

The Hans India

ASBM varsity holds fifth convocation

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HIGHLIGHTS Bhubaneswar: The ASBM University held its 5th convocation on Saturday for the graduating students. The ceremony was attended by Justice Bidyut Ranjan...

Bhubaneswar: The ASBM University held its 5th convocation on Saturday for the graduating students. The ceremony was attended by Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, member of National Human Rights Commission and former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, as the chief guest, and Subhransu Sekhar Acharya, Chairman & Managing Director of National Small Industries Corporation Ltd, as the guest of honour. The convocation was presided over by Biswajeet Pattanayak, Founder and President of the University.

Justice Sarangi awarded gold medals for academic excellence to the toppers of various programmes. They are MBA (2023–25): Faiza Feroz; MCA (2023–25): Aryan Mohanty; BBA (2022–25): Dibyajyoti Mohanty; B.Com (2022–25): Ayushman Patra; BCA (2022–25): Tapan Kumar Hansda; B.A. English (2022–25): Swetapadma Sahoo.

Honorary doctorates were conferred on Ravindra Chamaria, Chairman & Managing Director, Infinity Group, and Jagadananda, Mentor & Co-Founder, CYSD, Bhubaneswar, in recognition of their distinguished contributions to their respective fields. Postgraduate and undergraduate degrees were conferred on students from management, commerce, information technology, English literature, and economics.

In his address, Justice Sarangi recalled the institution's remarkable journey from a management institute to a full-fledged university in 2019.

He called its progress "a great achievement" and lauded Biswajeet's Pattanayak's vision for transforming ASBM into a place that produces not merely job-seekers but job-creators. He described the university as an inspiring, democratic and transparent centre of learning that has won a distinct place in Eastern India.

Justice Sarangi acknowledged the sacrifices of parents and the guidance of teachers, saying the day belongs as much to them as to the students. He urged the students never to say "I can't," and to meet the future with perseverance, knowledge and the values they have acquired here.

OPIndia

Delhi Police detain 12 Jamia students during march marking 17 years of Batla House encounter, AISA alleges peaceful protestors mishandled, police deny claims

The students claimed that the march has been organised every year, except during the COVID pandemic, in Jamia Nagar to demand a judicial inquiry into the 2008 encounter

<https://www.opindia.com/2025/09/jamia-students-detained-during-batla-house-encounter-anniversary-march/>

20 September, 2025

OpIndia Staff

Delhi Police detained at least 12 students of Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday, 19th September, during a march held to mark 17 years since the Batla House encounter. Police said the students were stopped only after they tried to move outside the campus and raised what officers described as “provocative slogans.”

The students, however, told a different story. They said the march has been organised every year, except during the COVID pandemic, in Jamia Nagar to demand a judicial inquiry into the 2008 encounter. They also said they had decided beforehand not to raise slogans or do anything that could cause confrontation with the police.

Students at Jamia said Friday’s march was peaceful but was interrupted near the university’s Gate No. 7. According to them, police took them off campus and detained them. The All India Students’ Association (AISA) said that the incident happened in full public view while the SHO of Jamia Nagar police station was present. AISA claimed that women students were among those detained and that some students were taken far outside Delhi.

The police, however, denied these claims. An officer said the students had tried to come off campus while shouting slogans, which is when 12 of them were detained. They were all released within two hours, the officer added, and no student is currently under detention.

Still, the incident has upset many on campus. Mishkat Tehrim, AISA President, said, “I thought we would be safe inside campus... I have never seen something like this after the CAA-NRC protests.”

Saiyed Ishfaq, AISA’s Delhi State President, who was among those detained, also alleged that students were forcibly picked up and dropped far from the university.

“The Jamia administration purposely left the gate open, creating confusion... I was detained on campus. Women students were dragged by guards...”, Ishfaq further added.

Police denied these claims and said no student was dragged. The Jamia administration has not given any official response yet.

Background of the Batla House encounter

The Batla House encounter happened on 19th September 2008, following a series of bomb explosions in Delhi, which resulted in the deaths of 39 individuals and injuries to 159.

Delhi Police's Special Cell, acting on a tip-off, stormed into a flat in Jamia Nagar, Okhla, where suspected terrorists had taken shelter. During the ensuing gunfight, Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma and Head Constable Balwant Singh were wounded; Sharma later died of his injuries. Two men in the flat, Atif Ameen and Mohammad Sajid, were also killed.

Twenty-four-year-old Atif Amin was a student of Jamia Millia Islamia, and 17-year-old Sajid was an aspirant of Jamia School.

The killing of Atif Amin, who was the chief bomber of the terrorist outfit 'Indian Mujahideen', had dealt a severe blow to the group, which had earlier been responsible for terror attacks between 2007 and 2009, in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Surat and Faizabad.

On the second anniversary of the encounter, a shooting took place at the gates of historic Jama Masjid, Delhi, in which two foreign tourists were injured; apart from that, a car bomb with a failed timer was also found in the vicinity.

Two others accused, Shahzad Ahmad and Ariz Khan, were arrested in 2010 and 2018 for the murder of Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma. They were firstly given the death sentence, which was later reduced to life imprisonment.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had also given clean chit to Delhi Police of any foul play in the encounter, and the Delhi High Court had also rejected a plea seeking a magisterial inquiry.

Madhyamam

17 years after Batla House encounter: Jamia students questioning point-blank shooting face police's heavy hand

The Batla House encounter, carried out by the Delhi Police Special Cell on 19 September 2008 during Ramadan, remains deeply controversial seventeen years later, as civil rights groups questioned the official narrative, citing Sajid's head wounds, Atif's peeled skin, and blunt injuries inconsistent with crossfire.

<https://madhyamamonline.com/india/jamia-students-questioning-point-blank-shooting-face-polices-heavy-hand-1448976>

by Web Desk | 20 September 2025

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Remembering the 2008 Batla House encounter that killed two Muslim youths after branding them as Indian Mujahideen members, the All India Students' Association (AISA) alleged that their peaceful protest inside the Jamia Millia Islamia campus was met with the heavy hand of the Delhi Police in connivance with the university administration, as female students were also dragged, manhandled, and detained, while the whereabouts of several detainees remain unknown.

The march, organised under the banner "Insaf Mashaal Julooos," moved from the Central Canteen towards Gate No. 7 but was abruptly halted when security forces, supported by the university's own guards, blocked students and allowed the police to pull them out of the campus, according to Maktoob Media.

AISA leaders and several activists were detained in the process, with students reporting that female protesters were grabbed roughly, their clothes torn, and in one case, a hijab-clad student was dragged away by women guards. Others alleged that the gate was deliberately left open, providing the police easy access to snatch demonstrators, and some recalled being detained even inside the campus.

For the student activists, the crackdown symbolised more than just a policing measure, as their experience of being beaten, pulled by the hair, and shoved into vehicles deepened their conviction that neither the government nor the university wished for the scant remembrance of the Batla House incident to survive.

The protest revived focus on the Batla House encounter, which remains deeply controversial even seventeen years later. Conducted on 19 September 2008 during Ramadan, the Delhi Police Special Cell stormed a flat in the Batla House locality, claiming it was harbouring Indian Mujahideen operatives linked to the Delhi serial blasts.

In the ensuing operation, 24-year-old Jamia student Atif Amin and 17-year-old Jamia School aspirant Mohammad Sajid were killed, while Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma also

lost his life. Although the police declared the operation genuine, demands for an impartial judicial enquiry arose immediately, yet none has been ordered to this day.

Civil rights organisations, including PUDR, PUCL, Jan Hastakshep, APCR, JTSA, and FDI questioned the official narrative through fact-finding reports that pointed to grave inconsistencies. Sajid's wounds on the top of his head suggested execution, Atif's back bore peeled skin indicating torture, and both bodies carried blunt injuries inconsistent with a crossfire.

Critics also highlighted the implausibility of two suspects escaping from a flat with only one exit, while noting that Inspector Sharma had entered without a bulletproof vest despite intelligence warnings. Despite these concerns, the National Human Rights Commission in 2009 accepted the police version without conducting its own investigation.

Further doubts were raised when RTI applications revealed post-mortem reports confirming that Atif and Sajid suffered blunt force assaults before being shot, and inconsistencies persisted in the placement of bullet wounds, particularly the fact that all of Sajid's entry wounds were on his back. These findings suggested the possibility of torture and execution, strengthening suspicions that the encounter was staged rather than an open exchange of fire.

The impact of the encounter extended far beyond the two deaths, as it reshaped the lives of Muslim students across Delhi, particularly those of Jamia Millia Islamia. Several Muslim youths were rounded up, interrogated, or detained in the weeks that followed, with their families stigmatised, careers disrupted, and futures left in ruins.

India Today NE

Why Shirui Heritage Project and Other Development in Hills Are Being Sabotaged During PR in Manipur

In June 2025, D Gangmei, Chairman of the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, sent a searing letter to the Union Home Secretary and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, sounding the alarm on what he termed a “big scam” in the awarding of government contracts across hill and tribal districts of Manipur.

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/opinion/story/why-shirui-heritage-project-and-other-development-in-hills-are-being-sabotaged-during-pr-in-manipur-1280236-2025-09-20>

[Naorem Mohen](#) | Sep 20, 2025, Updated Sep 20, 2025, 1:40 PM IST

In June 2025, D Gangmei, Chairman of the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, sent a searing letter to the Union Home Secretary and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, sounding the alarm on what he termed a “big scam” in the awarding of government contracts across hill and tribal districts of Manipur.

This revelation has ripped open a festering wound, exposing a deliberate pattern of sabotage that threatens the development of Manipur’s hill regions during President’s Rule.

From former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh’s scathing critique of low-bid contracts to Tangkhul organizations’ urgent pleas for accountability, and now the inexplicable decision to entrust the Rs 64.99 crore Shirui Heritage Village and Bakshi Ground project to the woefully unprepared District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Ukhul, a grim truth emerges: funds meant to uplift the hills are being siphoned, diluted, or mismanaged. I see this not as administrative failure but as a calculated assault on the hill communities’ aspirations. The Shirui Lily, Manipur’s state flower and a symbol of cultural pride of the Tangkhul community, risks becoming a casualty of corruption unless Governor Bhalla intervenes decisively.

On April 19, 2025, former CM N. Biren Singh took to his Facebook page to expose a corrosive practice undermining hill infrastructure: the awarding of rigid pavement contracts at drastically reduced rates. In a passionate post, he cited bids for concrete roads in Jiribam (32% below schedule rate), Senapati (33%), Kamjong (32.56%), and Ukhul (36.48%), questioning how quality could be maintained when contractors quote Rs 64-68 for a ₹100 estimate. “At this rate, we’re not just cutting costs, we’re compromising the future of infrastructure in these regions,” he warned.

N Biren Singh’s words highlight a stark disparity: while valley districts enjoy robust roads, the hills are left with crumbling pathways, fueling resentment and ethnic mistrust. This low-bid culture, prevalent during President’s Rule, invites corner-cutting and subletting, ensuring shoddy work that fails the hill communities.

The United Senior Citizen Forum (USCF) of 43-Phungyar Kendra amplified this concern on August 27, 2025, protesting the tender process for the widening of the Shangshak-Tengnoupal Road (NH-102A). The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) sanctioned Rs 429 crore for this vital project under the 2024-25 Annual Plan, yet the lowest bid among 12 firms was a mere Rs 227 crore—a 47.2% reduction. At a press conference in Imphal, USCF leader David Zimik called this “unacceptable,” warning that such underbidding jeopardizes safety and durability in the challenging hill terrain. “This road is our lifeline,” he said. “Cutting costs like this is cutting corners on our future.” The USCF’s objections highlight a broader fear: during President’s Rule, tender processes lack oversight, allowing low bids to erode project integrity.

This alarm was echoed on September 15, 2025, by the Tribal Youth Council Manipur (TYCM), which submitted a memorandum to the Governor, Chief Secretary, and PWD Commissioner. TYCM demanded an end to lowest and minus-rate tenders in hill tribal areas, urging the cancellation of all such contracts awarded during President’s Rule. They called for re-tendering through reputable agencies like PWD, CPWD, or MES, adhering strictly to the Manipur Schedule of Rates (MSR/SR). “For ensuring the quality of work and the longevity of developmental assets,” the memorandum declared, “we cannot allow these practices to continue alienating hill communities.” TYCM’s plea reflects a growing consensus: minus tenders, unchecked under President’s Rule, are a death knell for hill development.

The latest blow came on September 11, 2025, when the Manipur Tourism Department’s Letter No. TP-T-1/5/2025-TSM-TSM assigned the Rs 64.99 crore Shirui Heritage Village and Bakshi Ground project to DRDA Ukhrul for tendering and execution. Sanctioned on August 20, 2025, under SASCI (Letter No. PLG2-7/5/2025-PLG-PLANNING-PART (1)), this project aims to transform Ukhrul into a global eco-tourism hub, with upgraded sports facilities at Bakshi Ground, a heritage enclave honoring the Shirui Lily, and infrastructure to support the annual festival that draws thousands of tourists, entrepreneurs, and traders. Yet, DRDA—a rural agency with only four technical staff (one Executive Engineer, one Assistant Engineer, one Technical Operator, and a part-time contractual OSD)—lacks the expertise for such a complex endeavor.

The August 25 Tourism Director’s Letter No. 4650/2025-DTSM had urged a “reputed work agency” to handle the project’s “technical complexity” and meet the “long-pending demands of the hill tribal Tangkhul people.” Why has the directive to engage a “well-reputed” work agency been disregarded when Manipur boasts capable institutions like the Public Works Department (PWD), Manipur Police Housing Corporation (MPHC), Planning and Development Authority (PDA), Manipur Industrial Development Corporation Limited (MANIDCO), Manipur Tribal Development Corporation (MTDC), and Manipur Infrastructure Development Agency (MIDA), all with proven track records?

The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) scheme, launched on April 1, 1991, aimed to promote quality development in districts. The central government covered 75%

of staff salaries and administrative costs, with states contributing 25%. For northeastern states, the central share increased to 90% in 2008-09, while union territories received 100% central funding. Funds were released by the center to DRDAs, which implemented anti-poverty programs in rural areas under the Ministry of Rural Development. The DRDA's primary role was to formulate policies, issue guidelines for central schemes, and sanction funds for administrative programs. The scheme was discontinued on April 1, 2022.

Instead, the Rs 64.99 crore Shirui Heritage Village and Bakshi Ground project has been handed to the understaffed DRDA Ukhrul, raising suspicions of deliberate mismanagement. Does this reflect a recurring pattern where funds earmarked for hill districts are diverted, leaving behind unfinished or shoddy infrastructure?

The hill districts' painful history of fund mismanagement, often channeled through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) under Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), casts a long shadow. RTI activists like P. Johnson Samo, P.R. Amose, Kh. Inoch, and S.P. Benjamin have faced death threats from NSCN (IM) cadres for daring to demand transparency. The National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI), **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**, and Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) have repeatedly flagged the intimidation of whistleblowers, yet the threats persist. Past investigations, including those by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), confirm that militant groups, sometimes with complicity from officials, have siphoned off state funds meant for hill development, perpetuating a cycle of betrayal that now endangers the Shirui project.

On August 27, 2025—coincidentally or not, just days after the SASCI sanction—GPRN issued a stern notification tightening regulations on developmental works in Manipur's hill areas. Responding to rampant malpractice in bidding and execution, it directed district officers to perform duties without negligence, banned quoting below schedule rates as a "deliberate compromise on quality," outlawed subletting to non-registered entities, and restricted percentage deductions to district headquarters only. Effective immediately, this edict aims to curb the very practices that have plagued projects like Shirui—subletting, unauthorized cuts, and low-bid sabotage. Yet, by assigning Shirui to DRDA, the government seems to defy this spirit, inviting the same maladies GPRN seeks to eradicate.

Similarly, the Kangpokpi highway scandal, first detected in January 2025 and fully exposed in July, epitomizes this systemic rot. Villagers displaced by NH-2, NH-37, and NH-102 expansions alleged that Kuki National Front (KNF) militants coerced them into signing blank compensation forms, siphoning Rs 300 crore. "We signed out of fear; the money never reached us," one farmer confessed anonymously, noting militants. Complicit officials, failing to verify payouts, enabled this heist in the hills of Manipur.

We must rewind to the origins of the Shirui dream. It all began in earnest during the 2017 Shirui Lily Festival, when former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh captivated audiences with

grand visions. Standing amid the blooming fields, he pledged paved roads winding through the hills, state-of-the-art stages for cultural performances, and world-class facilities to position Manipur as a premier eco-tourism destination. Locals, inspired by these promises, invested their own labor and resources into temporary setups, expecting reimbursements that never materialized.

By 2019, the initial euphoria had soured into disillusionment—no construction had begun, no funds had trickled down. The silence from Imphal was deafening, a harbinger of the neglect that has long plagued Manipur's hill districts. Fast-forward to May 2022, and Singh, now former CM, reiterated his commitments at the festival's fourth edition. This time, he announced Rs 46 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) for the heritage village and Bakshi Ground. He even floated the idea of cable cars in Shirui Peak, same as the one proposed in the floating islands of Loktak Lake—a bold, almost fantastical proposal that ignited imaginations. "Misappropriation will face the law," he declared emphatically. Yet, these words rang hollow, echoing the unfulfilled pledges that litter Manipur's developmental history.

The 2023 and 2024 festivals, disrupted by ethnic strife, exposed the rot further. When the event resumed this year under the theme "Preserve the Lily, Protect Our Heritage," attendees reveled in the natural beauty but couldn't ignore the glaring deficiencies: open sewage ditches pooling with filth, erratic power supply flickering like a thief's lantern, and zero progress on the 2022 blueprint proudly displayed on government portals under the slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." The irony is palpable—development for all, except, it seems, for the hills.

The Shirui Heritage Village and Bakshi Ground project is not just infrastructure—it's the heartbeat of Manipur's tourism revival and a lifeline for Ukhrul's economy. Unlike valley districts, which have seen mega-projects, the hills have rarely received such a scale—Rs 64.99 crore is unprecedented. Bakshi Ground is Ukhrul's sole large venue for ShiRock, a music festival drawing rock enthusiasts, and sports events that unite youth.

The heritage village aims to honor the Shirui Lily, positioning Ukhrul on the global eco-tourism map alongside sites like Bhutan's Paro Valley. It's projected to attract over 20,000 visitors annually, boosting artisans crafting Tangkhul shawls, homestay owners offering authentic experiences, and youth entrepreneurs selling lily-infused products. Economically, it's a multiplier: jobs, revenue, pride.

Governor Ajay Bhalla's festival speeches ignited hope—now is the time to deliver. This is Manipur's moral test. Demand a CBI probe into the DRDA handover, scrutinizing the Project Director and Tourism enablers. Reassign the project to PWD or any agencies with their proven expertise. Enforce open tenders via blockchain audits and involve Tangkhul CSOs for oversight. The Shirui Lily endures blizzards; Ukhrul's spirit can too. But resilience has limits.

The New Indian Express

Petition in NHRC after Sohela farmer dies of electrocution in paddy field

While electricity officials rushed to the spot and assured compensation to the bereaved family, police seized the farmer's body and sent it for postmortem.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/amp/story/states/odisha/2025/Sep/20/petition-in-nhrc-after-sohela-farmer-dies-of-electrocution-in-paddy-field>

Express News Service | Updated:20th Sep, 2025 at 9:09 AM

BARGARH: A day after a 52-year-old farmer of Sohela block was electrocuted to death in his paddy field, a petition was filed before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday alleging gross negligence on the part of the Electricity department.

Harihar Barik of Bausenmora village in Sohela was applying fertiliser on his paddy crop when when a high-tension overhead electric wire snapped and fell on him on Wednesday noon. The farmer died on the spot after coming in contact with the live wire.

When Harihar did not return home, his family members launched a search and found him lying dead in his paddy field at around 4 pm. While electricity officials rushed to the spot and assured compensation to the bereaved family, police seized the farmer's body and sent it for postmortem.

As the incident sparked outrage in the region, Kalahandi-based activist Dilip Kumar Dash filed a petition before the NHRC accusing the Electricity department of gross negligence.

"This was a preventable death. Harihar did not die due to fate but because someone failed to maintain the power lines. A farmer should not pay with his life for the Electricity department's carelessness. I have sought `20 lakh compensation for his family and a criminal case against the officials whose negligence caused this tragedy," Dash said.

Local farmer organisations have extended support to Harihar's family while villagers said responsibility should be fixed for the incident so that such mishaps do not recur.

Janta Se Rishta

सोहेला के किसान की बिजली गिरने से मौत के बाद एनएचआरसी में याचिका

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/odisha/petition-in-nhrc-after-sohela-farmer-dies-of-electrocution-4274741>

Subhi20 Sept 2025 9:18 AM

बरगढ़: सोहेला प्रखंड के एक 52 वर्षीय किसान की अपने धान के खेत में बिजली का करंट लगने से मौत के एक दिन बाद, गुरुवार को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) में एक याचिका दायर की गई जिसमें बिजली विभाग की घोर लापरवाही का आरोप लगाया गया है।

सोहेला के बाउसेनमोरा गाँव के हरिहर बारिक बुधवार दोपहर अपनी धान की फसल में खाद डाल रहे थे, तभी एक हाई-टेंशन बिजली का तार टूटकर उनके ऊपर गिर गया। तार की चपेट में आने से किसान की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई।

जब हरिहर घर नहीं लौटे, तो उनके परिवार वालों ने खोजबीन शुरू की और शाम करीब 4 बजे उन्हें उनके धान के खेत में मृत पाया। बिजली विभाग के अधिकारी मौके पर पहुँचे और शोक संतप्त परिवार को मुआवज़ा देने का आश्वासन दिया, वहीं पुलिस ने किसान के शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया। इस घटना से क्षेत्र में आक्रोश फैलने पर, कालाहांडी के कार्यकर्ता दिलीप कुमार दाश ने एनएचआरसी में एक याचिका दायर कर बिजली विभाग पर घोर लापरवाही का आरोप लगाया।