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Congress Blames BJP for Manipur Crisis, Says State 'Continues to Burn'

Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and senior state leaders review unrest and election preparations; fresh violence in Kangpokpi intensifies political exchanges



IMPHAL

The Congress on Monday accused the BJP of failing to contain Manipur's prolonged ethnic crisis, alleging that the ruling party's "callous indifference" and "gross incompetence" had deepened instability in the state.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge made the remarks after meeting senior leaders of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee to review the security situation and preparations for the Assembly elections expected early next year.

The meeting was attended by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, AICC in-charge of Manipur Saptagiri Ulaka, former chief minister and state Congress president Ibobi Singh, and Congress Legislature Party leader K Meghachandra, among others.

In a post on X, Kharge alleged that the BJP leadership had failed to take responsibility for the deterioration in law and order and was avoiding accountability as the crisis continued.

He said the people of Manipur deserved peace, stability, dignity and justice. Kharge added that the Congress would seek to end BJP rule in the state through the forthcoming Assembly elections and work towards peace, reconciliation and development.

Venugopal also criticised the BJP, claiming that the anger expressed at the INDIA bloc's rally at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday reflected wider anti-incumbency sentiment in BJP-ruled states, including Manipur and Uttarakhand.

"Hatred, loot, land-grab and total misgovernance symbolise BJP's trouble engine model in these states," he said in a post on X.

Referring to the ethnic conflict, Venugopal said Manipur continued to suffer and claimed that voters had rejected the BJP in both Lok Sabha constituencies in the 2024 general election.

Guwahati Hotel Shooting: Accused Recreates Sequence of Events as SIT Reconstructs Crime Scene

GUWAHATI

The Assam Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday completed a reconstruction of the crime scene at Hotel Bilas Inn in Guwahati in connection with the October 26 shooting that left five people dead and one injured.

The prime accused, 34-year-old businessman Ghanakanta Gogoi, was brought to the hotel in the Bora Service area early in the morning under heavy police security. He was taken inside the building, where he allegedly shot four people, and later to the narrow lane outside, where two others, including the sole survivor, were allegedly shot.

During the exercise, Gogoi was seen using a dummy firearm to indicate different locations and explain the sequence of events, according to the police reconstruction. Personnel recorded the exercise using multiple cameras, while six dummies were used to represent the victims.

Security was tightened around the hotel and the adjoining lane. Police restricted access to the premises and kept members of the public and the media away during the operation.

Accused's wife gives her account

The reconstruction came a day after Gogoi's wife, Joonmoni Gogoi, spoke about the events leading up to the shooting. She claimed that the Bharali family had invited her husband to Guwahati for a meeting over a financial dispute.

According to her, Gogoi initially wanted to discuss the matter over the phone, but the family insisted on a face-to-face meeting.

She further alleged that her husband told her over the phone after the incident that members of the Bharali family had attacked him and that he could find no way to escape the altercation. She said she met him briefly after the shooting and noticed wounds and scratches on his face.

Joonmoni claimed that Gogoi had informed the property owner about his financial difficulties and proposed that the outstanding rent be adjusted against his security deposit, with the remaining amount returned to him. She alleged that the family nevertheless insisted on calling him to Guwahati.

PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes you have to forget what's gone, appreciate what still remains, and look forward to what's coming next.

Power Bills May Rise from November as AERC Allows Recovery of Rs.155.59 Crore Surcharge

GUWAHATI: Electricity bills in Assam may rise from November after the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) allowed the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) to recover ?155.59 crore in accumulated fuel and power purchase cost adjustment surcharge.Under the commission's order, the surcharge accumulated between April and August 2026 will be recovered in instalments from November through March 2027. The additional charge could increase consumers' monthly bills over the next five months, although the amount will depend on the recovery rates set by APDCL.

APDCL said floods disrupted power supply and bill collection, preventing it from recovering the surcharge within the prescribed period. The company incurred around ?156 crore in additional costs during the five months due to changes in power purchase and transmission expenses. Supplementary bills are not included in this amount.

Under the usual procedure, a surcharge arising from additional power costs in a particular month is recovered from consumers in the second following month. Since APDCL could not collect the amounts on schedule, it approached the commission seeking relaxation of the rules.

The company had proposed recovering the accumulated surcharge over five months at an additional rate of 3.81 per cent each month. The commission, however, did not approve the proposed rate or monthly schedule. Instead, it left the recovery plan to APDCL, directing the company to determine how the surcharge would be collected between November and March.

WHO SAID WHAT

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 2 November



Siang Dam Protests Reach Delhi, Students and Activists Detained Outside Arunachal Bhawan



NEW DELHI

Opposition to the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh reached the national capital on Saturday, as hundreds of students and activists staged a protest outside Arunachal Bhawan, demanding the withdrawal of the 11,200-megawatt project and the release of those detained during earlier demonstrations.

Organised by Himkhand and Youth for Change, the protest also called for the withdrawal of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel deployed in Arunachal Pradesh. Demonstrators raised slogans against the proposed dam and what they described as the use of force against indigenous communities and student organisations opposing the project.

Delhi Police detained several protesters, including Siang hydropower activist Katon Moyong, popularly known as Aborman. Heavy police deployment was reported outside Arunachal Bhawan.

The proposed project, being pursued by the Pema Khandu-led BJP government in Arunachal Pradesh, is planned as a major hydropower and multipurpose infrastructure initiative. However, its opponents have raised concerns over its potential impact on indigenous communities, ancestral land and the fragile ecology of the Siang Valley.

Indigenous organisations, including the Adi Bane Kebang United and the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum, have warned that the project could lead to the submergence of ancestral territories, displacement of villages and extensive environmental damage.

The Siang region, located in the seismically active eastern Himalayan belt, is known for its rich biodiversity and is closely linked to the livelihoods and cultural identity of indigenous communities.

Opposition to the project has intensified across Arunachal Pradesh in recent weeks. Tensions escalated after demonstrations in Pasighat last week reportedly turned violent following the use of tear gas by police to disperse protesters.

Authorities reported incidents of stone-pelting, injuries to police personnel and damage to public and private property during the unrest.

The Delhi demonstration was aimed at taking the concerns of the affected communities beyond Arunachal Pradesh and drawing national attention to the controversy surrounding the project.

Protest organisers argued that development initiatives must take into account the rights, livelihoods and cultural heritage of indigenous populations, and should not come at the cost of ancestral land and the environment.

Internet Suspended in Arunachal's Upper Siang as 36-Hour Bandh Opposes Mega Dam Project

ITANAGAR

Mobile internet services have been suspended in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district as opposition to the proposed 11,200-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project intensified during a 36-hour bandh on Monday.

The shutdown, called by the Siang Indigenous Farmers Forum (SIFF) and the SUMP Affected Area Youth Association (SAAYA), began at 5 am and covers Upper Siang, Siang and East Siang districts. Student unions and community organisations have also extended support.The groups are demanding the release of activists detained during protests against the project and an immediate halt to pre-feasibility survey activities in the affected areas.The organisations have accused authorities of facilitating surveys without the consent of indigenous communities and have opposed the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces personnel in project-affected areas.

In a letter to the Bogum Bokang Welfare Society, SAAYA said an emergency executive meeting on October 29, attended by representatives of affected villages, had unanimously decided to organise the bandh in coordination with SIFF and other local groups.

The association described the arrests as an attempt to silence indigenous communities and urged residents to take part in what it called a peaceful and democratic movement.

Opposition to the proposed dam centres on concerns about the possible submergence of villages, loss of agricultural land and forests, displacement and disruption of traditional livelihoods. Reports indicate that 27 villages could face submergence, while several dozen others may be affected.

Planned on the Siang River, the project is expected to generate 11,200 MW of electricity and is among India's largest proposed hydropower initiatives.

Dima Hasao to get Rs 1,014 crore annually from limestone mining:Himanta



GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has projected an annual revenue of around Rs 1,014 crore for the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC) from limestone mining, following the auction of 13 limestone blocks to leading cement companies.

In a social media post on Monday, Sarma said the transparent auction process was expected to generate approximately Rs 84,500 crore over the next 50 years. Based on the projected figures, the total annual revenue from the mining arrangements is estimated at Rs 1,690 crore.

Of this amount, 60 per cent, or approximately Rs 1,014 crore annually, would be transferred directly to the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, according to the Chief Minister.

Sarma described the proposed revenue-sharing mechanism as a significant step towards strengthening the financial autonomy of the council. He said the arrangement would provide the local governing body with substantial financial resources to undertake development activities without having to depend entirely on the state or central governments for funding.

The Chief Minister also referred to Dima Hasao's history of insurgency, arguing that economic opportunities and business activities could contribute to development in indigenous areas when local institutions receive a direct share of the revenue generated from natural resources.

He further criticised opposition to commercial activities in indigenous areas, maintaining that the limestone auctions could create a long-term revenue stream for the district and open up opportunities for economic development.

However, the projected revenue figures and the proposed distribution of proceeds are based on the Chief Minister's public statement. The actual annual receipts would depend on mining operations and the terms governing the revenue-sharing arrangement.

The announcement has placed the focus on how the proposed revenue will be utilised by the autonomous council, particularly in infrastructure development, education, healthcare, employment generation and other public services in Dima Hasao.

Northeast Set to Enter India's Bullet Train Map as Guwahati Gets Nod for High-Speed Rail Link

Himanta Biswa Sarma says proposed extension of the Northern corridor could connect Guwahati with Delhi in under eight hours, opening up fresh opportunities for investment, trade and employment across the region

GUWAHATI

The Northeast could soon find a place on India's proposed high-speed rail network, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announcing on Sunday that the Northern high-speed rail corridor would be extended to Guwahati.

The proposed extension marks a significant development for a region that has long faced connectivity challenges with major economic centres of the country. If implemented, the high-speed link could reduce travel time between Guwahati and Delhi to less than eight hours, bringing the Northeast closer to the national capital and other major cities.

In a post on X, Sarma said the corridor was initially planned to end at Siliguri in West Bengal. However, following his written request and a meeting with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in July, the proposal to extend the network into the Northeast received approval.The Chief Minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vaishnaw for the decision, describing it as a major step towards improving the region's connectivity."The corridor was initially meant to end at Siliguri. After my written request and meeting with Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Ji in July, he saw merit in our proposal and approved its extension into the North East," Sarma said.

He argued that high-speed connectivity could have far-reaching economic implications for Assam and neighbouring northeastern states. Faster access to Delhi and other major centres, he said, would improve market access, facilitate business travel and create opportunities for investment and employment.The proposed link could also support Assam's ambition to attract investment in high-technology industries. Better connectivity with major markets and business centres may strengthen the region's appeal as an investment destination and help local enterprises reach wider markets.

"Fast, affordable flight-like connectivity to Delhi and two state capitals will open up enormous opportunities for businesses and livelihoods," the Chief Minister said.

Sarma acknowledged that a bullet train connection to Assam had once seemed beyond reach.

"A bullet train to Assam once seemed so far-fetched that it never even became a public demand. Today, what we scarcely dared to dream is becoming reality," he said.

He ended his post with the political remark, "Isiliye, Modi kahin nahi jayega!"

The proposed Northern high-speed rail corridor is expected to connect Delhi with major cities such as Lucknow, Varanasi, Patna and Siliguri. Its extension to Guwahati would bring the Northeast into the planned network.

For the region, the significance of the proposal extends beyond faster passenger travel. Improved connectivity could strengthen links with national markets, encourage investment and expand employment prospects. However, the final route, project cost and implementation timeline are yet to be made public.

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INDIA'S STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

As US-China rivalry reshapes the global order, New Delhi is pursuing a foreign policy that refuses to be confined to competing power blocs. Its partnerships with Washington, Moscow, Beijing and Tehran reflect a larger ambition: to emerge as an independent global power guided by national interests rather than external pressures.

The world is increasingly being divided by the intensifying rivalry between the United States and China. From trade and technology to maritime security and geopolitical influence, the competition between the two powers is reshaping international relations. Countries across the Indo-Pacific are finding it increasingly difficult to remain outside this confrontation. The pressure to choose sides is growing, and neutrality is becoming an increasingly complicated diplomatic exercise.

India, however, is attempting something different. It wants to work with Washington without becoming dependent on it, compete with Beijing without sliding into permanent confrontation, maintain its longstanding relationship with Moscow despite Western pressure, and preserve its engagement with Tehran. This is not diplomatic inconsistency. It is the pursuit of strategic autonomy.

For India, strategic autonomy is neither a new foreign policy slogan nor a temporary response to changing international circumstances. Its roots lie in the country's post-independence diplomatic philosophy and the Non-Aligned Movement, which sought to prevent newly independent nations from becoming instruments of Cold War rivalries. But the meaning of non-alignment has changed considerably. In today's interconnected world, strategic autonomy is less about staying away from competing powers and more about retaining the freedom to engage with all of them.

That distinction is crucial. India no longer seeks distance from global power centres. It wants a place at every important negotiating table without surrendering its freedom of decision-making.

The historical foundations of an independent foreign policy

India's understanding of strategic autonomy is also shaped by its civilisational and political traditions. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has frequently drawn upon India's historical and literary heritage, including the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, while explaining the country's approach to diplomacy and international affairs.

The underlying argument is that India's foreign policy cannot be understood merely through the framework of contemporary geopolitical alliances. Its national interests are also shaped by a historical consciousness that places considerable importance on sovereignty, independence and the ability to make choices.

Since 2014, the BJP-led government has increasingly invoked India's civilisational heritage as an ideological foundation for its political and international outlook. Although India remains constitutionally secular, the ruling establishment has placed considerable emphasis on Hindu cultural traditions and the idea of India's historical identity.

There is, therefore, a larger political dimension to the country's foreign policy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jaishankar have consistently projected India as a civilisational power that should not allow external circumstances to dictate its choices.

However, historical confidence alone cannot sustain strategic autonomy. In the modern international system, independence is ultimately measured by economic strength, technological capabilities, military preparedness and the ability to withstand external pressure.

Washington wants a partner, India wants independence

The India-US relationship perhaps best illustrates the opportunities and contradictions surrounding India's strategic choices.

The two countries share significant interests in the Indo-Pacific. Cooperation in defence, technology, trade and maritime security has expanded over the years. Washington sees India as an important strategic partner in maintaining a favourable balance of power in Asia, particularly as China's influence grows.

But partnership does not necessarily mean agreement on every issue.

The transactional approach of US President Donald Trump's administration, particularly on trade and economic negotiations, has exposed the limits of the relationship. American tariffs and pressure on India to provide greater access to its domestic market have raised concerns in New Delhi about the consequences of an unequal economic partnership.

Washington wants closer economic integration, but it also wants to protect American commercial interests. This raises an uncomfortable question: does the United States see India as an equal strategic partner or primarily as an economic and geopolitical counterweight to China?

India cannot afford to ignore this distinction.

Cooperation with the United States offers substantial advantages, particularly in access to advanced defence technologies, investment and critical technological capabilities. Yet excessive dependence on American markets, technology or military systems could eventually restrict India's freedom of action.

India's participation in the US-led Pax Silica initiative, aimed at securing critical technology and semiconductor supply chains, reflects the complexity of this relationship. New Delhi recognises the importance of reducing dependence on China in strategically sensitive sectors, but it must also ensure that one form of technological dependence is not simply replaced by another.

The challenge is to cooperate without becoming subordinate.

The China question: Competition need not mean confrontation

If Washington tests India's ability to maintain independence through economic and strategic pressure, Beijing tests it through geography and security.

India and China remain strategic competitors. Their unresolved Himalayan border dispute, military tensions and economic imbalances continue to complicate bilateral relations. Mutual distrust has not disappeared, and China's expanding regional influence remains a significant strategic concern for New Delhi.

Yet permanent confrontation would serve neither country's long-term interests.

The engagement between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS summit in New Delhi demonstrated the continuing importance of diplomatic communication. Economic cooperation may offer opportunities, but India has made it clear that normalisation cannot be separated from respect for its territorial interests and border security.This is where India's approach differs from a conventional alliance-based strategy. It does not consider every disagreement with China a reason to abandon diplomatic engagement. Equally, it does not believe that economic cooperation should come at the cost of national security.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes."
~ Carl Jung

LISTEN TO YOUR INNER VOICE: AN APPEAL FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

"PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE INHERITANCE WE HOPE TO RECEIVE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY WE MUST CULTIVATE, TEACH AND PASS ON."



PRAMOD BORO, MP (RAJYA SABHA)

I visited Imphal last week with some of my like-minded seniors and friends on ahumanitarian mission with a message of solidarity and support for peace andreconciliation among the communities. This was my first visit to the state afterviolence broke out in May 2023. I met Hon'ble Governor and Hon'ble ChiefMinister and conveyed my best wishes to them in their difficult task of restoringpeace and normalcy in Manipur. Both of them appreciated our initiative.Unfortunately, my visit led to some misgivings in certain quarters relating to itspurpose and objective, which is perfectly understandable under the prevailingatmosphere of trust deficit among the stakeholders.As a fellow citizen of a neighbouring state in the region and particularlyafter having lived in a conflict zone since my childhood, I was closely followingthe developments but could not do anything concrete to douse the fire other thanwriting couple of columns in newspapers, which went unnoticed as expected. After I became a Parliamentarian of this great nation, which has a place of prideamong the comity of nations for being the largest democracy, my conscienceconstantly pricked me and compelled me to think as to what I can do to buildpeace and communal harmony in this trouble-torn neighbourhood.

TEZPUR DECLARATION - A CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE

In the first week of October, coinciding with the birth anniversary ofMahatma Gandhi, an epitome of empathy and love, some of us organised a 2-day North East Peace Dialogue jointly by the North East Peace Foundation forSustainable Futures and Tezpur University. The Dialogue, participated by public

representatives, retired public servants, security experts, academicians, religiousleaders, and representatives of civil society organisations/NGOs, deliberated onmany issues such as understanding conflict and changing peace landscape in theregion; experiences, challenges and lessons from communities; role ofgovernment agencies and civil society in reconciliation and peace-building;

imperatives of sustainable peace from conflict resolution to reconciliation;inclusive governance and development; and a shared vision for peace andpeace-building framework for the North East. A joint statement titled "TezpurDeclaration" was issued on October 3, 2026, which emphasised on the need forconfidence building measures to restore trust of public in government agencies,institutional capacity building to handle conflict situations, developingcomprehensive peace plan, peace education/training in educational institutionsto propagate spirit of peace and create generations of peace volunteers, etc. TheDialogue appealed to the communities in the region to maintain peace and

communal harmony keeping in mind the region's rich traditional values, spiritof co-existence, cooperation and collaboration, while aspiring to promote andprotect one's own social systems and culture.

BODOLAND HAPPINESS MISSION - A SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Although the discussions focussed on the North-East as a whole, Manipuroccupied the centre-stage in view of the ongoing humanitarian crisis.Participants from all three major communities in the state stressed the need forsustained citizen-led efforts, in partnership with civil society organisations. In

this context, my personal experience in peace-building in the five districts ofBodo-inhabited areas in Assam was discussed in detail. More than twenty-sixcommunities living in these areas are now living peacefully, after more thanfour decades of inter-community conflicts, burying their past of violence andhatred, which was possible through sustained efforts to rebuild relationships,strengthen institutions and encourage social transformation. The experience ofBodoland was shared during the Dialogue as one example of how sustainedcommunity engagement can contribute to rebuilding relationships afterprolonged conflict. It was also recognised that every conflict has its own history,

complexities and local dynamics. Any initiative in Manipur would thereforeneed to emerge from the aspirations and priorities of its own communities,drawing upon their experiences, institutions and existing peace building efforts. I belief Bodoland Happiness Mission May not work in Manipur but Manipur Happiness Mission Will definitely Transforms the state.

MANIPUR CONFLICT- A HUMAN TRAGEDY

Beyond its immediate political and security dimensions, the crisis inManipur needs urgent intervention to strengthen inter-community trust andconfidence, promote social harmony, protect human dignity, restore everydayhuman relationships, and prepare future generations to coexist peacefully.Peace-building in Manipur, therefore, must extend beyond mere security andpolitical interventions and arrangements and encompass host of initiatives,including inter-community dialogue, creating awareness through education,psycho-social healing, etc. The central proposition is that sustainable peacecannot be imposed exclusively from above; it must be cultivated withininstitutions, communities and the minds of the everyday relationships. Manipurrecovery must become not only aregional responsibility but also an opportunity to demonstrate humanity&capacity to transform suffering into solidarity.There are moments in history when the suffering of one region/peoplechallenges the conscience of the entire nation and humanity. Manipur representssuch a moment. The violence that erupted in May 2023 transformed the lives ofcountless families, disrupted community relationships and exposed the fragilityof trust between people. Behind every statistic, there is a human life. Behindevery death, there is a family whose world has been permanently shattered.Behind every displaced person, there is a home filled with memories,relationships and a sense of belonging. Behind every child exposed to violence,there is a future that deserves something better than inherited fear. When a

mother loses her child; the language of community cannot measure her grief.When a family is forced to abandon its home, no political explanation canjustify the loss of security, dignity and belonging. When children grow upbelieving that their neighbours are enemies, the damage extends beyond one

generation. When action of an individual is attributed to an entire community,the foundation of inter-community trust collapses. When we see an individualthrough the prism of identity, we begin to surrender our humanity. The answercannot be found in security measures alone. It requires us to examine howsocieties construct identity, transmit grievances, educate children, exercisepolitical power and respond to the suffering of others. We do not claim to haveanswers to the complex problems confronting Manipur. Nor do we presumethat experiences from elsewhere can be replicated here.

But we believe thatthe suffering of the people, the prolonged separation of communities and the

erosion of trust cannot be matters of indifference to concerned citizens of theregion. We would like to contribute, in whatever modest way we can, toefforts that the people of Manipur themselves consider useful.

OUR HERITAGE - A FOUNDATION FOR RENEWED SOCIAL TRUST

North East India offers a powerful cultural context for understanding howcommunities can sustain relationships across generations. Its extraordinarydiversity is expressed through different histories, languages, customs, traditions,festivals, and arts and crafts, etc. However, historically, there is a commonthread running through the age-old systems of inter-community support,solidarity and dependence. Barter and reciprocal exchange connected peoplethrough shared economic needs. Agricultural practices reflected accumulatedknowledge of local soils, seasons, forests and water. Traditional food culturesdeveloped from close relationships with the natural environment. Communitymembers cooperated in agricultural work, irrigation maintenance and otheractivities necessary for collective well-being. Marriage ceremonies, funerals,festivals and customary rituals have also served, in many communities, asoccasions for collective participation, hospitality and mutual support.Communities could share labour during times of hardship and gather tocelebrate moments of happiness.These traditions should not be romanticised as evidence that all historicalrelationships were free from conflicts. Rather, they offer valuable examples ofsocial practices through which trust, reciprocity and interdependence have beencultivated. Their contemporary relevance is considerable. At a time when socialfragmentation and environmental pressures challenge communities around theworld, indigenous knowledge can contribute to sustainable livelihoods,

ecological responsibility and community-based development. he diversity ofNorth East India resembles a living garden more than an artificially arrangedcollection of flowers. Every community has developed its own character,language, cultural expression and historical experience. The beauty of the wholeis not in uniformity, but in the ability of distinct identities to flourish together.The task before us is to restore the social conditions, in which, diversitybecomes a source of shared strength to develop a resilient society to develop asustainable future rather than a justification for exclusion and mutualdestruction.

OUR MISSION - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE

It is with this mission that we came to Manipur last week. We are a teamof concerned citizens, a voluntary non-government initiative, who empathisewith the people of Manipur and feel that it is our moral responsibility to worktowards peace in Manipur with the help of civil society organisations of thevarious communities. Our broad purpose was to promote inter-communitydialogue by providing a credible platform, in which, communities canacknowledge suffering, clarify grievances, resist misinformation, and developpractical forms of cooperation. We will also help develop trust amongcommunities through inter-community social, cultural, sports, education,youth/student exchange programmes/camps, etc, to foster social harmony andbuild sustainable peace.Manipur must not become a permanent symbol of humanity failure.

LetManipur become a testament to humanity& capacity to heal by acknowledgingsuffering and choosing a future beyond inherited hostility. Manipur futuremust not be confined to the memories of violence. It must also be shaped by thecourage of survivors, the wisdom of communities, the integrity of institutionsand the determination of future generations to build a different society. The roadto reconciliation will not be simple. Grief cannot be hurried, trust cannot becommanded and justice cannot be replaced by declarations of goodwill. But the difficulty of peace is not a reason to abandon it. It is a reason to approach it withgreater seriousness, patience and moral courage.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Guwahati–Delhi in under 8 hours? Yes! The extension of the Northern bullet train corridor to Guwahati is a pivotal moment for East India.
My heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji and Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri @AshwiniVaishnaw Ji.
The corridor was initially meant to end at Siliguri. After my written request and meeting with Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Ji in July, he saw merit in our proposal and approved its extension into the North East.
This is what a government that listens and delivers looks like.
As Assam prepares for a new wave of high-tech industries, fast, affordable flight like connectivity to Delhi and two state capitals will open up enormous opportunities for businesses and livelihoods.
A bullet train to Assam once seemed so far-fetched that it never even became a public demand. Today, what we scarcely dared to dream is becoming reality.
Isiliye, Modi kahin nahi jayega!
Have a great day! ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam



Tear Gas, Baton Charge in Kangpokpi as Protest Over Deaths of Two Kuki-Zo Youths Turns Violent



IMPHAL

Tension gripped Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Sunday after a protest over the deaths of two Kuki-Zo youths turned violent, with security personnel allegedly resorting to baton charges and repeated tear gas shelling to disperse hundreds of grieving residents.Several protesters sustained injuries and were taken to Kangpokpi District Hospital for treatment. Residents also alleged that vehicles and windowpanes of residential buildings were damaged during the security operation. The tear gas reportedly caused distress to infants, elderly people and other vulnerable residents.

The confrontation broke out outside the office of the Kangpokpi Superintendent of Police after the bodies of Paoginlal Hangshing, 21, and Tinginlun Chongloi, 20, were brought to the district headquarters. Both youths were residents of Taphou Kuki village and had been found during a joint search operation along the Senapati-Phaibung Road.

The two were allegedly abducted at gunpoint on October 28 and subsequently killed. Their bodies were recovered following a search operation, triggering anger and grief among residents.

According to local accounts, the gathering initially took place following the recovery of the bodies but later escalated into a confrontation between protesters and security personnel. Security forces allegedly used batons and fired multiple rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.Residents and injured protesters accused the personnel of using disproportionate force, claiming that the action affected people beyond the immediate protest site.

The allegations have not been independently verified.The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) criticised the handling of the situation, with its spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen questioning the conduct of security personnel despite discussions between the organisation and the district administration.

Kipgen said the security forces' actions had intensified public resentment rather than helping to calm tensions following the recovery of the bodies.

"What baffles us is that even after a hectic discussion with the concerned district administration, instead of subsiding or allaying the fear and sentiments of the people, the highhandedness of the security forces is uncalled for," he said. He urged the authorities to intervene and examine the allegations, adding that the organisation's efforts to contain public anger would depend on the government's response."Our best effort to contain and convince the public depends on the reciprocity of the Government. We can understand that the Government might be giving its best effort, but for us on the ground, you should give us space to convince the public. There is no visible action till date on the part of the Government," Kipgen added.

Following the recovery of the bodies, CoTU extended its ongoing total shutdown by another 24 hours. The organisation also announced that it would not claim the bodies until the government addressed its charter of demands.

The demands include the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho, a review of police jurisdiction concerning Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi district, removal of the NSCN-IM camp in Senapati district, arrest of those responsible for the alleged abduction and killings, and transfer of the investigation to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). CoTU has called for concrete steps to establish accountability and address the circumstances surrounding the deaths. The latest confrontation has added to the tension in Kangpokpi, where the killings had already triggered protests and a shutdown. With allegations of excessive force now adding to public anger, an impartial examination of the security operation and the circumstances surrounding the two deaths will be important in addressing residents' concerns.

Assam Teachers Threaten Fresh Agitation Over Scholarship Exams, Mid-Day Meal Funds

GUWAHATI

Teachers across Assam have threatened to launch fresh protests over a series of long-pending demands, including the restoration of scholarship examinations, timely release of mid-day meal funds, adequate grants for school infrastructure and implementation of the 8th Pay Commission.

The warning was issued by Ratul Goswami, president of the Primary Teachers' Association, while speaking to the media on the sidelines of an educational meeting at Jamugurihat in Sonitpur district. He said the association would intensify its agitation with the support of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) if the government failed to address the issues.

Goswami demanded the restoration of scholarship examinations that were conducted in previous years, arguing that the system should be reintroduced to encourage academic performance among students. He warned that teachers would be compelled to launch an agitation if the government did not act.

The association has also raised objections to an arrangement under which teachers are reportedly required to spend money from their own pockets on school development work and seek reimbursement later.

Goswami alleged that the system was placing an unfair financial burden on teachers and effectively forcing them to function as contractors for infrastructure projects.He demanded that the government release funds directly for school development, as was done earlier, instead of expecting teachers to finance the work from their personal savings.The association president also expressed concern over delays in releasing funds for the mid-day meal scheme, claiming that teachers were struggling to manage expenses related to its implementation.He said pending payments had affected the procurement of supplies, with local shopkeepers reportedly becoming reluctant to extend credit to schools and teachers.The association has urged the government to clear outstanding dues and ensure regular and timely release of funds so that the scheme can function without disruption.

Centre Releases ?8,601 Crore in Advance Tax Devolution to Northeast States, Assam Gets Largest Share



GUWAHATI

The Centre has released ?8,601 crore to the eight Northeastern states as an advance instalment of tax devolution, with Assam receiving the largest share of ?3,552 crore, followed by Arunachal Pradesh with ?1,476 crore.

According to the state-wise allocation, Tripura received ?699 crore, while Meghalaya was allocated ?688 crore and Manipur ?682 crore. Mizoram received ?615 crore, Nagaland ?524 crore and Sikkim ?365 crore.

The advance release is intended to provide additional financial support to state governments, helping them meet expenditure commitments and speed up ongoing development programmes.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Sunday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the release, saying the additional funds would strengthen the financial position of states and help governments fulfil their obligations.

In a post on X on November 1, Sangma also acknowledged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for taking into account the financial requirements of the states. He said the timely release would help accelerate development initiatives aimed at public welfare.

Beyond the Northeast, Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation nationally at ?19,208 crore, followed by Bihar with ?10,845 crore, Madhya Pradesh with ?8,010 crore and West Bengal with ?7,866 crore.

Among other states, Maharashtra was allocated ?7,022 crore, Rajasthan ?6,460 crore and Odisha ?4,819 crore.

Manipur CM Launches BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week, Flags Off Cyclothon in Imphal

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Sunday launched BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week 2026 and flagged off a cyclothon at Khuman Lampak in Imphal, calling for greater public participation in environmental conservation.

The weeklong campaign, being organised by the state government from November 1 to 7, aims to encourage people to adopt environmentally responsible practices in their everyday lives.

Addressing the gathering, Singh said the initiative draws inspiration from Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote sustainable living through simple changes in daily habits.

Highlighting Manipur's rich biodiversity, forests, rivers and wetlands, the Chief Minister



stressed the need to protect the state's natural resources for future generations. He said environmental conservation should not be viewed solely as the responsibility of the government but as a shared duty of every citizen.Appealing particularly to young people, Singh urged citizens to conserve water and energy, avoid single-use plastics, minimise waste and maintain cleanliness. He also called on government departments, educational institutions, local bodies and community organisations to take an active role in the campaign.

During the programme, the Chief Minister administered an environmental protection pledge and joined other dignitaries in planting saplings at the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex.

Around 200 cyclists participated in the cyclothon, which began at Khuman Lampak, passed through Khuyathong Road, Babupara, Imphal West and Imphal East, before returning to the starting point.

Chief Secretary Rajeev Singh Thakur, senior government officials, students and other participants were present at the launch programme.

Tripura BJP Warns Against Poll Violence, Manik Saha Says 'Law Will Take Its Own Course'



AGARTALA,

The Tripura unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday reviewed its organisational preparedness for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections, with Chief Minister Manik Saha warning that violence and intimidation would not be tolerated.

The organisational meeting, held in Agartala, was attended by Saha, BJP state president and Rajya Sabha MP Rajib Bhattacharjee, party in-charge Mriganka Debbarma, general secretaries Chandan Debnath, Bipin Debbarma and Bhagaban Das, among other senior leaders.

Discussions focused on organisational readiness, coordination among party leaders and the BJP's strategy for the civic polls. The meeting also took up various organisational issues ahead of the elections.

Reacting to reports of an alleged attack on BJP workers by a Congress worker at Khayerpur, near Agartala, late on Saturday, Saha said he had received information about the incident and would seek further details.

"If such an incident has actually taken place, it is a matter of concern and requires a proper investigation. We cannot tolerate such incidents, and the law will take its own course," he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to another reported incident in Kamalpur in Dhalai district, describing such occurrences as unacceptable and saying he would look into the matter.

Saha also said BJP workers had been instructed not to obstruct Opposition candidates or their supporters from filing nomination papers.

"Allegations are often made by the Opposition, but we have directed our karyakartas not to interfere with or prevent anyone from filing nominations," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP state president and MLA Abhishek Debroy described the meeting as a routine organisational exercise ahead of the civic elections.

He said the discussions would cover organisational activities and election preparations. The candidate list was also expected to be discussed, although it had already been prepared.

Debroy added that the BJP, as a national party, would announce its candidates only after consultations with the central leadership and the necessary approval from its leadership in Delhi.

Bharatmala Roadwork Damages Nearly 100 Bighas of Farmland in Cachar, Farmers Seek Compensation

LAKHIPUR

Nearly 100 bighas of agricultural land have reportedly been damaged in Assam's Cachar district following the collapse of an earthen embankment created during construction of the Silchar-Jirighat road under the Bharatmala project, leaving several farming families facing substantial crop losses.

The damage has been reported in Labakpar Part III and Part IV under Poylapool Gaon Panchayat in the Lakhipur Assembly constituency. A strong flow of rainwater, soil and rocks swept through the fields, destroying paddy saplings across large stretches of farmland.

Affected farmers alleged that soil excavated from nearby hills had been used to raise the embankment as part of the road construction. They claimed that they had repeatedly asked the construction contractor to install culverts to ensure proper drainage, but their requests were ignored.

According to the farmers, the lack of adequate drainage led to the accumulation of rainwater behind the earthen structure. The embankment eventually collapsed, allowing water, mud and rocks to rush into agricultural fields and damage crops and adjoining vegetation.

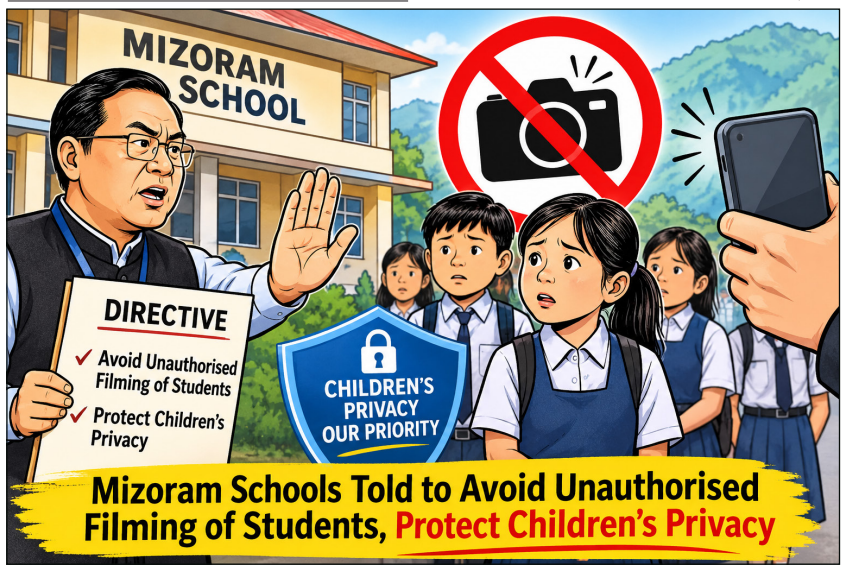
The losses have come at a difficult time for farmers who had already invested money in cultivation. Several affected cultivators said they had taken loans to prepare their fields and raise paddy saplings. With much of their farmland damaged, they are now worried about repaying those loans and sustaining their families.

The farmers further alleged that although they had brought the matter to the attention of the Lakhipur co-district administration and the Agriculture Department, compensation had not reached them so far.

They have appealed to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika and Lakhipur MLA and minister Kaushik Rai to intervene.Their demands include an on-site inspection, a detailed assessment of the damaged farmland and timely, adequate compensation for the affected families.The farmers have also called for immediate corrective measures to improve drainage along the road construction stretch so that further accumulation of rainwater does not put neighbouring agricultural land at risk.The incident has raised concerns over the impact of infrastructure construction on farmland and the need for proper drainage arrangements, particularly in areas where roadwork involves large-scale earth filling. The farmers are seeking accountability and relief as they wait for the authorities to assess the damage.

Mizoram Schools Told to Avoid Unauthorised Filming of Students, Protect Children's Privacy

AIZAWL



The Mizoram Directorate of School Education has directed schools across the state to generally avoid filming students on campus without proper authorisation, warning that photographs and videos circulated online must not compromise children's privacy, dignity or well-being.

In a circular issued on October 26, the Directorate said recording students in classrooms or elsewhere on school premises should generally be avoided, except during school functions, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, or legitimate learning activities.

The directive comes amid growing concerns over the misuse of social media to circulate images and videos of students without due consideration for their privacy and consent.

The circular specifically cautions against recording or sharing content that could cause "embarrassment, humiliation or distress" to students, particularly when such footage is circulated on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, X and Threads.

Citing the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, the Directorate said verifiable consent from a parent or lawful guardian must be obtained before processing the personal data of children below 18, including identifiable photographs and videos, subject to the commencement and applicability of the relevant provisions and exemptions.

Schools have been asked to ensure that students' photographs, videos and other personal information are not collected, used or shared without proper authorisation and compliance with applicable laws.

The circular also warns that violations amounting to offences may invite action under the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. It specifically refers to Section 23 of the POCSO Act, which deals with disclosure of the identity of a child in cases covered by the law.

Restrictions on social media posts

The Directorate has asked teaching and non-teaching staff to avoid repeatedly posting photographs or videos focusing on individual students on social media.

Exceptions may be made for content highlighting students' achievements, their participation in official programmes or specific activities, and documentation required for official reports.

Teachers have also been advised to exercise caution while sharing content related to students and school activities through personal or official social media accounts.

The circular further states that content capable of damaging a school's reputation, bringing its uniform into disrepute, or compromising the dignity, privacy and personal well-being of students or staff must not be circulated. Content amounting to criminal intimidation or defamation may attract action under Sections 351 and 356, respectively, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Schools asked to regulate electronic devices

Separately, schools have been directed to frame written policies restricting students' use of mobile phones, smartwatches, tablets and other electronic devices on campus.

Exceptions may be permitted on genuine and specific grounds, subject to prior approval and direct supervision by designated teachers or staff.

The Directorate has also called on schools to educate students about responsible social media use, digital footprints and the possible consequences of sharing content online.

The directive seeks to establish clearer safeguards around the recording and online circulation of student-related content, while allowing schools to document legitimate academic and extracurricular activities within the framework of applicable rules.

Quest!

The dates 4/4, 6/6, 10/10 and 12/12 all fall on the same day of the week every year. They're called doomsdays.



NATIONAL

Delhi pollution curbs: 1,539 vehicles turned back on day 1, Rs 68.4 lakh in fines imposed



NEW DELHI

Delhi authorities imposed penalties and environmental compensation totalling Rs 68.4 lakh on the first day of the Winter Action Plan enforcement on Sunday, with nearly 15,000 vehicles checked and 1,539 turned back at border points for violating entry restrictions.

According to official data available till 5 pm, authorities issued 566 challans for violations of Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) norms, imposing fines of Rs 56.6 lakh. Another Rs 2 lakh was collected in fines for violating vehicle entry restrictions, while environmental compensation of Rs 9.8 lakh was imposed for violations of dust control norms at construction sites.

The Delhi Traffic Police and Transport Department checked 14,930 vehicles under the restrictions on non-Delhi pre-BS-VI vehicles, turning back around 10.31 per cent of them. As many as 127 challans were issued and 62 vehicles impounded.

Of the vehicles turned back, 140 were light motor vehicles, 54 light commercial vehicles, 95 heavy goods vehicles and 34 buses. Among 1,423 two-wheelers, three-wheelers and other vehicles checked, 789 were turned back and 38 impounded.

Separately, 7,279 non-destined vehicles were checked, of which 314 were turned back. Another 740 vehicles, including those running on CNG, electric vehicles and those involved in essential services, were verified and allowed entry as they were exempt from the restrictions.

In the drive against vehicles operating without valid PUCC, the Traffic Police issued 493 challans, amounting to Rs 49.3 lakh, while the Transport Department issued 73 challans, imposing fines of Rs 7.3 lakh.

Enforcement against dust pollution resulted in environmental compensation of Rs 9.8 lakh after inspections at 300 construction sites. Of these, 32 were found violating dust control norms.

Among 91 large construction sites inspected, 16 were found violating the norms. Authorities issued two closure directions and four show-cause notices, besides imposing compensation of Rs 4 lakh.

Of the 209 smaller sites inspected, 17 were found violating the norms. Fifteen closure directions and 15 show-cause notices were issued, with compensation of Rs 5.8 lakh imposed. No violations were reported at exempted infrastructure projects.

The restrictions under the Winter Action Plan will remain in force for varying periods between November 1 and February 28 to curb air pollution.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said enforcement teams were monitoring compliance with vehicle entry restrictions, PUCC requirements and construction dust regulations.

"Today 14,930 vehicles checked, 566 PUC challans and 300 sites inspected. Keep PUC valid, follow entry rules and dust norms. The quest for clean air needs our collective efforts," he said in a post on X.

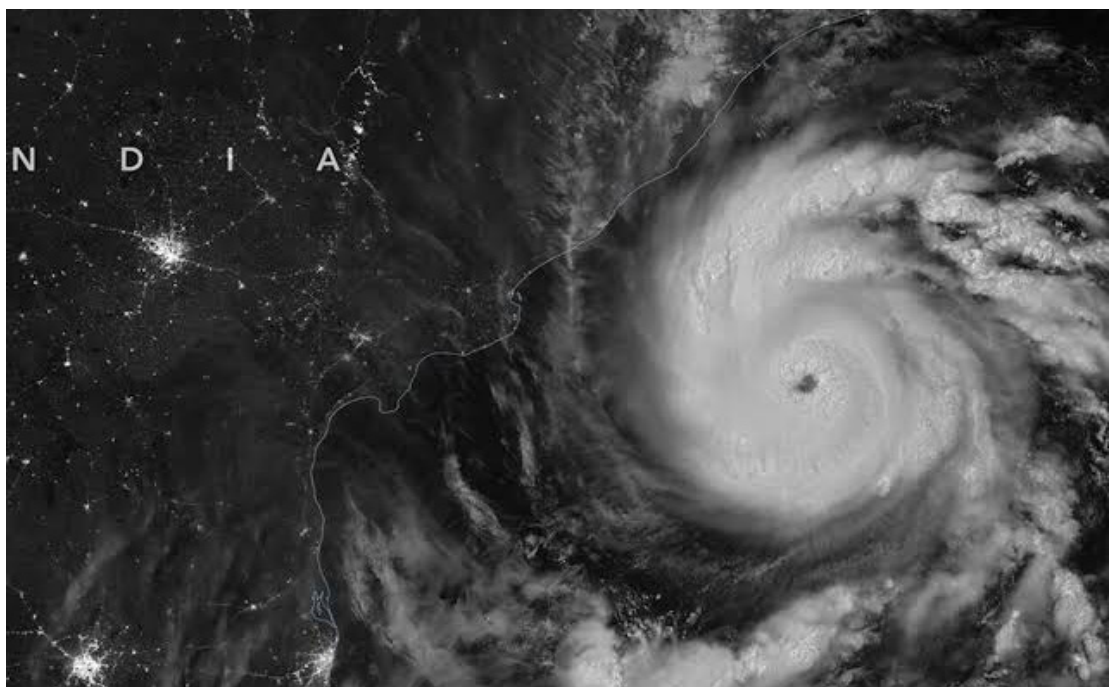
The restrictions under the Winter Action Plan will remain in force for varying periods between November 1 and February 28 to curb air pollution.

Non-Delhi pre-BS-VI vehicles have been barred from entering the national capital until January 31. Dust-generating demolition and outdoor civil construction activities have also been prohibited, except for specified essential public infrastructure projects.

A complete ban on construction and demolition activities, with certain exemptions, will be in force from December 10 to January 20.

Parking fees at authorised lots have been doubled until February 28. Government and private offices have also been directed to limit physical attendance to 50 per cent between November 1 and January 31, with the remaining workforce working from home. Essential and emergency services are exempt.

Cyclone Murasu intensifies over Bay of Bengal, likely to cross Andhra coast on November 3



CHENNAI

The cyclonic storm 'Murasu' over the Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards at a speed of 25 kmph in the six hours up to 5.30 pm on Sunday, and is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by the early hours of November 2, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its latest bulletin.

The system lay over the southwest and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal, centred near latitude 12.7°N and longitude 84.1°E at 5.30 pm on November 1. It was about 420 km east-southeast of Chennai, 490 km east-southeast of Nellore, 500 km southeast of Machilipatnam, 530 km southeast of Ongole and 560 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam.

The cyclone is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm over the westcentral Bay of Bengal by the early hours of November 2.

Thereafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and cross the south Andhra Pradesh coast as a severe cyclonic storm, with wind speeds of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph, between Nellore and Narsapur from around 11.30 pm on November 2 to 4 am on November 3, the IMD said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday directed officials to remain fully prepared for relief and rescue operations, with officials briefing him that the storm was likely to cross the coast near Bapatla on the morning of November 3.

"Another cyclone is approaching Andhra Pradesh and officials must remain fully prepared to undertake relief and rescue operations, as a severe cyclonic storm is expected to cross the coast near Bapatla on the morning of November 3," Naidu said in an official press release.

The system is likely to bring moderate to heavy rainfall, with isolated extremely heavy showers, over south and central coastal districts on November 2. Several areas may receive heavy to very heavy rainfall on November 3 and 4, with wind speeds of up to 110 kmph expected during landfall.

Of the 20 mandals forecast to receive extremely heavy rainfall, nine are in Eluru district, five each in Krishna and NTR districts and one in Bapatla.

On November 3, average district rainfall is expected to be around 179 mm in Eluru, 163 mm in Krishna, 161 mm in NTR, 147 mm in West Godavari, 119 mm in Guntur and 104 mm in Bapatla, the release said.

In view of the anticipated heavy rainfall, an inflow of around 32,500 cusecs is expected at Budameru on November 3. Heavy inflows are also likely in Errakalva, Gonelavagu, Jalleru and Pampa reservoirs, among others.

Preliminary estimates indicate that strong winds could damage around 15,128 electricity poles across 12 districts.

Naidu directed officials to keep adequate manpower and equipment ready for relief and rescue operations and move necessary personnel and materials to vulnerable areas in advance. He also asked them to prepare clear timelines for restoring power supply in the event of damage to electricity infrastructure and communicate the information to the public.

The Chief Minister suggested that officials issue cyclone situation bulletins every four hours and asked telecom network operators to take advance precautions to prevent mobile signal disruptions in areas likely to be severely affected.

Recalling the experience during cyclonic storm Arnab, Naidu said telecom operators could have taken additional precautionary measures to prevent network disruptions. He asked officials to ensure that arrangements were made in advance to avoid a recurrence.

In view of the approaching cyclone, Naidu also cancelled his scheduled visit to Delhi on Monday.

Meanwhile, officials briefed him on the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab and the progress of relief operations. Naidu enquired about electricity restoration in affected areas, with officials informing him that power supply would be restored everywhere by Sunday night.

Andhra Pradesh recently bore the brunt of Cyclone Arnab, which crossed its coast on October 28, claiming seven lives and causing widespread damage to agriculture, infrastructure and power supply.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government has announced a high alert in the southern region of the state.

Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the government had ordered the evacuation of people from low-lying areas and hilly terrain as part of its preparedness measures.

Director of the Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar, Manorama Mohanty, said Odisha would receive rainfall from November 2, with the intensity expected to increase on November 3 and 4 under the influence of the cyclone.

'Murasu', meaning war drum, is the name given to the cyclone by India.

INTERNATIONAL

All nine aboard business jet killed as aircraft nosedives into fireball near busy South Florida roadway



WASHINGTON

A business jet carrying nine people nose-dived into a South Florida neighborhood Sunday and erupted into a giant fireball that appeared to just miss homes near a busy roadway. Everyone on board was killed, the nation's transportation secretary said.

Video recorded by people inside their cars captured the terrifying moment the Bahamas-bound aircraft plunged from the sky before striking near the Palm Beach County roadway and exploding.

Flames flickered around chunks of pavement lining a crater as people milled about, expressing shock that it landed only feet from homes and inches from passing vehicles. Thick black smoke engulfed the crash site.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy posted on X that the Learjet 60 crashed in Palm Beach County at 12:50 p.m. and called it a "horrific tragedy."

The Federal Aviation Administration is sending a team to support the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation, he said.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said there were no immediate reports of anyone on the ground injured or killed.

"It was a cataclysmic plane crash," DeSantis told reporters at the scene. "It looked like a missile going down and left a big crater on the side of the road."

Today's plane crash in Palm Beach County, Florida is a horrific tragedy Here's what we know: - At 12:50 PM ET, a Learjet 60 crashed in a neighborhood near Cresthaven, FL - All 9 people on board were killed - The aircraft departed from Austin, Texas, and was headed to the Bahamas - The FAA is sending a team to the scene to support the @NTSB's investigation Please join me in praying for the families and loved ones of those we lost — @FAANews & @USDOT are closely monitoring this crash and will share updates as we learn more

— Secretary Sean Duffy (@SecDuffy) November 1, 2026

Rain pounded the region on Sunday. A flood watch due to excessive rainfall was in effect through Monday afternoon, the National Weather Service said.

The aircraft had departed Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas and was headed to the Bahamas, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Authorities did not immediately say what caused the jet to go down or who was on it.

The plane was heading east at 35,000 feet (about 11 kilometers) when pilots reported turbulence, icing and precipitation and requested to climb another 2,000 feet (about 610 meters).Moments later, the plane entered a steep dive, first 10,000 feet per minute, then 20,000 feet per minute and up to 30,000 feet per minute, speeding the plane beyond its design limits, according to air traffic control recordings and flight tracking data.

A pilot declared an emergency and issued distress calls. The plane banked sharply to the right before it smashed into the ground.

Minutes before the crash, the pilot reported ice accumulating on the jet and turbulence that was jolting it by as much as 700 feet (213 meters), according to air traffic control recordings captured by LiveATC.net.

"We have light, clear ice that is manageable and moderate turbulence," the pilot told controllers.

But the situation rapidly deteriorated. After encountering precipitation and requesting to climb, the pilot declared an emergency as the aircraft began losing altitude at an alarming rate.

"We're descending 8,000 – mayday, mayday - we're descending 10,000 feet per minute," the pilot radioed.

"We are in an overspeed condition descending 20,000 feet per minute," the pilot radioed, before delivering a devastating acknowledgment of what was about to happen. "We're going to crash into the ground."

Jim Reynolds, a spokesperson for Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, said the jet was a private aircraft. He could not immediately provide details about who was on the flight.Steve Arroyo, an aviation safety expert, said icing and turbulence could have been factors in the crash and may have caused the plane to stall while it was cruising at 34,000 feet (10,363 meters).

There are many potential factors and the NTSB will consider all of them, including how the pilot responded to the icing and turbulence reported over the radio. But investigators won't rule anything out at this early stage, he said.The NTSB said investigators were expected to arrive at the crash site on Sunday and Monday. A media briefing is scheduled for Monday in West Palm Beach. Palm Beach County authorities were evacuating about 600 people from a nearby mobile home community while federal officials investigate the crash. The road will be closed until further notice, county officials said.

The crash occurred in Greenacres, Florida, according to Palm Beach County sheriff's officials. The city of 45,000 people is about 7 miles (11 kilometers) southwest of West Palm Beach.

Iran army says any new war with US could be 'longer than previous conflict'



TEHRAN

Iran warned on Sunday that any new war with the United States could last longer than the previous conflict and that US President Donald Trump would not be the one to determine its duration.

"A potential future war could last longer than previous conflict, and the American president would not be in a position to dictate the timing or the conditions of its conclusion," said army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia, according to Iranian state television.

He was referring to the most intense phase of the fighting in the war that began on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, killing the Islamic republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran responded by launching missiles and drones across the region, while the militant groups it backs also entered the fray in Lebanon and Yemen.

Iran's Defense Minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi on Sunday warned of a "proportionate, decisive, and impactful response" to any attack on the country, according to state TV.

A potential future war could last longer than previous conflict, and the American president would not be in a position to dictate the timing or the conditions of its conclusion.

Iran targeted US air defenses then hit aircraft, buildings on Mideast bases: Report

"Those who pose threats will not dictate the scope, timing, or consequences of Iran's defensive response," he added.

Also on Sunday, Hossein Mohebbi, the spokesperson of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, echoed the remarks made by the country's new supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in a written message the day before.

"In a conflict with America, there are no geographical limitations; a vast theatre has been defined for inflicting damage upon the enemy," Mohebbi said, according to state TV.

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States has knocked out much of Iran's military but still has to "take care of" one or two targets.

"We've knocked out their nuclear. We still have to take care of, I would say one or two sites, but we can do that in 10 minutes," Trump said.

Meghalaya Farmers Honoured With 'Krishi Gaurav Samman 2026' At CAU-CPGAS Umiam Assembly







BISWADEEP GUPTA

UMIAM:

Six distinguished farmers and agri-preneurs from Meghalaya were conferred the prestigious 'Krishi Gaurav Samman 2026' during the Academic Assembly 2026 held at the College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences (CPGSAS), Central Agricultural University (Imphal), Umiam, on October 31.

The event, centered around the theme "Transforming Classrooms through NEP 2020: Integrating Indigenous Wisdom, Culture and Experiential Learning," celebrated grassroots innovation, sustainable farming, and the preservation of indigenous agricultural heritage in the North Eastern Region. Notably, two of the awardees had earlier received national acclaim from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 139th episode of Mann Ki Baat for championing traditional millet cultivation.

Recognising Agricultural Trailblazers

The awardees honoured for their exceptional contributions include:=Mr. Chekjing Sangma (Sadolpara, West Garo Hills) – Pioneering modern millet farming and promotional efforts.

Smt. Darapbiang Mulieh (Khanduli, West Jaintia Hills) – Driving millet value addition.

Smt. Sitrian Surong (Khanduli, West Jaintia Hills) – Championing Meghalaya's traditional millet heritage.

Smt. Trinity Saioo (Mulieh, West Jaintia Hills) – Popularly known as the Lakadong Lady, recognized for promoting indigenous Lakadong turmeric.

Smt. Jemnud Marpan (Thadnongniaw, Ri-Bhoi) – Conserving indigenous crops and agricultural biodiversity.Shri Midat M. Binau (Marngar, Ri-Bhoi) – Spearheading agripreneurial initiatives to connect traditional spice crops with global markets.

A Convergence of Academia and TraditionThe Academic Assembly was jointly organised by the Purvottar Janajati Shiksha Samiti (PJSS) and CPGSAS, CAU (Imphal), with support from the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Umiam), NEDFi, and Meghalaya Shiksha Samiti. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Dr. Anupam Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of CAU (Imphal), as Chief Guest, who underscored the critical need to merge indigenous tribal wisdom with modern scientific innovations. Prof. Debabrata Das, President of PJSS and Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University, presided over the function, alongside Guest of Honour Prof. Ganga Prasad Parsain, President, Vidya Bharati Purvottar Kshetra, and Dr. Babli Chaudhury, All India Joint Secretary, Vidya Bharati.

The inaugural session, held earlier in the day, featured Dr. B. D. R. Tiwari, IAS, Chief Election Commissioner of Meghalaya, as Chief Guest, who stressed the vital importance of preserving cultural and biological diversity during inclusive development.

With 375 delegates in attendance, the programme featured robust interactive sessions focusing on farmer experiences and the implementation of NEP 2020, reinforcing the institution's commitment to farmer-led agricultural transformation across the region.

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~ Anne Frank

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- DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ADVENTURE SPORTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
- ART & CULTURE, THEATRE, CINEMA, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT
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