



Barak Festival

NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION





Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025

www.krctimes.com
Mo: 8721 838313

Get all the latest and updated news of today in the evening. For subscribing to this e-paper contact at -8721838313

SUBSCRIBE

₹300 / year





WhatsApp payment details : 8721838313
info@krctimes.com

PERSPECTIVE

Daydreaming is said to help people focus on what they want in life.

Guwahati packaged water units under scanner over hygiene, licence violations

GUWAHATI

Packaged drinking water units in Guwahati have come under scrutiny over alleged hygiene lapses and regulatory violations after a facility in Kahilipara was inspected following a complaint from local residents.

The issue came to light after a video purportedly showing unhygienic conditions at a packaged drinking water facility in the area went viral on social media.

A team of the Asom Jatiyatibadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), led by Sukumar Barman, subsequently inspected the 'Raunak' packaged drinking water facility.

Barman alleged that the premises and water tankers were being maintained in poor hygienic conditions and claimed that the operators failed to produce mandatory licences and certificates when asked to furnish the documents.

"We received a complaint from local residents and inspected the establishment. What we found was alarming - the water tankers and the premises were in a filthy condition, raising serious questions about the hygiene standards being maintained while packaging drinking water," Barman said.

He further claimed that the facility could not produce even a Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) trade licence, along with required certifications from agencies including the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

"The employees were repeatedly asked to produce the licences and certificates required to operate the business, but they could not show us even a single document," Barman said.



WHO SAID WHAT

Another day, another win for BJP4Assam! The people of Silchar have given us a thumping majority in the Silchar Municipal Corporation elections, held through BALLOT PAPER. This victory reaffirms people's faith in the leadership of Adarniya @narendramodiji and his vision of urban governance for a Viksit Bharat.

I bow before the people of Silchar for this resounding mandate and reiterate our promise to make Silchar one of Assam's foremost cities. ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

BJP wins 32 wards in Silchar civic poll, NDA set to form first corporation board

SILCHAR

The BJP is set to lead the first elected board of the Silchar Municipal Corporation after winning 32 of the 42 wards in the civic body's maiden election.

The BJP, along with its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), secured 34 wards in all, comfortably crossing the halfway mark of 21. The AGP won two wards, while the Congress secured two and Independents emerged victorious in six.

The BJP had already won Wards 9 and 20 uncontested before polling, giving the party an early advantage in the corporation.

Counting began at 8 a.m. on Tuesday at the ISTT complex in Ramnagar under tight security and was completed later in the evening.

Among the BJP winners were Saurav Kumar Nath in Ward 2, Dolly Das in Ward 3, Shibani Rani Das in Ward 4, Dipak Das in Ward 5, Kanchan Deb in Ward 6, Radha Rani Rabidas in Ward 7 and Mahitosh Mandal in Ward 8.

Other BJP candidates who won included Sandhya Das, Abhishek Chakraborty, Ranu Das, Pradyut Kumar Pal, Pratiksha Deb, Papli Karmakar, Ataur Rahman Laskar, Joy Das, Sumana Das, Paromita



Chanda Gupta, Chandrima Deb and Pulak Das, among others.

In Ward 17, BJP candidate and district Minority Morcha president Ataur Rahman Laskar registered a win.

The AGP won Wards 16 and 26, with Sabina Yasmin Barbhuiya and Mia Khan emerging victorious respectively.

The Congress retained two wards. Sakshi Banik won Ward 30, while Rajshree Goala secured Ward 41.

The Independents also made their presence felt, winning six wards. Hashim Uddin Barbhuiya won Ward 1, Dhruvajyoti Das Ward 19, Hanifa Begum Ward 24, Lovely Begum Majumdar Ward 25, Sam-

pa Deb Roy Dhar Ward 29 and Biswatosh Nag Ward 42.

The BJP had sought recounts in Wards 29 and 30. The recounts did not change the outcome, with Sampa Deb Roy Dhar retaining Ward 29 and Sakshi Banik holding Ward 30.

Election officials said additional votes were found in favour of the respective winning candidates during the recount, but the margins initially declared would remain the official margins for the purpose of declaring the results.

A recount was also sought in Ward 41 after Congress candidate Rajshree Goala was declared elected. The seat remained with the Congress following the recount.

The election was the first civic poll for Silchar since the town was upgraded to a municipal corporation in 2022. The result gives the BJP-led alliance a clear majority in the 42-member corporation.

The six victories by Independents, however, also highlighted the role of local candidates and ward-level factors in the corporation's first electoral contest.

With the BJP and AGP together controlling 34 wards, the ruling alliance is now in a position to constitute the first elected board of the Silchar Municipal Corporation.

KRC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 892 | SILCHAR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2026. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com ,www.krctimes.com

Northeast peace process a key part of Modi govt's security strategy: Cabinet

NEW DELHI

Peace efforts in the Northeast, including political dialogue, rehabilitation of insurgent cadres and development initiatives, have been highlighted by the Union Cabinet as an important part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach to national security and governance.

The Cabinet passed a resolution congratulating Modi on completing 25 years of continuous leadership as head of government. The resolution listed peace efforts in the Northeast among the key elements of his broader record on security, alongside measures to tackle Left Wing Extremism and other forms of violence.

According to the resolution, the government's approach to insurgency in the Northeast has combined security measures with negotiations, rehabilitation and development, reflecting an effort to address conflicts that have per-



sisted in parts of the region for decades.

The Cabinet said the strategy has increasingly moved beyond a

purely security-focused response, with political dialogue and peace agreements being accompanied by efforts to improve connectivity,

public services and economic opportunities.

The resolution linked improvements in the security situation with development, arguing that greater stability can create conditions for investment and strengthen public confidence.Connectivity has also been identified as a major component of the government's Northeast strategy, with infrastructure projects aimed at improving the movement of people and goods and integrating the region more closely with the national economy.

The Cabinet's resolution placed these efforts within a wider national security framework, under which the government has sought to address violence while pursuing longer-term political and developmental solutions.

The resolution also highlighted the role of dialogue and rehabilitation in addressing insurgency, saying negotiations with armed groups were aimed at finding lasting po-

litical solutions to longstanding conflicts.The Cabinet's assessment comes as the government marks Modi's 25 years as head of government, beginning with his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister in October 2001 and followed by his tenure as Prime Minister since 2014.

Beyond security, the resolution cited reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax, changes in welfare delivery and the replacement of colonial-era laws as examples of major policy initiatives during Modi's tenure. It also referred to campaigns promoting cleanliness, digital payments and local products as efforts aimed at encouraging public participation in governance and reform.

The Cabinet resolution ultimately presents peace, development and connectivity in the Northeast as interconnected elements of the government's broader approach to national security and regional development.

Assam ranks second nationally in access to essential medicines: Himanta



GUWAHATI

Assam has secured the second position in India for access to essential medicines across public healthcare institutions, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on October 6, citing the state's performance under the Essential Drugs List (EDL).

Sarma made the statement on social media while responding to Health Minister Ashok Singhal, who highlighted Assam's national ranking in access to essential medicines.

Calling it a significant milestone for the state's healthcare sector, Sarma said the key priority was ensuring that medicines reach patients when they need them.

"A proud moment for Assam's healthcare journey," Sarma said.

Assam provides essential medicines free of cost through the National Health Mission at government health institutions. The state has also maintained a state-level Essential Drugs List covering medicines required at different levels of public healthcare.

The state's drug procurement system has been centralised through the Assam Medical Services Corporation Limited (AMSCL), with the aim of im-

proving procurement efficiency, quality assurance and continuity of supply.

The centralised procurement model was also highlighted in the Union Health Ministry's Best Practices Compendium 2026. The document said the system was introduced to address problems including stock-outs, procurement delays and fragmented purchasing, while improving transparency and quality assurance.

Under the system, drug procurement is carried out through e-procurement, while suppliers are required to meet specified quality standards. The model also includes arrangements intended to ensure uninterrupted supplies of medicines to public health facilities.

The National Health Mission's Free Drugs Service is aimed at reducing the financial burden on patients by making essential medicines available free of cost at government health facilities. Assam's programme covers public healthcare institutions across the state.

Sarma congratulated officials of the health department and others involved in the programme, and called for the momentum to be maintained.

The development comes as Assam continues to strengthen its public health supply chain, with the state also undertaking fresh procurement of medicines under its EDL and State Drugs List. A recent Assam government tender, for instance, covers the procurement of 21 drugs through a rate-contract system.

Pradyot Debbarma to step away from active politics after village poll victory

AGARTALA

TIPRA Motha founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma has announced that he will step away from active politics after next month, days after his party recorded a sweeping performance in Tripura's Village Committee elections.

Debbarma said health and the personal toll of his political journey had influenced his decision, but made it clear that leaving active politics would not mean withdrawing from public life. He said he would continue to speak on issues affecting the people of Tripura and remain available whenever his intervention was needed.

His announcement came after TIPRA Motha secured 3,428 of the 4,594 seats contested in elections to 587 Village Committees under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council. The polls were held after a gap of nearly a decade.

Debbarma said the election result should be seen as a victory for the people rather than any individual or political party. He also urged the newly elected representatives to work honestly and remain connected with people at the grassroots.

The TIPRA Motha founder linked his political journey to the demand for greater rights and constitutional safeguards for Tripura's indigenous population. He said his objective had been to bring different groups together under a common platform and give greater political voice to the Tiprasa community.

The Tiprasa Accord remains central to his political message even as he prepares to step away. Debbarma has urged the Centre and the Tripura government to begin implementing the commitments made under the 2024 agreement, including measures relating to the political, constitutional, land, language, education and socio-economic rights of indigenous people.

Shillong, Guwahati among Northeast areas facing highest earthquake shaking risk: Study

GUWAHATI

Dibang in Arunachal Pradesh, Shillong and Guwahati are among the areas in Northeast India facing the highest potential levels of earthquake shaking, according to a new study that has highlighted the region's complex seismic and geological conditions.

The study found that Imphal, Itanagar, Agartala and Kohima have moderate earthquake hazard, while Aizawl recorded comparatively lower estimated ground shaking.

The research team was led by Ranjit Das of Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile, a former UNESCO expert in earthquake hazard modelling, and included researchers from IIT-Bombay.

The researchers used Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (PSHA), a widely used method for estimating the likelihood and intensity of future earthquake ground motion and one that is used in developing seismic building codes.According to the study, peak ground acceleration (PGA), a measure of the intensity of earthquake shaking, was estimated at 0.908 g near Dibang, 0.893 g in Shillong and 0.811 g in Guwahati.

Itanagar, Imphal, Kohima and Agartala recorded estimated values between 0.61 g and 0.70 g, while Aizawl recorded 0.57 g.

The researchers also used the Das Magnitude Scale instead of the conventional moment magnitude scale, arguing that the latter can introduce significant inaccuracies for earthquakes below magnitude 7.5.

Using a catalogue of 9,968 earthquakes, the study found that the conventional scale generated ground-motion estimates up to 40 per cent higher than those obtained using the Das Magnitude Scale at the 475-year hazard level, particularly for medium-sized earthquakes.

Das said the assessment also points to the limitations of available earthquake records in the region.

"Our study found relatively lower estimated ground shaking along the Himalayan plate boundary segment between the 1987 and 1950 earthquake epicentres, partly because the available earthquake record is limited," he said.

He added that ground shaking approaching 1 g in the region would not be unexpected, citing the severe shaking recorded during the 1950 Assam earthquake, which was associated with a shallow focal depth.

"The level of earthquake risk is not determined by the strength of an earthquake alone. Soil and rock can greatly increase or reduce shaking," Das said.

The study identified differences in local geological conditions as an important factor in assessing earthquake risk.

Guwahati and Tezpur, located on soft alluvial deposits of the Brahmaputra Basin, could face amplified shaking and possible liquefaction during a major earthquake. Liquefaction occurs when water-saturated soil temporarily loses its strength under intense shaking.

Assam Rifles jawan dies of gunshot wound in Nagaland

GUWAHATI

Assam Rifles rifleman V Teja from Odisha's Rayagada district died after sustaining a gunshot wound while on operational duty in Nagaland, two days before his 31st birthday.

Teja, who joined the armed forces in 2022, was serving with the 15th Assam Rifles. His mortal remains were brought to Rayagada on Tuesday, where hundreds of people gathered to pay their last respects.

A motorcycle rally was organised in his honour, with the procession beginning around 10 km from Rayagada. Hundreds of people joined the rally, which included fireworks, DJ music and chants in memory of the soldier.Teja was scheduled to celebrate his birthday on October 7. He was also expected to return home for Diwali ahead of his wedding, which was planned for December.Naib Subedar Ravindra Kumar Naik of the 15th Assam Rifles accompanied Teja's mortal remains to Rayagada. He said his responsibility was to hand over the body to the soldier's family, while details of the incident would become clearer after the post-mortem examination.

Teja's maternal uncle said the family had been informed that he

died in the line of duty after suffering a gunshot injury.His death left his parents and other relatives devastated. Neighbours and residents gathered outside the family home to pay their respects as the mortal remains arrived in the district.

In an act of organ donation, Teja had reportedly pledged around two years ago to donate his organs after death. Following his death, a local hospital collected and preserved his organs in accordance with his wishes.His mortal remains were flown by helicopter to Visakhapatnam and later transported by ambulance to Rayagada.The district administration is preparing to pay tribute to the soldier on Thursday morning. His funeral rites are scheduled to begin at 7 am.Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over Teja's death and paid tribute to his service and sacrifice.

Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik also condoled his death, describing the soldier's courage and sacrifice as a matter of pride for Odisha and the country.

Teja's death comes days after an ambush near the India-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh on September 29, in which Havildar Jankhokai Kukki was killed and four others were injured.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 892

India-Swiss ties

Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin's second visit to India this year is more than a diplomatic repeat. It signals that a relationship long associated with trade, investment and finance is acquiring a broader strategic dimension. But as New Delhi and Bern celebrate a year of the India-EFTA trade agreement, the more important question is not how many agreements have been signed, but how much they are delivering.

The visit, which began on Monday, coincides with the first anniversary of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. The immediate agenda is built around what India's Ministry of External Affairs calls the "3Ts" - trade, technology and talent.

The framework is sensible. But it needs a fourth T: tracking.

TEPA carries an ambitious investment commitment: \$100 billion from the four EFTA countries over 15 years, including \$50 billion during the first decade, with the potential to generate one million direct jobs. Parmelin's participation in the second India-EFTA Prosperity Summit therefore provides an opportunity not merely to celebrate the agreement, but to examine its first-year performance.

That distinction matters. Large investment numbers announced at the governmental level ultimately have to translate into decisions by companies, factories, laboratories, infrastructure projects and employment. Governments can negotiate the framework; businesses determine whether the framework works.

There are encouraging signs that the India-Switzerland relationship is moving beyond conventional commerce. The two countries have expanded cooperation in migration and mobility, including longer-duration multiple-entry visas and renewable student permits. A young professionals' exchange programme is intended to deepen people-to-people links. Cooperation is also expanding into electric mobility, ropeways, tunnelling and the circular economy.

Defence exchanges, defence manufacturing and nuclear energy have also emerged as areas of potential cooperation. Artificial intelligence provides another important avenue. India and Switzerland have maintained high-level engagement on AI, while Switzerland is scheduled to host the global AI summit in 2027.

The relationship has the advantage of history. India and Switzerland have maintained cordial ties since Independence, with India's non-alignment and Switzerland's neutrality providing a relatively uncomplicated diplomatic foundation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Parmelin have met twice this year - in New Delhi in February and in Geneva in June.

Yet economic realities demand a more searching assessment.

India's trade with Switzerland remains heavily tilted in one direction. In 2024-25, India imported goods worth about \$21.8 billion from Switzerland while exports stood at roughly \$1.47 billion. Swiss direct investment in India reached \$10.87 billion between April 2000 and June 2025, while more than 330 Swiss companies operate in the country.

Swiss investment is already visible in Indian infrastructure and technology. A subsidiary of Zurich Airport operates Noida International Airport, while Swiss technology has contributed to the Varanasi ropeway project. Such examples demonstrate the possibilities of combining Swiss technological expertise with India's infrastructure and consumer-market scale.

But there are also reminders that economic diplomacy cannot run entirely on goodwill.

Switzerland's suspension of the most-favoured-nation clause in its tax treaty with India from January 2025, following the Indian Supreme Court's Nestlé ruling, exposed the importance of tax certainty for cross-border investment. Investors require not only access to markets but also predictable rules under which capital can operate.

This is where the fourth T becomes important.

India and EFTA should establish a transparent annual mechanism to track the implementation of TEPA. Investment commitments should be measured against actual investment flows. Announced projects should be followed through to implementation. Employment promises should be quantified. Visa and mobility arrangements should be assessed by actual usage. Sectoral cooperation should be evaluated not merely by the number of memoranda signed but by projects completed.

Such tracking would also help address a fundamental problem with headline investment targets: governments can announce ambitions, but companies ultimately decide where to put their money.

For India, the message is equally clear. If it wants Swiss and wider European capital to scale up, it must continue to improve the conditions under which investment takes place - predictable taxation, regulatory clarity, faster approvals, efficient infrastructure and greater policy consistency.

Parmelin has described his visit as a "stepping stone". That is an apt description. The India-Switzerland relationship has already accumulated diplomatic goodwill, commercial links and a growing list of new areas of cooperation.

The next stage should be about delivery.

The success of the partnership should therefore not be measured by the number of summits, declarations or memoranda exchanged. It should be visible in investment actually arriving, factories being established, technologies being transferred, students and professionals moving more easily, and jobs being created.

The first three Ts provide the ambition. The fourth - tracking - can provide accountability.

And that may ultimately determine whether the India-Swiss partnership is remembered for the promises made in conference rooms or for the economic opportunities that emerged beyond them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“People and things do not upset us. Rather, we upset ourselves by believing that they can upset us.” - Albert Ellis

Jaishankar Repeats the Case for Multipolarity How Practical Is the Concept?

DR D.K. GIRI

The world is moving towards a multipolar order. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said this in an interview he gave in New York last week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. This is not the first time Jaishankar has spoken of the emergence of such a world order. Whether at the Raisina Dialogue, Munich or previously in New York, he has been one of the most vocal proponents of the concept. I have disagreed with the External Affairs Minister's theoretical interpretation several times in this column and on television. I would like to do so once again because neither history nor the current balance of global power supports the idea of a multipolar world.

First, let us understand what he actually said. Historically, the world has remained divided into two camps, whether during the First World War, the Second World War, the Cold War or even the era of globalisation. The last phase needs some elaboration because the division of power blocs was less obvious than before and international power appeared to be more dispersed. In addition, US President Donald Trump has pursued a disruptive foreign policy during his second term. It is possible that these two developments have led Jaishankar to believe that the world is moving towards multipolarity. In New York, he said, "Countries are adjusting to a changing America, and also recalibrating their relationships with China amid the breakdown of old trade assumptions." Jaishankar based his argument on the idea that national governments are looking to reduce risks by diversifying their partnerships. He described this adjustment as a response to a more competitive international environment. He made these comments against the backdrop of a proposed summit between Trump and Xi Jinping in Busan. According to him, the two largest economies are competing on the one hand while also cooperating on the other. He added that this competition leaves limited room for consensus between the two on global affairs.

Jaishankar made an important strategic observation that countries are looking beyond the rivalry between the two major powers, seeking new partners and trying to protect themselves from disruptions. He also described contemporary

national relations that would lead towards a multipolar world order. What he describes - countries spreading risk, diversifying their options and seeking new partners - is the oldest grammar of foreign policy. This is not multipolarity; it is multi-alignment. And the two are not the same thing.

Even in the past, when the world was divided into two camps, countries formed various alliances to pursue their national interests. Consider the major regional groupings: the European Union in 1957/1993, the Organisation of African Unity in 1963, ASEAN in 1967, the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1981, the Organisation of American States in 1948 and SAARC in 1985. Yet, when it came to security, the decisive choices were made by only two camps - Washington and Moscow. Countries could trade with many nations, but the ultimate security guarantee came from one side or the other.

Why was that so? Because the measure of a pole is not how many friends you have. The real measure is who can provide security, a reserve currency, advanced technology at scale and veto power at the United Nations. In this sense, history has never truly witnessed multipolarity.

During the First World War, there were two camps: the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance. During the Second World War, it was the Allies versus the Axis powers. During the Cold War, it was NATO versus the Warsaw Pact. Even the so-called unipolar era from 1991 to 2017 was, in reality, a disguised form of bipolarity - the United States and its allies on one side and the rest of the world on the other, many of them unhappy with American dominance but unable to balance it.

Globalisation certainly dispersed economic power. It enabled China to rise, India to grow and countries such as Türkiye, Brazil and Indonesia to assert themselves more strongly. But it did not disperse strategic power. At present, the formation of two power blocs is clearly visible. On one side are the United States and Europe through NATO, along with Washington's Indo-Pacific allies - Japan, South Korea, Australia and the Philippines. On the other is the China-Russia-Iran-North Korea axis, with Pakistan aligned with it at varying levels and some Gulf countries appearing as transactional partners. This could be described as the CRINK axis.

Look at any theatre of conflict. In

nology, the US-led semiconductor alliance stands against China's Belt and Road network. On the currency front, there are attempts to promote yuan-ruble trade as an alternative to the dollar-euro system.

This is not multipolarity. It is classical bipolarity with more noise.

It is a different matter that Donald Trump, under his "MAGA" - Make America Great Again - strategy, is shaking up or unsettling existing US alliances. His tariff wars against Europe, Canada and Japan, his questions about Article 5 of NATO, his transactional approach towards Ukraine, and his tendency to praise Xi Jinping one day and threaten China with 100 per cent tariffs the next - all these developments create an impression of fragmentation.

But this is merely a deviation in the behaviour of one leader, not a structural transformation of the system.

Alliances built on shared experiences, shared democratic values, intelligence frameworks such as the Five Eyes and 75 years of military interoperability will not suddenly disappear. Institutions are more durable than individuals.

At the same time, while Trump may be sharp in his rhetoric, his actions have been less dramatic. He has neither withdrawn the United States from NATO nor pulled troops out of Japan, nor has he recognised Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan. Therefore, a world order shaped by two major power blocs continues to exist.

There is another weakness in the argument for multipolarity. To qualify as a pole, powers must be broadly comparable. Is India a pole today? Is Brazil a pole? Is Türkiye a pole? Let us be honest.

A pole must possess three qualities: sufficient economic weight to offer an alternative market, sufficient military weight to provide an alternative security arrangement, and sufficient moral and ideological weight to offer an alternative model.

The United States possesses all three. China possesses two - economic and military strength - although its ideological model remains contested. Europe has economic and ideological weight, but it has effectively entrusted its security to the United States.

India, despite its rapid growth rate, is still an economy of roughly \$4 trillion. It remains dependent on the US dollar system, Russian weapons and American technology, as well as remittances from the Gulf countries.

and multipolarity does not stand up to scrutiny. As mentioned earlier, multi-alignment is a basic necessity of foreign policy for any country.

Nehru practised it. Indira Gandhi did it. Vajpayee did it. Manmohan Singh did it. Modi is pursuing it more actively.

India is part of the Quad as well as the SCO, of I2U2 as well as BRICS, and maintains relations with Israel as well as Palestine. This is smart diplomacy.

But multipolarity is a desire, not an existential reality. It is an idealistic hope that the world should become multipolar so that India gets more strategic space. But wishing for something does not make it

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Why reopen a case from 2006 now?

Because a fresh petition has raised serious questions about the KSTP matter, the death of project manager Lee See Been, and what happened to the earlier inquiry.

I have asked Vigilance to examine the record and proceed according to law.

The truth must come out. ~ Ramesh Chennithala, Minister for Home Affairs, Vigilance and Coir , Government of Kerala

THE TRUTH MUST COME OUT

Why I ordered a Vigilance inquiry into the 2006 KSTP allegations

happen. India's interest, therefore, lies not in prematurely declaring



geopolitics as a paradox of diplomacy - intense competition between countries alongside deep economic interdependence.

This description is correct. The conclusion drawn from it is not.

I am somewhat surprised that Jaishankar is not actually pointing to any new development in inter-

Ukraine, it is NATO versus Russia, with China, Iran and North Korea providing logistical support to Moscow. In the Taiwan Strait, the United States and Japan are on one side and China on the other, with Russia backing Beijing. In West Asia, the US-Israel-Europe combination faces the Iran-Russia-China axis. In tech-

We are a balancing power, a swing power and a bridge power. All these are useful descriptions, but they do not make us a pole.

To call oneself a pole is to mistake aspiration for capability. That is not foreign policy; it is astrology.

Therefore, Jaishankar's repeated emphasis on multi-alignment

the arrival of multipolarity, but in strengthening its own capabilities so that if bipolarity eventually breaks down, India can genuinely emerge as a pole - economically self-reliant, militarily self-sufficient and ideologically pluralistic.

Until then, we should call the world what it is.

Congress loses despite ballot papers, says Himanta after Silchar civic poll verdict

SILCHAR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took aim at the Congress after the BJP-led NDA secured a clear majority in the first Silchar Municipal Corporation election, saying the opposition party “loses even with ballot papers”.

Speaking in Guwahati, Sarma said the Congress’s electoral performance remained weak despite the civic polls being conducted through paper ballots.

“The Congress loses even with ballot papers; in fact, the Congress loses by an even wider margin with ballot papers,” Sarma said.

The BJP-led NDA won 34 of the 42 seats in the Silchar Municipal Corporation election. The BJP secured 32 seats, while its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) won two.

The Congress managed to win two



seats, while Independent candidates secured six seats.

Polling for the civic body was held on October 3 using ballot papers, marking a departure from the electronic voting machines used in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has sought recounting in two wards. Ward 29 was won by an Independent candidate, while the Congress emerged victorious in Ward 30. The election marked the first elected civic body for Silchar since the town was upgraded to a municipal corporation in 2022.

The results also gave the BJP-led alliance control of the newly constituted civic body, with the party now set to lead the municipal corporation’s administration.

Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia on October 6 claimed that the BJP-led NDA had secured 34 of the 42 wards in

the first Silchar Municipal Corporation election, saying the result reflected voters’ support for the BJP and the state government’s development agenda.

Speaking to media as the civic poll results emerged, Saikia said the final results were still being formally announced but maintained that the NDA had won 34 seats.

“Out of 42 wards, Silchar Municipal Corporation has won 34 seats in the NDA,” Saikia said.

He claimed the election result showed a decline in the Congress’s influence in Silchar and said the party had been reduced to a limited presence in the civic body.

Saikia also hit out at the Congress over its allegations against the BJP during the election campaign, saying the opposition party had been “trapped in its own trap”.

According to the Assam BJP chief, the mandate demonstrated voters’ faith in the BJP and the development agenda associated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

“The people’s faith in Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma and the work he does on the issues of the people has won,” Saikia said.

He further said the people of Silchar had “blessed” the BJP through their electoral mandate.

The first Silchar Municipal Corporation election was held on October 3 across 42 wards. Two BJP candidates had already been elected unopposed before polling, while counting for the remaining wards began on October 6.

The election marked the first civic poll since Silchar was upgraded to a municipal corporation in 2022.

NPP vows to rebuild in Nagaland after five MLAs join NPF: Conrad Sangma

SHILLONG

Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People’s Party (NPP) president Conrad K Sangma has described the party’s complete loss of its legislative presence in Nagaland as a major setback, but said the development would not derail its political expansion in the Northeast.

Speaking to NPP workers on October 6, Sangma said he was “very upset” after all five NPP MLAs in Nagaland joined the ruling Naga People’s Front (NPF), leaving the party without a legislator in the 60-member Assembly.

“We are not happy about it. We are definitely very upset with this, but this is something that does happen in politics,” Sangma said. He urged party workers to remain united and committed to the NPP’s ideology, pointing to similar instances of political realignment in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland in the past.

“Even through these difficult and tough times, we must stick together,” he said. Sangma said the NPP would now focus on rebuilding its organisational network in Nagaland and strengthening its presence across the Northeast.

“NPP will move forward, we will recover from this and we will come out stronger, not just in the state of Nagaland but in the entire Northeast region,” he said. The five NPP legislators - A Nyamnyi Konyak, Nuklutoshi, C Kipili Sangtam, Dr Tselihoutuo Rhutso and Benei M Lamthiu - joined the NPF on October 1. The Nagaland Assembly Speaker subsequently recognised the move as a merger under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The development raised the NPF’s strength to 39 in the 60-member Assembly and left the NPP with no MLA in the House. The Assembly also has 12 BJP MLAs, two each from the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Republican Party of India (Athawale), one JD(U) MLA and four Independents.

Meghalaya SIR: 1,510 voters found ineligible after hearings



SHILLONG

As many as 1,510 voters have been found ineligible for inclusion in Meghalaya’s final electoral roll following hearings conducted under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Chief Electoral Officer BDR Tiwari said on October 6.

Tiwari said nearly 20 lakh electors have so far been cleared for inclusion in the final electoral roll, which is scheduled to be published on October 26.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer, the documents submitted by the 1,510 electors found inel-

igible did not meet the prescribed criteria.

The draft electoral roll prepared during the SIR exercise contained 21,69,243 electors. Notices were issued to 6,51,735 electors as part of the verification process, of which 6,51,391 notices have been delivered, officials said.

Hearings have so far been completed in 6,13,512 cases, accounting for 94.14 per cent of the notices issued.

Following the hearings completed so far, 19,96,297 electors have been marked for inclusion in the final electoral roll, Tiwari said.

Of the notices issued during the revision exercise, 2,22,786 cases involved electors classified under the “No Mapping” category.

The remaining cases will undergo the required stages of verification before the final electoral roll is published on October 26.

Tripura VC poll verdict shows people reject Left-Congress alliance: Manik Saha

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has claimed that the results of the Village Committee (VC) elections reflect a clear rejection of the CPI(M)-Congress alliance and its political ideology by voters in the state.

Speaking on October 6, Saha said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had expected to secure more than 90 per cent of the seats and that the results were broadly in line with those expectations.

“We went to the elections and got more than what we expected. This is good for Tripura, and in the future, we hope that we will work together in the plains and hills and for the development of Tripura,” Saha said.

Taking aim at the opposition, the Chief Minister said its leaders should examine the reasons behind their repeated electoral defeats.



“I will tell the opposition the same thing again and again: they need to think about why this is happening to them,” he said, claiming that voters had repeatedly rejected the ideology being promoted by the opposition parties.

Saha also accused the opposition of failing to understand changing public expectations and continuing to rely on what he described as outdated political messaging.



IMPHAL

Demands for updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur before the commencement of Census operations intensified on Tuesday, with indigenous community groups and civil society organisations organising public campaigns and sit-in protests across the state.

At a public campaign held at Siangai Namdai Chiru village in Kangpokpi district, the Naga Coordinating Committee (Western Foothills Manipur) brought together members of the Chiru, Rongmei, Kom and Aimol communities.

Participants called for a wider movement to press for an NRC update and measures to identify and deport what they described as illegal immigrants from the state.

Speakers at the gathering said the demand should not be viewed as an issue limited to the Meitei community. They urged Naga and other indigenous groups to join the campaign and collectively address concerns related to illegal immigration.

The Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation (JFD) also renewed its demand for an NRC update, proposing 1951 as the base year for determining citizenship.

Tripura gets nod for 60-seat government Ayurvedic medical college in Gomati



AGARTALA

Tripura gets nod for 60-seat government Ayurvedic medical college in Gomati

The Centre has approved the establishment of a government Ayurvedic medical college and hospital in Tripura’s Gomati district, Chief Minister Manik Saha said on October 6.

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) has granted permission for the Tripura Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital to be set up at Tepania in Gomati district.

The institution will offer undergraduate Ayurvedic medical education with an annual intake of 60 students, Saha said.

The Chief Minister said the new college would expand access to Ayurvedic healthcare services in the state once it becomes operational.

“Once the medical college starts functioning, people would have easy access to Ayurvedic health services in the state,” Saha said in a social media post.

Saha thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Prataprao Jadhav for the approval.

He said the proposed institution would strengthen both Ayurvedic healthcare delivery and medical education in Tripura, while creating additional opportunities for students seeking to pursue undergraduate studies in the Indian system of medicine.

The approval comes shortly after the National Medical Commission cleared a proposal to increase the MBBS intake at Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC) by 100 seats.

The two developments are expected to further expand Tripura’s medical education infrastructure and increase the state’s capacity to train healthcare professionals.

Assam CM honours Asian Games gold medallist Lovlina Borgohain with Rs 50 lakh

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on October 6 felicitated boxer Lovlina Borgohain and presented her with a cheque for Rs 50 lakh following her gold medal-winning performance at the Asian Games in Japan.

Borgohain was honoured at Lok Sewa Bhawan after returning to Assam following her victory in the women’s 75kg boxing category. Sarma said the achievement was a matter of pride for Assam and the country and would inspire a new generation of athletes.

The boxer had earlier received a warm welcome at Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati, where Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Biswajit Daimary, Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia, family members and supporters gathered to receive her.

Speaking at the airport, Saikia described Borgohain’s victory as a major achievement for Assam. He noted that India had won 21 gold medals at the Asian Games and highlighted the contribution of the Assam boxer.

“Recently in the Asian Games, India



won 21 gold medals. Among them, Assam’s daughter Lovlina Borgohain won a medal in boxing,” Saikia said.

Members of the BJP, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and several young supporters were present at the airport reception. The Assam Congress also felicitated Borgohain during her arrival. A delegation led by senior Congress leader Pranati Phukan welcomed her with a gamosa, bouquet and jaapi.

Senior leaders Bipul Gogoi, Bedabrata Bora, Udit Bhanu Das, Gunakanta Gogoi, Mousumi Neog and Debajit Deka were among those present.

Borgohain won the Asian Games gold on October 2, which also marked her birthday. She defeated China’s Bao Ziyi 5-0 in the final of the women’s 75kg category.

With the victory, Borgohain became only the second Indian woman boxer

to win an Asian Games gold medal after MC Mary Kom achieved the feat in 2014.

The Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist had previously won a silver medal in the same category at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Speaking to reporters at Guwahati airport, Borgohain thanked the people of Assam for their continued support and encouragement.

STUDENT 5E for SUCCESS

INTERNSHIP

STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.

APPLY NOW

5eforsuccess@gmail.com

Use Project Incentives Certificate Free Training

India pushes early adoption of anti-terror convention, seeks accountability for Pahalgam attack



NEW DELHI

While calling for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), India has stressed the importance of legal measures to act against all those behind the Pahalgam terrorist massacre.

BJP MP Biplab Kumar Deb said on Tuesday that it was essential to hold to account the perpetrators, organisers, financiers, and sponsors of cross-border terrorism like last year's Pahalgam attack that killed 26 innocent civilians.

The Resistance Front, a proxy of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, took responsibility for the attack.

Speaking at the General Assembly's Sixth Committee that deals with international legal matters, Deb strongly reit-

erated India's right to defend its people against cross-border terrorism.

India has said that Pakistan is a state sponsor of cross-border terrorism, and after the Pahalgam attack, retaliated against terrorist bases operating there under its protection.

An early adoption of the CCIT that has been languishing for 30 years is required to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism, Deb said.

The CCIT proposed by India in 1996 has been blocked by some countries that make an invidious distinction between "good terrorists" and "bad", claiming it should not cover "freedom fighters" who they claim are under the first category.

Deb said that a distinc-

tion cannot be made between "good" and "bad" terrorism, and there can be no justification for targeting civilians.

A national general secretary of the BJP, he is a former chief minister of Tripura and is one of the MPs in India's delegation to the General Assembly.

Deb drew attention to India's concerns over terrorists adopting emerging technologies for recruitment, radicalisation, propaganda, operational planning and terrorist financing.

It is one of India's six priorities on counter-terrorism, and the others, he outlined, are ending terrorist financing, placing victims at the centre, strengthening nationally owned capacity-building, confronting terrorist ideology, and impeding infrastructure.

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, other Congress leaders released by Delhi Police after detention

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders who were detained after an over eight-hour sit-in at Akashvani Bhawan in Delhi were released by the police shortly after 10 pm, the party said.

The leaders were taken to the Kingsway Camp police lines after being forcibly removed from the Akashvani Bhawan premises, where they had staged the sit-in after being stopped from marching towards the Election Commission.

Gandhi led the Congress' protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, demanding his immediate removal over allegations of 'vote chori'.

As the standoff continued, Delhi Police moved in to detain the protesters after facing resistance from them. The Opposition leaders had been sitting on a dharna inside the Akashvani premises after being stopped from marching to the Election Commission headquarters earlier in the day.

The police action brought the prolonged demonstration to an end. Gandhi had earlier said the protesters were prepared to remain at the site for as long as necessary.

"We have no problem sitting here. We are comfortable here. We have laid out mattresses here. There is a toilet here, and tea is also available. We will sit here for as long as we need to," Gandhi said.

"We are protesting here against 'vote theft'. If the government has a problem with us sitting here, then tell us where to sit and protest—we will sit there," he added.

Gandhi also said the Opposition MPs wanted to meet the Election Commissioners to raise their con-



cerns. "MPs have been disrespected. We just want to meet the CEC and tell him that you have committed 'vote chori'," he said. "MPs will meet the Election Commissioners. They will have to meet us," Gandhi added.

The sit-in began after the INDIA bloc's march from Parliament Street to the Election Commission headquarters was stopped by security personnel near the NITI Aayog office.

The Opposition MPs were seeking a meeting with the Election Commissioners and demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

After being stopped, the protesters sat on the road. Rahul Gandhi climbed atop a police barricade, while Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee also joined him. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was taken to a waiting bus after being detained but soon got off and joined her brother near the

Akashvani Bhawan gate.

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Congress MP Deepender Hooda subsequently entered the Akashvani Bhawan premises through the reception gate. They sat under a tree as police personnel asked them to vacate the premises.

The Gandhi siblings, however, refused to leave, insisting that they wanted to proceed to the Election Commission office. The confrontation eventually turned into a prolonged sit-in, with several Opposition leaders joining them.

The leaders were taken to Kingsway Camp police lines after being removed from Akashvani Bhawan, where they had staged a sit-in.

Trinamool Congress MPs Derek O'Brien and Mahua Moitra also reached Akashvani Bhawan as the protest continued.

The Election Commission, meanwhile, said it had not received any request from any political party for a meeting, even as the Opposition leaders maintained that they wanted to meet the poll panel to raise their concerns.

The protest is part of the Opposition's broader campaign against the Election Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The INDIA bloc has been demanding Kumar's resignation and withdrawal of the SIR.

The Opposition's agitation has gathered pace over the past few days, with protests by political parties, student groups and civil society organisations in central Delhi. The latest confrontation followed the INDIA bloc's decision to march from Parliament to the EC headquarters on Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump blames France unrest on Islam, migration



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump blamed France's mass student protests on Islam and migration, pushing his global right-wing narrative ahead of tough midterm elections at home.

"What's happening in France is nothing less than out of control mass migration," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network.

"This isn't about schools, this is about Islam wanting to take over a once

great Country!"

French students have blocked the entrances to hundreds of high schools across the country since late September to demand better conditions, in protests that have descended into sporadic clashes with security forces.

A quarter of a million demonstrators took to the streets across France on Tuesday.

Trump did not elaborate on his claims or provide any evidence. In France, no link has yet been established

between the student movement and any religious or identity-based demands.

But leading voices in Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement have been using the French protests to ram home points about immigration ahead of the US midterm elections next month.

MAGA commentators repeatedly posted videos of the French unrest in the days leading up to Trump's post.

"The riots in France are a clear warning to the rest of the West," Trump ally

Glenn Beck said on X on Monday. "What is happening in France today is all part of an international network of socialists working to dismantle the West."

"This will come to America if the Democrats take power again," posted right-wing commentator Dave Rubin to his 1.6 million followers, along with footage filmed in a French train station.

Trump, 80, has ramped up his rhetoric on core issues like migration and transgender people ahead of the midterms, as the Iran war and the cost of living look set to cost Republicans control of Congress.

At the same time, Europe has been a target for Trump ever since his first term in the White House.

And his second administration has been keener than ever to warn of what it calls the decline of Western culture on the other side of the Atlantic.

The US national security strategy released in December said Europe faced "civilizational erasure" – and in extraordinary language towards close allies, said it would be "cultivating resistance" to current political trends.

Vice President JD Vance has also been a vocal critic of Europe on the same issue.

Even Trump's handshake-heavy "bromance" with outgoing French President Emmanuel Macron has failed to keep the US leader from criticizing a key ally.

But France responded to Trump's reaction by comparing it to that of Iran, which earlier summoned the French envoy over what it called Paris's "violent response" to the school protests.

"You'll get the Iranians' version, perhaps the version from some Israelis, perhaps the version from some Americans," France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday.

Barrot said French diplomatic missions were trying to put across the French case "so that we have our own narratives to disseminate, rather than being subjected to those of others."

Oil rises and stocks fall as Hormuz worries flare



WASHINGTON

Oil prices rose Wednesday and stocks fell amid fresh concerns about Middle East supplies following a warning that Iran appeared to be stepping up attacks in the Strait of Hormuz.

The retreat came as investors brushed off another record day on Wall Street where the Nasdaq and S&P 500 were boosted by a rush back into the AI trade that saw chip titan Nvidia push towards a \$6 trillion market capitalisation.

Confidence has been given a boost this week as reports said that exports from the Middle East – excluding Iran – were pushing back towards pre-war levels.

That helped push global benchmark Brent below \$100 a barrel and West Texas Intermediate below \$90, easing inflation concerns and giving central banks some room to hold off hiking interest rates.

However, both contracts rebounded Tuesday and rose in early Asian trade, as figures showed Tehran had increased strikes on tankers in the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

UK Maritime Trade Operations said there had been nine attacks so far this month, half of all of September in the waterway and Persian Gulf combined.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthis claimed an attack on Riyadh's main airport and

denied reports it had been pushed back by government forces, who have launched a major operation to recapture lost territory.

The Houthi statements came as Yemen's military said it had removed the pro-Iran group from areas around the Bab al-Mandab strait – a Red Sea chokepoint – and the port city of Mocha.

The developments came as top oil officials warn that global stockpiles are running low, meaning governments' ability to withstand the impact of the crisis is waning. "Reports of increased flows across the region have offered some downside pressure on crude, but this has been offset by varying reports around the scale of attacks on vessels moving through the Strait," said Chris Weston at Pepperstone. "For now, the market remains highly sensitive to headlines and geopolitical risk." Equities dropped after an upbeat start to the week.

Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Wellington and Taipei were all in the red, though Sydney and Manila edged up.

Traders failed to take up the baton from their US colleagues, who piled into tech firms again ahead of the latest earnings season that analysts think will see S&P 500 profits jump by a quarter year-on-year, according to data compiled by

Bloomberg Intelligence.

The records on the Nasdaq and S&P 500 were boosted by more gains in Nvidia, which saw its market capitalisation hit almost \$5.7 trillion.

Investors were also buoyed by a Financial Times report that said SpaceX was looking to raise \$40 billion to buy Nvidia chips. The news comes even after a summer rout in tech firms fuelled by worries that the colossal sums they had invested in the AI sector may have been overdone, with questions swirling over when they would see a return, if ever.

Key figures at around 0230 GMT

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 0.9 percent at 70074.13 (break)

Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: DOWN 0.7 percent at 24,108.15

Shanghai - Composite: Closed for a holiday

Dollar/yen: UP at 158.38 yen from 158.17 yen on Tuesday

Euro/dollar: DOWN at \$1.1234 from \$1.1257

Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.3251 from \$1.3275

Euro/pound: DOWN at 84.78 pence from 84.81 pence

West Texas Intermediate: UP 1.0 percent at \$90.29 per barrel

Brent North Sea Crude: UP 0.9 percent at \$101.48 per barrel

New York - Dow: UP 0.5 percent at 51,521.28 (close)

London - FTSE 100: UP 0.4 percent at 10,541.69 (close)

Needonomics of Democracy: Towards Policy and Public Interest

SPACE
FOR
YOU
ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

PLACEMENT

Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krcfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcplacements> Apply here: <https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm>

VOLUNTEERS REGISTERS @ NEIR 2026

We are looking for volunteers across NE & West Bengal Interested candidates (College students, youths) can register at https://northeastintegrationrally.in/Volunteer_Registration.aspxor, send an email: neintegrationrally@gmail.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to InfoCom Solutions at: info@krcfoundation.org Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcstudentinternship> or www.krcfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

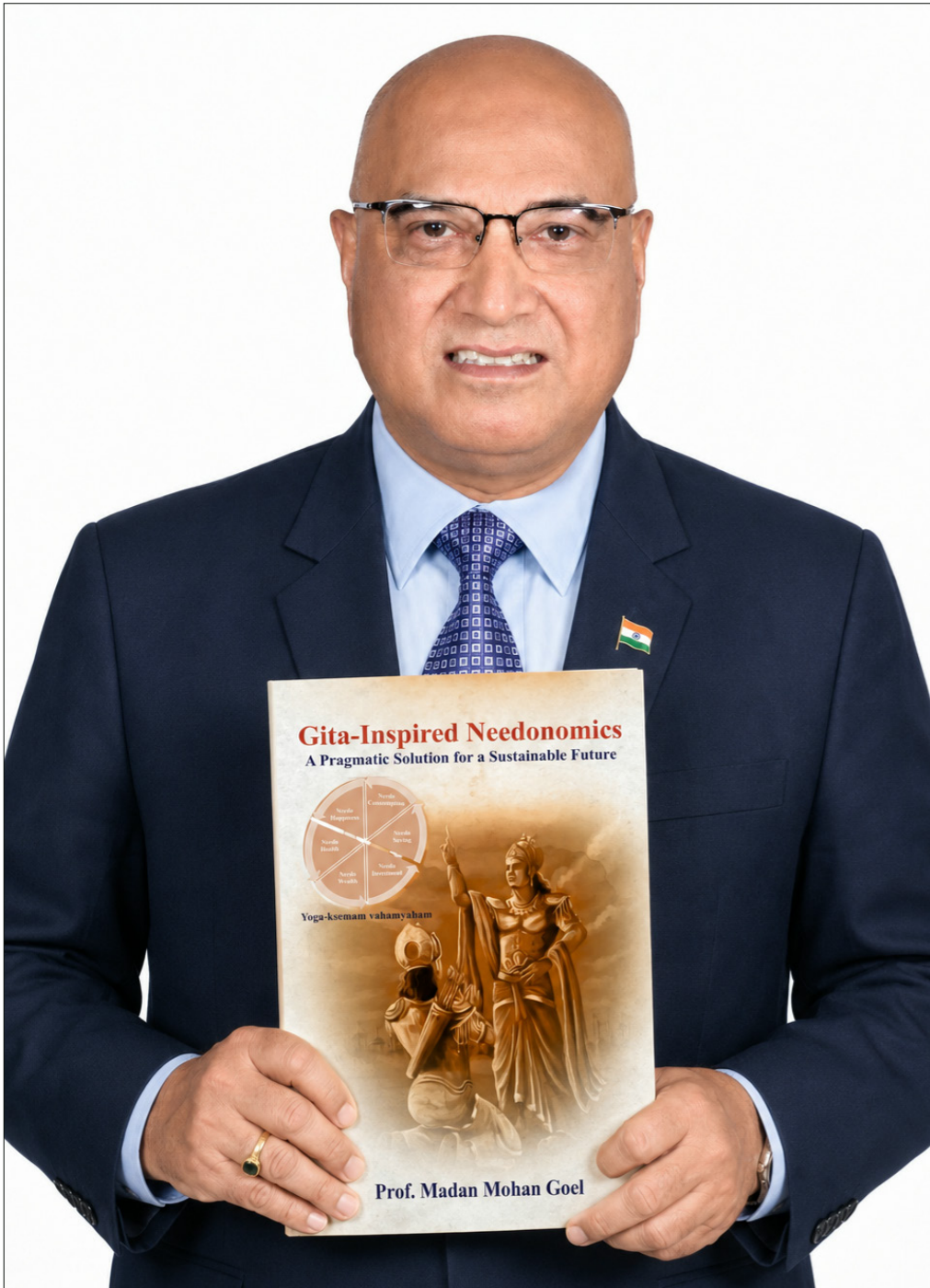
Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation certificates. Send articles at: info@krcfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest> www.krcfoundation.org/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest

CONNECT@ KRC TIMES



KRC TIMES

To engage with KRC TIMES, please use the following e-mails and WhatsApp Nos: For News: krcetimes@gmail.com /WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: info@krcfoundation.org /WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: krcetimes@gmail.com /WP: 8721838313 Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com /WP: 8721838313

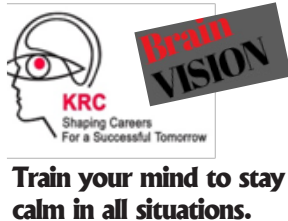


PROF. M. M. GOEL FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Needonomics School of Thought, a Kurukshetra-based think tank, views democracy not merely as a contest for political power but as a system of governance centred on people's needs, sound policy and public interest. The inability of the opposition to offer a credible alternative is therefore not simply a weakness of political organization; it reflects a deeper challenge in democratic politics—the need to move from criticism and power-seeking towards constructive policymaking and responsible governance. A healthy democracy requires meaningful alternatives based on competent leadership, evidence-based policies, accountability and a clear commitment to public welfare.

People may become disillusioned with a government for many reasons, including unemployment, poor quality of education, inadequate healthcare, farmers' concerns, law and order, inflation, administrative delays and rising aspirations. Yet public dissatisfaction alone does not guarantee meaningful political change. Democratic change becomes purposeful only when citizens are presented with a credible alternative that can address their genuine needs and improve the quality of governance.

From a Needonomics perspective, the central question is therefore not merely who should hold power, but what policies should guide that power and how effectively they serve the public interest. Democracy must move from power politics towards policy politics, where the quality of governance is measured by outcomes, accountability and the well-being of citizens.



1. Moving Beyond Criticism to Providing an Alternative One of the major problems in the

political system today is that political leadership does not always understand or adequately address the real needs of the people. The role of the opposition is not merely to point out the shortcomings of the government, but also to offer practical solutions. If the opposition seeks to come to power, it must clearly explain to the people what it would do better than the existing system and how it would do so.

Similarly, the ruling party should not dismiss criticism from the opposition merely as political opposition. In a democracy, constructive criticism can become an instrument of reform.

2. Making Better Use of Expertise in Politics

The country has experienced academics, doctors, scientists, farmers, entrepreneurs, technologists and experts from many other fields who possess valuable knowledge and practical experience. Yet their expertise is not always fully utilised in policymaking. A better interface between politics and professional expertise is therefore the need of the hour.

Policies should not be based solely on political considerations. They should be framed by taking into account experience, data, research and ground realities. This can make governance more practical, effective and outcome-oriented.

3. The Needonomics Perspective

The basic message of Needonomics is simple—Need over Greed, Quality before Quantity, and Public Interest over Administrative Convenience. The purpose of politics should not be merely to acquire power, but to fulfil the genuine needs of citizens and improve their quality of life.

From this perspective, governance should be evaluated not by the number of schemes and announcements, but by their actual outcomes. People should be able to feel that governance is making their lives simpler, safer and better.

4. Prioritizing Education and Em-

ployment

In education, merely increasing the number of schools or launching new schemes is not enough. Improving the quality of education in government schools, ensuring that teachers perform their responsibilities effectively, and developing knowledge and skills among children should be the priorities. Education should not merely provide certificates; it should prepare capable and responsible citizens.

In employment, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies have created new opportunities as well as new challenges. Young people must be equipped with skills relevant to the changing times. They should be prepared not merely to seek jobs but also to become creators of employment and entrepreneurship. Bridging the gap between education and employment is essential.

5. Farmers, Industry and Investment Agriculture cannot be viewed merely in terms of increasing production. Farmers need better systems of storage, processing, transportation, marketing and fair pricing. Farmers can strengthen their incomes and the rural economy only when they are able to add greater value to their produce.

Similarly, industry and investment require simple regulations, transparent systems, good infrastructure, skilled human resources and timely government services. Investment does not come merely through announcements; it comes through trust, confidence and stable policies.

6. Health, Justice and Accountable Governance

The success of healthcare services should not be measured by the number of schemes launched, but by whether ordinary citizens receive timely and quality treatment. Accessible and affordable healthcare for the poor and middle class is a hallmark of good governance.

In the area of law and order, merely making laws is not enough. They must be implemented impartially and within a reasonable time. Citizens should have

confidence that their grievances will be heard and that they will receive justice.

The ruling establishment must also avoid complacency. Winning an election is not permanent proof of good governance. Listening to people's problems, acknowledging shortcomings and improving policies whenever necessary are signs of responsible leadership.

7. New Competition in Politics

There is a need today for political competition to move beyond slogans and allegations. The real competition should be based on policy, competence, accountability and outcomes. Citizens have the right to know what each political party proposes to do better in education, employment, agriculture, healthcare, industry and administration.

In a democracy, it is not enough to say that the government is wrong. It is equally important to explain how the mistake will be corrected and how a better system will be created. Similarly, the government should focus not merely on publicizing its achievements but also on addressing the real problems faced by citizens.

Conclusion

In my view, India needs policy change more than merely a change of power. Whoever holds political power must use it in the interest of the people. The real success of political parties should be judged by the extent to which they have improved the lives of ordinary citizens. Needonomics teaches us that governance should be founded on Need, Quality, Competence, Accountability and Public Interest.

Politics should give priority to service and responsibility rather than greed and showmanship. Therefore, the fundamental question of Indian politics should not merely be, "Who will come to power?" It should be, "What better will those who come to power do for the people?" This shift in thinking can make democracy more responsible, strengthen public trust and make governance more genuinely oriented towards public welfare.

BRAIN VISION

EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE WITH BRAIN VISION CLASSES

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

- Advanced Logic
- Modern Skills and Career Focus

For Students (Classes VI-X)

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

Scan to Enroll

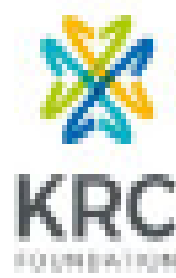
Know More

www.krcfoundation.org

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

info@krcfoundation.org

+91 - 9330830083



KRC TIMES E-COPY

Daily NE Edition



ABOUT US

KRC TIMES is a journalistic initiative from KRC Foundation where we follow our core philosophy of 'Connecting the unconnected' We cater to the untold and unheard stories with an aim to reach the last mile.

KRC TIMES E-COPY NE India Edition

- 5 Page e-copy published every evening
- Front Page, Editorial, Regional, National & 5Es/Advertorials
- Subscribe @ Rs.300 for 365 Days

www.krctimes.com

Why e-paper

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

Clean journalism

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

For Whom

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

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



KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTRE
FOUNDATION

www.krctimes.com

CONTACT US
+91-8721838313

<https://bit.ly/whykrctimes>



Presents



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

Writing Star Contest

MAY-NOV 2026

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

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

TOPICS

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

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

Each entry will receive a digital participation certificate

There is NO fee for participation

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

email articles: info@krcfoundation.org

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

FOR RULES AND DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT

www.krcfoundation.org

<https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest>

e-mail articles at: info@krcfoundation.org

NOMINATE YOUR
FAVOURITE
TEACHER



YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.

Celebrating and Honouring the Educators
who Inspire, Empower and Transform

Nominations are open for

North East Integration Rally
Teacher Excellence Award

2026-27



Who Can Nominate?

Students | Schools | Parents | Citizen | Self Nominate

Scan the QR & Fill the Google form

<https://bit.ly/NEIRTEA>

www.krcfoundation.org