

KRC TIMES
STAY ENRICHED



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 915 | SILCHAR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2026. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com ,www.krctimes.com

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



Silchar Lawyers Revive 54-Year Demand for High Court Bench, Submit Memorandum to Governor

Lawyers, students and civil society representatives take to the streets, seek a Gauhati High Court bench in Barak Valley to improve access to justice

SILCHAR

The long-standing demand for a separate bench of the Gauhati High Court in Barak Valley gained fresh momentum on Saturday, as lawyers, students and representatives of various organisations staged a demonstration in Silchar and submitted a memorandum to the Assam Governor.

The demand, which dates back to 1972, has remained unresolved despite repeated representations and campaigns by legal practitioners and organisations in the region. Lawyers have consistently argued that establishing a High Court bench in Silchar would make the judicial system more accessible to people across Barak Valley.

The latest phase of the movement gathered momentum after members of the Silchar District Court Bar submitted a memorandum to the Governor, pressing for the establishment of a High Court bench in the region.



The campaign has since expanded beyond the legal fraternity, drawing support from students, cultural activists and representatives of several organisations.

On Saturday, protesters assembled near the statue of freedom fighter Khudiram Bose in Silchar, where speakers reiterated the demand and called for an early resolution of the long-pending issue.

They subsequently marched to the Cachar District Magistrate's office, where they staged a demonstration. A memorandum addressed to the Governor was later submitted through the District Magistrate, urging the state government to take steps towards establishing a Gauhati High Court bench in Silchar without further delay.

During the protest, participants questioned why Barak Valley had continued to remain without a High Court bench despite similar judicial facilities being available in neighbouring states.

They maintained that a bench in Silchar would significantly reduce the difficulties faced by litigants from Cachar, Sribhumi and Hailakandi, many of whom have to travel to Guwahati for proceedings before the High Court.

The protesters also argued that geographical distance and the expenses associated with travelling to Guwahati often place an additional burden on litigants, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

With the latest demonstration bringing together different sections of society, the demand for a High Court bench has once again emerged as a significant regional issue in Barak Valley. The protesters have called for concrete action from the state government to end a campaign that has continued for more than five decades.

PERSPECTIVE

Obedience is better than sacrifice

Death Toll Rises to Two After Explosion at Oil India Facility in Dibrugarh

DIBRUGARH

The death toll from the explosion and subsequent fire at an Oil India Limited (OIL) facility in Assam's Dibrugarh district has risen to two after one of the critically injured workers died at a private hospital early Friday.

The deceased, identified as Tapas Gogoi (40), a resident of Milan Nagar in Dibrugarh, breathed his last at around 3 am on November 7. He had sustained critical injuries in the explosion at OIL's Intermediate Tank Farm (ITF) facility in Tengakhat on November 6.The incident had initially claimed the life of Raju Dutta, who was reportedly thrown several metres by the force of the explosion.

Five other employees sustained injuries in the incident. They were identified as Sailen Gogoi (45), Kumud Gogoi (38), Golap Dutta (58), Indra Gogoi (40) and Tapas Gogoi. All were initially admitted to Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh for treatment.

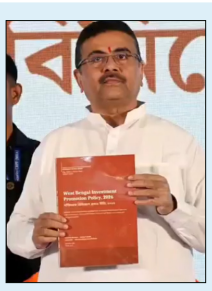
According to reports, the injured personnel were working for Spectron Engineers Private Limited, a Mumbai-based company engaged by Oil India.

The explosion reportedly occurred in the crude oil storage area of the facility, triggering a massive fire. Fire and emergency services personnel rushed to the spot and launched firefighting operations.

The incident has raised concerns over industrial safety at the oil facility, although the exact cause of the explosion remains unclear.

Further details regarding the circumstances leading to the blast and the condition of the other injured workers are awaited.

WHO SAID WHAT



I welcome the positive response of Industrialists and Corporate Leaders across sectors who are hailing West Bengal's Investment Promotion Policy, 2026, as a progressive & transformative leap forward. From accelerating major investments and creating sustainable employment to fostering a thriving manufacturing and tech ecosystem, the State's investor-friendly vision will help establish West Bengal as Eastern India's foremost industrial powerhouse.

– Suvendu Adhikari, CM, West Bengal

Manipur BJP MLA Appeals to Biren, Ibobi to Join Hands With Government for Peace



IMPHAL

Manipur BJP MLA Thokchom Radheshyam has appealed to former chief ministers N Biren Singh and O Ibobi Singh to work together with the incumbent government to restore peace in the violence-hit state, stressing that political differences and public criticism would only hamper efforts to resolve the crisis.

Speaking at an event in Bishnupur district on November 6, Radheshyam said people across Manipur wanted lasting peace and urged political leaders cutting across party lines to come together to achieve that objective.

"Peace cannot be achieved by criticising each other on social media or in the media," he said, appealing to former Congress chief minister Ibobi Singh and BJP leader Biren Singh to extend their support to the government's efforts to restore normalcy.

The Heirok constituency MLA, who also serves as a spokesperson for the state government, said former chief ministers should refrain from making provocative statements or engaging in criticism of the incumbent administration. Instead, they should offer constructive suggestions and cooperate with the government in addressing the continuing crisis.

However, Radheshyam also acknowledged lapses in the initial handling of the ethnic violence that erupted in Manipur in May 2023. He questioned why adequate police personnel were not deployed promptly when the violence first broke out.

"On the day the ethnic violence broke out, why was a large number of police personnel not deployed to control it? We must admit that there was a mistake and the police were not sent in time," he said.

His remarks amounted to an acknowledgement of shortcomings in the initial security response to the violence, which severely affected the state's law and order situation.

Radheshyam maintained that the present government was making sustained efforts to restore peace and appealed to the people to support its initiatives.

He also took a swipe at former chief ministers for portraying their own tenures as faultless while questioning the actions of the current administration, arguing that such political exchanges would do little to address the challenges facing Manipur.

His appeal comes amid continuing political debate over the handling of the ethnic conflict and the efforts required to rebuild trust and restore normalcy in the state.

Multi-Force Operations Launched Across Manipur to Track Those Behind Recent Violence

IMPHAL

Manipur Police, along with central security forces, have launched coordinated search operations across violence-affected areas to identify and apprehend those responsible for recent incidents of arson and civilian killings.

In a statement issued on November 6, the authorities said investigations into the incidents were underway, with efforts being made to identify the accused, trace their whereabouts and locate witnesses for questioning.

Joint teams comprising Manipur Police, the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Assam Rifles and the Indian Army are conducting cordon-and-search operations (CASO) and intelligence-based searches in the affected areas.

The operations are aimed at tracking down those involved in the violence and ensuring that appropriate legal action is taken against them. Authorities also said necessary steps were being pursued in coordination with the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Assuring the public that the incidents were being treated with utmost seriousness, the authorities said security arrangements had been strengthened and the overall situation was under close monitoring.

Police have appealed to residents to remain calm and exercise restraint, warning against taking the law into their own hands.

The public has also been urged not to believe or circulate unverified information, rumours or provocative social media posts that could further aggravate tensions.

Calling for public cooperation, the authorities appealed to all sections of society to assist the police and security forces in maintaining peace and preventing further incidents of violence.

EC Offers Fresh Chance to 1.57 Lakh Electors Left Out of Draft Voter List



DIMAPUR

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has given 1,57,752 electors excluded from Nagaland's draft electoral roll another opportunity to seek inclusion in the final voter list under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The decision follows the publication of the draft electoral roll on September 20, which recorded 12,06,457 electors against the 13,57,208 registered before the revision exercise.

Of the 1,57,752 electors left out of the draft list, 1,23,749 were categorised as absent, permanently shifted or other, while 28,944 were identified as deceased. Another 5,059 cases involved duplicate or multiple enrolments.

In a letter dated November 6, the Election Commission directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of Nagaland and six other states to facilitate the submission of fresh enumeration forms by electors classified under the absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) categories whose forms had not been received during the initial exercise.

The Commission has instructed state election authorities to publicise the additional opportunity through newspapers, social media platforms, official websites and public announcements to ensure that eligible voters are not deprived of their right to be included in the electoral roll.

As part of the exercise, boothwise lists of excluded electors must be displayed afresh on polling station notice boards, panchayat bhawans and urban local body offices. The lists, along with the probable reasons for exclusion, must also be uploaded as readable PDF documents on the respective Chief Electoral Officers' websites.

The ECI has further directed the state election machinery to establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that every eligible elector gets an opportunity to seek inclusion while preventing duplicate entries. Chief Electoral Officers have also been asked to submit action-taken reports on the implementation of the instructions.

For electors who have shifted within Nagaland, the Commission has clarified that submission of Form 8 will not be necessary. They will, however, have to submit the enumeration form along with a declaration mentioning their new address and Assembly constituency, supported by valid proof of residence.

Such electors can also approach the Booth Level Officer (BLO) of the polling station in the area to which they have shifted.

The fresh opportunity is intended to address possible omissions during the enumeration process and provide eligible electors another avenue to secure their place in the final electoral roll.

Manipur Launches Northeast's First AI-Powered Career Intelligence Hub in Imphal

CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh inaugurates technology-driven career guidance facility alongside 32nd National Children's Science Congress, aims to equip students for emerging job opportunities

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Saturday inaugurated the Northeast's first Artificial Intelligence-enabled Career Intelligence Hub in Imphal, marking a new initiative to integrate advanced technology into education and career guidance in the state.

The Chief Minister also formally inaugurated the 32nd National Children's Science Congress at Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School. Rajya Sabha MP A. Sharda Devi attended the joint programme, organised by the Manipur Upliftment Centre and Samagra Shiksha Manipur under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Funded through the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), the AI-enabled hub is designed to help students identify their individual strengths, assess their abilities and explore career opportunities suited to their interests and skills.

The initiative aims to strengthen digital literacy, encourage specialised skill development and prepare young people for an increasingly technology-driven employment market.



Addressing the gathering, Khemchand Singh said artificial intelligence was rapidly transforming professional sectors across the world and that students needed to adapt to the changing employment landscape.

He expressed hope that the new facility would provide students with better career insights and help them make informed decisions about their academic and professional futures.

The Chief Minister also appreciated students of the host institution for maintaining restraint and avoiding agitation during the regional disruptions witnessed over the past eight months.

Urging the public and student community to avoid street protests during periods of crisis, he emphasised the importance of peaceful dialogue and diplomatic engagement in restoring lasting peace in Manipur.

Later in the day, Singh attended the 27th Foundation Day celebration of Herbert School in Imphal, accompanied by MLA Dr Th Radheshyam Singh.

Recognising the institution's contribution to education, the Chief Minister appreciated its management and teaching staff for their continued efforts to maintain academic standards and provide quality education in the state.

The launch of the Career Intelligence Hub marks an effort to expand technology-based educational support in Manipur, with a focus on helping students navigate changing career requirements and emerging employment opportunities.

Assam Fuel Dealers Call 24-Hour Statewide Shutdown on November 12

GUWAHATI

Petroleum dealers across Assam have announced a 24-hour statewide 'No Purchase, No Sale' protest on November 12, accusing public-sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) of arbitrary decisions, high-handedness and financial harassment.

The dealers have warned that the agitation could escalate into an indefinite shutdown from November 23 if their grievances are not addressed, raising concerns over possible disruptions in petrol and diesel supplies across the state.

The North East India Petroleum Dealers' Association (NEIPDA), Greater Guwahati Unit, said the proposed protest would begin at 6 am on November 12 and continue until 6 am on November 13.

In a statement issued on October 28, the association accused major oil marketing companies, particularly Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), of adopting practices that it claimed were adversely affecting the rights and business interests of petroleum dealers.

According to NEIPDA, dealers have been threatened with disruptions in petrol and diesel supplies over alleged violations without being given adequate opportunities to explain their positions or defend themselves through established procedures.

Association general secretary Arup Goswami questioned the authority of oil marketing companies to exercise such powers, maintaining that they were not law-enforcement agencies and must function within the framework of applicable laws and regulations.

The association has also objected to the alleged cancellation of existing tank-truck transportation consortium arrangements without prior notice. Other grievances include pressure on dealers to purchase additional products, particularly lubricants, and the blocking of fuel-loading facilities.

NEIPDA has raised concerns over the mandatory installation of point-of-sale (POS) machines, alleging that unresolved financial liabilities and pending reimbursements have increased the financial burden on retail outlet operators.

KRC TIMES
STAY ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 915

US MIDTERMS: PEOPLE'S NEEDS TRUMP POLITICAL POWER

Trump's political setback underscores a fundamental lesson for governments everywhere: economic security, affordable living and the everyday concerns of citizens matter more than displays of military strength or global dominance.

Elections are ultimately a test of how governments respond to the everyday concerns of ordinary people. Military strength, geopolitical influence and grand claims of national greatness may create an image of power, but they cannot compensate indefinitely for rising living costs, economic insecurity and public dissatisfaction. The outcome of the latest US midterm elections has once again brought this fundamental democratic truth into focus.

The Republican setback under President Donald Trump reflects growing public discontent with an approach to governance that has placed considerable emphasis on political confrontation, aggressive foreign policy and economic pressure. From military action against Iran and its implications for global oil prices to sweeping tariffs on imports from several countries, Trump's decisions have had consequences that extend beyond diplomatic and strategic calculations. For ordinary Americans, the more immediate concerns are the cost of living, household expenses, economic uncertainty and the affordability of essential goods.

The electoral outcome has therefore become an important political reckoning for the Republican Party. Its loss of congressional ground represents more than a routine midterm setback. It raises questions about the political sustainability of a governing style that often appears more concerned with projecting strength than addressing the everyday anxieties of citizens. The scale of the Republican defeat has also invited comparisons with the party's setbacks following the Watergate scandal in 1974.

However, those celebrating the Republican losses should exercise caution before interpreting the results as the beginning of the end of Trump's political influence. Electoral setbacks do not automatically translate into an immediate transformation of American politics or foreign policy. The presidency retains substantial authority, particularly in matters of diplomacy, national security and international engagement. Trump's political influence, too, cannot be dismissed simply because his party has suffered a setback at the ballot box.

There is also a possibility that domestic political pressure could encourage a more confrontational approach abroad. A leader facing setbacks at home may seek to reinforce an image of strength through foreign policy initiatives. Whether Trump chooses such a course remains to be seen, but the possibility highlights the importance of distinguishing between electoral accountability and an immediate change in the exercise of executive power.

Nevertheless, the message delivered by American voters is significant. Trump had openly urged voters to treat the election as a personal referendum on his leadership, even though his name did not appear on the ballot. The Republican defeat can therefore reasonably be seen as a rejection of important aspects of his political and economic agenda.

Public frustration over tariffs, rising prices, the cost of living, political polarisation, allegations of corruption and divisive rhetoric appears to have become an important part of the wider electoral debate. While voting behaviour is shaped by multiple factors and cannot be reduced to a single issue, the results underline the political risks of overlooking the economic and social concerns of ordinary citizens.

This is not merely an American phenomenon. Across several European countries, including France, Italy and Germany, younger generations have expressed dissatisfaction with the established political order. Rising prices, unemployment, inadequate educational opportunities and concerns over reductions in education spending, alongside increasing military expenditure, have become sources of public frustration.

For many young people, the central grievance is that political decision-makers are failing to respond to their aspirations. They want secure employment, affordable housing, accessible education and a reasonable prospect of a better future. When these expectations remain unfulfilled, confidence in conventional political institutions begins to weaken.

Recent political developments in countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Serbia have also demonstrated how public dissatisfaction can develop into wider movements challenging established political authority. Protests and expressions of discontent have emerged in India as well, although the political circumstances and demands differ from country to country. These developments should not be treated as identical, but they point to a common challenge confronting governments: the growing distance between political priorities and citizens' expectations.

The lesson is particularly relevant in an age when governments frequently measure national progress through defence budgets, infrastructure projects, economic growth figures and international standing. These indicators are undoubtedly important. National security, technological advancement and diplomatic influence remain essential elements of a country's development. But they cannot become substitutes for people's well-being.

A country may possess formidable military capabilities and exercise considerable influence on the international stage, yet its government can still face public rejection if citizens struggle with inflation, unemployment, inadequate healthcare, poor education and declining economic security. Democracy demands more than periodic electoral victories. It requires governments to remain responsive to the people between elections. Political authority is sustained not simply through the assertion of power but through public trust, institutional accountability and the ability to improve everyday lives.

The American midterm elections offer a reminder that no government can indefinitely take public patience for granted. Leaders may command enormous political resources, control powerful institutions and pursue ambitious international agendas, but their legitimacy ultimately depends on the people they govern.

For political leaders across the world, the message should be unmistakable: national greatness cannot be measured merely by the number of weapons in a country's arsenal, its ability to impose tariffs or its influence over other nations. The real measure of successful governance lies in whether ordinary people can live with dignity, security and opportunity.

Ultimately, people do not vote only on the basis of a country's power. They also vote on the basis of how that power translates into their daily lives. The American electoral verdict has once again underscored a simple but enduring democratic principle: the needs of the people must always take precedence over the assertion of power.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In life one must avoid three geometrical figures: vicious circles, love triangles, and square minds." ~ Mario Benedetti

India's push for domestic ammunition production gains urgency amid changing nature of warfare



NAMAN SINGH

The changing nature of modern warfare has brought the importance of domestic ammunition production into sharp focus. Recent conflicts have demonstrated that military strength is determined not merely by the sophistication of weapons but also by the ability to maintain adequate supplies of ammunition, missiles, drones and counter-drone systems over an extended period.

For India, the challenge is particularly significant. Despite both its principal adversaries being nuclear-armed nations, the possibility of prolonged conventional conflicts under a nuclear umbrella cannot be ruled out. Future battlefields are expected to be dominated increasingly by drones, missiles and precision-guided weapons. However, artillery and armoured formations will continue to play important roles, albeit with evolving tactics and operational concepts.

The experience of ongoing conflicts has underlined a crucial lesson: a country cannot afford to depend excessively on foreign suppliers for ammunition during a war.

The conflict involving Iran has exposed the limitations of even the world's most advanced military supply chains. US President Donald Trump has acknowledged that American stocks of certain critical munitions have declined following the conflict. The Pentagon has reportedly been compelled to shift ammunition reserves from Asia and Europe to the Middle East to meet operational requirements.

Although the United States manufactures most of its ammunition domestically, its experience highlights two important weaknesses. First, several advanced weapons systems depend on rare earth elements and other strategic materials sourced from China. Second, the emphasis on highly sophisticated and expensive weapons has created a production imbalance.

As defence analyst Michael Horowitz has pointed out, the American military's shift towards quality over quantity has left it with limited production capacity for certain weapons. The use of multi-million-dollar interceptor missiles against relatively inexpensive drones has further exposed this weakness. Replenishing such sophisticated weapons could take years, particularly when production facilities are unable to meet sudden increases in demand.

The experience has forced Washington to reconsider the economics of using expensive missiles against comparatively cheap aerial threats.

Ukraine is facing similar difficulties. Shortages of AIM-9 Sidewinder and AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles, along with maintenance constraints, have affected the operational availability of its F-16 fighter fleet. Some aircraft have reportedly remained grounded because of difficulties in securing missiles and maintenance support.

Ukraine has also been compelled to rely on cannon ammunition against Russian drones as stocks of air-to-air missiles have dwindled. Its dependence on European manufacturers for artillery ammunition and foreign facilities for aircraft maintenance has further complicated its military operations.

The maintenance of F-16 aircraft illustrates the problem.

Inspections that would normally take two to four weeks have reportedly stretched to as long as 40 weeks in certain cases. This has reduced aircraft availability at a time when operational requirements remain high.

Ukraine is also struggling to maintain adequate stocks of PAC-3 interceptors for its Patriot air defence systems. It has consequently explored alternatives, including the Franco-Italian SAMP/T system, which uses Aster missiles and offers a comparatively less expensive option. Germany, meanwhile, is considering expanding Patriot missile production to address the growing demand.

Russia has adopted a different approach to sustaining its military requirements. It has increased domestic ammunition production while also sourcing supplies from friendly countries, including North Korea. Its missile production capacity has reportedly reached around 100 ballistic missiles a month. It has also relied on China for certain components, including jet engines for its Geran-series drones.

These developments demonstrate that domestic manufacturing capacity, combined with reliable international partnerships, can significantly influence a country's ability to sustain prolonged military operations.

For India, the lessons are particularly relevant. The country has historically depended on imports for several critical weapons systems and ammunition requirements. Following the use of Russian S-400 air defence systems during Operation Sindoor, India placed orders for an additional 288 missiles, covering both short- and long-range variants. It also ordered 216 Excalibur precision-guided artillery rounds from the United States at a cost of approximately $47.1 million. Efforts are additionally under way to explore the domestic co-production of Javelin anti-tank missiles.

Such purchases remain important for strengthening military capabilities. However, they also highlight the risks associated with dependence on external suppliers, particularly during periods of heightened geopolitical tensions.

Foreign supplies can be delayed, restricted or disrupted by the priorities of exporting countries. Such interruptions can have serious consequences during an active conflict. Dependence on imports also increases foreign exchange expenditure, limits strategic autonomy and can restrict access to critical technologies.

India learnt this lesson during the 1999 Kargil War. After expending thousands of artillery rounds during the initial stages of the conflict, the country faced shortages and was compelled to procure around 50,000 rounds from South Africa. Mortar ammunition also had to be sourced from Israel.

Despite this experience, comprehensive reforms in domestic ammunition production took considerable time to materialise. A decisive shift towards self-reliance gathered momentum after 2014.

Recognising the strategic importance of reducing import dependence, the government began expanding domestic defence manufacturing under the broader objective of Aatmanirbharta. An important component of this transformation was the restructuring of loss-making defence public sector undertakings through corporatisation, with the aim of improving their efficiency and commercial performance.

The government also opened the defence manufacturing sector to private companies and increasingly prioritised domestic procurement over imports. Academic institutions and research organisations were encouraged to collaborate with industry in developing advanced and smart ammunition.

The results have been significant. India now manufactures more than 150 of the 175 types of ammunition used by the Army, meeting approximately 90-91 per cent of its requirements. This represents a substantial improvement from the estimated 32 per cent of requirements met through domestic production in 2014.

The improvement is particularly important given earlier concerns over inadequate war reserves of ammunition, which had also been highlighted by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The focus has now expanded beyond conventional ammunition to emerging technologies. With drones becoming increasingly important in modern conflicts, Indian defence manufacturers are developing indigenous unmanned aerial systems as well as technologies to detect, disrupt and destroy hostile drones.

These include multi-layer micro-missile counter-drone systems, electronic warfare-based anti-drone solutions and directed-energy weapons. Domestic manufacturers are also working on different categories of drones for surveillance, logistics, interception and offensive operations.

Several advanced platforms are under development, including long-range attack and loitering systems with ranges of up to 1,000 kilometres, jet-powered loitering munitions and interceptor drones.

However, dependence on Chinese-origin components remains a concern. Ensuring the reliability and security of these systems through stringent testing and the development of indigenous alternatives will be essential to achieving genuine self-reliance.

In another important policy initiative, the government has approved the transfer of technology for manufacturing conventional missile systems to private-sector companies. The initiative covers several categories, including surface-to-air missiles, air-to-air missiles, anti-radiation missiles and anti-tank systems. Cruise missiles are also expected to be included in subsequent phases.

The objective is to broaden India's manufacturing base, increase production capacity and reduce dependence on a limited number of defence suppliers. Greater domestic production will also become necessary as India seeks to expand its defence exports and establish itself as a reliable international supplier.

The central lesson from recent conflicts is that advanced weapon platforms alone cannot guarantee military success. The ability to sustain operations through adequate stocks of ammunition, missiles and other essential supplies is equally critical.

India's earlier dependence on imported ammunition exposed its military preparedness to external uncertainties, as the Kargil conflict demonstrated. The subsequent shift towards domestic manufacturing represents an important strategic correction.

However, self-reliance must extend beyond assembling weapons within the country. It requires indigenous technologies, secure supply chains, domestic production of critical components, adequate manufacturing capacity and sustained investment in research and development.



DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Assam has recorded a significant decline in maternal deaths attributed to sepsis, from 21% in July to 8% in October 2026.

Recognising this progress, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has invited Assam to present its infection-control model at today's virtual discussion with states reporting a higher incidence of maternal sepsis deaths.

We will share our interventions, implementation experience and outcomes to support wider learning and strengthen efforts towards safer motherhood across the country.
~ Ashok Singhal, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education & Research, Govt. of Assam



Kaushik Rai moves to resolve journalists' accreditation hurdles in Cachar; 90 receive Diwali gifts

SILCHAR

Assam Minister Kaushik Rai has taken up the long-pending issue of journalists' accreditation cards in Cachar, directing officials to ensure that eligible media professionals are not denied government recognition and associated facilities due to documentation gaps or administrative complications.

Rai raised the issue at a programme organised by the Cachar district administration at the new conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner's office on Friday. The event also witnessed the distribution of Diwali gifts on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to 90 accredited journalists of the district. Each journalist received an induction cooktop as a festive gift.

Addressing the gathering, Rai said the Chief Minister's gesture of recognising and appreciating the contribution of journalists was not new. Last year,



journalists were presented with mobile phones, while this year induction cooktops had been sent as Diwali and Kali Puja gifts. He thanked the Chief Minister on behalf of the journalist community for the initiative.

However, the minister placed particular emphasis on the difficulties faced by journalists in obtaining accreditation cards issued through the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and its district-level mechanisms.

He pointed out that several eligible journalists, including senior media professionals, were facing difficulties because of incomplete documentation or discrepancies in official records. As a result, some were reportedly unable to access important government programmes and VIP events or avail themselves of facilities meant for accredited journalists. To address the issue, Rai directed officials of the Barak Valley Zone of the Information and Public Relations Department to prepare a comprehensive list of journalists working in Cachar, particularly those who have been waiting for accreditation cards for a long time.

He asked the officials to examine their applications and verify their eligibility before preparing the list. The verified document is to be submitted to the district administration through the Deputy Commissioner so that it can be forwarded to the higher authorities of DIPR for necessary action. Rai said an updated and verified database of journalists would also help improve coordination between the administration and the media during government programmes, election-related activities and vote counting. He stressed that genuine journalists should not face unnecessary obstacles while performing their professional duties. Earlier, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar Gupta conveyed the Chief Minister's Diwali greetings to the journalists. Describing the media as an indispensable pillar of democracy, he said the responsibility of journalists extended beyond reporting events. They also played an important role in bringing public grievances, demands and issues of public interest to the attention of the administration.

Gupta said the relationship between the administration and the media should be based on mutual trust, transparency and cooperation. While the administration was responsible for delivering public services and implementing development initiatives, the media served as an important link between the government and the people. He also appreciated journalists in Cachar for carrying out their responsibilities despite challenging circumstances. Silchar MP Parimal Suklabaidya said the significance of the Chief Minister's gifts lay not in their monetary value but in the affection and recognition behind the gesture. Comparing Assam to a large family, he said the initiative reflected the spirit of sharing festive happiness with people from different sections of society.

Rajya Sabha MP Kanad Purkayastha also appreciated the initiative, observing that the respect and affection associated with the gifts were more important than their material value. Journalists, he said, played a vital role in keeping society informed, highlighting public-interest issues and promoting awareness. Recognising their contribution was also a responsibility of the government and elected representatives. Silchar Municipal Corporation Mayor Amarendra Paul, Deputy Mayor Bijendra Prasad Singh and Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagriti Kalwar were among those present. Assistant Commissioner Jagriti Kalwar informed the gathering that 90 journalists had been included in the list for distribution of the gifts. Sajjadu l Haque Chowdhury, the officer in charge of DIPR activities in the Barak Valley Zone, distributed the induction cooktops.

Speaking on behalf of the journalist community, Silchar Press Club secretary Shankar Dey thanked Rai for taking up the accreditation issue. He urged the DIPR authorities to expedite the scrutiny of pending applications and issue accreditation cards to eligible journalists without further delay.

Assam eyes 30,000 hectares for makhana farming; 25-bigha beel could earn Rs 25 lakh annually: Pijush Hazarika

GUWAHATI

State plans to introduce fox nut cultivation in 30 per cent of AFDC-managed fisheries under a pilot project to diversify rural incomes and support traditional fishing communities

Assam is planning to expand makhana (fox nut) cultivation across 30,000 hectares, with the state government proposing to introduce the crop in 30 per cent of fisheries managed by the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation (AFDC) under a pilot initiative to boost rural incomes.

Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika announced the plan on November 6 while chairing a joint meeting with lessees of natural water bodies, locally known as beels, at the Assam Administrative Staff College in Guwahati. The meeting was organised in coordination with the Fisheries Department to explore opportunities for integrating makhana cultivation with traditional fishing activities.Hazarika said experimental makhana cultivation was already underway in seven to eight beels and stressed the need to extend the initiative to more water bodies to create additional income opportunities for fishing communities.Under the proposed pilot project, makhana cultivation will initially be introduced in 30 per cent of the 186 fisheries managed by the AFDC.Highlighting the economic potential of the crop, the minister said a 25-bigha beel could generate annual revenue of up to Rs 25 lakh through makhana cultivation.He urged fisheries lessees to clear water hyacinth from the water bodies to create suitable conditions for both fish farming and fox nut cultivation.The minister also assured government assistance, including specialised training, for farmers interested in taking up makhana cultivation. He asked officials to create awareness among traditional fishing communities about the potential economic benefits of diversifying their activities.Hazarika said achieving the Agriculture Department's target of bringing 30,000 hectares under makhana cultivation would require close coordination with the Fisheries Department.Describing makhana as an emerging global superfood with increasing demand in Western markets, he said agricultural diversification was important for improving rural livelihoods and ensuring long-term economic sustainability.

Mizoram fireworks law: Govt employees face up to 6 months in jail, Rs 1 lakh fine

AIZAWL

Government employees in Mizoram found violating the state's new fireworks regulation law could face imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh, Home Minister K Sapdanga said on November 6.Briefing reporters at the Aizawl Press Club, Sapdanga outlined the provisions of The Mizoram Regulation of Fireworks Act, 2026, which was passed by the state Assembly in August and notified in September.The legislation aims to regulate the use, possession and sale of fireworks and related materials by introducing a permission-based system and prescribing penalties for violations.

Under the new law, fireworks cannot be used, lit or possessed without prior permission from the respective Deputy Commissioner, the minister said.

He also clarified that the sale of fireworks and related materials without the requisite licence is prohibited under the Explosives Act, 1884.Explaining the penalties, Sapdanga said individuals violating Sections 3 and 4 of the new legislation by using or possessing fireworks without permission could face imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to Rs 50,000.If a child below 12 years of age violates these provisions, the responsibility for the penalty would rest with the parents or legal guardians, he added.The law prescribes stricter punishment for government employees found violating its provisions. According to the minister, they could face imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Those violating Section 5 by selling fireworks or related materials without authorisation could face prosecution under the Explosives Act, 1884. The punishment may include imprisonment of up to two years, a fine, or both.

Sapdanga further said offences under the new legislation were classified as cognisable and bailable. This allows police to register cases without obtaining prior permission from a magistrate.

'Historical blunders' left Northeast geographically isolated: Pradyot Deb Barma

AGARTALA

Tipra Motha Party founder Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barma has described the geographical isolation of the Northeast as the consequence of what he termed a series of historical blunders, alleging that India missed crucial opportunities during Partition and the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War to secure territories that could have strengthened the region's connectivity.

Deb Barma argued that parts of the erstwhile Kingdom of Tripura, which he claimed were historically connected to the princely state, could have been included within India during Partition. He alleged that the Centre failed to pursue the matter despite the willingness of Tripura's erstwhile royal family to merge those territories with India.

"At that time, the Government of India should have pushed



for the inclusion of parts of the Kingdom of Tripura, which the Maharaja and the Rajmata were subsequently ready to merge with India. But the Government of India, for whatever reason, did not include parts of East Pakistan, which today could have been very beneficial for our state, our Northeast and our country," he said.

The Tipra Motha founder also pointed to the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, arguing that India had another opportunity to negotiate territorial arrangements that could have improved connectivity in the Northeast.

Referring to the approximately 90,000 Pakistani soldiers taken into Indian custody following the war, Deb Barma said New Delhi could have used the situation to negotiate for territories that would have benefited the region.

"Another chance came in 1971, when 90,000 Pakistani soldiers were in India's custody; we could have negotiated at that time. But we did not do it even then. Opportunities like this do not come repeatedly, and we lost this opportunity. This is a historical blunder," he said.

He maintained that the Northeast continues to face geographical isolation because of historical political and territorial decisions that, in his view, were not adequately addressed by successive governments.Clarifying that his remarks were not intended to target any particular political party or individual, Deb Barma said the issue should be viewed from a broader historical and geographical perspective.

He also questioned why discussions on territorial claims generally focus on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, while historical developments in India's eastern neighbourhood receive comparatively less attention.

"Why should we only talk about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir? A lot has happened in our East as well, which was wrong," he said.

Deb Barma called for greater recognition of territories that he considers historically inseparable from the region, arguing that their separation had long-term implications for the Northeast's geographical position and connectivity.

Manipur CM reaches out to Kuki women, says many in hills favour peace

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on November 6 said many people in the hill areas of the state wanted peace, stressing the need for dialogue and reconciliation among communities affected by the prolonged ethnic conflict.

Addressing a BJP political conference at Irengbam Mapal Kangjeibung in Bishnupur district, organised in support of the party's prospective candidate for the Oinam Assembly constituency, Kh Jibon Singh, the Chief Minister said the violence had caused widespread suffering across communities, including in Bishnupur.

Describing the conflict as unfortunate, Khemchand Singh said people must find a way to live together as Manipuris, irrespective of their community affiliations.

"With that in mind, I started reaching out and talking with other communities," he said, explaining



his efforts to establish communication with people from different sections of the state.

The Chief Minister referred to his recent visit to the Sinai designated camp in Kangpokpi district, where CRPF personnel were deployed. He said he interacted with Kuki women who had gathered to meet him during the visit.

"I met with Kuki mothers who were waiting for me. There are many in hill areas who want peace. Some want to destroy peace," he said.

Khemchand Singh said his government and the BJP were aware of the hardships endured by people, particularly women and mothers, during the three years of ethnic violence. He assured that efforts would be made to address their difficulties and reduce their suffering.

"The BJP knows very well the hardships faced by the people and, more specifically, by the mothers and women during the last three years, and the party will definitely make sure that those hardships are eased," he said.

The Chief Minister also praised Jibon Singh for his organisational activities during the difficult period, saying he had remained connected with people and worked to strengthen the party.Appealing to voters to support the BJP leader in the upcoming Assembly elections, Khemchand Singh said electing an MLA was the responsibility of the electorate, while the party leadership would decide the responsibilities assigned to the elected representative in the Assembly.

Manipur is likely to go to Assembly polls early next year. The Chief Minister's outreach remarks come amid continuing efforts to rebuild trust between communities following the prolonged ethnic conflict that has deeply affected the state's social and political landscape.

Rahul Gandhi not taken seriously even within Congress, claims Assam minister Ashok Singhal



GUWAHATI

Assam minister Ashok Singhal launched a fresh attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning his demand for a public debate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and accusing him of avoiding discussions in Parliament.

Singhal claimed that Gandhi was not taken seriously even within the Congress party and alleged that the Leader of the Opposition lacked consistency in his political statements.

"Rahul Gandhi is not taken seriously by the Congress party itself. The people of the country also do not take him seriously. Why are you taking him so seriously?" Singhal said.

Responding to Gandhi's call for a debate with the Prime Minister, the Assam minister said open discussions were essential in a democracy but argued that Parliament was the appropriate constitutional platform for such exchanges.

"A debate should happen. Debate is very important in a democracy. But where should the debate take place? There must be a proper platform for it. The Constitution has designated Parliament as the place for debate," he said.

Singhal pointed out that Rahul Gandhi was the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, while Narendra Modi was the Leader of the House. He questioned why the Congress leader did not use Parliament to raise issues and challenge the government.

"So why doesn't Rahul Gandhi speak in Parliament? He runs away from Parliament and does not allow the House to function," Singhal alleged.Taking another swipe at the Congress leader, Singhal predicted that Gandhi would leave for a foreign tour within the next few days instead of pursuing his demand for a debate.

"Just wait four days, and you will see him leave for a foreign tour. There is no consistency in him," he remarked.

The Assam minister also praised Prime Minister Modi's leadership, claiming that India had undergone a significant transformation in its global standing over the past 12-and-a-half years.

"In the last 12 and a half years, Modi ji has brought the country out of darkness and made India a Vishwamitra," Singhal said.

His remarks add to the political exchange between the BJP and Congress over Rahul Gandhi's demand for a direct debate with the Prime Minister.

Two Manipur districts achieve global 95-95-95 HIV targets under NACO initiative

Imphal West and Pherzawl receive 'Surakshit' status; CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh urges other districts to replicate the achievement

IMPHAL

Manipur's Imphal West and Pherzawl districts have achieved the 'Surakshit' status under the National AIDS Control Organisation's (NACO) Mobilization for AIDS Suraksha (MAS) initiative, becoming the first districts in the state to meet the prescribed 95-95-95 HIV targets.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh felicitated representatives of the two districts on November 6 at a programme organised by the Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS) at the Cabinet Hall of the Chief Minister's Office in Mantripukhri.

Congratulating the districts on the achievement, Khemchand Singh urged Health Department officials to work collectively towards securing the same recognition for the remaining districts of Manipur.

Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare and MACS president Sumant Singh said the recognition marked a significant milestone, as



it was the first time in the society's history that districts in Manipur had attained 'Surakshit' status.

Explaining the criteria, he said the achievement was based on the 95-95-95 targets, which require 95 per cent of the estimated number of people living with HIV to know their status, 95 per cent of those diagnosed to receive antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95 per cent of those undergoing treatment to achieve viral suppression.

Viral suppression indicates that HIV treatment has effectively controlled the virus, reducing its impact on the patient's health and the risk of transmission.

During the programme, the Chief Minister felicitated representatives of the Imphal West and Pherzawl district administrations, their respective Chief Medical Offices and the District Integrated Strategy of HIV teams for their contributions.

A presentation was also made highlighting the initiatives and efforts undertaken by the two districts to achieve the prescribed targets and qualify for 'Surakshit' status.

The programme was attended by Chief Secretary Rajeev Singh Thakur, MACS Project Director Anna Arambam and Imphal West Deputy Commissioner Mayanglambam Rajkumar Singh. Pherzawl Deputy Commissioner Anunay Anand joined the programme through video conferencing, along with other officials.

The achievement is expected to provide momentum to Manipur's efforts to strengthen HIV testing, treatment coverage and viral suppression across all districts.

Quest!

AskHole: a person who constantly asks for your advice, then does the exact opposite.



NATIONAL

Abhishek alleges attack on residence by 'BJP hooligans', Bengal minister rejects charge



KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee alleged that his residence here was attacked by "BJP hooligans" early on Saturday, a charge the ruling party in West Bengal rejected.

In a post on X, Banerjee claimed that the accused had conducted reconnaissance of his office and home in south Kolkata for two consecutive days before attacking his residence.

He also shared a video, purportedly showing the incident, on social media.

"After two days of continuous recce, this is how BJP hooligans attacked my house at 2 am today. Watch the footage and see for yourself. If this is what can happen to an elected Member of Parliament, imagine the plight of the common man in WB," Banerjee said on X after sharing a video.

West Bengal Panchayats and Rural Development Minister Dilip Ghosh rubbished the allegation, saying that "when power goes out of hand, such a charge is common".

Banerjee also criticised the judiciary and the police, alleging that there had been no judicial intervention and police action despite alleged repeated attacks.

The Diamond Harbour MP claimed that this was "the seventh attempt on my life in the last six months. Yet, there has been no police action and no judicial intervention". Banerjee alleged, "Hooligans are running riot across the state because the judiciary continues to turn a blind eye.

Thank you, Milords, for remaining mute spectators!" The incident reportedly began when BJP supporters raised 'chor' (thief) slogans outside his Kalighat residence, triggering counter-sloganeering and a confrontation with TMC supporters who were outside Banerjee's residence.

It was not clear whether the TMC supporters arrived at night for his birthday on Saturday.

Locals claimed that the situation escalated into a commotion between the two groups, with allegations of assault and stone-pelting.

The Kolkata Police said a commotion had occurred between the two groups, prompting a police team to intervene.

An investigation into the incident is underway, a police officer said, without divulging the details of the incident.

Banerjee also alleged that TMC workers were assaulted and stones and bricks were hurled at them.

He claimed that some of his supporters sustained serious injuries, with one requiring plastic surgery, while another suffered a fracture near the eye.

'Modi govt has done great damage to our democracy, institutions': Sonia Gandhi



NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has alleged that the Narendra Modi government has caused "great damage" to India's democracy, institutions and the country's social fabric over the past 12 years, warning that restoring the systems even after the government leaves office would require considerable time and effort.

In an interview with a national daily ahead of the November 10 launch of her memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, the former Congress president said people were increasingly recognising the damage and becoming restless. However, she expressed optimism that Indians would welcome a return to what she described as proper governance.

"Over the last twelve years great damage has been done to the fabric of our country, our democracy and our institutions. Even after this government goes, it will take time to restore our systems back to health and great effort from political parties," she said.

Asked about the decline of the Congress and her assessment of its present condition and prospects, Gandhi said, "I am not so pessimistic. Consider that the Congress party and other opposition parties have not had a level playing field since this government came to power.

"Take into account the complete stranglehold they have on all institutions, especially the Election Commission, their control of mainstream media, their money power and their exploitation of religion."

"Yet, our party is fighting and making progress; in fact, it is the only party that has had the resilience to withstand this onslaught," Gandhi said.

She alleged that Congress workers and leaders "have faced persecution of all kinds".

"And yet, in every village and every district, Congressmen and women are still fighting for the values enshrined in our Constitution," she said.

"What is more, it has been amply proved in recent months that many elections have been stolen, and people are now more aware of it," she alleged. "The Congress is working with like-minded parties, and our prospects are improving day by day," she said.

'Belonging: A Journey of Love', published by HarperCollins India, is a personal memoir, with politics providing the background or "a kind of framework", as she puts it in the book.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi and what lessons the Congress should draw from his rise, Gandhi said, "It's true that he comes from a very different ideological world. But there are many ways that people succeed in politics within the Congress party, take for example Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. I don't think we have much to learn from the RSS."

On whether she wonders how UPA policies and Congress strategy might have differed had she accepted to become prime minister in 2004, Gandhi said, "No, not at all. That has never crossed my mind. Our experience was by and large a very positive one. We worked as a team, and our roles were distinct, with him (Singh) leading the government and I leading the party."

Last month, Sonia had said that others have spent decades telling her story and now it's her turn. She had also said there is bound to be some "tamasha" when her memoir comes out on November 10.

The 544-page memoir, published by HarperCollins India, is a personal account of Gandhi's life, with politics serving as its backdrop. It traces her childhood in post-war Veneto, Italy, her meeting with Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge in 1965, their marriage and her transition to life in India.

The book also recounts major personal tragedies, including the deaths of Sanjay Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, and examines the political developments surrounding the Congress-led alliance's victory in the 2004 general elections, when Sonia Gandhi declined the prime minister's post.

The memoir's Indian publication follows an earlier impasse between Gandhi's representatives and Penguin Random House India, which had initially expressed interest in publishing it but later withdrew. The development triggered allegations by some Congress leaders that the publisher had faced government pressure over references to Modi, the RSS and China's occupation of Indian territory. Penguin Random House India denied any external pressure, saying it had stepped away following a stalemate over a particular issue.

Gandhi had earlier said that others had spent decades telling her story and that it was now her turn to tell it. She had also indicated that the memoir's release would generate considerable public and political attention.

INTERNATIONAL

US military carries out new targeted strikes on Iran as Tehran's leaders weigh mediator's proposals

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said the U.S. military on Friday carried out new limited strikes on Iran, targeting an Iranian air defense system.

Iranian state media reported the sound of two explosions in the Suza area of Qeshm Island, which is in the crucial waterway for oil shipments.

Trump in an exchange with reporters described the military action as "minor."

"They knocked out -- they built a little bit of an anti-aircraft device and we knocked it out in about 15 minutes, maybe five," Trump told reporters shortly after arriving in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday evening.

Trump did not offer further details about the target. But U.S. officials have reported that most of Iran's air defense systems were destroyed or severely degraded during a June 2025 bombardment by Israel and in the early stages of the current conflict. U.S. officials have assessed that Iran would try to rebuild them and other military infrastructure over time.

The U.S. military also reported carrying out what it described as defensive strikes on Monday. Explosions were heard on the islands of Qeshm and Hengam in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, and in the nearby mainland area of Bandar Abbas.

Friday's strikes are the first since Trump's Republican Party was dealt a stunning repudiation in Tuesday's midterm elections in the U.S.

The electoral setback — Republicans lost both chambers of Congress — was stoked in part by voter dissatisfaction with Trump's execution of the conflict and elevated fuel prices, a byproduct of the war that's affected nearly every sector of the global economy.

In the days since Republicans' shellacking at the polls, Trump has vacillated between threatening to "destroy" Iran and suggesting a resolution to the war is near.

Earlier Friday, two Middle East government officials said Iran was reviewing proposals presented by chief mediator Qatar aimed at addressing differences with the United States about Tehran's nuclear program.

But one of the officials stressed that the Iranians, at least at the moment, remain unwilling to engage in negotiations with the Trump administration over their atomic activities until the U.S. agrees to several core conditions that Iran has been demanding be part of any ceasefire agreement.

Differences with Iran over its nuclear program remain the thorniest issue and one that Trump insists must be resolved as part of any deal meant to end the more than 8-month-old war.

Both officials were not authorized to comment publicly on the delicate negotiations and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East, announced in a post on X late Friday that the United States was offering "a reward of up to $20 million and possible relocation for information about Iran's nuclear program, including its facilities, equipment, and associated personnel, such as those in the scientific community, or the movement of any of the above."

The post included a link to the State Department's Rewards for Justice program.

The White House declined to comment about the Qatari-presented proposals on Iran's nuclear program, but Trump noted earlier Friday in an exchange with reporters that mediators' discussions with Iran continue.

"We are talking to Iran. We have been," said Trump, who insists the U.S. military remains in control of the conflict with a battered Iran.

Yet, Tehran insists on several concessions from the U.S., which Trump has declined in the past. Among the core demands Iran says must be met before engaging in nuclear talks: ending the U.S. blockade on Iran's ports, lifting sanctions, unfreezing its assets, issuing compensation for war damage and ending hostilities throughout the region, including Israeli operations in Lebanon.

Mediators and Iran have discussed a potential bridge deal aimed at helping pave the way for further talks on Tehran's nuclear program, according to regional officials.

They said the proposal, which was recently presented to the two sides by Qatari mediators, called for implementing trust-building measures over the course of two days.

These measures include lifting the U.S. blockade and releasing some of the billions of dollars in Iranian frozen funds seized over the years as part of a U.S. campaign to isolate Iran over its nuclear program. In return, Tehran would allow International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors at its sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel, the officials said.

On the second day, Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz in line with a modified agreement that Iran and Oman have reached on the waterway but has not been approved by the United States, the officials said. That mechanism would be temporary until a permanent deal is reached on the strait in cooperation with other Gulf countries, they said.

Following the implementation of the measures, the U.S. and Iran would embark on extensive talks addressing Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium as well as other aspects of its program, the officials said.

Iran has long maintained that its nuclear program is peaceful. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

A flurry of diplomatic phone calls in recent days between leaders in the Persian Gulf and beyond has been aimed at easing tensions in the region. Concerns have mounted over the possibility that Trump could still order the U.S. military to carry out new strikes against Iran.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth spoke Friday with his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, about developments, according to the Qatari government.

The Qatari government announced the call between the countries' defense officials after confirming earlier Friday that Trump and Qatar's emir had a separate call to discuss efforts to deescalate tensions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also held phone calls with his Iraqi and Tunisian counterparts on Friday to discuss tensions in the region. Araghchi and Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein discussed Tehran's vision for resuming negotiations with the U.S., according to Iraq's News Agency.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, who held two calls with Araghchi this week, said Friday in a post on X that it was critical that both sides demonstrate "flexibility" to achieve the "compromise solutions" necessary to prevent the region from sliding into a new wave of escalation.

Egypt's top diplomat also held a phone call with his Emirati counterpart, Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to emphasize the importance of political negotiations to prevent another military confrontation that could fuel violence and destruction, according to a statement by Egypt's Foreign Ministry.

US offers $20 million reward for info on 'Iran's nuclear program': CENTCOM



WASHINGTON

Washington is offering a $20 million reward "and possible relocation" for information about Iran's nuclear program, the US military said Friday, as President Donald Trump reiterated Tehran wants to make a deal to end the war.

A State Department program, Rewards for Justice, "is offering a reward of up to $20 million and possible relocation for information about Iran's nuclear program, including its facilities, equipment, and associated personnel, such as those in the scientific community," US Central Command said on X.

The program was established in 1984 under the State Department's national security rewards program to offer money for information that protects American lives and interests.

In its statement about the reward, the State Department said Iran's "lack of compliance with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) on safeguards obligations has led to the agency's loss of 'continuity of knowledge' regarding Iran's production and inventory of key components like centrifuges.

It gave no specific parameters on what information would yield a $20 million reward. Trump has repeatedly said US forces have effectively obliterated Iran's nuclear program. "If we didn't hit Iran, you wouldn't have Israel today," Trump said Friday night in West Palm Beach, Florida. "If they had nuclear, they would have used nuclear. They would have obliterated the Middle East."

But the president also said Iran -- which he stressed has had its economy and military severely damaged over eight months of war -- is eager to end the conflict.

"We're dealing with them now. They want to make a deal very badly," he said.

Diplomatic efforts by mediators have been in full swing in an attempt to prevent any resumption of fighting. And on Tuesday Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said his government was still trying to resolve the crisis through dialogue.

Earlier this week Trump said he still had to "take care" of one or two targets, including so-called Pickaxe Mountain in central Iran, a suspected nuclear site which Tehran denies is such a facility.

Let Diwali Become the Guiding Light for a Developed and Prosperous India

Beyond material prosperity, let a new India be illuminated by human values, self-purification, non-violence and self-restraint

LALIT GARG



Diwali is not merely a celebration of the triumph of light over darkness. It is an occasion to awaken our inner consciousness, give a new direction to lives that have lost their way, and re-examine our values at a critical juncture in the evolution of civilisation. Today, India is moving rapidly towards becoming a developed, prosperous, capable and self-reliant nation. Its economic strength, technological capabilities, rich cultural heritage and spiritual outlook have inspired growing confidence across the world. At such a time, the light of Diwali must not remain confined to the doorsteps of our homes; it must illuminate the wider horizon of national consciousness.

Yet, a profound question confronts us. Why is the light within people gradually fading even as the number of lamps around us continues to grow? Homes are brightly illuminated, markets are bustling, cities are adorned with electric lights, and technology is making life increasingly comfortable. Yet anxiety, insecurity, violence, selfishness, intolerance and attachment are deepening in human minds. Have we become so preoccupied with lighting countless lamps outside that we have forgotten to kindle even a single flame within ourselves?

The roots of terrorism, violence, war, hatred and hostility lie not merely in weapons or machines but in the distorted consciousness of human beings. Therefore, strengthening security arrangements alone cannot provide a lasting solution to terrorism. What is needed is a collective resolve to reject unnecessary violence. As long as the fire of revenge continues to burn in human hearts, the lamps of peace cannot spread their full radiance across the world. Non-violence is not merely a principle of Jain philosophy; it is also an indispensable condition for safeguarding the future of human civilisation.

In this context, a beautiful spiritual anecdote comes to mind. Once, Darkness complained to Brahma that the Sun was constantly pursuing it and seeking to destroy it. The Sun, however, responded, "I do not even know what darkness is. How, then, could I wish to destroy it? Let darkness first be brought before me."

When Darkness was asked to appear before the Sun, it replied, "How can I go before him? The moment I stand in his presence, my very existence will disappear."

The relationship between spiritual knowledge and ignorance is much the same. When the sun of knowledge rises, the darkness of ignorance cannot survive. When the lamp of compassion is lit, the shadows of violence gradually recede. When the flame of self-restraint burns bright, the dominance of attachment and illusion begins to weaken. The true significance of Diwali, therefore, lies not merely in cleaning and decorating our homes but in purifying our inner selves.

In the weeks preceding Diwali, we spend considerable time removing dust from every corner of our homes, organising old belongings, renovating walls and giving our surroundings a fresh appearance. But do we ever clear the dust of jealousy that accumulates in the corners of our minds? Do we wipe away the stains of anger? Do we remove the cobwebs of arrogance? Are we willing to discard the old burdens of greed and attachment? If, during this Diwali, we can devote ourselves even once to such an exercise in self-purification, the festival will become one of the most meaningful celebrations of our lives.

Acharya Shri Mahapragya, an eminent Jain philosopher and spiritual practitioner, regarded introspection as one of the most important paths to inner enlightenment. His observation was simple yet profound: people have developed an increasing habit of looking outward, while the practice of looking within has steadily weakened. Today, we have countless ways of observing the world, but hardly any time to understand ourselves. The screens of our mobile phones glow brightly, while the screens of our minds are becoming increasingly clouded. The storehouse of information is expanding, but the lamp of self-awareness appears to be growing dimmer. Perhaps this is one of the greatest contradictions of our times: we are preparing to reach the Moon, yet hesitate to explore the dark corners of our own consciousness.

A new India cannot be built merely through towering buildings, a rapidly expanding economy, advanced technology or world-class infrastructure. The true identity of a developed India will emerge from the enlightened consciousness and human values of its citizens. Prosperity becomes meaningful only when compassion remains alive. Power becomes constructive only when guided by restraint. Science serves humanity best when directed by wisdom. And development achieves its fullest purpose only when both human beings and nature remain at its centre.

India's timeless cultural heritage conveyed this profound message to humanity centuries ago: "Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya" — lead us from darkness to light. The journey from ignorance to knowledge, from disorder to self-discipline, and from selfishness to concern for others lies at the heart of India's enduring civilisational ethos.

As India moves towards establishing itself as a global leader and a guiding force for humanity, its greatest strength cannot be limited to economic performance or technological excellence. India's real wealth lies in its timeless civilisational wisdom and humanistic outlook.

Diwali can become an occasion to carry this eternal wisdom towards new horizons. It is not enough for the world to know that India is advancing economically; India must demonstrate how a nation can pursue development while remaining deeply rooted in human values.

What we need is a model of development in which nature receives the respect it deserves, the deprived are treated with compassion, the elderly are accorded dignity, young people are given opportunities, women enjoy dignity and security, and every citizen has the right to live a safe, peaceful and meaningful life.

Today, the lamps of Diwali must become symbols of national resolve. Let there be one lamp for self-restraint, another for non-violence, one for environmental protection, another for social harmony, one for women's dignity, another for honesty, and yet another for patriotism. When millions of lamps are lit in millions of homes with these values at their heart, India's light will no longer remain confined to houses and marketplaces; it will illuminate the path of humanity as well.

A lamp possesses a remarkable quality: it burns itself to spread light to others. The essential character of Indian culture is much the same. Guided by the ideal of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" — the world is one family — a civilisation cannot separate its own progress from the welfare of the world. If India aspires to become a guiding force for humanity, it must offer the world not only knowledge but also the wisdom of balance. It must present not merely a model of prosperity but also a pathway to peace.

This Diwali, we must ask ourselves at least one question: What darkness still remains within me? Is it anger, greed, arrogance, jealousy, fear, insensitivity or indifference to the suffering of others? For darkness does not disappear simply by condemning it. A small lamp must be lit to dispel it.

A lamp also teaches us another profound lesson: life is not about escaping difficult circumstances but transforming them. However challenging the situation may be, we must never allow the flame within us to go out.

This Diwali, let us resolve not merely to decorate our homes but also to beautify our hearts. Let us not only make our doorsteps attractive but also purify our consciousness. Alongside illuminating the skies with strings of lights, let us kindle the flame of self-awakening within ourselves. For the greatest identity of a developed India will not be its shining roads or magnificent buildings, but its awakened and conscious citizenry.

India stands today at a new crossroads. Its economy is scaling new heights, scientific achievements are opening up fresh horizons, its young generation is unlocking new possibilities, and the country is increasingly asserting its role on the global stage with confidence.

In this journey of transformation, the message of Diwali must also acquire a renewed meaning: let the India outside be illuminated, and let the India within awaken. Only then will Diwali transcend the boundaries of a festival and become the guiding light of a new India, a symbol of the renewal of its timeless civilisation, and a firm declaration of its commitment to showing humanity the path of light.

Let us, therefore, light one lamp in our homes and another within ourselves.

One lamp for prosperity, another for compassion. One for development, another for wisdom. One for progress, another for peace.

One for a strong India, and another for a sensitive and compassionate India.

For it is only when the lamp within us burns brightly that the light outside acquires its true meaning. And when this inner light awakens in the hearts of millions of Indians, India will not merely become a developed nation; it will also gain the ability to demonstrate to the world how development can coexist with wisdom, strength with peace, and prosperity with compassion.

That will be the true spirit of Diwali.

Brain VISION
KRC
Shaping Careers For a Successful Tomorrow
The key to happiness and success: Dream big, work hard, stay focused, and surround yourself with good people.



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.lyKRCPlacementForm

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: infocom.krc@gmail.com
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 participants 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: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313
For Advertisement: info@krcfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083
For Subscription:krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313
Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com/ WP: 8721838313

Published by KRC Foundation.H.No. 15, Old Kalibari Road, Malugram, Silchar, Assam 788002. Editor-in-chief: Biswadeep Gupta. Tel: 8721838313, e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com www.krctimes.com

KRC FOUNDATION

KRC TIMES E-COPY

Daily NE Edition

RC TIMES

STAY ENRICHED

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

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

CONTACT US

+91-8721838313

www.krctimes.com

https://bit.ly/whykrctimes

KRC
FOUNDATION

Presents

North East Integration Rally

Peace | Progress | Prosperity

Writing Star Contest

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

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
- SE FOR SUCCESS- PROMOTING EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENPLOYABILITY, 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.krctimes.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
https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest

www.krcfoundation.org

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