sharma also lauded the Congress Party and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for remaining dedicated to humanism.

"Politics means hard work, sovereignty, commitment, and dedication. This thinking exists only within the Congress Party. Other parties talk about casteism and communalism, but

the Congress Party and Rahul Gandhi talk about humanism. The Congress has always been dedicated to humanism. Therefore, today I have decided to join the Congress Party," he said.

Congress leader Pawan Kherra praised their decision of to join the Congress party, saying, "Everyone wants to come on this path because the path to save this country's Constitution and democracy is the path of the Congress Party."

Speaking to ANI, Kherra further claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party has grown politically weak and is heading toward "extinction" in Punjab.

"See further what happens in which party. It (AAP) has become weak. Now it is moving towards extinction (in Punjab), the leader is the wisest person. When they understand the pulse of the society, they understand where the wind is blowing. Those who want to achieve something at the ideological level in the country feel that Congress is the only means," he added.

INTERNATIONAL

FlyDubai co-pilot who nearly crashed plane was barred from flying by Oman over extremism concerns

TEL AVIV

The FlyDubai co-pilot who officials said nearly crashed a Tel Aviv-bound flight with 182 people aboard was barred from flying by his native Oman over concerns he had adopted extremist views, a person familiar with the matter said Saturday.

The co-pilot was subsequently hired by the United Arab Emirates-based airline, the person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation. It was not immediately clear to what extent he was vetted when he was hired in the Emirates. Oman's move to bar the co-pilot from flying was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

The attack left the region's travel industry in crisis, raising questions about aviation security and further unsettling a Middle East already shaken by the U.S.-Iran war. A regional investigation is underway.

The United Arab Emirates has canceled all flights to Israel, complicating travel for hundreds of passengers who fly between the countries on a typical day. Israel and the UAE agreed on repatriation flights, beginning Friday, to bring back passengers stranded in the UAE after commercial travel between the two countries was suspended, according to an Israeli official who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The first repatriation flight left the UAE shortly before 11 p.m. and landed in Tel Aviv just after 1 a.m., according to the Ben Gurion International Airport website.

The airport listed carriers Arkia and Israir with flights scheduled to arrive from Dubai early Saturday. El Al was expected to fly passengers from Dubai to Israel on Sunday.

Dubai has been a popular destination for Israelis since Israel and the UAE established ties in 2020 as part of the Trump administration's Abraham Accords to normalize ties between Israel and Arab countries.



U.S. President Donald Trump told reporters that early information he's received suggests links between the attack and Tehran but did not elaborate. Trump also said that if it is determined that Iranian agents were behind the attack, the United States will "hit them very hard."

Israeli investigators are involved in the probe but the Emiratis are in the lead, according to an official who wasn't authorized to speak to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity. It's unclear if the attacker was part of a group, said the official, adding that there is currently no evidence of a link with Iran.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the co-pilot had undergone "Islamist radicalization," but has provided no evidence to back the assertion.

"We are now investigating whether he was sent, and whoever sent him will pay a very heavy price," Netanyahu said in a video message on Friday.

UAE senior diplomatic adviser Anwar Gargash on Friday called the FlyDubai attack a "dangerous terrorist

act" in a post on X. He credited the flight captain for preventing a catastrophe.

The moment is a test for the UAE government, which has burnished a reputation for building effective measures against extremist activities but has also bristled in the past over criticism of security lapses.

"The Emiratis are going to be interested in protecting their reputation," said Jon Alterman, chair of Global Security and Geostrategy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "They believe people should see them as a place that's very secure, not a place that has serious lapses."

Details of the harrowing flight, which other crew members on board landed safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday continue to emerge.

Smit Machchhar, the wounded captain who has been hailed as one of the heroes of the flight, and the co-pilot were transferred on Thursday from Saudi Arabia to the UAE, the kingdom said.

Machchhar is recovering in an Abu Dhabi hospital. He spoke with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a

televised video call Friday, describing the terror he faced after being attacked in the closed cockpit.

"I had so many wounds. I had fallen down," he said, his head bandaged, as he broke into sobs. "I was fighting for my life. At one point, I realized that if I didn't get up... then passengers would lose their lives."

The first signs of trouble came more than two hours into the flight when the aircraft suddenly dropped to 16,600 feet — the sharpest altitude drop recorded by data tracking platforms. But moments before the nosedive, passengers seated near the front of the plane heard sounds of a fight inside the cockpit, said passenger Daniel Schlichter, who was seated in the second row.

Seconds later, it ascended to 21,725 feet before soon dropping back to 15,000 feet, which it maintained until safely landing more than an hour later.

"The plane started going down very quickly and we all went back backwards, like the gravity took us backwards," Schlichter said. The shouting of the children as the plane plummeted, he added, was "horrific."

"One of the things that I will never forget is the shouting of the children," Schlichter said. "I could hear the children shouting, 'We don't want to die! We don't want to die!'"

The captain managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers to enter and restrain the attacker as the Boeing 737 — with 174 passengers and eight crew members, most of them Israelis — descended sharply.

The passengers wrestled the co-pilot from the cockpit and onto the floor of the main cabin where they bound his hands with headphones. They laid the wounded pilot inches from him, and a dentist attended to his wounds. Schlichter and the dentist, Dr. Shota Musayev, both said there was no visible knife or other weapon at the front of the aircraft.

"I could see all the blood on the floor, and I couldn't believe he would still be alive because he had so many injuries," Schlichter said of the captain.

North Korea fires ballistic missile after Seoul's apology demand



SEOUL

North Korea fired a ballistic missile, Seoul's military said Saturday, days after demanding an apology for a blast that wounded three South Korean soldiers in the DMZ that it blames on the North.

Pyongyang has denied responsibility for last month's explosion inside the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) and called South Korea "despicable" on Friday, undercutting overtures by Seoul's civilian leadership seeking a return to dialogue.

Early Saturday, "our military detected a ballistic missile launched from the Wonsan area of North Korea toward the East Sea," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

"South Korea, the US, and Japan are maintaining a robust defense posture through close information sharing regarding North Korean ballistic missiles," it said, adding the missile flew more than 700 kilometres (435 miles).

Seoul and the US-led United Nations Command found that last month's explosion inside the DMZ, the heavily mined buffer dividing the two Koreas since their 1953 armistice, was caused by North Korean mines

laid on the South side of the border.

North Korea's military has laid mines and built anti-tank barriers along the frontier as part of efforts to permanently seal it off following leader Kim Jong Un's designation of South Korea as his country's "principal enemy" in 2024.

The mines responsible for the blast, which left three soldiers wounded, were believed to have been laid as part of Pyongyang's border fortification work, according to South Korea's defence minister Kang Shin-chul.

South Korea's dovish President Lee Jae Myung had urged Pyongyang on Thursday to return to dialogue, despite his military demanding an apology a day earlier.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader, responded by calling Seoul "really despicable" on Friday and once again denied Pyongyang was behind the blasts.

She ridiculed Lee's latest overture, calling it "the climax of the farce that everyone should watch" and said the military's demand her country apologise was "quite ridiculous."

Kim also warned Pyongyang was "ready for anything" Seoul might do

over the mine blast -- remarks followed the next morning by North Korea's ballistic missile launch.

Analysts said the launch would be viewed as a show of force in response to the South Korean government's diplomatic efforts, effectively rejecting engagement.

"Seoul called for easing tensions, but Pyongyang answered by escalating them," Yang Moo-jin, former president of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, told AFP.

South Korea's defence minister said on Tuesday the military had "a range of necessary measures at our disposal, and we will implement them in stages" to respond to the DMZ incident, without providing further detail.

The South's Unification Minister, Chung Dong-young, also proposed talks to address issues along the border to Pyongyang on Friday.

Kim Yo Jong, however, dismissed Chung's suggestion of talks as a "wild dream and unilateral jargon."

The flare-up comes at a sensitive time when US President Donald Trump's recent overtures to Pyongyang have raised concerns that Seoul -- an ally of Washington -- could be sidelined in potential nuclear talks involving the North.

South Korea's opposition People Power Party on Friday accused Lee of failing to criticise Pyongyang when warranted even as he takes a hard line on Ukraine for publicly disclosing the transfer of North Korean prisoners of war, an arrangement Seoul believed should be confidential.

"South Korean soldiers have been injured, and far from receiving an apology, we have been mocked by North Korea," the opposition party said in a statement.

"We fail to see how selectively turning a blind eye to North Korea serves South Korea's dignity or the safety of its people."

GREAT BARBET RETURNS TO NAGALAND FOREST

The return of a Great Barbet to the forests of Porbami village in Nagaland has brought renewed attention to the role of community institutions in protecting the state's wildlife and natural resources.

The Centre Chakhesang Youth Organisation (CCYO) welcomed the Nagaland Forest Department's decision to hand over the bird to the community, describing the move as one that respected the sentiments, customs and traditions of the Naga people.

The Great Barbet was handed over by Forest Department officials to the CCYO in the presence of representatives of the local administration, Centre Chakhesang Public Organisation (CCPO), Centre Chakhesang GBs Union, the village council, youth bodies and other community leaders.

Following the handover, the CCYO released the bird into the Porbami forest, turning the episode into a wider conservation message for the Chakhesang community.

The organisation said the release was not merely about returning a wild bird to its natural habitat. It also reflected the community's commitment to protecting forests, wildlife and biodiversity through customary institutions and locally enforced conservation rules.

Year-round hunting ban reaffirmed

In the wake of the bird's release, the CCYO reiterated its commitment to conservation resolutions adopted by the Chakhesang Public Organisation (CPO) and Chakhesang Youth Front (CYF).

The organisation said its units would continue to strictly enforce restrictions on activities that threaten wildlife and forest resources.

Among the key measures is a total ban on hunting throughout the year.

The prohibition covers not only conventional hunting but also the capturing, coursing, snaring, trapping and baiting of birds and wild animals.

The CCYO said the rules were intended to prevent indiscriminate killing of wildlife and ensure that forests remain viable habitats for birds and other animals.

The organisation also warned against the possession and use of equipment that could be used to kill, injure or capture wildlife.

Under the community resolutions, people found carrying weapons, explosives, firearms, poison, snares, traps or other equipment capable of killing, injuring, decoying or anaesthetising wildlife could face penalties. Such equipment could also be seized, the organisation said.

The restrictions extend beyond hunting itself. The CCYO also reiterated its opposition to the buying and selling of hunted wild animals and birds.

Airguns under the scanner

The community's conservation rules also include a complete prohibition on airguns.

The CCYO referred to a resolution adopted during the CPO General Session held at Chizami village on January 23, 2024.

Under the resolution, possession of an airgun is prohibited irrespective of the purpose for which it is kept, according to the organisation. Those found possessing such weapons would face action under the community resolutions, while the airguns would be confiscated.

The emphasis on airguns is significant because such weapons can be used for hunting birds and other small wildlife that may otherwise escape notice in conventional enforcement efforts.

By extending the prohibition to possession rather than merely use, the community rules seek to remove one potential means of hunting from circulation.

Restrictions extend to forests and rivers

The CCYO's conservation framework also covers forest extraction and fishing practices.

The organisation said its units must strictly enforce a ban on indiscriminate burning of forests and jungles.

Commercial extraction of medicinal plants has also been prohibited under the community's conservation resolutions.

Such restrictions are aimed at preventing the depletion of forest resources and protecting habitats that support



a range of plant and animal species.

The organisation also reiterated a ban on destructive fishing practices involving batteries, generators, chemicals and similar equipment.

The restrictions reflect a broader approach to conservation in which wildlife protection is linked to the health of forests, streams and other natural resources.

Customary rights and conservation

For the Chakhesang community, the conservation measures are closely linked to customary institutions and traditional rights.

The CCYO said it remained committed to protecting the customary and traditional rights of the Chakhesang people under Article 371(A) of the Constitution, while simultaneously stressing the importance of conserving forests, wildlife and natural resources.

Article 371(A) provides special constitutional protections relating to the customary practices and administration of Nagaland.

The CCYO's position, as articulated following the Great Barbet's release, is that customary rights and environmental protection do not necessarily have to operate separately.

Instead, the organisation sees community institutions and traditional practices as part of the mechanism through which forests and wildlife can be protected.

That approach places village councils, youth organisations and community bodies at the centre of conservation efforts, alongside the formal role of the Forest Department.

A bird becomes a conservation message

The Great Barbet's return to Porbami forest therefore carried significance beyond the fate of a single bird.

The CCYO said the release was undertaken as part of its conservation and awareness efforts. By returning the bird to the forest after receiving it from the Forest Department, the organisation sought to reinforce the message that wildlife should remain protected within its natural habitat.

The presence of local administrative officials, village representatives, youth leaders and other community institutions during the handover further underlined the collective nature of the initiative.

For a community whose relationship with forests is closely connected to customary practices and natural-resource use, the incident offered an opportunity to reaffirm existing conservation commitments.

The organisation appealed to villages, youth organisations and residents across Centre Chakhesang to follow the resolutions of the CPO and CYF and actively participate in protecting forests, wildlife and biodiversity.

Community enforcement at the heart of conservation

The episode also highlights an important dimension of wildlife conservation in Nagaland: the role played by community-based institutions.

Formal wildlife protection laws provide the statutory framework for conservation, but enforcement across

forested and often remote landscapes also depends on local participation.

Community resolutions can operate at the village and organisational level, establishing restrictions on hunting, trapping, forest burning and destructive fishing practices.

In the case of the Chakhesang community, the CCYO's latest reaffirmation places particular emphasis on preventing the killing and capture of wildlife before such activities become a larger threat to local biodiversity.

The organisation's appeal is therefore directed not only at individual hunters but also at villages, youth bodies and residents who can collectively monitor and discourage practices that harm wildlife.

The Great Barbet release has consequently become a symbolic reminder of that responsibility.

Conservation rooted in local traditions

The CCYO's message is ultimate-

ly centred on the idea that conservation can be integrated with customary institutions rather than treated as a separate or externally imposed responsibility.

The organisation has linked protection of wildlife with the preservation of forests and natural resources, while maintaining that customary and traditional rights must also be respected.

The release of the Great Barbet into Porbami forest was intended to demonstrate that the two objectives can coexist.

The CCYO has urged the wider Chakhesang community to follow existing conservation resolutions and strengthen collective efforts to protect biodiversity.

As the bird returned to the forest, the community used the occasion to reinforce a broader principle: protecting wildlife is not only a responsibility of government agencies but can also be sustained through local institutions, customary practices and collective community action.



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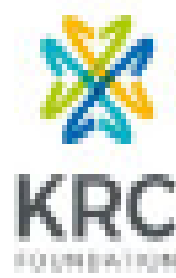
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Writing Star Contest

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