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PERSPECTIVE

We fear rejection, want attention, crave affection, and dream of perfection.

GMCH Records 114 Road Accident Cases During Durga Puja, Nine Brought Dead

GUWAHATI
Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) recorded 114 road traffic accident cases during the Durga Puja festivities between October 16 and 21, with nine victims brought dead and 82 others admitted for treatment, hospital authorities said on Thursday. GMCH Superintendent Dr Devajit Choudhury said the number of road accident cases had declined by 15% compared with the corresponding period last year. However, the figures continued to highlight concerns over road safety during the festive season.

Of the 114 cases reported at the hospital's emergency ward, 82 patients required admission, while nine were declared brought dead. Among those admitted, 67 were men and 15 were women. The nine victims brought dead included eight men and one woman.

"From October 16 to October 21, we recorded 114 road traffic accident cases in our emergency ward. Of these, 82 patients were admitted, while nine people were brought dead," Choudhury said.

Most of the cases originated in Guwahati and its adjoining areas, although some patients were referred from other parts of Assam, including Tezpur and Jorhat.

The condition of a section of the admitted patients remains a concern. According to the GMCH superintendent, around 20% of those admitted were in critical condition and were being closely monitored by medical teams.

"We are examining them every day and conducting repeat CT scans as well," Choudhury said, underlining the need for continued medical supervision of seriously injured patients.

WHO SAID WHAT



Manipur is bleeding again because of BJP's incompetence! The horrific killing of four innocent civilians in the latest spate of violence is deeply condemnable. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families

Mallikarjun Kharge
Congress president



KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

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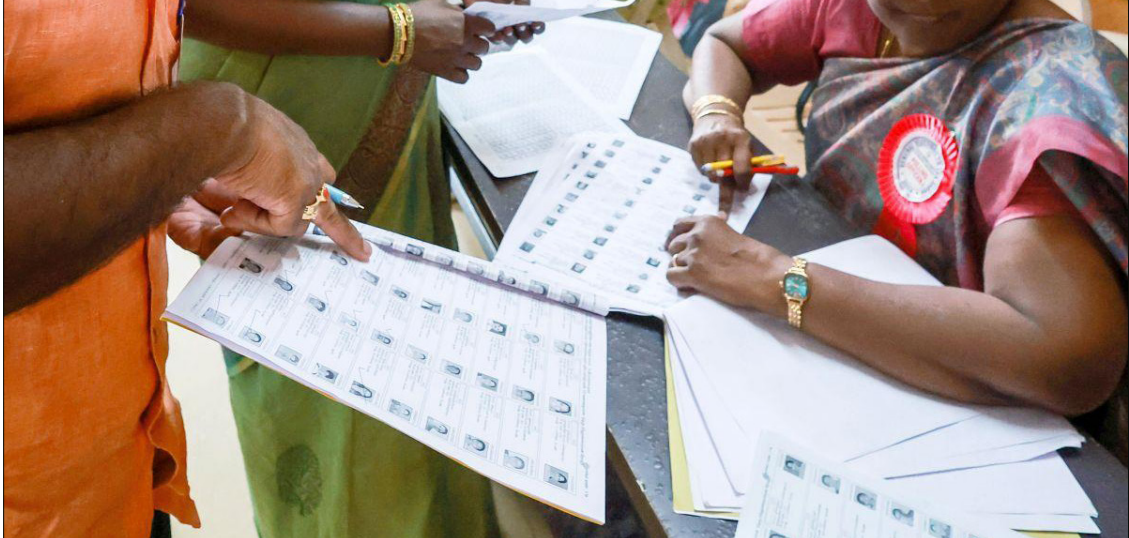
Election Commission Reviews Manipur's Preparedness for 2027 Assembly Polls

IMPHAL :
A team of senior Election Commission of India (ECI) officials is visiting Manipur to review preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections, as the poll body steps up its assessment of five states scheduled to go to the polls early next year.

According to a report, the team, led by senior deputy election commissioners, is visiting the poll-bound states ahead of a subsequent visit by the full Election Commission before the announcement of the election schedule.

Manipur is among five states scheduled to hold Assembly elections in 2027, along with Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Goa. The term of Manipur's 60-member Legislative Assembly expires in March 2027, making electoral preparedness a key priority for the commission.

The review is expected to help the poll body assess the arrangements required for conducting free, fair and peaceful elections in the state. The Election Commission will undertake a broader assessment before finalising the schedule.



The commission has already conducted a review visit to Uttarakhand, while a visit to Punjab is scheduled for October 28. The dates for the planned visit to Goa are being re-

scheduled, while the schedule for the officials' visit to Uttar Pradesh has not yet been announced.

The preparations come as the Election Commission advances the annual Special Summary Revision

(SSR) of electoral rolls in the five poll-bound states. The commission recently informed the chief electoral officers of these states that Assembly elections are due early next year.

The electoral roll revision exer-

cise is currently underway in Manipur and the other four states. The final electoral rolls for the 17 states and Union Territories covered under the current revision schedule are slated for publication on January 4. Accurate and updated electoral rolls are a crucial component of election management, helping ensure that eligible voters can exercise their franchise and that polling arrangements reflect the electorate.

Under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Election Commission can conduct Assembly elections earlier than six months before the expiry of the existing Assembly's term. The commission will determine the appropriate schedule after assessing the preparedness of the respective states. The review in Manipur comes as the state approaches another electoral cycle amid continuing challenges related to security, displacement and the restoration of normalcy. The commission's assessment will be important in determining the administrative and logistical arrangements required for the polls.

Rijiju Warns of Action Over Alleged Racial Abuse of Tripura Youth



NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has strongly condemned the alleged racial abuse of a youth from Tripura by Delhi-based content creator Amir Shokeen, warning that the Delhi and Tripura police would take action in the case. In a post on X, Rijiju said there had been a delay in filing an official complaint but asserted that the accused would face consequences. "This evil man will be punished. There was a delay in lodging the official complaint, but Delhi Police and Tripura Police will teach him a hard lesson," Rijiju said. The minister also criticised those who tolerate such behaviour, arguing that silence in the face of racial hostility allows hatred to spread in society. The controversy erupted after a video allegedly showing Shokeen making racially derogatory remarks against a youth from Tripura went viral on social media. The incident triggered widespread condemnation across the Northeast, where concerns over racial discrimination against people from the region have repeatedly surfaced.

Following the public outcry, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha directed the state's Director General of Police to coordinate with Delhi Police over the matter. Political leaders across party

lines have also condemned the alleged remarks and demanded appropriate action.

A complaint has been lodged with Tripura Police, accusing Shokeen of racial harassment, cyberbullying and making derogatory remarks against indigenous communities of the state. The allegations are yet to be established through the legal process.

Amid mounting criticism, Shokeen issued a video apology on Facebook, claiming that the exchange was scripted and intended as humour. He said the youth featured in the video was known to him and had previously worked at a friend's café in Ahmedabad.

Denying any intention to insult the youth or any community, Shokeen said the exchange had been made in a joking context. He apologised to those who felt offended by the remarks. "I had no intention of saying anything bad about anyone. If anyone felt bad, I apologise from the bottom of my heart. I respect everyone," he said. He also addressed the people of Tripura directly, asking them to accept his apology and stressing the importance of brotherhood. "My brothers from Tripura, I apologise to all of you with folded hands. Brotherhood is top priority. I am sorry," he added. The incident has renewed concerns over racial stereotyping and online harassment targeting people from the Northeast. Rijiju's warning, alongside the Tripura government's intervention, has intensified calls for accountability and a thorough investigation into the alleged abuse.

The case has also highlighted the responsibility of social media content creators to ensure that humour and online entertainment do not become vehicles for racial humiliation or hostility towards particular communities.

Manipur Sculptor Nimai Singh Sarungbam Receives Lalit Kala Akademi National Award from President Murmu

IMPHAL



Manipuri sculptor Nimai Singh Sarungbam has received the Lalit Kala Akademi National Award from President Droupadi Murmu for his teak wood sculpture Mudra-I, bringing national recognition to the artist from Manipur.

The award was conferred on October 21 at a joint ceremony marking the 65th National Exhibition of Art and the 3rd Print Biennale India 2026 at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. Sarungbam, an Imphal-based artist and former principal of Imphal Art College, was among 20 artists selected for the prestigious national honour. The selection followed a nationwide process that attracted 6,175 entries from 2,495 artists across 27 states and Union Territories. A jury shortlisted 270 artworks for the exhibition, which will remain open to the public until October 31.

Sarungbam hails from Yumnam Leikai in Imphal. He is the son of the late Sarungbam Tombi Singh and Sarungbam Ongbi Mema Devi.

He completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, graduating with a gold medal, before pursuing a Master of Fine Arts with specialisation in sculpture.

The Lalit Kala Akademi National Award adds to his list of honours. Before receiving the national recognition, Sarungbam had been conferred the Manipur State Kala Akademi Award.

His achievement highlights the contribution of artists from Manipur to India's contemporary visual arts and brings wider recognition to the state's artistic talent and sculptural traditions.

Assam CM Vigilance Cell DSP Found Dead in Bongaigaon Hotel, Probe Launched



BONGAIGAON

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Khargeswar Rabha, who was posted in the Chief Minister's Vigilance Cell, was found dead inside a hotel room in North Bongaigaon on Thursday morning, prompting police to launch an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

Rabha's body was recovered from Room No. 102 of Hotel Jahnavi Regency, where he had been staying since October 18 during a personal visit to the town. Police said the body was found lying on the floor of the room.

Following the discovery, Bongaigaon police reached the hotel and initiated an investigation. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Nomal Mahatta also visited the spot to assess the situation.

Speaking to the media, Mahatta said Rabha had checked into the hotel alone and was on leave at the time of the incident. According to the SSP, the officer had spoken to his wife on Wednesday morning,

but there had been no further contact with his family thereafter.

"We received the information this morning and immediately came to the hotel, DSP Khargeswar Rabha, who was posted in the CM Vigilance Cell, had been staying here since October 18. His body was found lying on the floor of the room," Mahatta said.

The SSP indicated that Rabha might have been unwell but stressed that the exact circumstances of his death could be established only after a detailed investigation and medical examination.

Describing Rabha as a dedicated police officer, Mahatta said he had served in different districts of Assam, including Bongaigaon, and had previously been associated with the Special Branch and the Chief Minister's Vigilance Cell.

Rabha hailed from Boko and was residing at the Special Branch residential complex in Kahilipara, Guwahati. He had reportedly travelled to Bongaigaon alone in his own car.

The body was sent for a post-mortem examination to ascertain the cause of death. His family members have since arrived in Bongaigaon, and police said they were in contact with them.

Investigators are examining the circumstances leading up to the incident. The post-mortem findings are expected to provide important clues as police work to establish the cause of death.

Further details are awaited as the investigation progresses.

Manipur CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh Awarded Taekwondo's Grand Master 9th Dan Title



IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh was conferred the Grand Master 9th Dan title by the Global Traditional Taekwondo Federation (GTTF) at the inaugural ceremony of the 1st Manipur State Poomsae Taekwondo Championship 2026 in Imphal on Wednesday.

GTTF president Grand Master Jun Lee presented the title to Singh at Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium. The chief minister also demonstrated his martial arts skills and reflexes during the programme, according to a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Addressing the gathering, Singh said the championship, held with the participation of a delegation led by Lee from South Korea, the birthplace of taekwondo, would provide practitioners from Manipur

with greater international exposure. He expressed hope that the event would popularise poomsae, a form of taekwondo focused on structured movement patterns and techniques, and help expand the sport's reach across the state.

Praising the chief minister's sporting background, Lee said Singh had been among India's prominent taekwondo practitioners in the early 1980s. He added that Singh had won national championships multiple times and was among the pioneers of the discipline in the country. "Many know him as a leader, but long before he entered politics, he was a Taekwondo Champion, and he is still a taekwondo man," Lee said. Manipur Home and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Govindas Konhoujam said the state had considerable sporting talent across disciplines and described the championship as a foundation for developing

a stronger and more inclusive taekwondo movement.

He stressed the need to build a sporting culture that promotes discipline, equal opportunities and recognition of young people's talent and determination. Konhoujam also urged the youth to reject violence and contribute to a peaceful society through sports.

The programme included a demonstration of Thang-Ta, Manipur's traditional martial art, by the Huyen Lallong Manipur Thang-Ta Cultural Association. Students from South Korea's Shinhan University also performed at the event.

A 31-member GTTF delegation is visiting Manipur from October 19 to 24. The delegation includes Hwang Kyung-Seon, a three-time Olympic medallist.

MLAs, senior administrative officers, officials of the Youth Affairs and Sports Department, coaches, students and parents attended the ceremony.



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RAM,
DUSSEHRA
AND THE RAM
TEMPLE

The story of Lord Ram is deeply rooted in India's cultural and spiritual traditions. Revered as Maryada Purushottam, Ram represents truth, duty, compassion, sacrifice and adherence to moral principles. His life, as portrayed in the Ramayana, continues to influence Indian society and its understanding of righteousness, justice and responsible conduct.

The festival of Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami, commemorates the victory of good over evil. The burning of effigies of Ravana symbolises the rejection of arrogance, injustice and moral corruption. Yet, the deeper significance of the festival lies not merely in the defeat of an external adversary but in the struggle against the negative tendencies within human beings.

Ram's life offers lessons that extend beyond religious belief. His commitment to duty, respect for relationships and willingness to make personal sacrifices for a larger responsibility have made him a lasting cultural ideal. These values remain relevant in contemporary society, where public life often faces challenges arising from intolerance, corruption, misuse of power and declining ethical standards.

The Ram Temple and the meaning of faith

The construction and inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya marked a significant moment in India's religious and cultural history. For millions of devotees, the temple represents the fulfilment of a long-held spiritual aspiration and the reaffirmation of their faith in Lord Ram.

At the same time, the journey towards the temple has been closely connected with constitutional processes and judicial decisions. The Supreme Court's 2019 verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute provided the legal basis for the construction of the temple. The episode underlined the importance of resolving complex disputes through established legal and constitutional institutions.

The temple's significance, therefore, can be understood not only in terms of religious devotion but also through the relationship between faith, law and democratic institutions. In a diverse country such as India, the ability to accommodate different beliefs while respecting constitutional principles remains essential to social harmony.

Ram's ideals in a constitutional democracy

The ideals associated with Lord Ram should inspire citizens and public representatives to uphold justice, fairness and accountability. The concept of Ram Rajya is often invoked to describe an ideal system of governance. At its core, it suggests a society in which rulers act responsibly, justice is accessible, the vulnerable are protected and public welfare takes precedence over personal interests.

In a modern constitutional democracy, these ideals must be interpreted in a manner consistent with equality, liberty, justice and the rule of law. Governance cannot be measured by religious symbolism alone; it must also be judged by how effectively it protects citizens' rights, delivers public services and ensures equal treatment before the law.

The true relevance of Ram's legacy lies in translating ethical principles into everyday conduct. Public officials must demonstrate integrity, institutions must function impartially, and citizens must remain committed to peaceful coexistence. Religious faith can provide moral inspiration, but constitutional values offer the common framework through which people of different communities can live together with dignity.

Dussehra reminds society that the struggle between good and evil is continuous. Ravana's ten heads are often interpreted symbolically as representing human weaknesses such as anger, greed, arrogance and selfishness. Their destruction serves as a reminder that moral progress begins with self-reflection and the willingness to correct one's own shortcomings.

Similarly, the Ram Temple should encourage reflection on the broader values associated with Lord Ram. Faith acquires deeper meaning when it promotes compassion, restraint, responsibility and respect for others. Cultural pride becomes more meaningful when it strengthens social cohesion rather than creating division.

India's civilisational traditions and its constitutional framework need not be viewed as opposing forces. When approached with mutual respect, ethical teachings can enrich public life while constitutional principles ensure that diversity and individual rights remain protected.

Ultimately, the legacy of Lord Ram is not confined to a festival, a religious narrative or a place of worship. It lies in the continuing effort to build a society guided by justice, dignity, responsibility and mutual respect. The most enduring tribute to Ram would be to practise these values in personal life, public administration and national affairs.

As Dussehra celebrates the triumph of righteousness, it also invites every citizen to ask a fundamental question: are we merely commemorating the victory of good over evil, or are we making a sincere effort to ensure that good prevails in our own conduct and in the institutions that shape our collective future?

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There must be something rotten in the very core of a social system which increases its wealth without diminishing its misery” - Karl Marx

POLITICS OF PATRIOTISM:
HOW THE JANA SANGH
AND BJP CHANGED INDIA'S
POLITICAL LANDSCAPE



VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

From Syama Prasad Mookerjee's political alternative in 1951 to the BJP's rise as a dominant national force, the journey reflects a profound shift in the relationship between nationalism, cultural identity and governance.

The founding of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh on October 21, 1951, marked a significant chapter in the evolution of Indian politics. Established under the leadership of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the party emerged as an alternative to the Congress, which dominated the political landscape in the aftermath of independence. Seventy-five years later, the Jana Sangh's political successor, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has become one of the country's most influential political forces, reshaping the debate over patriotism, national identity and governance.

The Jana Sangh's emergence challenged the Congress's long-standing association with nationalism, built during the freedom struggle. While the Congress emphasised secular nationalism, parliamentary democracy and state-led economic development, the Jana Sangh argued that India's civilisational heritage and cultural traditions should occupy a more prominent place in the process of nation-building.

This ideological difference gradually developed into a defining feature of Indian politics. The Jana Sangh, and later the BJP, sought to establish cultural nationalism as a distinct political philosophy, arguing that the country's identity could not be understood solely through the institutions of a modern republic without acknowledging its historical and cultural inheritance.

Congress and the debate over national identity

The Congress faced the formidable task of governing a newly independent country divided by Partition and marked by religious tensions, mass displacement and deep social inequalities. Its emphasis on secularism and accommodation among communities was intended to preserve national unity in an exceptionally difficult period.

However, several decisions taken by successive Congress governments later became subjects of political controversy. The Shah Bano case of 1985-86, in which the Rajiv Gandhi government enacted legislation following a Supreme Court ruling on maintenance for divorced Muslim women, was widely criticised as a concession to conservative religious opinion at the expense of gender justice.

The Congress's handling of the Ayodhya dispute, Article 370 and the Uniform Civil Code also fuelled criticism that political considerations sometimes took precedence over a consistent application of constitutional principles. Supporters of the Congress, however, have argued that governing a diverse society requires sensitivity to minority concerns and that accommodation should not automatically be dismissed as appeasement. The debate highlights a central challenge for Indian democracy: protecting minority rights while ensuring equality before the law. Neither cultural identity nor religious accommodation can replace the constitutional principles of equal citizenship, justice and individual liberty.

The Jana Sangh and the BJP gained political support by making these questions central to their political agenda. Their opposition to Article 370, advocacy of a Uniform Civil Code and emphasis on a common national identity helped them consolidate a constituency that viewed the Congress's approach to these issues as inconsistent.

Integral Humanism and the economic alternative

The Jana Sangh also sought to distinguish itself from the Congress's economic model, which placed considerable emphasis on state planning and socialist principles. Its ideological framework drew heavily on Deendayal Upadhyaya's concept of Integral Humanism, which sought to balance individual dignity, social responsibility, economic development and cultural values. The philosophy presented an alternative to both unrestrained capitalism and excessive state control. It argued that development should address the needs of the whole person and society rather than focus exclusively on material growth or bureaucratic planning. The Jana Sangh's position on land-ceiling legislation in Rajasthan illustrated that its economic outlook did not necessarily imply opposition to redistributive policies. Despite resistance from some of its legislators, the party leadership supported the measure, reflecting an attempt to reconcile its ideological commitments with social and economic realities.

The Antyodaya initiative associated with Bhairon Singh Shekhawat subsequently reinforced the principle that development must reach the poorest sections of society. These examples demonstrate that economic justice is not the exclusive domain of any one political ideology; its value ultimately depends on whether policies improve living standards and reduce deprivation.

From political alternative to na-

tional power

The Jana Sangh's participation in the Janata experiment of 1977 marked an important stage in its evolution. The formation of the BJP in 1980 provided a new platform for the continuation of its political project, although the party's subsequent rise required decades of organisational expansion, ideological mobilisation and electoral consolidation.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure as prime minister demonstrated that a non-Congress government could complete a full term while pursuing a substantial policy agenda. The Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, the response to the Kargil conflict in 1999, the creation of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, and the expansion of elementary education through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan were among the notable initiatives of his government.

Vajpayee also demonstrated that a party with a strong ideological identity could govern through coalition politics. His administration depended on negotiations with allies and the management of competing political interests, underlining the importance of compromise and parliamentary cooperation in a diverse democracy. Under Narendra Modi, the BJP has further consolidated its position through a combination of cultural nationalism, welfare delivery, infrastructure development and digital public services. The expansion of financial inclusion and direct benefit transfers through the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-mobile framework, the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code have been important elements of its economic agenda.

The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 represented a major constitutional change concerning Jammu and Kashmir. The criminalisation of instant triple talaq, the passage of the Women's Reservation Act and the replacement of colonial-era criminal laws have also featured prominently in the government's reform programme. Meanwhile, India's growing defence production and diplomatic initiatives, including the International Solar Alliance, have strengthened the government's emphasis on national capability and global influence.

However, the long-term success of these initiatives must be judged by their implementation and their impact on citizens. Employment generation, economic opportunity, social welfare, institutional accountability and the protection of democratic rights remain essential measures of governance, regardless of which party holds power.

Patriotism beyond party politics

The Jana Sangh's 75-year journey illustrates how a political movement that once occupied the margins can transform the national agenda by connecting its ideas with public aspirations. The BJP has fundamentally altered the language of political competition by placing cultural nationalism, civilisational identity and a more assertive conception of national interest at the centre of its political

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Rahul Gandhi is trying to blackmail India's national institutions, but such audacity will no longer be tolerated by the people of Bharat.

~ Dr. Himanta Biswa

Sarma, CM, Assam



narrative. Yet patriotism cannot be the exclusive property of any political party. The Congress's contribution to the freedom struggle, the role of regional movements and the sacrifices of citizens from different religious, linguistic and social backgrounds are integral to India's national history. The country's democratic strength depends on recognising this plurality rather than allowing any single political tradition to claim sole ownership of national loyalty.

Cultural nationalism can provide a sense of historical continuity and collective confidence, but it must operate alongside constitutional values. A strong nation is not defined only by its cultural heritage or international standing; it is also measured by the dignity it affords its citizens, the fairness of its institutions and its ability to protect individual rights.

The Congress, meanwhile, faces the challenge of overcoming the perception that its long period of political dominance encouraged complacency and weakened its ideological clarity. The BJP, having moved from opposition to a position of national dominance, must also guard against stagnation and ensure that electoral success does not weaken institutional accountability.

Seventy-five years after the Jana Sangh's founding, cultural nationalism has become an established force in Indian politics. The more important question is how it will balance civilisational confidence with constitutional restraint, national ambition with social inclusion, and political authority with democratic accountability.

The Jana Sangh and the BJP have undeniably changed India's political vocabulary. Their lasting contribution will ultimately depend not merely on how successfully they define patriotism, but on whether that vision helps build a more equitable, inclusive and democratic India. True patriotism finds its fullest expression not in partisan claims over the nation, but in the commitment to strengthen its institutions, uphold justice and improve the lives of its people.

Assam Pays Tribute to Six Police Personnel Killed in Line of Duty Over Past Year



GUWAHATI
Assam paid tribute to six police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty over the past year, as the state observed Police Commemoration Day at the 10th Assam Police Battalion headquarters in Kahilipara. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma laid a wreath at the martyrs' altar and paid homage to the fallen personnel. A commemorative parade was also organised to honour police officers and jawans who made the supreme sacrifice while serving the state.

Addressing the gathering, Sarma said 156 police personnel across the country had died in the line of duty over the past year. He noted that Assam Police had lost more than 900 personnel since Independence.

"Assam Police lost six officials and jawans in the last one year during duty. Today, we commemorate and remem-

ber those six personnel. Since Independence, Assam Police have lost more than 900 personnel," the Chief Minister said.

Describing the occasion as significant for police forces across the country, Sarma expressed his gratitude to the families of personnel who had died while performing their duties.

"I extend my respect and gratitude to all the families who lost their members," he said. Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on October 21 in memory of 10 police personnel killed in an ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh on October 21, 1959. The day honours police personnel who have laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing the national commemoration programme in New Delhi, highlighted what he described as

the Northeast's progress towards peace following a series of agreements and the surrender of arms by thousands of people. "Following several agreements and thousands of people laying down their arms, the entire Northeast has moved towards peace," Shah said, adding that the region had developed an environment conducive to development.

Shah also commended police personnel and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) for their contribution to maintaining internal security. He particularly praised the CAPF and the CoBRA Battalion for their role in operations against Left-wing extremism.

The commemorations in Assam and New Delhi underscored the sacrifices made by police personnel in maintaining security, while highlighting the continuing focus on peace and stability across the Northeast.

Widowed Mother of Six Found Murdered in Assam's Morigaon; Three Detained

MORIGAON

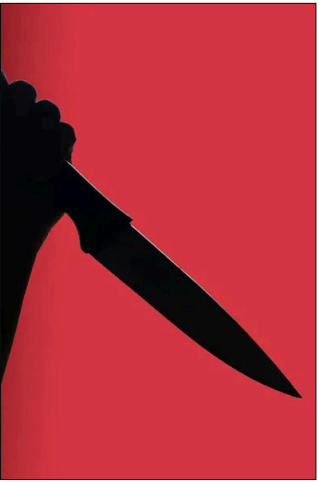
A widowed mother of six was allegedly murdered in Baghautha village in Assam's Morigaon district, with her body reportedly remaining concealed inside her house for nearly two days before the incident came to light. Police have detained three people, including the prime accused, identified as Bulbul Boro, in connection with the case.

The victim, identified as Minu Boro, was found dead following the alleged murder. Preliminary reports suggest that three brothers may have jointly planned and carried out the crime. However, the circumstances surrounding the killing and the alleged involvement of each suspect are yet to be established.

After receiving information about the incident, a police team reached the village and recovered the body. The three detained individuals are being questioned as investigators work to reconstruct the sequence of events and ascertain the motive behind the alleged murder.

The incident has triggered outrage and tension in the area. Police are continuing their investigation, and further details are awaited.

The allegations against the detained individuals have not yet been established through the investigation.



Federation of Haomee Calls for Statewide Noise Protest on October 23



IMPHAL

The Federation of Haomee has called for a statewide protest in Manipur on October 23, urging residents to express their anger over the continuing crisis through a collective display of noise between 7.30 pm and 8 pm.

In a video message circulated on social media, the organisation appealed to people across the state to participate by shouting, banging utensils or honking car horns as a way of registering their resentment over the prevailing situation.

The announcement was made from the western gate of Kangla Fort, a historic landmark in Imphal. The proposed protest is intended to highlight public frustration over the prolonged conflict and the continuing difficulty in restoring lasting peace and security in the state.

Manipur has been affected by ethnic violence since May 2023, which has claimed hundreds of lives and displaced thousands of people. Despite government initiatives aimed at restoring normalcy, concerns over civilian safety, law and order and the rehabilitation of displaced people remain central to public debate.

The Federation of Haomee has appealed for widespread participation in the October 23 demonstration. The proposed action is intended to provide people with a collective way to voice their concerns over the state's continuing instability.

Rio Calls for Inclusive Settlement of Naga Political Issue

KOHIMA

Nagaland Chief Minister and Naga People's Front (NPF) president Neiphiu Rio has called for an inclusive and mutually acceptable settlement of the decades-old Naga political issue, urging all parties involved in negotiations to demonstrate sincerity and work towards fulfilling the aspirations of the Naga people.

Addressing a programme marking the 64th Foundation Day of the ruling NPF in Kohima on Tuesday, Rio said the political issue remained central to the party's agenda. He stressed that a lasting settlement was essential for ensuring peace and creating conditions conducive to economic growth, investment and employment generation.

Although the NPF is not directly involved in the ongoing negotiations between the Centre and Naga political groups, Rio said the party could play an important role as a facilitator by bridging differences and helping create a favourable atmosphere for dialogue.



He called upon tribal bodies, civil society organisations, churches, student groups, women, youth and political parties to work collectively towards a settlement, placing the broader aspirations of the Naga people above individual and organisational interests.

Rio's appeal comes amid continuing efforts to resolve the Naga political issue, which has remained one of the region's most complex political challenges for decades.

The chief minister, however, emphasised that development could not be held back indefinitely while awaiting a political settlement. He

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday invoked the traditional theme of good triumphing over evil in his Bijoya Dashami message, saying that forces perceived as evil would eventually lose their influence. His remarks came amid a politically charged atmosphere in the state, although he did not name any individual or organisation.

"We have seen from the last few months how some evil forces were on the rise, they have so far lost their power as Bijoya Dashami approached. And we believe that always in society evil forces will lose and good power will rise. This is like from ancient times and will continue," Sarma said.

The Chief Minister's comments added a political undertone to the festival marking the culmination of Durga Puja, when devotees across Assam prepared to bid farewell to Goddess Durga. His remarks came at a time when protests



and demands for change have remained part of the state's political discourse.

Sarma, who was expected to visit an immersion ghat in Guwahati during the day, said Bijoya Dashami represented the enduring victory of good over evil.

Meanwhile, authorities in Guwahati put in place extensive arrangements for the immersion of Durga idols at Lachit Ghat and

Pandu Ghat. The administration scheduled the immersion process over Wednesday and Thursday to manage large crowds, facilitate the movement of processions and ensure safety at the designated sites.

Immersion activities were scheduled to begin at noon, with household idols expected to arrive early in the morning and larger idols from community puja committees likely to reach the ghats

later in the day.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) deployed personnel at key immersion points to assist with crowd management and emergency response.

An NDRF official said four teams, comprising around 30 personnel, had been deployed across Lachit Ghat, Pandu Ghat, Sankat Mochan Ghat and Palasbari, including nearby immersion sites. The teams were scheduled to remain on duty round the clock throughout the two-day immersion period.

Hydra cranes were also kept ready to handle large idols and facilitate their immersion safely.

In Jorhat, around 40 SDRF personnel were deployed across the ghats for the scheduled one-day immersion programme. Officials said the longer deployment in Guwahati was necessary because of the larger number of idols expected to be brought to the city's immersion sites.

Manipur INDIA Bloc Demands Arrests Over Civilian Killings, Calls for Time-Bound Peace Plan

IMPHAL

The INDIA bloc in Manipur has urged Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to ensure the immediate arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the killing of three Meitei civilians and injuries to three others in an alleged attack in Imphal East district on October 19. In a memorandum submitted to the governor, the opposition alliance called for urgent intervention to contain the continuing violence, strengthen civilian protection and restore peace and normalcy within a fixed timeframe.

The memorandum referred to the alleged attack at the Khongbal Sunurok Uyok hill range under Sagolmang police station, describing it as a fresh indication of the deteriorating security situation in the state. The attack has been attributed to suspected Kuki militants, although the allegations require investigation.

The alliance said Manipur had continued to witness killings, abductions, arson and displacement since the outbreak of violence on May 3, 2023. It questioned the effectiveness of security arrangements despite the formation of the government led by Yumnam Khemchand Singh on February 4, 2026.

"Such claims stand in stark contrast to the continuing bloodshed, insecurity and suffering endured by the people of Manipur," the memorandum stated, questioning

the government's ability to protect lives and property. The opposition parties also cited several other incidents to underline their concerns over the state's security situation. These included the killings of three Thadou missionaries near Kotlen, the Tronglaobi incident, the reported kidnapping and killing of six Naga porters at Leilon Vaiphei, and alleged violence in Ukhrul and Kamjong districts. The memorandum also referred to reports of killings and the beheading of Liangmai Naga persons at Makui. The alliance argued that repeated incidents of violence raised serious questions about the implementation of security measures and the authorities' commitment to restoring peace. The INDIA bloc outlined four principal demands: immediate arrests and prosecution in connection with the October 19 attack, stronger security arrangements for civilians, impartial enforcement of Suspension of Operations (SoO) ground rules, and a time-bound roadmap for restoring peace and normalcy.

On the SoO arrangements, the alliance urged the authorities to ensure that armed-group cadres remained within designated camps and that the prescribed rules were enforced without discrimination. It also called for effective monitoring to prevent the misuse of weapons and involvement in unlawful activities.

We don't have any option; peace is the only option: Yumnam Khemchand

BISWADEEP GUPTA

IMPHAL: Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh today attended Jan Sevak Mahakumbh organised under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan at City Convention Centre, Imphal.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister stated that the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan had been observed across all districts of Manipur for a month, from September 17 to October 17, to mark the 25 years of public service rendered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The month-long campaign witnessed the participation of more than 4 lakh people, with a total of around 6,122 campaigns organised across the State, he added.

Khemchand Singh stated that the 36 different communities residing in the State have safeguarded the territorial integrity of Manipur at various stages of its history. He further emphasised that, to foster unity in the State, all communities, including the Meitei, Kuki and Naga, must identify themselves as Manipuris.

He continued that the Manipuri language serves as a medium of communication among all communities in the State. He emphasised the need to cherish

Quest!

Hypopituitarism is a rare disease that doesn't allow a person to feel love



the language and encourage its wider use among the people.

He said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 aims to build a strong India by the time the country attains 100 years of independence, he added.

He further stated that Manipur must also be a part of this developmental journey, as India cannot be considered a developed nation without the development of Manipur. He emphasised that peace is the only way for the State to participate in this journey of development.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khem-

chand Singh further stated that significant steps have been undertaken for the development of the State under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He highlighted the establishment of the country's first National Sports University in Manipur, which provides an important opportunity for the State's sportspersons.

He stated that railway connectivity in the State has facilitated the transportation of goods and improved connectivity between Manipur and the rest of the country. He also highlighted the withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special

Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA), from several areas of the State.

The Chief Minister also recalled the implementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system in Manipur following public agitations. He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recognising the importance of protecting the indigenous people of Manipur, subsequently took steps to implement the ILP system in the State.

Referring to the public demand for the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before the Census, the Chief Minister stated that the Prime Minister had taken into consideration the concerns raised by the people of Manipur and deferred the Census exercise in the State.

Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam stated that restoring peace in Manipur requires mutual trust and understanding among all communities. He emphasised that peace cannot be achieved by the Government alone and that all communities and groups in the State must come together, set aside their differences, and work collectively to resolve the issues affecting Manipur.

During the programme appreciation certificates were distributed to students, teachers in connection with the campaign.

The programme was attended by Arts & Culture and Tourism Minister Khuraijam Loken Singh; MLAs and Chief Secretary among others.

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India slams UN rapporteur over alleged bias in counter-terror report, affirms Dawood Ibrahim in Pakistan

Court releases CJP leaders after undertakings not to call protests at Jantar Mantar; walk out of Tihar



NEW DELHI

A special executive magistrate court in Delhi on Wednesday ordered the release of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka from judicial custody after they furnished written undertakings not to breach the peace or call for protests at Jantar Mantar while the site remains de-notified.

The two leaders were released from Tihar Jail after furnishing personal bonds and surety bonds of Rs 50,000 each until the conclusion of the inquiry. Special Executive Magistrate Ritu Raj ordered their release after accepting the sureties.

The order came after Delhi Police sought a further three-day extension of their judicial custody, arguing that apprehensions of a breach of peace and disturbance of law and order persisted in view of their previous conduct and statements made in the media.

The police also argued that Das and Ranka had made contradictory statements before the court and in the media about their willingness to refrain from similar activities. Their written reply submitted during Wednesday's proceedings was also cited as being contrary to their earlier submissions.

During the hearing, the police referred to a statement made to the media by another CJP member while the leaders were being taken to Tihar Jail after the previous hearing, arguing that it undermined the authority of the SEM court.

Counsel for Das and Ranka, reportedly tendered an unconditional apology and assured the court that such conduct would not be repeated.

The magistrate observed that the immediate preventive measures required to maintain peace and public tranquillity could be secured through the execution of bonds and the written undertakings furnished by the two leaders. The court held that further judicial custody was not necessary at this stage in view of the assurances given before it.

In their separate undertakings, Das and Ranka promised not to commit any breach of peace and expressed faith



in the judiciary and its institutions, including the SEM court. They specifically undertook not to call for protests at Jantar Mantar until the site is de-notified in accordance with law and said any protest undertaken by them would remain within the constitutional framework.

The magistrate directed the investigating officer to submit a verification report on the sureties at the next hearing. The two leaders and their sureties were also directed to remain present on the next date of hearing.

The court further directed Das and Ranka to appear on every date of the proceedings and comply with the conditions of their bonds and voluntary undertakings while maintaining law and order and ensuring that public tranquillity is not disturbed. The inquiry will continue in accordance with law, with the next hearing scheduled for October 23 at 3 pm.

The CJP welcomed the release, with founder Abhijeet Dipke describing the two leaders as "much, much bigger leaders" than himself in a post on X.

"Saurav and Ashu are not just better but much, much bigger leaders than me. Happy to follow your orders, my leaders. Jaan hazir hai," Dipke wrote.

He added a playful remark in Hindi: "Lekin iske baad mere bina garden

mein koi akela nahi ghumeगा!!!" (After this, don't go walking in the garden without me).

In another post, Dipke shared a photograph of Das and Ranka with the caption "My leaders".

The party's legal head, Ratna Singh, also welcomed the order, saying the decision should have come earlier.

"We welcome the decision. I think this decision should have been taken long ago, but it is not too late," Singh told reporters.

She said the police had sought an extension of custody citing an imminent threat, while the defence argued that there was no imminent threat and no call for a protest.

"You cannot take that as an assumption and extend the judicial custody. The SEM has taken that on record," she said.

CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka come out of Tihar Jail after the SEM Court ordered their release in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Asked about the Delhi High Court's observations earlier on Wednesday, Singh said the judge was entitled to express an opinion, but the CJP did not necessarily agree with it. She described the observations as oral and said there had been no discussion on the merits of the case.

Singh said the team was emotional and eager to meet the two leaders after trying for their release over the past week. She also expressed hope that nobody's liberty would be curtailed in the future over issues related to sureties or technical reasons.

AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal also welcomed the SEM court's order, saying the entire nation stood with Das and Ranka.

Earlier, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said the judicial detention of the two leaders was linked to a violation of a peace bond and not to their attempt to unfurl the national flag.

Das and Ranka were detained on October 13 after allegedly climbing the gates of the barricaded Jantar Mantar protest site and raising slogans against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

They were remanded to five days of judicial custody on October 14. On October 19, the SEM court extended their custody by two days, citing concerns about their conduct and the possibility of a breach of peace. The court also rejected the sureties furnished by the two leaders and directed them to provide fresh ones.

Das and Ranka subsequently challenged the October 19 order before the Delhi High Court but withdrew their petition after Justice Subramonium Prasad indicated that a revision plea would be a more appropriate remedy if they did not obtain relief from the SEM court.

Earlier on Wednesday, the High Court declined to interfere with their judicial custody, asking them to await the SEM court's decision and approach the appellate court if their grievance persisted.

Advocates Abhik Chimni and Pranjal Abrol appeared for the two leaders. The proceedings were initiated by the Parliament Street police under Sections 126 and 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) as preventive measures amid apprehensions of a breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquillity during the protests.

INTERNATIONAL

US, Israel weigh renewed strikes on Iran; Tehran threatens to unveil 'father of all bombs': Reports

WASHINGTON:

The United States and Israel have reportedly prepared plans for fresh strikes on Iran after the US midterm elections, while Tehran has threatened to unveil a weapon it has dubbed the "father of all bombs" amid rising tensions in West Asia, The New York Times reported.

According to The New York Times, the US and Israeli militaries have developed specific plans for a short but intensive operation targeting Iran's energy infrastructure, nuclear facilities, and missile and drone arsenal. Citing US officials and other people briefed on the deliberations, the report said the two militaries have stepped up exercises, including flying aircraft over Iraq to practise strike manoeuvres.

US War Secretary Pete Hegseth met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel this week to discuss potential renewed strikes, according to the news report. Some US officials believe another round of "attacks" could push Iran's economy to the brink and force Tehran to make diplomatic concessions after nearly eight months of conflict.

Amid the possibility of renewed strikes, Iran has warned that it would respond to any renewed military action. According to Iranian state-affiliated media outlet Student News Network (SNN), Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesperson Hossein Mohebbi said, "The United States has the 'Mother of All Bombs.' We will show them the 'Father of All Bombs,' and it will definitely be something new for them."

But, Tehran has not provided details about the weapon or clarified what the threat entails.

The warning follows reports that US President Donald Trump has considered using the 22,000-pound GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), known as the "Mother of All Bombs", against Iran's deeply buried Pickaxe Mountain nuclear facility.

According to The New York Times, weapons specialists have questioned whether the bomb, which explodes above ground, could destroy the underground site, which is composed of granite. Military officials have also warned that the bomb would have to be delivered by a slow-flying MC-130 transport aircraft vulnerable to Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

However, the news report said it remains uncertain whether Trump will approve fresh strikes. The US and Israel came close to launching an "attack" earlier this month, but Trump postponed the operation shortly before it was due to begin, despite extensive preparations and heightened alert levels among their air forces. A White House official said the administration does not comment on military plans "that may or may not exist", adding that Trump was keeping all options on the table to ensure Iran cannot acquire nuclear weapons.

According to The New York Times, the United States is assembling a substantial military force expected to be fully in place by early November, including three aircraft carriers, thousands of Marines, fighter jets and Special Operations forces. Officials have cited political considera-

tions, including Trump's earlier pledge not to strike Iran before the midterm elections, as reasons the operation could be delayed.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, meanwhile, has highlighted the situation as a major challenge for Tehran. In an address to the Iranian Parliament, Pezeshkian said, "The memorandum of understanding we signed was very good; we hadn't given anything. The current situation is neither good for us, nor for the region, nor for the world."

He added, "We are in a super-challenge, not a challenge. America didn't think we would stand firm despite the pressure and war, but we stood firm, and we will continue to stand firm."

Iran's representative to the United Nations also alleged, as cited by the SNN, that "Starlink has been used to identify and target in military attacks against Iran...The country's space and scientific infrastructure has been targeted in attacks."

Washington was seeking to use the prospect of renewed military action as leverage in negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme and control over the Strait of Hormuz. However, Iranian negotiators have resisted making concessions on the nuclear issue, insisting that the matter be deferred until later in the talks.

Some US planners believe an intensive three-day campaign could inflict enough economic damage to change Tehran's position. However, the report noted that previous US-Israeli strikes between February and April drove up energy prices and

inflation worldwide, eroded security in West Asia and severely strained the Pentagon's supply of missile interceptors.

Iranian officials have also warned that any renewed conflict could extend beyond commercial shipping and energy infrastructure to data centres and underwater internet cables, saying the fighting would neither be quick nor limited.

Mahdi Mohammadi, a senior adviser to Iran's negotiator General Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, also rejected the prospect of a swift end to renewed hostilities. According to the report, Mohammadi described the idea that the United States could conclude another round of strikes within 72 hours as a "fantasy", adding that Iran would determine when the war would end.

"Our attacks will be more fierce, creative and different," Mohammadi said. "We are determined and confident and strong planning has been put in place."

The report also noted that Israel's October 27 election could complicate the timing of any operation. Analysts said Netanyahu could face difficulties initiating a war if he loses and becomes a caretaker prime minister, although some believe the prospect of joint US-Israeli strikes could be used to pressure political rivals into joining a unity government.

As military preparations and diplomatic efforts continue, the possibility of renewed strikes has raised concerns about a wider regional conflict, with uncertainty persisting over Trump's final decision and Iran's potential response.

Washington orders all US embassy staff, families to leave Saudi Arabia: diplomatic source



RIYADH:

Washington has ordered non-essential US embassy staff and their families to leave Saudi Arabia, the State Department said on Wednesday, as the kingdom comes under sustained deadly attacks by Yemen's Houthis.

It came after a diplomatic source told that "all American staff and their families have been ordered to depart from the US embassy" in the Gulf kingdom.

The source added that families of embassy staff had also been ordered to leave the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain, all of which have been targeted by Iran during the Middle East war.

US State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott subsequently confirmed the order in a post on X, but said it applied to "non-emergency US government employees and their family members in Saudi Arabia only".

He linked the move to Houthi attacks on the country, including airports, saying "the safety and security of Department personnel and their families remain

our highest priority".

Saudi Arabia has this month come under near-daily attacks from the Iran-backed Houthis, including a strike on Riyadh's international airport that was the kingdom's deadliest in years, as the war with the group escalates.

On Wednesday, the Saudi energy ministry said that falling debris from the successful interception of a drone targeting an oil facility killed two people and injured a further two.

"The attempted attack resulted in the deaths of two individuals, a Filipino and a Nepali, and injuries to two others," the ministry said in a statement.

It did not say who launched the drone aimed at Shaybah oil field near the UAE border. Earlier on Wednesday, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen reported intercepting six drones.

In June, a four-year-old truce in Yemen's civil war collapsed, reviving the conflict that dates back to 2014. The Saudi-led coalition has backed the internationally recognised government since 2015.

The US previously ordered non-essential staff to leave the Gulf

ahead of the start of its war against Iran and again in July before US President Donald Trump called off a new wave of strikes.

Late on Wednesday, Iranian state media reported the sound of explosions in the southern Hormozgan province overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, breaking a spell of relative calm.

"A few minutes ago, the sound of several explosions was heard in the Karpan area of Sirik, in Hormozgan Province," the official IRNA news agency said.

It added that "local sources have not yet disclosed the nature of these explosions".

The conflict began in late February, when the United States and Israel launched attacks on Iran, killing the country's supreme leader, along with senior military commanders. Iran has attempted to blockade the strategic waterway, demanding all ships seek its authorisation to cross. In peacetime, the Hormuz strait carried around a fifth of the world's oil supplies.

In retaliation, the United States has imposed a counterblockade on Iranian ports and ships.

India-Bangladesh Border Faces Persistent Challenges Despite Extensive Fencing



Undocumented migration, human trafficking, smuggling and security concerns continue to test border management, with Assam’s riverine terrain and gaps in infrastructure adding to the challenges.

Despite extensive fencing and strengthened surveillance, the India-Bangladesh border continues to face challenges from undocumented migration, human trafficking, smuggling and the possible exploitation of vulnerable routes by criminal networks. Difficult terrain, shifting river channels and cross-border social ties make securing the frontier a complex task, particularly in Assam and other northeastern states.

The Northeast shares approximately 5,484 km of international boundaries with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Its hills, dense forests, river valleys and remote settlements create distinctive challenges for border management. The region is also home to more than 200 ethnic groups, many of which have historical, cultural and family connections that extend across national boundaries.

Although insurgency has declined considerably in several parts of the Northeast in recent years, security agencies continue to monitor illegal cross-border movement, arms and narcotics smuggling, human trafficking and the potential spread of extremist networks.

Among the most sensitive stretches is the India-Bangladesh border, which extends approximately 4,096 km across West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. According to figures cited by the Union government in February 2025, around 3,232 km of the frontier had been fenced, leaving more than 864 km unfenced at that time. Subsequent figures indicated that approximately 3,240 km had been fenced by early 2026, with around 857 km still uncovered.

The remaining gaps are largely associated with riverine terrain, marshlands, difficulties in acquiring land and other geographical constraints. Some stretches have also been identified as unsuitable for conventional fencing, requiring alternative surveillance arrangements.

Assam’s geographical challenges
Assam shares a 267.5-km international boundary with Bangladesh, passing through districts including Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar, Cachar and Sribhumi. According to figures presented in the Assam Assembly in February 2026, fencing had been completed along 228.541 km of the state’s border, while a 4.35-km section in Sribhumi remained unfenced amid objections from the Border Guard Bangladesh. Riverine stretches present additional surveillance challenges.

The state’s border-security arrangements include 91 Border Security Force (BSF) border outposts, supported by 14 Assam Police border outposts and 14 patrol posts. The government has also initiated steps to establish 13 additional police outposts and 12 border police stations to strengthen monitoring and enforcement.

The geographical conditions along the frontier make regular surveillance essential. Rivers can change course, sandbars emerge and disappear, and waterlogged areas often restrict the construction of permanent barriers. In such locations, security agencies must rely on patrols, intelligence gathering, communications systems and technological surveillance to identify vulnerable crossing points.

The Union government has also pursued measures such as floodlighting, border roads and integrated surveillance systems. However, the effectiveness of these arrangements depends on sustained maintenance, adequate personnel and timely coordination among the agencies responsible for border security.

Migration remains a longstanding concern. Undocumented migration has remained a politically and socially sensitive issue in Assam for decades. The debate is closely linked to questions of citizenship, land ownership, demographic change, employment and pressure on public resources.

In February 2026, Assam Accord Implementation Minister Atul Bora informed the state Assembly that more than 1.70 lakh people had been detected as illegal foreigners under the relevant provisions over four decades. Of these, 1,37,152 people who entered Assam after March 24, 1971, had been identified and declared foreigners, while another 33,485 people who arrived between 1966 and 1971 had been detected under the separate provisions applicable to that period.

The minister said approximately 31,000 people had been sent back or deported over the period. Of these, 1,421 were sent back between February 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026, under directions issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Separately, figures presented by the Union government in Parliament in December 2025 recorded 1,104 infiltration attempts along the India-Bangladesh border between January and November that year, resulting in the arrest of 2,556 people described in the parliamentary reply as infiltrators.

These figures reflect detected attempts and enforcement actions, rather than the total number of people who may have crossed the border undetected. Detection, declaration as a foreigner, deportation and other forms of return are also distinct legal and administrative processes.

The issue therefore requires careful verification of nationality and legal status, alongside effective enforcement. Authorities must address unauthorised migration through established procedures while distinguishing between undocumented migrants, people seeking refuge and individuals whose nationality remains unverified.

Human trafficking and smuggling networks
Human trafficking presents another serious challenge along the frontier. Criminal networks may exploit vulnerable women and children through false promises of employment, marriage or better living conditions, moving victims for sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude.

The use of intermediaries, forged documents and concealed transport routes can make these operations difficult to detect. In many cases, victims may initially appear to have crossed voluntarily, requiring detailed investigation to establish whether deception, coercion or exploitation was involved.

Combating trafficking requires more than interception at the border. Police and other agencies must identify those responsible for recruitment, transportation and document fraud, investigate the financial networks supporting the operations, and ensure that victims receive protection and rehabilitation. Smuggling networks create additional enforcement challenges.

Cattle and other goods may be transported through unauthorised routes, while local intermediaries can help operators evade detection. Such activities may exploit the same geographical vulnerabilities that complicate the prevention of illegal crossings. However, trafficking, smuggling and undocumented migration should not automatically be treated as parts of a single criminal network. Establishing connections between separate operations requires specific evidence and investigation.

Security concerns extend beyond illegal crossings

Security agencies also remain alert to the possibility that extremist elements could exploit vulnerable routes, forged documents and illicit networks. The wider regional situation, including instability in neighbouring Myanmar, adds to the complexity of managing the Northeast’s international borders.

Nevertheless, the existence of trafficking or smuggling does not, by itself, establish a connection with terrorism or radicalisation. Such links must be demonstrated through credible intelligence and investigative findings.

A coordinated response involving the BSF, state police, intelligence agencies and central security organisations is therefore essential. Surveillance technology can help identify suspicious movements, but information must be verified and followed by effective investigation.

Border security also depends on cooperation with Bangladesh. Director General-level meetings between the BSF and the BGB provide a framework for addressing fencing, cross-border crime, illegal migration, trafficking and other security concerns.

Bilateral coordination is particularly important in cases involving nationality verification and repatriation. Delays in verification can complicate enforcement and prolong individual cases, making timely information-sharing and clear procedures essential.

At the same time, development in border areas remains important. Better connectivity, communications, employment opportunities and access to public services can improve relations between communities and the administration while strengthening the flow of information available to security agencies.

A broader approach to border management
The challenges along the India-Bangladesh border demonstrate that fencing, although an important component of security, cannot independently eliminate illegal crossings, trafficking or organised smuggling.

The remaining infrastructure gaps require sustained attention, particularly in riverine and marshy areas where conventional barriers are difficult to construct.

At the same time, better intelligence coordination, stronger investigations and effective bilateral mechanisms are necessary to address criminal networks operating across the frontier.

For Assam and the wider Northeast, the objective is to combine national security with lawful migration procedures, humanitarian safeguards and the protection of border communities. The effectiveness of border management will ultimately depend not only on the extent of fencing, but also on the ability of authorities to prevent criminal exploitation, verify information and respond to emerging threats through coordinated and accountable action.

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