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Alert in several Assam districts for heavy rain • Red alert sounded

Guwahati faces waterlogging; normal life hit hard



GUWAHATI, May 30: Alert for very heavy rainfall and gusty wind was issued for several districts of Assam on Friday as incessant downpour lashed most parts of the state, including largest city Guwahati which was also hit by massive waterlogging in almost all localities, disrupting normal life.

Incessant rainfall was reported from several districts of the state, especially in the western and southern parts, since Thursday night, with the meteorological department forecasting more rainfall over the next couple of days, official reports said.

As per Regional Meteorological

Centre (RMC) data, 'red alert' has been sounded in Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar, Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Bajali, Tamulpur, Nalbari, West Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Cachar, Hailakandi and Sribhumi districts. 'Orange alert' has been issued

for the districts of Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Darrang, Udalguri, Morigaon, Nagaon, Hojai, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat and Sonitpur.

'Red alert' implies 'warning/take action', while 'orange alert' is to be on 'alert/be prepared to take action'.

The districts on red alert have been warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places, with extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places, and likely squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph.

The 10 districts on 'orange alert' are likely to be hit by thunderstorms and lightning accompanied by gusty wind reaching wind speed of 30-40 kmph, with heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places.

The districts of Chirang, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Bajali, Tamulpur, Darrang and Udalguri have 'red alert' issued for Saturday too by the RMC.

Guwahati has been lashed with rainfall since Thursday night, causing (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

SC to hear man's plea against Assam Police detention of mother



NEW DELHI, May 30: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on June 2 a plea of a 26-year-old man claiming illegal detention of his mother by Assam Police amid widespread allegations of covert deportations to Bangladesh.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices Augustine George Masih and AS Chandurkar took note of the submissions of senior advocate Shob Alam, representing petitioner Yunus Ali, that his mother has been detained by the state police.

The CJI said the plea would be

listed for hearing on Monday.

Ali sought immediate release of his mother Monowara Bewa, who was reportedly detained on May 24 after being called to the Dhubri police station under the pretext of recording a statement.

Alam raised serious concerns regarding what he described as an ongoing practice in Assam under which individuals are detained and deported to Bangladesh overnight, even while their legal cases are pending.

"There is a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the lady in 2017. Notices have been issued, and yet people are being deported

while proceedings are still ongoing before this court," he said.

"There are several videos circulating that show individuals being picked up overnight and pushed back across the border," he added.

Bewa had been on bail since December 12, 2019, pursuant to the Supreme Court's order in a case, which allowed the conditional release of detainees who had spent more than three years in Assam's foreigner detention camps.

According to the plea, when the petitioner approached the police station the next day and informed the officials that their case was still pending before the Supreme Court, he was denied access to his mother and her release was refused.

The petition challenges the decision of the Gauhati High Court, which upheld a Foreigners Tribunal ruling declaring Bewa a foreigner - a decision that has remained under challenge before the Supreme Court since 2017.

The plea sought a direction to the authorities to immediately release Bewa from "unlawful detention" at Dhubri police station.

It also sought a direction restraining deportation or "push back" of the detainee across any Indian border. (PTI)

Writer Rita Chowdhury flays 'dragging' families into political disputes

GUWAHATI, May 30: At a time when top rival political leaders of Assam are trading charges over each other's families, a noted litterateur and wife of a senior cabinet minister has called out this trend of "dragging" wives and children into political disputes.

Rita Chowdhury, a former director of National Book Trust, India, and a Sahitya Akademi award winning author, who is married to senior state minister Chandra Mohan Patowary of the BJP, criticised the "new trend" of involving family members in political discourse.

"I oppose all low mentality tendencies of unnecessarily dragging their own or others wife-children into politics," she wrote in a post

on Facebook on Thursday. "I hope that this new negative trend in our society ends soon," Chowdhury, who is currently the editor of an Assamese literary magazine, added.

The post on the social media site, titled 'Pan shop, Baba Maina and our self-respect', presents her criticism of her husband's recent public statement regarding their children, whom they affectionately call Baba and Maina.

In the post in Assamese, Chowdhury, a former associate professor of Cotton University, narrates the upbringing of the two children and their present independent standing in life, dismissing Patowary's purported assertion (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



Heroin worth over ₹ 10 cr seized in Karbi Anglong

GUWAHATI, May 30: Heroin worth over ₹ 10 crore has been seized and two persons arrested in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Thursday, police said. During a routine check, the police stopped a truck coming from Dimapur at Khatkhathi village under Bokajan sub-division and searched the vehicle. The police found 9.925 kg of heroin which was concealed inside the vehicle's dashboard. The arrested persons have been identified as Wajir Singh and Tarcham Singh from Shanti Nagar who are suspected to be a part of a larger drug supply network, the police officer said. The value of the seized drugs was estimated to be over ₹ 10 crore and further investigations were on to ascertain the network of the drug operators, the officer added. (PTI)

Wildlife Health and Research institute to come up at Dinjan

GUWAHATI, May 30: Assam's first Institute of Wildlife Health and Research will come up at Dinjan in Dibrugarh district, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

The institute, being set up at a cost of ₹ 250 crore, will be spread over 120 bighas, the CM said.

"Where Science meets Conservation. Assam's first Institute of Wildlife Health and Research is coming up at Dinjan at a cost of ₹ 250 crore", Sarma posted on X.

This initiative will protect our biodiversity with cutting-edge diagnostics, forensics and policy support, he added.

The institute's foundation stone was laid in February 2021 by former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to help preserve the state's rich biodiversity and to facilitate scientists and researchers from different parts of the country and the world to conduct research and study.

The institute will also cater to wildlife crisis management and translocation, wildlife informatics, public policy and cooperation. (PTI)

DCs urged to maintain close coordination with the chief secretary and the principal secretary Himanta reviews flood preparedness with officials via video conference



HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, May 30: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday held a review meeting with the State's ministers, MPs, MLAs and DCs to take stock of the state's readiness in responding to the impending flood season.

The said review meeting was held via video conferencing at Lok Sewa Bhawan.

In the meeting, addressing the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Sarma recalled that Assam had witnessed three waves of floods from the first week of June last year, adding, "In anticipation of similar challenges this year, the state government has proactively initiated a series of preparatory measures, including the advance release of budgetary allocations to districts likely to be impacted".

The chief minister further highlighted the recent creation of co-districts and stated that additional human resources have been deployed to strengthen the administrative machinery in affected areas.

He also directed DCs to ensure that immediate relief is extended to all flood-affected individuals in the event of embankment breaches. Further, he underscored the importance of timely communication from villagers regarding potential breaches, and instructed relevant departments to respond swiftly by deploying geo-bags and other necessary materials to fortify vulnerable embankments.

Sarma further urged DCs to hold meetings with the Water Resources Department to coordinate the distribution of relief materials. Additionally, he stressed the dual

importance of not only delivering aid but also ensuring the structural integrity of embankments through vigilant upkeep and reinforcement.

"Every embankment breach would be subject to a thorough inquiry to ascertain the causes and prevent recurrence in the future," he added.

He emphasised the need for advance provisioning of clean drinking water, essential food supplies, cattle fodder and other relief essentials so that assistance may be rendered immediately to flood-impacted communities.

"During this critical period, all DCs need to maintain close coordination with the chief secretary and the principal secretary of the Revenue Department," the chief minister directed.

Sarma further deliberated on the implementation of a new welfare scheme - 'Eti Koli Duti Paat', launched as part of the bicentenary celebration of Assam's tea industry. It may be noted that under this initiative, a one-time financial assistance of Rs 5,000 would be extended to all permanent and temporary workers, as well as employees of registered tea estates across the state.

Based on data provided by tea garden authorities, the scheme is set to benefit 3,82,660 permanent workers, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Polls to 2 Assam RS seats on June 19



NEW DELHI, May 30: Elections for eight Rajya Sabha seats -- two in Assam and six in Tamil Nadu -- will be held on June 19, the poll panel announced.

The two Rajya Sabha seats in Assam and the six in Tamil Nadu will fall vacant in June and July, respectively.

The BJP-led NDA which has 84 seats in the 126-member Assam Assembly will look to retain both the Rajya Sabha seats being vacated by Birendra Prasad Baishya of the Asom Gana Parishad and Mission Ranjan Das of the BJP.

In Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK-led alliance appears set to win four of the six seats falling vacant, while the AIADMK and its alliance partner PMK will seek to retain the two seats they

currently hold.

The terms of six members from Tamil Nadu -- Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK), N Chandrababhan (AIADMK), M Shanmugam (DMK), P Wilson (DMK) and Vaiko (MDMK) -- will end on July 24.

The elections are unlikely to make any difference in the political equations in the Rajya Sabha. The notification for the Rajya Sabha elections will be issued on June 2, the Election Commission said and the counting of votes will take place on the same day.

The last date for filing nomination papers is scheduled for June 9. The results could be declared the same day if the number (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

'Although floods and cyclones often dominate headlines, heat is arguably the deadliest extreme event'

Half of world's population endured extra month of extreme heat due to climate change, experts say

WASHINGTON, May 30: Scientists say 4 billion people, about half the world's population, experienced at least one extra month of extreme heat because of human-caused climate change from May 2024 to May 2025.

The extreme heat caused illness, death, crop losses, and strained energy and health care systems, according to the analysis from World Weather Attribution, Climate Central and the Red Cross.

"Although floods and cyclones often dominate headlines, heat is arguably the deadliest extreme event," the report said. Many heat-related deaths are unreported or are mislabeled by other conditions like heart disease or kidney failure.

The scientists used peer-reviewed methods to study how much climate change boosted temperatures in an extreme heat event and calculated how much more likely its occurrence was because of climate change. In almost all countries in the world, the number of extreme heat days has at least doubled compared with a world without climate change.

Caribbean islands were among the hardest hit by additional extreme heat days.

Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, endured 161 days of extreme heat. Without climate change, only 48 would have occurred.

"It makes it feel impossible to be outside," said Charlotte Gossett Navarro, chief director for Puerto Rico at Hispanic Federation, a nonprofit focused on social and environmental issues in Latino communities, who lives in the San Juan area and was not involved in the report.

"Even something as simple as trying to have a day outdoors with family, we weren't able to do it because the heat was too high," she said, reporting feeling dizzy and sick last summer.

When the power goes out, which happens frequently in Puerto Rico in part because of decades of neglected grid maintenance and damage from Hurricane Maria in 2017, Navarro said it is difficult to sleep. "If you are someone relatively healthy, that is uncomfortable, it's hard to sleep ... but if you are someone who has a health condition, now your life is at risk," Gossett Navarro said.

Heat waves are silent killers, said Friederike Otto, associate professor of climate



science at Imperial College London, one of the report's authors. "People don't fall dead on the street in a heat wave ... people either die in hospitals or in poorly insulated homes and therefore are just not seen," he said.

Low-income communities and vulnerable populations, such as older adults and people with medical conditions, suffer the most from extreme heat.

The high temperatures recorded in the extreme heat events that occurred in Central Asia in March, South Sudan in February and in the Mediterranean last July would have not been possible without climate change, according to the report.

At least 21 people died in Morocco after temperatures hit 48 degrees Celsius last July. People are noticing temperatures are getting hotter but don't always know it is

being driven by climate change, said Roop Singh, head of urban and attribution at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, in a World Weather Attribution statement.

"We need to quickly scale our responses to heat through better early warning systems, heat action plans, and long-term planning for heat in urban areas to meet the rising challenge," Singh said.

City-led initiatives to tackle extreme heat are becoming popular in parts of South Asia, North America, Europe and Australia to coordinate resources across governments and other agencies. One example is a tree-planting initiative launched in Marseille, France, to create more shaded areas.

The report says strategies to prepare for heat waves include monitoring and reporting systems for extreme temperatures, providing emergency health services, cooling shelters, updated building codes, enforcing heat safety rules at work, and designing cities to be more heat-resilient.

But without phasing out fossil fuels, heat waves will continue becoming more severe and frequent and protective measures against the heat will lose their effectiveness, the scientists said. (AP)

Sensex declines 182 pts on losses in IT, metal shares, sluggish Asian peers

MUMBAI, May 30: Stock markets closed lower in a range-bound trade on Friday following losses in IT shares and sluggish trends in Asian markets due to trade uncertainty after a US appeals court temporarily reinstated reciprocal tariffs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 182.01 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 81,451.01 as 24 of its constituents retreated and six advanced. During the day, it dropped 346.57 points or 0.42 per cent to 81,286.45.

The NSE Nifty dipped 82.90 points or 0.33 per cent to 24,750.70.

Metals, IT, and auto sector shares declined while banking shares gained.

Investors were cautious ahead of the release of domestic GDP data post-market hours, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra fell the most by 1.73 per cent. HCL Tech, Asian Paints, NTPC, Infosys, Nestle, Sun Pharma, and Tata Steel also closed lower.

Eternal, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Fin-



serv were the gainers.

"A range-bound movement continued in the market, with the temporary reinstatement of US tariffs by the appeal court influencing investors to stay on the sideline. The global market may contend with macroeconomic concerns as the global trade landscape has yet to see stability, which may navigate a short-term consolidation.

"Meanwhile, FII inflows continued due to the volatility in the US 10-year yield and an expectation of solid domestic Q4 GDP data later today and a rate cut by RBI," Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

Geojit Investments Limited, said.

"Markets languished in negative territory to end lower amid weak Asian cues as investors cut their position in IT, metal, oil & gas and auto shares," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent while smallcap index went up by 0.17 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, metal dropped the most by 1.68 per cent, followed by BSE Focused IT (1.14 per cent), commodities (1.14 per cent), utilities (1.09 per cent), tech (0.99 per cent), auto (0.91 per cent)

and telecommunication (0.79 per cent).

Financial Services, bank and capital goods were the gainers.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined 270.07 points or 0.33 per cent and the Nifty dipped 102.45 points or 0.41 per cent.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in the negative territory.

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended higher on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 884.03 crore on Thursday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,286.50 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.44 per cent to USD 64.43 a barrel.

The BSE Sensex climbed 320.70 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 81,633.02 on Thursday. The 50-share Nifty went up by 81.15 points or 0.33 per cent to 24,833.60. (PTI)

Rupee falls 8 paise to settle at 85.56 against US dollar

MUMBAI, May 30: The rupee pared its initial gains to settle 8 paise lower at 85.56 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as volatility in domestic equities and recovering global crude prices pressured the local currency.

However, a steady inflow of foreign funds supported the domestic unit even as investors stayed cautious, awaiting domestic GDP data to be released later in the day, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.35 and moved between the intra-day high of 85.25 and the low of 85.64 against the greenback. The unit settled the day at 85.56 (provisional), registering a loss of 8 paise from its previous close.

The rupee ended 10 paise lower at 85.48 against the dollar on Thursday.

Anuj Choudhary, a Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee fell on weak domestic markets and a recovery in crude oil prices. Month-end dollar demand from importers also pressurised the rupee. However, the weak US dollar index and FII inflows cushioned the downside.

"Traders may take cues from core PCE price index and personal income data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹ 85.30 to ₹ 86," he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.28 per cent at 99.49.



Analysts said the dollar showed signs of recovery after the US federal court's ruling against President Donald Trump's sweeping reciprocal tariffs proved short-lived as a federal appeals court put a temporary stay on the ruling.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.41 per cent to USD 64.41 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 182.01 points, or 0.22 per cent, to close at 81,451.01, while the Nifty declined 82.90 points, or 0.33 per cent, to 24,750.70.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equities worth Rs 884.03 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data. The Reserve Bank, in its latest annual report on Thursday, said the country is poised to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world even in FY26. (PTI)

Net financial savings may touch ₹ 22 lakh cr in FY'25: SBI research

KOLKATA, May 30: State Bank of India in its latest economic research report said that based on the current trends, net financial savings of the household sector may touch ₹ 22 lakh crore, or 6.5 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI), in the financial year 2024-25.

The net financial savings during 2023-24 stood at 5.1 per cent of GNDI, an increase from 4.9 per cent in the previous fiscal.

The report said the growing capital pool is crucial for funding government and corporate deficits and supporting macroeconomic stability. Referring to the dynamics of RBI surplus, the report said that the central bank's efforts to contain the volatility of the rupee was a major factor in determining its quantum.

During fiscal 2024-25, the balance sheet of RBI expanded by 8.19 per cent, which is less than



the nominal GDP growth of 9.9 per cent. An amount of ₹ 2.69 lakh crore surplus amount of RBI has been transferred to the government, which would enhance the fiscal space, the report said.

According to the report, the incidence of fraud cases had declined, but default amounts tripled

to ₹ 36,014 crore.

On the other hand, card and internet fraud volume decreased significantly from 29,802 in 2023-24 to 13,516 in 2024-25.

"In summary, India's financial system stands at the crossroads, resilient and transformative," the report said. (PTI)

Nisus Finance profit rises 35 pc, AUM surges 56 pc to ₹ 1,572 cr in FY25



NEW DELHI, May 30: Investment management firm Nisus Finance Services on Friday reported a 35.5 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹ 32.58 crore for the financial

year ended March 2025, driven by strong growth in income and capital deployment.

The company's total income surged 56.37 per cent to ₹ 67.30 crore during FY25, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) rose 22.1 per cent to ₹ 44.48 crore, it said in a statement.

Assets under management (AUM) grew 55 per cent to around ₹ 1,572 crore as of March 31, 2025. The increase was attributed to a robust deal pipeline and disciplined investment strategy across India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

"FY25 marked a year of strate-

gic acceleration and platform evolution for Nisus Finance, as we advanced our vision of becoming a regionally diversified asset manager with deep domain expertise in real estate and urban infrastructure," Amit Goenka, Chairman & Managing Director of Nisus Finance Services Co, said.

Goenka added that the company executed four high-yield exits during the year, delivering internal rates of return (IRR) in the range of 18 to 21 per cent.

Nisus Finance focuses on urban infrastructure financing and capital markets, and said the financial year reflected strong performance aligned with its long-term growth strategy. (PTI)

Steel, ferro alloys industries seek Bengal CM's help to reduce 'tariff hike' by DVC



KOLKATA, May 30: Trade bodies representing the steel and ferro-alloy industry in West Bengal have sought Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's help to reduce the alleged steep hike in power tariff by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), which they claim would lead to a shutdown of operations.

DVC, however, dubbed the claims as "factually inaccurate".

In a joint statement, the Damodar Valley Power Consumers Association, the Steel Re-Rolling Mills Association of India and the West Bengal Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association claimed that the revised power tariff approved by the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC) for DVC sets the rate at Rs 4.64 per unit for 2025-26.

Additionally, an extra Rs 1.36 per unit is being charged towards arrears accumulated between 2014 and 2020, raising the effective tariff to ₹ 6 per unit, it added.

They also claimed that DVC imposed extra charges through Energy

Charge Rate (ECR) and Monthly Variable Cost Adjustment (MVCA), amounting to another 50 paise per unit.

"The net chargeable tariff to industries will now be around Rs 6.80 per unit, a 30 per cent increase, which is unaffordable and threatens the survival of our units," the appeal stated.

"We are not against paying dues, but request that the ₹ 1.36 per unit past arrears be recovered over the next six years to avoid tariff shocks," it said.

The industry bodies also alleged disparity in rates, stating that DVC supplies power to Jharkhand consumers at ₹ 4.42 per unit, and demanded a forensic audit of variable charges such as the Energy Charge Rate (ECR) and Monthly Variable Cost Adjustment (MVCA).

DVC officials maintained said the average power cost in Jharkhand is ₹ 5.61 a unit.

"West Bengal is the second-largest contributor to India's secondary steel production, ferro

alloys, pig iron, and pellets, and third in sponge iron output. Collapse of this sector will endanger the livelihoods of lakhs of people," the industry bodies warned.

In a statement, DVC rejected the claims as factually inaccurate and selectively presented.

It said the tariffs are determined by respective state regulatory commissions — WBERC for West Bengal and JSERC for Jharkhand — and not unilaterally fixed by DVC.

According to the utility, the tariff in West Bengal remained largely unchanged since the 2018-19 fiscal due to prolonged litigation initiated by the same associations, which the Supreme Court declared untenable in 2018. The arrears component became payable only after the apex court closed the matter earlier this year, and ordered the payment within two months.

"We have complied fully with regulatory and court directions and shown great patience through years of litigation," DVC said, adding that it continued power supply despite escalating input costs.

The utility defended the current rates as "cost-reflective and justified" under WBERC's approval, and said it has floated the idea of a common regulator to ensure tariff uniformity across states. DVC also said that it cannot compromise on financial sustainability, especially after absorbing costs during a period of frozen tariffs.

Calling it a crisis, the trade bodies urged the CM to engage with WBERC and DVC at the earliest. (PTI)

IFL Enterprises turns around business in March qtr, shares rise 20%



AHMEDABAD, May 30: Gujarat-based IFL Enterprises on Friday announced turning around its business operations in the March quarter as the company reported a profit of over ₹ 3 crore for the period.

Shares of the agri-commodity trader rose by nearly 20 per cent to hit the upper circuit on BSE after the announcement of the financial results.

The company, engaged in the agri commodity business reported a loss of ₹ 67.87 lakh in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Revenue from operations during the last quarter of FY25 rose multifold to ₹ 72.13 crore against revenue of Rs 1.98 crore in Q4 FY24.

For the financial year that ended March 2025, the company achieved revenue from operations of ₹ 120.60 crore, over 13-fold rise compared to ₹ 8.24 crore in FY2023-24. Net profit also rose to ₹ 2.99 crores in FY25 from ₹ 84.5 lakh in FY24.

The company said it has expanded domains such as trading of agricultural produce, including fruits, vegetables, and seeds. It had raised ₹ 49.53 crore through a rights issue in June last year to fund its expansion plans. (PTI)

Manufacturing pulls down Q4 GDP to 7.4 pc; FY25 growth to 6.5 pc: Govt data

NEW DELHI, May 30: India's economic growth slowed to 7.4 per cent in the January-March period, and pulled down the annual growth rate for 2024-25 to a four-year low of 6.5 per cent, mainly due to the manufacturing sector, official data showed on Friday.

The size of the Indian economy rose to Rs 330.68 lakh crore or about USD 3.9 trillion and set the stage for achieving the USD 5 trillion target in the next few years.

In the previous 2023-24 fiscal year, the economy grew 9.2 per cent.

China has registered an economic growth of 5.4 per cent in the first three months of 2025.

The economic expansion was recorded at 7.4 per cent during January-March 2025, while it was 6.4 per cent in October-December 2024, 5.6 per cent in July-September 2024, and 6.5 per cent in the April-June quarter of the last financial year, according to economic estimates released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The GDP had expanded by 8.4 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2023-24.

The NSO, in its second advance estimate released in February, had projected the GDP growth for 2024-25 at 6.5 per cent.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 187.97 lakh crore in FY2024-25, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for the FY 2023-24 of ₹ 176.51 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 6.5 per cent.

"Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 330.68 lakh crore in the FY 2024-25 against ₹ 301.23 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.8 per cent," NSO said in a release.

NSO further said that real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in the fourth quarter of 2024-25 is estimated at ₹ 51.35 lakh crore against ₹ 47.82 lakh crore in the year-ago quarter, registering a growth rate of 7.4 per cent.

Nominal GDP in Q4 of FY2024-25 is estimated at ₹ 88.18 lakh crore against ₹ 79.61 lakh



crore in Q4 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 10.8 per cent.

Real gross value added (GVA) is estimated at ₹ 171.87 lakh crore in the FY 2024-25, against the FRE for the FY 2023-24 of ₹ 161.51 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 6.4 per cent.

Nominal GVA is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 300.22 lakh crore during FY 2024-25 against ₹ 274.13 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.5 per cent.

On an annual basis, the growth in the key manufacturing sector decelerated to 4.5 per cent from 12.3 per cent in 2023-24. However, in the agriculture sector, the output increased to 4.6 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 2.7 per cent in the preceding fiscal.

During the fourth quarter, the manufacturing sector output slowed to 4.8 per cent from 11.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

The construction segment grew 10.8 per cent

in the quarter from 8.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

The agriculture sector growth accelerated to 5.4 per cent from 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of the last fiscal.

The electricity, gas, water supply, and other utility services segment grew 5.4 per cent during the fourth quarter down from 8.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

GVA growth in the services sector -- trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting -- is estimated at 6 per cent in the fourth quarter marginally, lower than 6.2 per cent a year ago.

Financial, real estate and professional services grew 7.8 per cent in the March 2025 quarter compared to 9 per cent in the year-ago period.

Public administration, defence and other services posted almost flat growth at 8.7 per cent in the quarter. (PTI)

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Guwahati faces waterlogging;

waterlogging in almost all localities of the city. Areas such as Panjabari, Six Mile, Rukminigaon, Hatigaon, Anil Nagar, Tarun Nagar, Chandmari, were under water, with the level reaching up to waist level in many places. People were seen using inflatable rafts to commute in parts of the city as students, officer-goers and others waded through the waters to reach their destinations.

Several educational institutions closed early, though students remained stranded on roads for hours due to the waterlogging.

Heads of government offices were reportedly also instructed to allow employees to leave after 3 pm, if they wish, to avoid traffic snarls in view of the inclement weather and waterlogging.

Official sources said landslides have been reported from different parts of the city, though the details were not immediately available. (PTI)

Writer Rita Chowdhury flays 'dragging'

that the two kids would be hapless without their parents. Her statement against bringing in families into political discourse at the end of the long post assumes significance in view of the current ongoing spat between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, who has been named the new state party president. Sarma has been alleging Pakistani links of Gogoi's British wife Elizabeth Colburn and questioning the citizenship of the two minor children of the couple, while the Congress leader has countered by posing questions on business transactions in the name of Sarma's wife and children. (PTI)

Himanta reviews flood preparedness

3,03,885 temporary workers, and 26,768 employees from 840 registered tea estates. As per an official statement, the CM instructed all DCs to complete the implementation of this scheme within the designated timeframe, ensuring that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries without procedural delays.

Joining Sarma at the meeting were minister of Irrigation etc. Ashok Singhal, MLA Sanjoy Kishan, chief secretary Dr Ravi Kota, additional chief secretary of the Cultural Affairs Department B Kalyan Chakravarty, principal secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management G D Tripathi, and Finance Department commissioner & secretary Jayant Narlikar, along with other senior officials from the relevant departments.

Polls to 2 Assam RS seats

of persons filing the nomination papers is equal to the number of seats falling vacant. Assembly elections are scheduled in Assam and Tamil Nadu next year and political equations such as the role of alliance partners in the state are expected to find a reflection in the selection of candidates.

Among the six seats falling vacant in Tamil Nadu -- three are held by the DMK and one by its alliance partner MDKM. The other two seats are held by AIADMK and its alliance partner PMK.

A section of the BJP is rooting for a Rajya Sabha seat for former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai. BJP is an alliance partner of the AIADMK, whose leadership was at loggerheads with Annamalai. BJP has four members in the 236-member Tamil Nadu assembly.

In Assam, the two seats are held by the BJP and its ally AGP and the situation is unlikely to change in the coming Rajya Sabha elections. (PTI)

Gauhati HC issues notice to Assam govt to provide details on 'declared foreigners'

In 2017, two brothers were sent to the detention camp in Goalpara after they were declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunal



GUWAHATI, May 30: The Gauhati High Court has issued notice to the Assam government directing it to provide details on the whereabouts of two brothers, declared foreigners by a tribunal, and on the 'arbitrary arrest of declared foreigners who are apprehending illegal push back'.

A Division bench of Justice Kalyan Rai Surana and Justice Malasri Nandi on Thursday directed the state government to give details about the where-

abouts of Abu Bakkar Siddik and his brother Akbar Ali who were detained by the officials of the Nagarbera police station in Kamrup district on May 25. The court has posted the next date of hearing on June 4.

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by the duo's nephew Torap Ali who claimed that his family apprehends both his uncles 'may be in danger of being illegally pushed into Bangladesh'.

The petitioner claimed that the authorities have refused to give details of the whereabouts of the two brothers since May 25 when they were called to the police station.

During the hearing, the state counsel J Payeng said that Siddik and Ali have been detained and are now in the custody of Assam Border police.

In 2017, the brothers were sent to the detention camp in Goalpara after they were declared foreigners by the

Foreigners Tribunal as they failed to provide documents to prove that they or their forefathers had come to the country before March 24, 1971, the cut-off decided by the 1985 Assam Accord.

They were released on bail in 2020 following the Supreme Court's directive that those who are in detention for over two years may be released on bail.

The petitioner claimed that the two men did not get an opportunity to take recourse to all legal remedies available to them under the law and to 'push back before such determination is conclusive amounts to arbitrary deprivation of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution'. Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, particularly in Assam, established to determine if a person residing in India is a 'foreigner' as defined by the Foreigners Act of 1946, based on the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order of 1964.

These tribunals are designed to address matters related to citizenship and the presence of foreigners in India, specifically focusing on cases where someone is suspected of being an illegal immigrant.

The Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, of 1964, is applicable nationwide. The Foreigners Tribunals are primarily associated with and functioning in Assam, particularly in the context of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and related issues.

There are 100 Foreigners Tribunals across the state. (PTI)

Kharge, Rahul meet Assam Cong leaders to discuss poll strategy



NEW DELHI, May 30: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday met the party's leaders from Assam to discuss strategy ahead of assembly polls in the state next year.

This is the first meeting of the top party leadership with the Assam unit after the change of guard in the state unit with the appointment of Gaurav Gogoi as new party chief.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal and the party general secretary in-charge for Assam Jitendra Singh were also present at the party's new Indra Bhawan headquarters here.

In a post on Facebook, Gandhi shared pictures of the meeting.

"Today, under the leadership of Hon'ble President Mallikarjun Kharge ji, met and met with the newly formed Assam Pradesh Congress Committee members at Congress Headquarters Indra Bhawan," Gandhi said in his post. (PTI)

My husband is Indian; we know justice will prevail: Wife of Assam man deported to Bangladesh

MORIGAON (ASSAM), May 30: For Rita Khanam, faith in God remains her final refuge as she waits anxiously for news of her husband, whom she last saw in a video earlier this week.

The footage, reportedly shot in the 'no man's land' along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam's South Salmara Mankachar district, has left her distraught and searching for answers.

Speaking to PTI over the phone from her home at Khandapukhuri in Morigaon district, Khanam said her family is in touch with the authorities and has submitted documents to prove her husband Khairul Islam's Indian nationality. She remains hopeful that "justice will prevail."

Islam was among nine persons arrested by Morigaon police on May 24 in a crackdown on illegal immigrants declared by the Foreigners' Tribunal (FT), but who had been evading deportation.

Along with his three siblings, Islam was declared a foreigner by the FT in 2016, a decision he challenged in the Gauhati High Court.

The High Court upheld the FT's ruling, leading to his detention in 2018.

He was set free in 2020 following a Supreme Court general order to release all detainees who had spent more than two years in jail.

"My husband is a former school teacher and a law-abiding citizen. On May 23, personnel from Mikirbitha police station came to our house and took him away, saying they had a few questions and he could return home after that," Khanam said.

Khanam said she had a gut feeling that the situation was more serious, as police came at a late hour.

"And the next thing we know, he was taken to Morigaon SP's office and from there, to the detention camp at Matia (in Goalpara district). And then, the video emerged where we found that he had been deported to Bangladesh," she claimed.

Islam is believed to be among 14 illegal Bangladeshi nationals who were sent back to their country by the BSF through the South Salmara Mankachar border on Tuesday.



Though a BSF officer, who refused to be identified, had confirmed deporting the persons, an official statement by the force said a "large group of Bangladeshis" had attempted to infiltrate, which was successfully thwarted by the border guards.

Khanam claimed that her husband's appeal against the FT decision is pending before the Supreme Court, though local police maintained that they had the necessary clearance for his deportation.

"In the case of Khairul Islam, we had the necessary clearance to deport him. But for his two brothers and a sister, who were also declared foreigners by the FT, we are awaiting legal formalities. Hence, we have not detained them," a local police officer told PTI.

Khanam is confident of her husband's Indian nationality, and their family members are already in touch with the authorities to present necessary documents.

"Our relatives are pursuing the matter. We know that he is an Indian and I have full faith in 'Ishwar and Allah' that he will return," she said, as she waited at their residence with her two teenaged children for Islam. (PTI)

BTC chief's initiative brings long-overdue recognition to eminent Bodo artists

As a gesture of deep respect, each artist was presented with a cheque of ₹50,000 in recognition of their lifelong commitment

HT Correspondent KOKRAJHAR, May 30: In a landmark initiative, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Pramod Boro, and Assam Minister for Panchayat & Rural Development and Tourism, Ranjeet Kumar Dass, jointly felicitated a group of eminent Bodo artists in Kokrajhar on Friday. These artists had represented Bodo cultural traditions on national platforms between 1955 and 1986.

The felicitation ceremony, held at the Bodofa Cultural Complex in Chandamari, was organised by the Dularai Boro Harimu Afad (DBHA) and the Bodo Radio and Television Artists Association (BRTAA), in collaboration with the Government of BTR.

Minister Dass commended the initiative, calling it a "new milestone" in recognising and preserving cultural heritage. He praised CEM Pramod Boro's leadership in conceptualising the event, noting that such recognition models should be replicated across other districts and autonomous councils.

"There was a time when people were reluctant to visit Kokrajhar. Today, it stands as a beacon of peace



and cultural resurgence," Dass remarked. He credited the transformation to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, and BTC Chief Pramod Boro.

In his address, CEM Pramod Boro outlined several initiatives undertaken by the current BTR government to promote education and cultural iden-

tity, including the Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma Super 50 Mission, Dr. Bashiram Boro Fellowship for PhD aspirants, financial grants for cultural organisations, and the construction of cultural halls across the region.

Boro emphasized that the felicitation was aimed at honouring the contributions of veteran artists who played a pivotal role in showcasing Bodo dance and traditions at the na-

tional level during a formative period.

"As a gesture of deep respect, each artist was presented with a cheque of ₹50,000 in recognition of their lifelong commitment to preserving Bodo cultural heritage. The Government of BTR salutes their timeless contributions, which continue to inspire future generations," he said.

The event commenced with the launch of a commemorative book chronicling the journey of the honoured artists, released by Dr. Surath Narzary, President of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

A special Bagurumba performance by the felicitated artists — including those who performed at the 1972 Delhi Asian Mela — offered the audience a nostalgic glimpse into the golden era of Bodo cultural expression.

Among the dignitaries present were Rajya Sabha MP Rungwra Narzary, Lok Sabha MP Joyanta Basumatary, BTC Deputy Chief Gobinda Chandra Basumatary, State Minister U G Brahma, MCLAs Reo Reo Narzhary and Madhab Chandra Chetry, MLA Lawrence Islary, and several BTC Executive Members, alongside senior officials and prominent cultural figures.

Oppn says govt's 'lenient' arms licence policy to 'polarise' people, jeopardise peace

GUWAHATI, May 30: Opposition leaders in Assam on Friday criticised the state government's decision to adopt a "lenient" arms licence policy, maintaining that it is a move to "polarise the public" and it will jeopardise the state's hard-won peace.

They sought the Centre's intervention to revoke the decision at the earliest.

The Assam government had on Wednesday announced giving arms licences to indigenous people living in "vulnerable and remote" areas for instilling a sense of security in them.

"Assamese people living in some areas have been feeling insecure and they have been demanding arms licences for a long time. In the backdrop of recent developments in Bangladesh and the state government's recent drive against suspected foreigners, the indigenous people in such areas feel that they might be attacked," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said while announcing the decision.

The government will be lenient in giving licences to eligible people, who have to be original inhabitants and must belong to the indigenous community living in vulnerable and remote areas, he added.

Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Debabrata Saikia of the Congress, condemned the decision, asserting that this "unconstitutional action jeopardises Assam's hard-won peace".

In letters addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Saikia sought immediate central intervention to revoke this "dangerous and divisive policy".



The Congress leader maintained that the decision is the government's apparent admission of institutional failure.

He claimed that the policy had "dangerous demographic implications", noting that selective armament could deepen existing social divides and potentially create new armed factions.

"Arming civilians along communal lines is a recipe for disaster. The Assam government's promotion of vigilante justice demonstrates an abdication of its constitutional responsibility to support law enforcement. They should remember that peace cannot be sustained at gunpoint," Saikia said.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Sushmita Dev, addressing a press conference here, maintained that this decision to leniently issue arms licences is a disrespect to the police and the Border Security Force (BSF).

"It shows that the chief minister no longer trusts his police force or the Centre's BSF. This

is an insult to the police and the BSF," she claimed, pointing out that Sarma is also the home minister of the state.

Dev also questioned how the chief minister could ensure that people would use the firearms only for the specific purpose of "protecting themselves".

"I want to ask the chief minister — can you control how the people will use the guns once they get it? The CM is not working for the welfare of the people but to polarise them," she claimed.

Referring to the recent pushing back of illegal Bangladeshis through the international boundary, the TMC leader alleged that it was in contradiction of laid down laws.

"Why are you pushing them back? Deport them as per law and we are with you," she added.

Dev also claimed that the BJP-led government has failed to keep its commitment on illegal immigration to the people of Assam. (PTI)

No. TE(Ex) Admn-8/2025/258

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE

Applications are invited from the candidates who are Permanent Resident of Assam for admission into the B.Tech Programme for the session -2025-26 in the School of Engineering and Technology, Nagaland University, Dimapur.

B. Tech (4-years) Degree Courses

S.No.	Name of course	No. of seat
1	Agricultural Engineering & Technology	1(one)
2	Bio-Technology	1(one)
3	Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)	1(one)
4	Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)	1(one)
5	Information Technology (IT)	1(one)

How to apply :- Interested candidates are to submit their applications from 9th June to 14th June, 2025 (Working days) 1st Floor, Directorate of Technical Education, Assam Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, along with the Permanent Residents Certificate, for Age proof Admit Card of 10th Standard, Marksheet of 12th Standard, 3 (three) copies of recent passport size photographs.

Eligibility Criteria :-

The Candidates seeking admission in above mentioned discipline should be secured minimum 45% marks for General and 40% marks in case of SC/ST category in 10+2 examination with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

However, candidates from non-mathematics background can also apply for B.Tech courses in Agricultural Engineering & Technology and Bio-Technology Department, and candidates from non-chemistry background can also apply for B. Tech course in CSE/IT/ECE Department provided that they satisfy other admission criteria mentioned in the table given below:-

Sl. No.	Major Disciplines	Mandatory courses at 10+2 level	Other relevant course(s)	Required Bridge courses (will be offered in First year of B.Tech.)
1	Agriculture Engg.	Physics, Chemistry OR Agriculture stream	Maths/Biology/Biotech/ Agriculture/Agriculture stream	Mathematics for Non-mathematics/ Chemistry for non-chemistry
2	Biotechnology	Physics, Chemistry	Biology/Biotech	Mathematics for non-mathematics
3	Computer Sc. & Engg.	Physics, Mathematics	For remaining single course select any courses #	Chemistry for non-chemistry
4	Electronics and Communication Engg.	Chemistry for non-chemistry	For remaining single course select any courses out of 14#	Chemistry for non-chemistry
5	Information Technology	Chemistry for non-chemistry	For remaining single course select any courses out of 14#	Chemistry for non-chemistry

Physics/Mathematics/Chemistry/computer Science/Electronics/Information Technology/Biology/Biotechnology/Technical Vocational subject/Agriculture/ Engineering Graphics/Business Studies/Entrepreneurship.

Sd/-

Director of Technical Education, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19.

DIPR /D/HLT/19/31-May-25

No.SLRC-G-III/91/Advertisement/2023/84

NOTICE

Driving Skill Test under State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III Posts

In continuation to this Commission's advertisement No.SLRC-G-III/91/Advertisement/2023/2, dated 30-10-2023, it is hereby informed that those candidates who have provisionally qualified in the written examination for next level of test for the posts having minimum qualification of HSLC or equivalent examination passed with valid LMV Driving Licence (Driver), will have to appear in Driving Skill Test and Document Verification to be held from 15th June to 28th June, 2025 in Guwahati.

The pattern of the Driving Skill Test will be as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Marks
1	Signal Test	5
2	Basic Knowledge of Maintenance of a Vehicle	5
3	Test of Driving LMV vehicle	15
Total Marks		25

Candidates have to download their Admit Cards for Driving Skill Test from the official website of ASSEB www.sebaonline.org from 11.00 AM of 08-06-2025.

Candidates are requested to carefully go through the instructions given in the admit card for appearing in the Driving Skill Test.

Sd/-
Secretary,
State Level Recruitment Commission for Class- III Posts,
AASCB, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.

DIPR/D/HLT/20/31-May-25

Cracks in Trump-Musk ties

Cracks have begun to emerge in the Trump-Musk relationship as the latter has shown his disappointment with President Donald Trump on the recent domestic policy endorsed by the Congress. He said in a TV interview that he was "disappointed" that it would increase the federal deficit. The GOP has been constantly criticizing the previous Biden administration for increasing the budget deficit and had been going hammer and tongs with spending cuts. Now the Trump administration seems to have fallen into the same trap of deficit balloon for an entirely set of different reasons. Musk's public break comes as the Republicans' bill heads to the Senate, where several senators have also criticized the legislation for increasing the deficit. The legislative package encompasses many of Trump's priorities, and the president has urged Congress to send the bill to his desk for a signature "as soon as possible."

Secondly, it enhances coverage under the two schemes by boosting the cost by over \$1,000 which coming on top of inflation and grocery prices could end up being unacceptable to the middle-class populations. This is how its playing out. Biden pandered to the middle-class expanding Obamacare offering them discounted Medicare and Medicaid and making up the losses by taxing the rich, but Trump has gone in reverse gear cutting down on expenditure on Medicare and Medicaid on specious grounds that many were falsely doctored into the scheme and by saving thus subsidise the rich by lowering their taxes. Biden depended on the middle class votes for his party to retain power. But Trump needs donations from the rich to sustain his election campaigns as the cases foisted against him during the Biden era, not that Biden was responsible for it, but his own doing put a big hole in his pocket also drained out the finances of the GOP which subsidized is court cases expenditure.

Taking 8 million out of the health care net has angered many. Besides the pricing of drugs, one does know, if it goes south now. And anyone earning over 4 million dollars a year gets a huge tax break, and that's 0.1 per cent of the population. It's in this context that one has to see how mindset of Tesla boss and close friend of Trump works now. The tech mogul's remarks in the interview also come as he has suggested he would be backing away from his administration role to return his attention to the private sector. Musk said in a post on X last week that he had to be "super focused" on his companies and was "back to spending 24/7 at work and sleeping in conference/server/factory rooms." While Musk was highly enthused about Trump about reducing expenditure and reduce the deficit in the budget, it's not working that way. Not only is the work he was doing in DOGE being undone by Trump with his domestic policies that was not putting in place a watertight scheme that brings in more revenue and compensates for Trumps tax cuts.

Israeli genocide in Gaza is a reminder of atrocities perpetrated by Nazis on Jews

By: P. Sudhir

Yaqeen Hammad, a 12-year-old Palestinian girl, was shredded into pieces by an Israeli missile attack on her residence. Yaqeen has been aptly called the Anne Frank of Gaza. Like Anne, who kept a diary in an attic in a Holocaust-ravaged, Nazi-occupied neighbourhood, Yaqeen documented the horrors around her. Her diaries – digital this time – became a record of the brutalities faced by her people.

Ironically, the present-day Israeli Zionists, who invoke the Holocaust to justify their moral rationale for the State of Israel and recount their suffering, are now adopting similar oppressive attitudes. Yaqeen moved from one refugee camp to another, shot videos, and posted them on Instagram, bringing global attention to the gruesome realities in Gaza. More than a media activist, she was also involved in humanitarian aid, helping thousands of hapless Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza.

The phrase "live-streamed genocide" has gained currency – coined by Amnesty International – thanks to brave social media activists like Yaqeen. The targeting of children in Gaza is not accidental; it is the outcome of a sinister ideology that labels even innocent children as collaborators of Hamas. This notion is deeply ingrained in the hysteria whipped up by Zionist politicians. Moshe Feiglin, a close associate of the Netanyahu government, even stated emphatically: "Every baby in Gaza is an enemy." The depravity of such statements is unprecedented. Some extremists have gone so far as to support wiping out all such children as a military objective.

The latest Israeli plan reportedly involves deploying reinforced army units to capture and "clean out" Gaza's 365 square kilometres – 70 per cent of which has already been turned into "no-go zones" for Palestinians. Most of Gaza's population could be pushed to Rafah, the southernmost city, which has itself been virtually razed. Cities like Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah are now synonymous with daily destruction.

Perhaps the most disturbing element of the Israeli plan is the forced relocation of Palestinians into Israeli-controlled zones, ironically termed "humanitarian zones." There, ration packets are distributed by private security contractors tied to Israeli-vetted aid organisations. Aid has been politicised and militarised – used as a tool for coercion. This design enables a protracted occupation, with Palestinians confined to increasingly smaller areas and Israel controlling all access to necessities. Reportedly, Donald Trump even involved himself personally in setting up an aid organ-

isation outside UN oversight to carry out this militarised aid programme. Netanyahu's cabinet has codenamed the military mission "Gideon's Chariots." Whether it is truly intended to pressure Hamas into releasing hostages or simply a cover for collective punishment is clear from the scale of destruction.

However, the intensity of the military operation has forced some changes in western leadership's tone. In a joint statement, the UK, France, and Canada condemned the humanitarian crisis, calling it "intolerable." They questioned the inadequacy of the food aid plan and said: "We condemn the abhorrent language recently used by Israeli government officials. Permanent forced displacement is a breach of international humanitarian law." While initially supporting Israel's right to self-defence after Hamas' October 7 attack, they now strongly oppose the expansion of military operations in Gaza. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated: "Humanitarian aid must never be politicised," emphasizing that the only viable resolution is a two-State solution.

Yet, in the absence of US pressure – especially with Donald Trump's silence – it is uncertain whether Netanyahu will heed this advice.

Francesca Albanese, the UN's Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, was forthright: "Most member states remain inactive at best or are actively aiding and abetting Israel's criminal conduct." She referred particularly to western and some Gulf nations. She also warned that Israel risks becoming a pariah state, given its relentless assault not only on Palestinians but also on the United Nations. It is clear that this tragedy stems from the complicity – wilful or not – of nations that backed the 1948 UN plan creating Israel. The Zionist ideology of ethnic cleansing was evident from the outset. Jewish historian Ilan Pappé, whose family suffered during the Holocaust, detailed these intentions in his book *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, beginning with the 1948 Nakba. This design is now unfolding – with Donald Trump's grandiose plan to turn Gaza into a tourist Riviera adding insult to injury.

We must understand why Israel is pursuing this hysterical campaign in Gaza post-October 7. Regardless of Hamas' military capacity, their actions challenged the myth of Israel's security invincibility. This campaign could not have proceeded without active western complicity – especially from the US. Without a civilized State-to-State relationship between Israelis and Palestinians, military might can never secure lasting peace. (IPA Service)

Will artificial floods in Guwahati be controlled?

It took just one day of rain for Guwahati to descend into chaos. Inundated roads, stranded schoolchildren, office workers marooned in knee-deep water, and tragically, lives lost—including a child. What followed was all too familiar: outrage, despair, and yet another round of public discourse condemning governmental failure and urban mismanagement. The city's recurring tryst with artificial floods is not merely a consequence of nature's fury, but a deep-rooted civic and structural failure. Guwahati, the bustling gateway to Northeast India, perched beside the mighty Brahmaputra, is paradoxically drowning in mismanagement, poor planning, and short-sighted urbanisation.

Artificial flooding in Guwahati is not a new phenomenon. Its history dates back at least four decades. In the Kumarpara locality, older residents recall a time when boats floated along roads submerged by floodwaters, and families sought shelter elsewhere until the waters receded. Even then, locals blamed human activities—unregulated construction, encroachment, and lack of government foresight. Today, the Bharalu River, once an arterial waterway of the city, is now a stagnant, garbage-choked drain reflecting the city's worsening ecological decay. Despite modern technology and supposed development, the nature and severity of these floods have only intensified.

The Bharalu River, originating from the foothills of Meghalaya's Khasi Hills and called the Bahini in its upper reaches, weaves through the heart of Guwahati before draining into the Brahmaputra. Once a vital channel for stormwater drainage, it now serves as a polluted corridor, choked by solid waste and constricted by encroachments. Construction over wetlands and natural reservoirs like Deepor Beel, Borsola Beel, Saruchala Beel, and Silsako Lake has exacerbated the crisis. Buildings have sprung up on blocked drains, while reservoirs have been buried or constricted, drastically reducing the city's capacity to manage even moderate rainfall.



Guwahati's topography compounds the problem. Hemmed in by hills, water descends rapidly into the city basin during rains. The hills, once natural buffers, are now losing their forest cover due to deforestation and haphazard development, reducing their ability to absorb rainfall. The result is a fast-flowing deluge of water with

DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Dipak Kurmi

nowhere to go—flooding roads, homes, and markets within an hour of sustained precipitation.

The government's response has been a mixed bag. The "Mission Flood Free Guwahati" initiative, launched by the Assam government, was meant to address the chronic urban flooding through infrastructural upgrades and better stormwater management. Measures included desilting of drains and installing auto-priming pumps at vulnerable locations. Yet the ground reality remains grim. Reports indicate that the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) has been sluggish and inconsistent in implementing these projects. Restoration works, including the eviction of illegal encroachments around water bodies such as the Silsako Beel, have faced delays, legal hurdles, and political controversy.

The challenges go beyond infra-

structure. The city suffers from a lack of integrated urban planning. Urban expansion has rarely factored in flood risk assessments. Roads are built without proper drainage channels, while large-scale housing projects continue to sprout on marshy land, further compromising the city's natural flood-resilience. Garbage disposal remains a chronic problem, with citizens often dumping household waste directly into drains and rivers. This leads to massive blockages, rendering existing sewer systems ineffective. The lack of a citywide waste management system has left the Bharalu-Bahini tributary functioning as an open drain, choked with waste and unable to efficiently carry runoff to the Brahmaputra.

Even the convergence of the Bharalu and Brahmaputra rivers poses structural limitations. The Brahmaputra has an average depth of 45 metres near Guwahati, while the Bharalu is only about 3 metres deep. This vertical drop in elevation causes a sharp decrease in water velocity, preventing smooth drainage. Some experts have suggested altering the flow direction or creating a gradient transition to improve the Bharalu's discharge capacity into the Brahmaputra.

Drawing inspiration from global examples could offer innovative solutions. The case of San Antonio, Texas, is particularly instructive.

After devastating floods in 1921, the American city constructed a network of interconnected canals along the San Antonio River. These not only prevented future floods but evolved into the world-famous "River Walk"—a vibrant tourist attraction lined with pedestrian paths, gondola rides, and riverside cafes. A similar approach could transform Guwahati. Constructing canals that connect the Bharalu-Bahini rivers to the Brahmaputra and linking other reservoirs such as Deepor Beel, Khanajan, and Bondajan can create a dual-purpose network: a modern drainage system and a scenic urban waterway. Roads currently prone to flooding could be retrofitted into drainage canals, with overhead flyovers ensuring transportation continuity. A well-conceived plan, in consultation with water resource experts, could prevent annual flood chaos while also boosting tourism revenue.

Venice, Italy, another canal-based city, has long fascinated tourists with its waterborne charm. While Guwahati may not emulate Venice in architectural grandeur, it can certainly adopt its hydrological wisdom. Picturesque artificial canals could redefine the city's relationship with water—from a source of destruction to a medium of beauty and utility. These canals, if maintained and marketed well, could become iconic attractions, helping recoup the initial infra-

structural investment through tourism.

Beyond canals, Guwahati must also adopt techniques like rainwater harvesting to increase the water-holding capacity of nearby hills and prevent instant runoff. Protecting the forest cover and implementing stringent construction norms in hilly areas is equally critical. In tandem, the drainage infrastructure beneath major roads needs to be overhauled. Many parts of the city lack underground sewer systems, while those that exist are insufficient or blocked. Constructing wider, deeper underground drains akin to those in larger metropolises could significantly improve stormwater flow.

Equally important is cross-border collaboration. Guwahati's flooding cannot be resolved in isolation. Deforestation and unregulated development in Meghalaya directly affect the city's flood levels through unchecked runoff. Coordinated flood management, afforestation drives, and integrated catchment area planning between Assam and Meghalaya are essential to curb upstream water flow and mitigate downstream impact.

While the blame game between the government and the public often dominates post-flood narratives, a shift in mindset is urgently needed. Citizens must be made aware of the impact of their actions—be it dumping garbage in drains or illegal hilltop construction. At the same time, the government must lead by example through transparency, urgency, and innovation in tackling urban floods.

The future of Guwahati need not be a story of repeated submergence. While the city may have grown without a plan, science and technology today offer the tools to build resilience. What is required is not just infrastructure, but vision. Vision to reimagine the city's water management system, draw inspiration from global success stories, and implement context-specific solutions rooted in sustainability. Guwahati's water woes are not insurmountable. But without decisive action, bold planning, and community cooperation, the monsoon will continue to be a season of fear, not relief. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

China-Pakistan Alliance: A Strategic Challenge for India

By: Satyabrata Borah

China's strategic relationship with Pakistan is a multifaceted and deeply calculated partnership that extends far beyond merely countering India's influence in South Asia. According to former Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, China's engagement with Pakistan is driven by a combination of military, economic, and political objectives that form part of a long-term geopolitical strategy. In a recent interview with CNBC-TV18, Gokhale elaborated on the motivations behind this enduring alliance, highlighting China's need to balance India, secure maritime access to the Arabian Sea, limit U.S. influence in the region, and address internal security concerns related to ethnic fundamentalism. This partnership, which has its roots in the early 1960s, has evolved significantly, particularly with the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2015, and carries profound implications for India and the broader regional dynamics.

China's view of Pakistan as a strategic asset dates back decades, with the relationship being carefully nurtured for a variety of reasons. Gokhale outlined four primary motivations driving China's commitment to Pakistan. First and foremost, Pakistan serves as a counterbalance to India in the Chinese strategic calculus. As India's regional and global influence grows, China perceives Pakistan as a critical partner in offsetting India's dominance in South Asia. This is particularly important given India's economic rise and its increasing alignment with Western powers, which China views with suspicion. By strengthening Pakistan, China seeks to create a regional counterweight that can challenge India's aspirations and keep it preoccupied with security concerns along its western border.

The second key factor is Pakistan's geographical significance. Located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan offers China access to the Arabian Sea through the port of Gwadar. This is a critical component of China's strategy to address its so-called "Malacca Dilemma"—the vulnerability of its energy and trade routes through the narrow Malacca Strait, which could be disrupted by rival powers in times of conflict. Gwadar provides an alternative route for Chinese trade and energy supplies, bypassing the Malacca Strait and reducing dependence on maritime chokepoints controlled by other nations. Moreover, as Gokhale noted, with China's third aircraft carrier group undergoing testing and likely to be deployed in the Indian Ocean once operational, Gwadar's role as a friendly port for repairs and resupply will become increasingly vital. While China al-

ready has a military base in Djibouti, Gwadar's proximity to the Persian Gulf and its strategic location make it an ideal hub for China's naval ambitions in the Indian Ocean region.

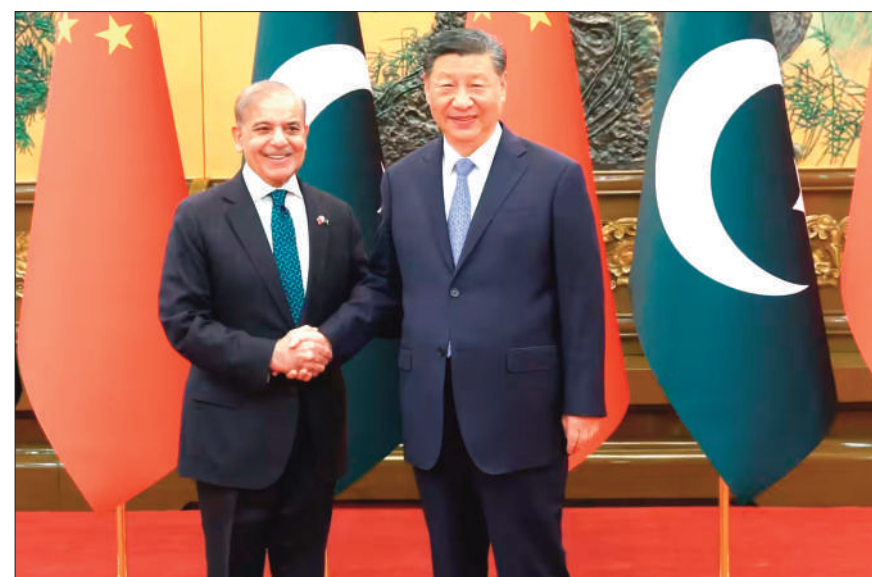
The third motivation is China's desire to prevent Pakistan from falling into the U.S. sphere of influence. During the Cold War and even in the post-9/11 era, Pakistan maintained close ties with the United States, including hosting American military assets. For China, the presence of U.S. military bases in Pakistan would pose a direct threat to its national security, particularly given Pakistan's proximity to China's western borders. By cultivating a strong alliance with Pakistan, China ensures that Islamabad remains outside the U.S. camp, thereby safeguarding its own strategic interests in the region.

Finally, China sees Pakistan as a partner in addressing internal security challenges, particularly in its restive Xinjiang province. The region, home to China's Uyghur Muslim population, has faced issues of ethnic unrest and religious extremism. Pakistan's influence in the Islamic world and its ability to manage cross-border militant groups are seen as valuable tools for China in controlling the spread of fundamentalism into its territory. By maintaining close ties with Pakistan, China hopes to leverage its neighbour's influence to stabilize its own borderlands.

The launch of the CPEC in 2015 marked a significant deepening of the China-Pakistan relationship. This ambitious infrastructure and economic initiative, part of China's broader Belt and Road Initiative, has seen billions of dollars invested in Pakistan's energy, transport, and port infrastructure. The development of Gwadar port, in particular, has been a cornerstone of this project, providing China with a strategic foothold in the Arabian Sea.

However, the partnership has not been without challenges. Chinese personnel working on CPEC projects have faced security threats, including attacks by militant groups, and Pakistan's economic instability has raised concerns about its ability to repay Chinese loans. Despite these hurdles, Gokhale emphasized that China views its investments in Pakistan as a long-term strategic commitment rather than a purely financial venture. For Beijing, the benefits in terms of national security and geopolitical influence outweigh the immediate economic risks.

The implications of this partnership for India are significant. China's growing presence in Pakistan, particularly through CPEC and the development of Gwadar, has heightened India's security concerns. The possibility of Gwadar serving as a Chinese naval



hub in the Indian Ocean poses a direct challenge to India's maritime interests. Furthermore, the strengthening of Pakistan's military and economic capabilities through Chinese support complicates India's regional strategy, particularly in the context of the longstanding India-Pakistan rivalry. The China-Pakistan axis also places additional pressure on India to bolster its own strategic partnerships, both regionally and globally, to counterbalance this alignment.

Gokhale also shed light on the current state of India-China relations, which have been strained since the 2020 border clashes along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). While disengagement of troops at various friction points has been achieved, the broader process of de-escalation remains incomplete. Beyond the border, other aspects of the relationship, such as trade, investment, and people-to-people ties, continue to face challenges. India has imposed restrictions on Chinese investments and apps, citing security concerns, while China has reportedly created informal trade barriers. For instance, Gokhale pointed to delays in the export of critical equipment, such as tunnel-boring machines for metro systems and components for manufacturing next-generation Apple phones in India. Joint ventures in sectors like lithium-ion technology have also encountered obstacles, reflecting the broader tensions in the relationship.

The collapse of the previous diplomatic framework that governed India-China relations has left the two countries in a state of "armed coexistence," according to Gokhale. This situation is inherently unstable, as it lacks a clear mechanism for managing disputes and preventing escalation. To address this, Gokhale advocated for the development of a new diplomatic framework that would

provide predictability and stability to the relationship. Such a framework would need to ensure that neither side resorts to the use or threat of force, allowing both nations to focus their resources on economic development. For India, leveraging China's economy for its own growth remains a goal, but this depends on China's willingness to invest in India in good faith.

Looking ahead, India faces the challenge of navigating this complex geopolitical landscape while safeguarding its national interests. A predictable and stable relationship with China is essential, but achieving this will require careful diplomacy and strategic foresight. India must also continue to strengthen its own economic and military capabilities to assert its position in the region. At the same time, fostering partnerships with like-minded countries, such as the United States, Japan, and Australia through frameworks like the Quad, can help India counterbalance China's growing influence.

China's long game with Pakistan is a testament to its strategic patience and focus on securing its geopolitical objectives. For India, this partnership underscores the need for a proactive and multifaceted approach to regional security and diplomacy. By addressing the challenges posed by the China-Pakistan axis and building a robust framework for engaging with China, India can position itself to thrive in an increasingly competitive geopolitical environment. As Gokhale noted, there is wisdom on both sides, and the steps being considered to stabilize India-China relations offer hope for a more predictable future. However, the path forward will require resilience, adaptability, and a clear-eyed understanding of the stakes involved in this high-stakes geopolitical chessboard.

The role of social organizations in children's career development

By: Dr. Buljit Buragohain

Children's career development is a long-term and multifaceted process. In this journey, various social organizations such as families, educational institutions, religious and cultural bodies, and government and non-government bodies play a significant role. These institutions influence a child's personality development, skill acquisition, and career preferences both directly and indirectly.

Social organizations provide platforms where children can participate in activities such as recitation, dance, music, drama, and more, allowing them to showcase their creativity. These experiences enhance their self-confidence and open doors to careers in the performing arts. Participation also increases cultural awareness and self-expression skills. Moreover, the presence of successful individuals, speakers, and experts at these

events can serve as powerful sources of inspiration. Their experiences and guidance help children set goals and introduce them to diverse career opportunities, often acting as role models. By taking part in group competitions, cultural events, and community service programs, children develop important qualities such as teamwork, leadership, and a sense of responsibility. These traits are essential for success in any career field. Social organizations also expose children to new subjects, skills, and technologies. Science fairs, speech contests, and craft workshops, for example, nurture curiosity and improve hands-on abilities. Such experiences help children identify their interests and inclinations more clearly. Religious and cultural programs further instill values like ethics, respect for hard work, and social responsibility etc. These values positively influence children's career choices and contribute to their holistic growth.

Sports events, organized by schools or community groups, support both physical and mental well-being and can also open pathways to sports-related careers. These events foster discipline, resilience, and a competitive mindset.

In essence, social organizations play a multidimensional role in children's career development. They are not just sources of entertainment—they are platforms for personality enhancement, skill development, and early career exploration. Therefore, it is essential that parents, teachers, and community members encourage children to actively participate in such programs. A healthy social environment is the cornerstone of building a bright and successful future for the next generation. (The author is a Career Counsellor and Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University, Airport Road, Azara. He can be reached at 9435188630 or www.buljit.com)



IIT Guwahati Recruitment 2025 – 23 Sports Instructor, Coach & Other Posts

Last Date: 09/06/2025.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 23 Sports Instructor, Coach & Other Posts on purely temporary basis. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Part-time Sports Instructor
No of posts: 19
Sports-wise vacancy:
Athletics (02)
Badminton (01)
Basketball (02)
Cricket (01)
Chess (01)
Football (01)
Hockey (02)
Squash (01)
Swimming (01-Male & 01-Female)
Tennis (02)
Table Tennis (02)
Volleyball (01)
Weightlifting (01)
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.
Minimum Qualification: 10+2 passed with participation in state level competitions/Bachelor Degree in Physical Education/Diploma in Coaching/Certificate in Coaching.
Experience: Candidates having experience of teaching/coaching may be given preference.
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
2. Part-time Water Polo Coach
No of posts: 01 post
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.
Minimum Qualification: 10+2 passed with participation in state level competition in water polo.
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
3. General Fitness Trainer
No of posts: 01 post
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.
Minimum Qualification: 10+2 passed with participation in state level competitions/Bachelor Degree in Physical Education/Diploma in Coaching/Certificate in Coaching.
Experience: Candidates having experience in the field of general fitness training, rehabilitation, recreation etc. will be preferred.
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
4. Life Guard
No of posts: 02 posts
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.
Minimum Qualification: Candidate should possess the life guard certificate.
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
Age Limit (for posts 1,2,3 and 4): 45 years (desirable)
Citizenship: The candidates must be a citizen of India.
Duty hours: From 05:30 pm to 08:30 pm from Monday to Friday. Additional service may be required on Saturday, Sunday and other Holidays as and when necessary.
How to Apply for IIT Guwahati Recruitment?
Interested candidates may report to Old SAC building, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati at 07:30 AM on 09/06/2025 for verification along with their CV, original documents and a set of photo copy of all relevant documents along with two (02) passport size colour photographs.
Date of practical test: 09/06/2025 Reporting time: 07:30 AM (Venue: Old SAC building, IIT Guwahati)
Date of interview: 10/06/2025 Reporting time: 09:00 AM (Venue: Interview Room, Administrative Building, IIT Guwahati)
The candidates should bring all original documents while appearing for walk in interview.
The candidates shortlisted based on practical test will get call to attend interview on 10/06/2025.
For any query interesting candidates may contact in rec_admin@iitg.ac.in.

ISRO Recruitment 2025 – 320 Scientist/ Engineer Vacancy, Online Apply

Last Date: 16/06/2025.

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 320 Scientist/ Engineer Vacancy at constituent ISRO Centres (Group 'A' Gazetted posts) and in an Autonomous Body under DOS (Group 'A' Non-Gazetted posts). Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

- Name of post: Scientist/ Engineer 'SC'
- No of posts: 320 posts
- Vacancy details:
Electronics: 113
Mechanical: 160
Computer Science: 44
Electronics – Autonomous Body – PRL: 2
Computer Science – Autonomous Body – PRL: 1
Advertisement No. ISRO/ICRB:02(EMC):2025 dated 27.05.2025
Eligibility Criteria of ISRO Recruitment
Age Limit: 28 years as on 16.06.2025.
Age Relaxation: Serving Central Govt. employees, Ex-Servicemen; Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, are eligible for age relaxation as per Govt. of India orders.
Educational Qualification: BE/ B.Tech or equivalent in respective branch of Engineering with an aggregate minimum of 65% marks or CGPA 6.84/10.
Pay: Selected candidates will be appointed as Scientist/Engineer 'SC' in Level 10 of Pay Matrix and will be paid minimum basic pay of ₹ 56,100/- p.m.
Application Fee: There is a non-refundable Application Fee of ₹250/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty only) for all the posts. However, initially all candidates have to uniformly pay ₹750/- (Rupees Seven Hundred and Fifty only) per application as processing fee. The processing fee will be refunded only to those candidates who appear in the written test as under:
(i) ₹750/- i.e refund in full for candidates who are exempted from payment of Application Fee (women, SC/ST/ PwBD, Ex-Servicemen).
(ii) ₹500/- i.e after deducting the Application Fee in respect of all other candidates.
Important Dates of ISRO Recruitment 2025
Starting date of submission of online application: 27th May 2025
Last date of submission of online application: 16th June 2025

ARIAS Society Recruitment 2025 – 25 Accountant, JE, & Other Posts

Last Date: 05/06/2025.

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society has released an employment notification for the recruitment of purely temporary contractual positions of 25 Accountant, JE, & Other Posts in the Cluster Project Implementation Units (CPIUs) under the proposed Asian Development Bank (ABD) financed Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) Project. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Accountant
No of posts: 5
Indicative Range of CTP: ₹ 4.20 to ₹ 5.00 Lakh Per Year
Educational Qualification: Graduate/Postgraduate in Commerce from any Govt. recognized University with in-depth knowledge of accounting/ financial management procedures applicable for ADB/World Bank/externally funded projects and having hands on experience of operating Tally accounting software.
Experience: Overall, four (4) years of working experience altogether in project/project financial accounting.
2. Environmental Safeguards Coordinator
No of posts: 5
Indicative Range of CTP: ₹ 6.60 to ₹ 8.40 Lakh Per Year
Educational Qualification: Master degree/Post Graduate Diploma (minimum two years full time residential program) in Ecology & Environment / Environmental Science or Master Degree in Fisheries (with specialization in Aquatic Environment Management) or related subject. A combination of several specializations and/or additional trainings on similar environmental related subjects is considerable as an asset.
Experience: Minimum 05 years of professional experience also in the field of Environment Management and related activities in managerial position, especially in Externally Aided project/ Central Government Sponsored Project, etc. is preferred.
3. Social Safeguards & Gender Coordinator
No of posts: 5
Indicative Range of CTP: ₹ 6.60 to ₹ 8.40 Lakh Per Year
Educational Qualification: Master's Degree in Social Work/ Sociology/ Development Studies / Anthropology or related fields from recognized University/Institutes
Experience: The SS&GC must have minimum 5 years of experience also working in Social Development Sector including implementing social safeguards, gender mainstreaming, gender equality, diversity and social inclusion with government offices and contractors for ADB/ World Bank or other externally financed projects in rural and remote areas.
4. GIS & MIS Executive
No of posts: 5
Indicative Range of CTP: ₹ 6.60 to ₹ 8.40 Lakh Per Year
Educational Qualification: Master's degree in GIS, Geography, Environmental Sciences, IT, Computer Science, or related fields, Commerce or MBA (Finance) from any Govt. recognized University.
Experience: Minimum five (5) years of relevant professional experience also in GIS and MIS systems, preferably in Externally Aided project/ Central Government Sponsored Project, etc. Proven experience with spatial software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS), database management (e.g. PostgreSQL/ PostGIS, SQL Server), and MIS platforms;
5. Junior Engineer (Civil)
No of posts: 5
Indicative Range of CTP: ₹ 6.60 to ₹ 7.20 Lakh Per Year
Educational Qualification: Candidates must have at least a Diploma (3 years course) in Civil Engineering/ Civil Engineering and Planning / Construction Technology from any technical institutes recognized by AICTE. The Diploma course altogether must be a regular course. Diploma course obtained through distant/ online mode of education shall not be considered. Candidates with Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering/ Civil Engineering and Planning / Construction Technology will also be considered for this position.
Experience: Minimum five (5) years of working experience also in Planning/ Execution/ Maintenance of Civil Engineering works is essential.
How to Apply for ARIAS Society Recruitment?
Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these vacancy by visiting concerned Google Form Link as given below. They may follow below mentioned steps to apply online.
Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.
Click on the "Online Application Form" and complete the registration process.
Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.
At the end, submit the form.
At the end, take a print out of the application form.
Important Dates of ARIAS Society Vacancy 2025
Starting date of submission of online application: 17th May 2025
Last date of submission of online application: 5th June 2025

Sankardev Shiksha Niketan Gohpur Recruitment – Faculty Post

Last date: 04/06/2025.

Sankardev Shiksha Niketan, Gohpur, a fully residential senior secondary school cum Degree College (Arts) at Gohpur has released an employment notification for the recruitment of Botany Faculty for NEET coaching. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

- Name of post: Botany Faculty for NEET coaching
- No of posts: 1
- Pay: ₹ 45000 and negotiable as per experience with free food and lodging.
- Educational Qualification: M.Sc. in Botany
- Experience: Candidates must have experience of 7 years & above.
- Application fee if any: Nil
- How to Apply for Sankardev Shiksha Niketan Gohpur Recruitment?
Interested and eligible candidates may send their CV at following Mail ID: nikanetsankardevshiksha@gmail.com
Contact No. 060002 83905/ 9854468366



Oil India Limited Recruitment 2025 – 7 Contractual Graduate Teacher Posts

Last Date: 5/06/2025 & 6/06/2025

Oil India Limited (OIL) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 7 Contractual Graduate Teacher Vacancy in contractual basis for immediate engagement at Oil India Higher Secondary School (OIHSS), Field Headquarters, Dulaijan and Moran. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Contractual Graduate Teacher (Performing Arts-Dance)
No of posts: 2
Educational Qualification:
(i) Must have passed Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts/Bachelor's degree in Music with specialization in Dance from a Government Recognized University/Institute with minimum 50 % marks.
Desirable: Must have the proficiency of teaching in both English and Assamese medium.
Age Limit:
Minimum: 18 years
Maximum age limit: General: 45 years
Contractual Emolument per month:
Fixed emolument: ₹21,450.00 (Rupees Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty) only per month based on attendance including paid leave, holiday, if any.
Variable emolument: ₹825.00 (Rupees Eight Hundred and Twenty Five) only per day for each working day.
Date and Time of Registration: 05/06/2025, 07:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M.
 2. Contractual Graduate Teacher (Performing Arts-Music)
No of posts: 1
Educational Qualification:
(i) Must have passed Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts/Bachelor degree in Music with specialization in Vocal Music from a Government Recognized University/Institute with minimum 50% marks.
Desirable: Must have the proficiency of teaching in both English and Assamese medium.
Age Limit:
Minimum: 18 years
Maximum age limit: General: 45 years
Contractual Emolument per month:
Fixed emolument: ₹21,450.00 (Rupees Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty) only per month based on attendance including paid leave, holiday, if any.
Variable emolument: ₹825.00 (Rupees Eight Hundred and Twenty Five) only per day for each working day.
Date and Time of Registration: 05/06/2025, 07:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M.
 3. Contractual Graduate Teacher (Physical Education)
No of posts: 2
Educational Qualification:
(i) Must have passed Bachelor's degree in Physical Education with minimum 50 % marks from Government Recognized University/Institute.
Desirable: Must have the proficiency of teaching in both English and Assamese medium.
Age Limit:
Minimum: 18 years
Maximum age limit: General: 45 years
Contractual Emolument per month:
Fixed emolument: ₹21,450.00 (Rupees Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty) only per month based on attendance including paid leave, holiday, if any.
Variable emolument: ₹825.00 (Rupees Eight Hundred and Twenty Five) only per day for each working day.
Date and Time of Registration: 06/06/2025, 07:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M.
 4. Contractual Graduate Teacher (Fine Arts)
No of posts: 2
Educational Qualification:
(i) Must have passed Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Government Recognized University/Institute.
Desirable: Must have the proficiency of teaching in both English and Assamese medium.
Age Limit:
Minimum: 18 years
Maximum age limit: General: 45 years
Contractual Emolument per month:
Fixed emolument: ₹21,450.00 (Rupees Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty) only per month based on attendance including paid leave, holiday, if any.
Variable emolument: ₹825.00 (Rupees Eight Hundred and Twenty Five) only per day for each working day.
Date and Time of Registration: 06/06/2025, 07:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M.
- How to Apply for Oil India Limited Recruitment?
On the above scheduled date of registration, the candidate(s) will have to register themselves for the Walk-in Practical/Skill Test cum Personal Assessment(s) at the venue compulsorily between 07:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M. Under no circumstance, candidate(s) will be allowed to register beyond the timings stated herein above.
Interested candidate(s) should fill the Personal Bio-Data (given on the last two pages of this advertisement) and bring it along with the following documents on the above scheduled date for the Walk-in-Practical/Skill Test cum Personal Assessment:
(i) 01 (One) recent 3cm X 3cm coloured photograph.
(ii) Original and self-attested photocopy of documents/certificates/testimonials as under:
Valid Identity Proof and valid Address Proof from Competent Government Authority.
Admit Card, Marksheet and Pass Certificate of Class 10 issued by the concerned Government
Recognised Education Board; Document(s)/Certificate(s)/Testimonial(s) of essential qualification, as applicable; relevant Work Experience Certificate; valid Caste Certificate (SC/ST/OBC) from Competent Government Authority, if applicable; valid Non-Creamy Layer Certificate from Competent Government Authority, if applicable; valid Income and Asset Certificate to be produced by Economically Weaker Sections issued by the Competent Government Authority, if applicable; valid Disability Certificate from Competent Government Authority, if applicable; valid Discharge Book/Service and Release Certificate for Ex-Servicemen (Pages containing Personal Particulars and Service Particulars), if applicable and any other documents/certificates/testimonials from Competent Authority in support of candidature.
(iii) No-Objection Certificate from concerned employer, in original, in case the applicant is working in any organisation.

Indian-American Faizan Zaki overcomes shocking, self-inflicted flub to win Scripps National Spelling Bee

OXON HILL (US), May 30: Indian-American Faizan Zaki's enthusiasm for spelling nearly got the better of him. Ultimately, his joyful approach made him the Scripps National Spelling Bee champion.

The favourite entering the bee after his runner-up finish last year - during which he never misspelled a word in a conventional spelling round, only to lose a lightning-round tiebreaker that he didn't practice for - the shaggy-haired Faizan wore the burden of expectations lightly, sauntering to the microphone in a black hoodie and spelling his words with casual glee.

Including Faizan, whose parents emigrated from southern India, 30 of the past 36 champions have been Indian American, a run that began with Nupur Lala's victory in 1999, which was later featured in the documentary "Spellbound." Lala was among the dozens of past champions who attended this year and signed autographs for spellers, families and bee fans to honour the anniversary.

Throughout Thursday night's finals, the 13-year-old from Allen, Texas, looked like a champion in waiting. Then he nearly threw it away. But even a shocking moment of overconfidence couldn't prevent him from seizing the title of best speller in the English language. With the bee down to three spellers, Sarvadnya Kadam and Sarv Dharavane missed their words back-to-back, putting Faizan two words away from vic-



tory. The first was "commelina," but instead of asking the requisite questions - definition, language of origin - to make sure he knew it, Faizan let his showman's instincts take over. "K-A-M," he said, then stopped himself. "OK, let me do this, Oh, shoot!"

"Just ring the bell," he told head judge Mary Brooks, who obliged.

"So now you know what happens," Brooks said, and the other two spellers returned to the stage.

Later, standing next to the trophy with confetti at his feet, Faizan said: "I'm definitely going to be having nightmares about that tonight."

Even pronouncer Jacques Bailly tried to slow Faizan down before his winning word, "claircissement," but Faizan didn't ask a single question before spelling it

correctly, and he pumped his fists and collapsed to the stage after saying the final letter.

The bee celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, and Faizan may be the first champion who's remembered more for a word he got wrong than one he got right.

"I think he cared too much about his aura," said Bruhat Soma, Faizan's buddy who beat him in the "spell-off" tiebreaker last year.

Faizan had a more nuanced explanation: After not preparing for the spell-off last year, he overcorrected, emphasizing speed during his study sessions.

Although Bruhat was fast last year when he needed to be, he followed the familiar playbook for champion spellers: asking thorough questions, spelling slowly and metronomically, showing little

emotion. Those are among the hallmarks of well-coached spellers, and Faizan had three coaches: Scott Remer, Sam Evans and Sohum Sukhantankar.

None of them could turn Faizan into a robot on stage.

"He's crazy. He's having a good time, and he's doing what he loves, which is spelling," Evans said. Said Zaki Anwar, Faizan's father: "He's the GOAT. I actually believe that. He's really good, man. He's been doing it for so long, and he knows the dictionary in and out."

A thrilling centennial

After last year's bee had little drama before an abrupt move to the spell-off, Scripps tweaked the competition rules, giving judges more leeway to let the competition play out before going to the tiebreaker. The nine finalists delivered. During one stretch, six spellers got 28 consecutive words right, and there were three perfect rounds during the finals. The last time there was a single perfect round was the infamous 2019 bee, which ended in an eight-way tie.

Sarv, an 11-year-old fifth-grader from Dunwoody, Georgia, who ultimately finished third, would have been the youngest champion since Nihar Janga in 2016. He has three years of eligibility remaining.

The most poised and mature of the final three, Sarvadnya - who's from Visalia, California - ends his career as the runner-up. He's 14 and in the eighth grade, which means he has aged out of the competition. It's not a bad way to go

out, considering that Faizan became just the fifth runner-up in a century to come back and win, and the first since Sean Conley in 2001.

With the winner's haul of USD 52,500 added to his second-place prize of USD 25,000, Faizan increased his bee earnings to USD 77,500. His big splurge with his winnings last year was a USD 1,500 Rubik's cube with 21 squares on each side. This time, he said he'd donate a large portion of his winnings to charity.

The bee began in 1925 when the Louisville Courier-Journal invited other newspapers to host spelling bees and send their champions to Washington. For the past 14 years, Scripps has hosted the competition at a convention center just outside the nation's capital, but the bee returns downtown next year to Constitution Hall, a nearly century-old concert venue near the White House.

A passionate champion
Faizan has been spelling for more than half his life. He competed in the 2019 bee as a 7-year-old, getting in through a wild-card program that has since been discontinued. He qualified again in 2023 and made the semifinals before last year's second-place finish. "One thing that differentiates him is he really has a passion for this. In his free time, when he's not studying for the bee, he's literally looking up archaic, obsolete words that have no chance of being asked," Bruhat said. (AP)

China forms new global mediation group with dozens of countries



HONG KONG, May 30: Dozens of countries joined China on Friday in establishing an international mediation-based dispute resolution group.

Representatives of more than 30 other countries, from Pakistan and Indonesia to Belarus and Cuba, signed the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong to become founding members of the global organisation, following Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The support of developing countries signaled Beijing's rising influence in the global south amid heightened geopolitical tensions, partly exacerbated by US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs.

At a ceremony, Wang said China has long advocated for handling differences with a spirit of mutual understanding and consensus-building through dialogue, while aiming to provide "Chinese wisdom" for resolving conflicts between nations.

"The establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation helps to move beyond the zero-sum mindset of you lose and I win," he said.

The body, headquartered in Hong Kong, aims to help promote the amicable resolution of international disputes and build more harmonious global relations, he said.

Beijing has touted the organization as the world's first intergovernmental legal organization for resolving disputes through mediation, saying it will be an important mechanism in safeguarding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It also positioned Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services center in Asia.

Wang said the city's rule of law is highly developed, with the advantages of both common law and mainland Chinese law systems, asserting that it possesses uniquely favorable conditions for international mediation.

Hong Kong leader John Lee said the organization could begin its work as early as the end of this year.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from some 50 other countries and about 20 organizations, including the United Nations.

Yueming Yan, a law professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said the new organisation is a complementary mechanism to existing institutions such as the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague. "While the ICJ and PCA focus on adjudication and arbitration, IOMed introduces a structured, institutionalised form of alternative dispute resolution — namely, mediation — on a global scale," she said.

Although many details about the new body are yet to be clarified, it could open the door for greater synergy between formal litigation or arbitration and more flexible methods like mediation, she said.

Shahla Ali, a law professor at the University of Hong Kong, said the International Organisation for Mediation would have the capacity to mediate disputes between states, between a state and a national of another state, or in international commercial disputes.

"Conventions can provide opportunities to experiment with new approaches," she said, noting rising interest in mediation globally as a means to resolve investor-state disputes. (AP)

At least 88 people dead after floods submerge market town in Nigeria

ABUJA (NIGERIA), May 30: At least 88 people have been confirmed dead after floods submerged Mokwa, a market town in Nigeria's Niger State, on Thursday, an official said.

Hussein Isah, head of the operations office in Minna, capital of Niger State, said that many more are still at risk, with rescue efforts underway on Friday. Earlier reports said at least 20 died.

"The number keeps rising," Isah told The Associated Press. "But at the last count, 88 bodies have been recovered."

The floods were triggered by torrential rains that lasted several hours. According to local reports quoting residents and local government officials, a dam collapse in a nearby town worsened the situation.

Mokwa is a major meeting point for traders from the south and food growers in the north of the country.

In a similar occurrence last September, torrential rains and a dam collapse in Nigeria's northeastern Maiduguri caused severe flooding, leaving at least 30 people dead and displacing millions, worsening the humanitarian crisis caused by the Boko Haram insurgency.

Nigeria often faces seasonal floods, particularly impacting communities along the banks of the Niger and Benue Rivers. (AP)

Hong Kong pro-democracy, gay rights activist Jimmy Sham released

HONG KONG, May 30: Hong Kong's prominent pro-democracy and LGBTQ+ activist Jimmy Sham was released from prison on Friday after serving over four years in the city's biggest national security case under a Beijing-imposed law.

Sham's activism made headlines during 2019 anti-government protests, when he was the convener of a now-disbanded pro-democracy group that organised some of the biggest peaceful marches that year, including one that drew an estimated two million people.

Sham was among 47 activists arrested in 2021 for their roles in an unofficial primary election. He was sentenced with 44 other activists last year after judges ruled that their plans to effect change through the primary would have undermined the government's authority and create a constitutional crisis. Only two of the original defendants were acquitted.

Even behind bars, Sham continued to fight for recognition of his same-sex marriage registered overseas at the city's top court, which later ruled the government should provide a framework for recognising same-sex partnerships. It was a landmark decision for the city's LGBTQ+ community.

"I feel happy. No matter whether there's a change in (my) freedom, I am definitely freer compared to yesterday," Sham told reporters Friday after he was reunited with his family. (AP)

Officials say at least 10 people dead, 6 are missing after stone quarry collapse in Indonesia

BANDUNG (INDONESIA), May 30: A natural stone quarry in Indonesia's West Java province collapsed on several people who were working in it on Friday, killing at least 10 people and leaving six workers missing, officials said.

More than two dozen people were trapped in the rubble when the mine in Cirebon district collapsed, local police chief Sumarni said, and rescuers were able to pull a dozen injured people from the debris during a gruelling search effort.

"Authorities are still investigating the cause of the collapse, and we have been questioning the owner and workers of the quarry,"

said Sumarni, who like many Indonesians uses a single name.

She said police, emergency personnel, soldiers and volunteers were trying to locate any remaining workers, supported by five excavators, but were hampered by unstable soil that risked further slides.

The search was suspended Friday as darkness fell and will be resumed early Saturday for those reported still buried under the rubble along with three excavators and six trucks, said the National Disaster Management Agency's spokesman Abdul Muhari in a statement.

He said as of Friday afternoon rescuers have retrieved 10 bodies,

while six people were hospitalised with serious injuries.

West Java Governor Dedi Mulyadi said in a video statement on Instagram that he had visited and identified the vulnerability of collapse at the mine, located at Gunung Kuda mining site in Cipanas village before he was elected.

"I saw that C-grade mining was very dangerous, it did not meet the safety standard elements for its workers," Mulyadi said, adding that at that time, "I didn't have any capacity to stop it."

On Friday, Mulyadi said that he had taken firm action to close the mine and four other similar mines in West Java that are considered to be endangering the environment

and lives. A video showed rescuers struggling to bring out a body bag from a devastated area.

Illegal or informal mining operations are commonplace in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to those who labour in conditions with a high risk of injury or death.

Landslides, flooding and collapses of tunnels are just some of the hazards in such mining. Much of the processing of sand, rocks or gold ore involves the use of highly toxic mercury and cyanide by workers using little or no protection.

Last year, a landslide triggered by torrential rains struck an unauthorised gold mining operation on Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 15 people. (AP)

Macron will kick off Singapore security conference with Hegseth in attendance

SINGAPORE, May 30: French President Emmanuel Macron and US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth are among the world leaders, diplomats and top defence officials in Singapore this weekend for a security forum that will focus on China's growing assertiveness, the global impact of Russia's war on Ukraine and the flare-up of conflicts in Asia.

Macron opens the conference with a keynote address Friday night that is expected to touch on all of those issues, as well as the pressure the hefty tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump's administration is putting on Asian allies. It's Hegseth's first time to the Shangri-La Dialogue, hosted by the International Institute for Security Studies (IISS), which is taking place against the backdrop of heightened rhetoric between Beijing and Washington.

The Trump administration has threatened China with triple-digit tariffs, and there's some uncertainty in the region over how committed the US is to the defence of Taiwan, which also faces possible 32 per cent American tariffs. China claims the self-governing democracy as its own, and Chinese President Xi Jinping has not ruled out taking it by force. China sends military aircraft, ships and spy balloons near Taiwan as part of a campaign of daily harassment, and currently has an aircraft carrier in the waters southeast of the island.

Hegseth told reporters before he boarded his plane

for Singapore that Washington's policies were meant to deter a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

"We seek no conflict with anybody, including the Communist Chinese," he said. "We will stay strong for our interests. And that's a big part of what this trip is all about." China, which usually sends its defence minister to the Shangri-La forum, sent a much lower level delegation instead, represented by Maj Gen Hu Gangfeng, the vice president of the People's Liberation Army National Defence University. The delegation was expected to speak Saturday on a panel on "cooperative maritime security" alongside representatives from Japan, Vietnam, Chile and the UK — notable in that China's aggressive global fisheries tactics have been a regular topic of concern not only in the Indo-Pacific but as far away as Latin America and the Arctic.

Allies are worried about US commitment to their defence
Hegseth's trip to Singapore is his second to the region since becoming defence secretary, following a March visit to the Philippines, which has seen escalating confrontations with China over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea. That trip, which also included a stop in Japan, brought a degree of relief over growing concerns from the Philippines and others in the region about US support from a president who has taken more of a transactional approach to diplomacy and seems wary of foreign engagements. (AP)

Islamic State group claims first attack on Syrian government forces since Assad's fall

BEIRUT, May 30: The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for two attacks in southern Syria, including one on government forces that an opposition war monitor described as the first on the Syrian army to be adopted by the extremists since the fall of Bashar Assad.

In two separate statements issued late Thursday, IS said that in the first attack, a bomb was detonated targeting a "vehicle of the apostate regime," leaving seven soldiers dead or wounded. It said the attack occurred "last Thursday," or May 22, in the al-Safa area in the desert of the southern province of Sweida.

IS said that the second attack occurred this week in a nearby area during which a bomb targeted members of the US-backed Free Syrian Army, claiming that it killed one fighter and wounded three.

There was no comment from the government on the claim of the attack and a spokesperson for the Free Syrian Army didn't immediately respond to a request for comment by The Associated Press.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that the attack on government forces killed one civilian and wounded three soldiers, describing it as the first such attack to be claimed by IS against Syrian forces since the fall of the 54-year Assad family's rule in December.

IS, which once controlled large parts of Syria and

Iraq, is opposed to the new authority in Damascus led by President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who was once the head of al-Qaida's branch in Syria and fought battles against IS.

Over the past several months, IS has claimed responsibility for attacks against the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in the northeast.

IS was defeated in Syria in March 2019 when SDF fighters captured the last sliver of land that the extremists controlled. Since then, its sleeper cells have carried out deadly attacks, mainly in eastern and northeast Syria.

In January, state media reported that intelligence officials in Syria's post-Assad government thwarted a plan by IS to set off a bomb at a Shiite Muslim shrine south of Damascus.

Al-Sharaa met with US President Donald Trump in Saudi Arabia earlier this month during which the American leader said that Washington would work on lifting crippling economic sanctions imposed on Damascus since the days of Assad.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement after the meeting that Trump urged al-Sharaa to diplomatically recognise Israel, "tell all foreign terrorists to leave Syria" and help the US stop any resurgence of the Islamic State group. (AP)

Google, Justice Department face off in climactic showdown in search monopoly case



WASHINGTON, May 30: Google will return to federal court Friday to fend off the US Justice Department's attempt to topple its internet empire at the same time it's navigating a pivotal shift to artificial intelligence that could undercut its power. The legal and technological threats facing Google are among the key issues that will be dissected during the closing arguments of a legal proceeding that will determine the changes imposed upon the company in the wake of its dominant search engine being declared as an illegal monopoly by US District Judge Amit Mehta last year.

Brandishing evidence presented during a recent three-week stretch of hearings, Justice Department lawyers will attempt to persuade Mehta to order a radical shake-up that includes a ban on Google paying to lock its search engine in as the default on smart devices and an order requiring the company to sell its Chrome browser.

Google lawyers are expected to assert only minor concessions are needed, especially as the upheaval triggered by advances in artificial intelligence already are reshaping

the search landscape, as alternative, conversational search options are rolling out from AI startups that are hoping to use the Department of Justice's four-and-a-half-year-old case to gain the upper hand in the next technological frontier.

"Over weeks of testimony, we heard from a series of well-funded companies eager to gain access to Google's technology so they don't have to innovate themselves," Lee-Anne Mulholland, Google's vice president of regulatory affairs, wrote in a blog post earlier this month. "What we didn't hear was how DOJ's extreme proposals would benefit consumers."

After the day-long closing arguments, Mehta will spend much of the summer mulling a decision that he plans to issue before Labour Day. Google has already vowed to appeal the ruling that branded its search engine as a monopoly, a step it can't take until the judge orders a remedy.

While both sides of this showdown agree that AI is an inflection point for the industry's future, they have disparate views on how the shift will affect Google.

The Justice Department contends that AI technology by itself won't rein in Google's power, arguing additional legal restraints must be slapped on a search engine that's the main reason its parent company, Alphabet Inc., is valued at USD 2 trillion.

Google has already been deploying AI to transform its search engine into an answer engine, an effort that has so far helped maintain its perch as the internet's main gateway despite inroads being made by alternatives from the likes of OpenAI and Perplexity.

The Justice Department con-

tends a divestiture of the Chrome browser that Google CEO Sundar Pichai helped build nearly 20 years ago would be among the most effective countermeasures against Google continuing to amass massive volumes of browser traffic and personal data that could be leveraged to retain its dominance in the AI era. Executives from both OpenAI and Perplexity testified last month that they would be eager bidders for the Chrome browser if Mehta orders its sale.

The debate over Google's fate also has pulled in opinions from Apple, mobile app developers,

legal scholars and startups.

Apple, which collects more than USD 20 billion annually to make Google the default search engine on the iPhone and its other devices, filed briefs arguing against the Justice Department's proposed 10-year ban on such lucrative lock-in agreements. Apple told the judge that prohibiting the contracts would deprive the company of money that it funnels into its own research, and that the ban might even make Google even more powerful because the company would be able to hold onto its money while consumers would end up choosing its search engine anyway. The Cupertino, California, company also told the judge a ban wouldn't compel it to build its own search engine to compete against Google.

In other filings, a group of legal scholars said the Justice Department's proposed divestiture of Chrome would be an improper penalty that would inject unwarranted government interference in a company's business. Meanwhile, former Federal Trade Commission officials James Cooper and Andrew Stivers warned that another

proposal that would require Google to share its data with rival search engines "does not account for the expectations users have developed over time regarding the privacy, security, and stewardship" of their personal information.

The App Association, a group that represents mostly small software developers, also advised Mehta not to adopt the Justice Department's proposed changes because of the ripple effects they would have across the tech industry. Hobbling Google in the way the Justice Department envisions would make it more difficult for startups to realize their goal of being acquired, the App Association wrote. "Developers will be overcome by uncertainty" if Google is torn apart, the group argues.

Buy Y Combinator, an incubator that has helped create hundreds of startups collectively worth about USD 800 billion filed documents pushing for the dramatic overhaul of Google, whose immense power has discouraged venture capitalists from investing in areas that are considered to be part of the company's "kill zone." (AP)

PM Modi to inaugurate, lay foundation stone of development projects worth ₹ 48,520 crore

PATNA, May 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over ₹ 48,520 crore in Bihar's Karakat on Friday. The PM, who arrived in Patna on a two-day visit to the state on Thursday, will also address a public rally in Karakat.

According to an official communication, "The PM will inaugurate, lay foundation stone and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 48,520 crore in Karakat. Boosting power infrastructure in the region, he will lay the foundation stone for the Nabinagar Super Thermal Power Project, stage-II (3x800 MW) in Aurangabad district worth over ₹ 29,930 crore, which will aim at ensuring energy security for Bihar and eastern India". It will boost industrial growth, create job opportunities, and provide affordable electricity in the region, it added.

Further, in boost to the road infrastructure and connectivity in the region, the PM will lay the foundation stone for various road projects including the four-laning of the Patna-Arrah-Sasaram section of NH-119A, and six-laning of Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata highway (NH-319B) and Ramnagar-Kacchi Dargah stretch (NH-119D), and construction of a new Ganga bridge between Buxar and Bhaurauli. These projects will create seamless high-speed corridors in the state along with boosting trade



and regional connectivity.

He will also inaugurate the four laning of Patna-Gaya Dobhi section of NH 22, worth around ₹5,520 crore and four laning of the elevated highway and grade improvements at Gopalganj town on NH 27, among others. Besides, the PM will dedicate to the nation the third rail line between Son Nagar - Mohammad Ganj worth over ₹ 1,330 crore, among others, it added. The PM on Thursday inaugurated the new terminal building of Patna Airport and laid the foundation stone for a new civil enclave at the Bihta airport on the outskirts of the city. The new passenger terminal at Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport in Patna was built at a cost of Rs 1,200 crore, while the civil enclave at the Bihta airport will be developed at ₹ 1,410 crore. "It will be a

historic day for Bihar as the PM will inaugurate, lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over ₹ 48,520 crore at Karakat on Friday. The PM's visit has energised party workers in the state ahead of the coming assembly polls", Bihar BJP spokesperson, Neeraj Kumar told PTI on Friday.

The PM also led a massive roadshow in Patna on Thursday evening, which began from outside the Aranya Bhawan near the airport and concluded at the state BJP office, around 4 km away. The journey took more than an hour as the PM's vehicle moved at a snail's pace. Thousands of people gathered on two sides of the road and on rooftops to catch a glimpse of Modi, who greeted them from his car with folded hands and a wave. (PTI)

Development in J-K won't stop; those who harm us will face befitting reply: Shah

'The development of Jammu and Kashmir will neither stop nor slow down'

POONCH/JAMMU, May 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that the development of Jammu and Kashmir, which he said began in 2014 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will not stop or slow down despite recent provocations, and warned that those attempting to harm India will face a "strong and decisive" response.

Delivering a message of reassurance and resolve from the border district of Poonch, Shah said the pause in development caused by recent disturbances is only momentary, and the Union Territory's progress will soon regain its momentum.

The home minister lauded the bravery and readiness of the armed forces and the civil administration, acknowledging the sacrifice of a senior official during the recent India-Pakistan military conflict. He also praised the administration's swift response in evacuating civilians to safer places during the shelling.

"The development of Jammu and Kashmir will neither stop nor slow down. The pace that began in 2014 will continue. Anyone who tries to harm us will receive a strong and befitting reply," Shah said, addressing people here.

Shah said that immediately after



Prime Minister Modi assumed office in 2014, a decision was taken to construct bunkers along the border to protect civilians. "More than 9,500 bunkers have been built so far, which played a crucial role in saving lives in the last three days," he said. He added that the Government of India, in coordination with the UT administration, will build more bunkers in the coming days to further enhance civilian protection in border areas.

Standing firmly with the residents of the border region, Shah said, "The entire nation and the governments of India and Jammu and Kashmir stand with you like a

rock. The acts committed by terrorists and Pakistan will only make India's defence policy stronger." Reiterating Prime Minister Modi's firm stance on terrorism, Shah asserted, "Terror and talks cannot go together. Terror and trade cannot go together. Blood and water cannot flow together."

Stressing on peace and progress, Shah said, "I assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the development that began in 2014 will resume with full force. Anyone who tries to disrupt it will be given a powerful and befitting reply."

The Union home minister said that Pakistan committed a "highly

condemnable act" by carrying out intense shelling in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Poonch, and asserted that India responded by precisely targeting terror infrastructure across the border without harming any civilians.

Calling the recent shelling "the worst in Poonch since Independence," Shah said civilian homes, temples, gurudwaras, and mosques were targeted by Pakistan. "This is a highly condemnable act. Pakistan used civilians as human shields. Only after this provocation, our forces responded with strength and precision," he said.

Shah visited the affected region to express solidarity and announced that a special relief package would soon be introduced by the Centre for damaged homes, businesses, and religious sites. "We have already provided appointment letters to the families of those who lost their loved ones in the attack. This can never compensate for the loss, but it is a step in sharing their burden," he said.

Lauding the swift response of the administration and security forces, Shah said, "Even senior officers made sacrifices. The LG, administration, and police worked tirelessly to evacuate residents from shelling zones and ensure safety." (PTI)

India will use every method to deal with Pak-backed terrorism: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, May 30: Pakistan needs to understand clearly that the "dangerous game" of terrorism that it has been playing since Independence against India is over, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday. In an interaction with naval warriors on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant off Goa, Singh sent a stern warning to Islamabad saying India will not hesitate to use the methods to deal with terrorism that Pakistan cannot even think of.

Operation Sindoor is not just a military action but India's frontal assault against terrorism, he said.

"We will use every method against terrorism that Pakistan can think of, but we will not hesitate to use those methods also which Pakistan cannot even think of," he said.

The defence minister said it would be in Pakistan's interest to uproot "nurseries of terrorism" operating on its soil.

"Anti-India activities are being carried out openly from Pakistani soil. India is completely free to carry out any kind of operation against terrorists, both on this side and the other side of the border and sea," he said.

"Today, the whole world is acknowledging India's right to protect its citizens against terrorism. Today, no power in the world can stop India from doing this work," he said.

Singh also hailed Indian Navy's role during Operation Sindoor.

"The Indian Navy has impressed every Indian with its silent service. By remaining silent, the Indian Navy succeeded in keeping the Pakistani army tied down," he said.

When the Indian Air Force destroyed terror bases on Pakistani soil, the Indian Navy's aggressive deployment in Arabian Sea confined Pakistani Navy to its own shores, he said.

On the overall operation, he said "our strike was so powerful that Pakistan began pleading with entire world to stop India."

In just a short span of time, we demolished Pakistan's terrorist bases and its intentions, he said adding the speed, depth and clarity with which our armed forces acted were remarkable.

Operation Sindoor not only sent a clear message to terrorists but also to their patrons who nurture them, he added. On our own terms, we halted our military actions, the defence minister said. (PTI)

Time up for Pakistan's 'dangerous game' of terrorism: Rajnath from INS Vikrant

NEW DELHI, May 30: Pakistan should hand over UN designated terrorists Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar to India if it is serious about talks between the two countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday.

In an interaction with the naval warriors onboard aircraft carrier INS Vikrant off Goa, Singh said if Pakistan resorts to anything "evil or unethical" against India, it will face the firepower and ire of the Indian Navy this time.

If Pakistan tries to cast an evil eye, the opening of New Delhi's response will be at the hands of the Indian Navy, he said in a clear message to Islamabad.

Pakistan needs to understand that the time is up for the "dangerous game" of terrorism it has been playing since Independence and India will use every method to root out the menace, Singh said.

Anti-India activities are being carried out openly from Pakistani soil and India is "completely free" to carry out every kind of operation against terrorists on both sides of the border and the sea, he said.

The defence minister, highlighting the Indian Navy's role during Operation Sindoor, said it succeeded in keeping the Pakistani military tied down.

When the Indian Air Force destroyed terror bases on Pakistani soil, the Indian Navy's aggressive deployment in Arabian Sea confined Pakistani Navy to its own shores, he said.

Singh used his brief speech to the naval personnel to send a stern warning to Pakistan as he asserted that Operation Sindoor is not just a military action but India's frontal assault against terrorism.

"We will use every method



against terrorism that Pakistan can think of, but we will not hesitate to use those methods also which Pakistan cannot even think of," he said. The defence minister said it would be in Pakistan's interest to "uproot the nurseries" of terrorism operating on its soil "with its own hands".

"It should start by handing over terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar to India. Both of them are not only on the list of 'Most Wanted Terrorists' in India but are also on the UN's list of designated terrorists," he said.

Azhar, the head of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad terror group, is wanted in India for the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, 2016 Pathankot airbase attacks and the 2019 Pulwama strike.

Saeed, the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group is known to be the mastermind of the Mumbai terror attack and wanted in several other terror cases in India.

"Today the whole world is acknowledging India's right to protect its citizens against terrorism. Today, no power in the world can stop India from doing this work," he said.

On Pakistan's repeated offer of talks, Singh clarified: "If there are talks, it will only be on terrorism

and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir. If Pakistan is serious about talks, it should hand over terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar to India so that justice is served."

Commenting the Indian Navy's "silent service" during Operation Sindoor, Singh said the mighty Carrier Battle Group ensured that the Pakistani Navy did not venture out, or else it would have faced the consequences.

On Operation Sindoor, he said, "Our strike was so powerful that Pakistan began pleading with the entire world to stop India."

In just a short span of time, we demolished Pakistan's terrorist bases and its intentions, he said adding the speed, depth and clarity with which our armed forces acted were remarkable.

Operation Sindoor not only sent a clear message to terrorists but also to their patrons who nurture them, Singh said.

In the end, on our own terms, we halted our military actions, he said.

India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures early on May 7 in response to the Pahalagam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damages to a number of key Pakistani military installations including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on May 10 announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, May 30: The BJP on Friday lashed out at the Congress for its leaders' questions and jibes at the government over the conflict with Pakistan and alleged the opposition party's ongoing 'Jai Hind Yatra' looks more like 'Jai Pakistan Yatra'.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters that senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, have often asked about the number of aircraft India lost in Operation Sindoor. He accused Jairam Ramesh of equating MPs travelling abroad as members of all-party delegations with terrorists.

Gandhi never asked about the details of terror sites and air bases destroyed in Pakistan but his party has enquired about the losses of Indian jets more frequently than the neighbouring country, he said.

The BJP MP from Puri said these leaders are "babbar" (warrior) of Pakistan and "gabbar" (the iconic villain of Bollywood blockbuster Sholay) of India, and added they would meet the same fate as the fictional bandit in the movie did in the hands of protagonists Jai and Veeru.

"Gabbars' defeat is certain due to India's 'jai' (glory) and 'veera' (valour)," he noted that even Congress MPs are part of the seven all-party delegations currently on a visit to world capitals to put across India's resolve against terror following the Pahalagam massacre and retaliatory strikes against Pakistan.

These Congress MPs are doing a good job, strongly projecting India's stand but Ramesh in one breath is comparing them to terror-

ists, he said.

The Congress chief spokesperson had said on Thursday that the terrorists behind the Pahalagam attack are roaming and so are these MPs abroad.

Patra rejected media reports that the ruling BJP planned to distribute vermilion (sindoor) among women to mark the Narendra Modi government's anniversary. He accused the opposition party of spreading this propaganda to belittle Operation Sindoor.

He cited controversial statements of a number of Congress leaders, including some questioning the military conflict with Pakistan and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty after the Pahalagam attack to accuse the opposition party of deliberately attempting to lower the country's morale. The BJP leader said the opposition party might have claimed it is with the government on the issue, but it has been lowering the morale of the armed forces from the very beginning.

"The Congress should suspend its Jai Hind Yatra, which is more like Jai Pakistan Yatra, and instead consult with Pakistan and hold a joint press conference," Patra said, claiming that Gandhi is being quoted frequently in Pakistan.

With the Congress increasingly turning caustic at its MP Shashi Tharoor, who is leading the multi-party delegation to the US and four other countries, for his stout defence of the government's actions, Patra said the party is divided into two factions.

One supports Pakistan, he alleged, while another includes those who want to raise their voice for India but cannot due to leaders like

Gandhi. He noted that another Congress leader Salman Khurshid, who is a member of one of the delegations, had spoken about the changes brought by the revocation of Article 370. Somebody should relay the former Union minister's remarks to Gandhi, the BJP leader said.

During the Congress-led UPA rule, terrorists were invited to the Prime Minister's Office at the behest of the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi, he claimed and referred to reports that she had cried over the killing of some young terrorists in the Batla House encounter.

Patra also referred to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's comments that India's Brahmos missiles hit his country's military facilities ahead of the planned attack on Indian targets to emphasise the damage inflicted on the neighbouring country.

"Gandhi should listen to his friend Sharif," he said.

Patra quoted the opinion of US-based military expert John Spencer, which has been reported widely in the Indian media, that India won the tech war in the conflict while Pakistan lost as China's proxy.

He said Spencer was not alone as many experts have spoken about India's decisive victory but some opposition parties, especially the Congress, have been trying to lower the country's morale.

Criticising West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her choice of words in slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who at a rally in the state had hit out at her government, he said Modi is everyone's "sewak". (PTI)

295 Chhattisgarh cops get out-of-turn promotion for anti-Naxalite fight

RAIPUR, May 30: The BJP government in Chhattisgarh has given out-of-turn promotion to 295 police personnel, including lower and mid-rung officers, posted in Naxal-hit areas, mainly in the Bastar division, in recognition of their bravery in the fight against Left-wing extremism, officials said on Friday.

The order for their promotion was issued by Director General of Police (DGP) Arun Deo Gautam on Thursday evening, they said.

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, who holds the home portfolio, shared a picture of the order of promotion on his social media handles and wrote, "Many congratulations to 295 police personnel of Chhattisgarh Police, who are working with valour, courage and dedication in Naxal-affected areas, on their out-of-turn promotion."

"To protect the Constitution and democracy, all of you (security personnel) have displayed indomitable courage and bravery while fighting in the frontline against Naxalism. With the strength of the arms of soldiers, the future will definitely be filled with development, happiness, peace and new enthusiasm in Bastar," Sharma maintained. (PTI)

Hindu Kush Himalaya could lose 75 pc of ice by century's end under current climate policies: Study

NEW DELHI, May 30: The Hindu Kush Himalaya, where glaciers feed rivers supporting two billion people, could lose up to 75 per cent of its ice by the end of the century if global temperatures rise by 2 degrees Celsius, according to a new study.

If countries can limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the study published in the journal Science said 40-45 per cent of glacier ice in the Himalayas and the Caucasus would be preserved.

In comparison, the study found that only about one-quarter of glacier ice globally will be left if the world warms by 2.7 degrees Celsius by the end of this century, the path the world is on if today's climate policies continue.

Glacier regions most important to human communities, such as the European Alps, the Rockies of the western US and Canada, and Iceland, would be especially hard hit, it said.

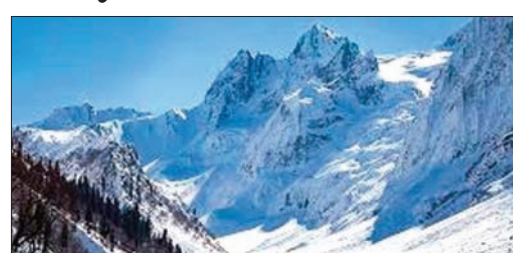
These regions could lose nearly all their ice at 2 degrees Celsius, with only 10-15 per cent of their 2020 levels remaining. Scandinavia could face an even grimmer future, with no glacier ice left at all at this level of warming. The study highlighted that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement, would help preserve some glacier ice in all regions.

It predicted that 54 per cent of present-day glacier ice would remain globally and 20-30 per cent in the four most sensitive regions, if this goal is met.

These findings come as global attention turns to the melting of glaciers and its impact, with world leaders gathering in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, for the first UN conference on glaciers starting Friday.

Over 50 countries are attending, including 30 at the ministerial level or higher.

Speaking in Dushanbe, Asian Development Bank Vice-President Yingming Yang said, "Melting glaciers



threaten lives on an unprecedented scale, including the livelihoods of more than 2 billion people in Asia. Switching to clean energy to cut the release of planet-warming emissions remains the most effective way of slowing glacial melt."

"At the same time, it is essential to mobilize financing to help the most vulnerable adapt to a future of more floods, droughts, and rising sea levels across Asia and the Pacific," he added.

To get these results, a team of 21 scientists from 10 countries used eight glacier models to calculate the potential ice loss of the more than 200,000 glaciers worldwide, under a wide range of global temperature scenarios. For each scenario, they assumed that temperatures would remain constant for thousands of years.

In all scenarios, the glaciers lose mass rapidly over decades and then continue to melt at a slower pace for centuries, even without further warming.

This means they will feel the impact of today's heat for a long time before settling into a new balance as they retreat to higher altitudes.

"Our study makes it painfully clear that every fraction of a degree matters," says co-lead author Dr Harry Zekollari from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. "The choices we make today will resonate for centuries, determining how much of our glaciers can be preserved." (PTI)

NO BETTER PLACE THAN OUT IN THE MIDDLE: HAZLEWOOD ON IPL STINT BEFORE WTC FINAL

MULLANPUR (CHANDIGARH), May 30: Josh Hazlewood's return to Royal Challengers Bengaluru after an injury break is a blessing for the franchise and good preparation for the Australian pacer, who says the intensity he is building up here will come in handy during the World Test Championship final against South Africa next month.

Having recovered from a shoulder injury, Hazlewood played in the IPL after a month but showed no signs of rust, helping Royal Challengers Bengaluru reach their first final since 2016 with an eight-wicket win over Punjab Kings.

The performance was also a tick mark for his preparations ahead of the World Test Championship final against South Africa beginning at Lord's on June 11.

"...I've got to be bowling, you know wherever I am in the world, I've got to be bowling getting ready for that game (WTC final) anyway," said Hazlewood after featuring in his first IPL game since April 27.

"There's no better place than I think out in the middle, obviously you've got to bowl more, more



hours of training from time to time to build up for a Test, but to get that intensity right up, there's no better place than the IPL," he asserted after a brilliant haul of 3/21. Hazlewood, who predominantly gets movement off the pitch, is known for his relentless

spells in Test cricket but over time has also taken his T20 game to the next level.

His hard lengths are difficult to put away and when the pitch is an absolute belter, he resorts to bowling wide yorkers.

On Thursday night, the pitch

here allowed him to bowl Test match lengths and he ended up with match-turning figures in his 3.1 overs.

His victims included the in-form Shreyas Iyer and Josh Inglis, breaking the back of a self-destructing Punjab Kings.

"I don't bowl too much differently in Test match cricket than tonight," said the seasoned Australian pacer.

His value at RCB can't be overstated as despite playing only 11 games due to injury, he remains the leading wicket-taker for his franchise with 21 scalps at an average of 15.80. Take him out of the attack and RCB attack looks vulnerable.

Talking more about his recovery from the shoulder injury, Hazlewood said, "(I have) worked really hard the last few weeks on the shoulders to get back and got some good overs into it the last sort of 10 days, and yeah it is feeling good to be back..."

"...So, I was happy with tonight, the wicket helped obviously didn't it? Not having to bowl fast yorkers or anything like that. So yeah it is feeling good to be back."

Leg-spinner Suyash Sharma too was on the money while Hazlewood was well supported by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Yash Dayal.

"We've just got all bases covered, it feels like. I think any one of the five or six bowlers can bowl at any moment of the game,

whether it's the start, middle or end," said Hazlewood.

"It obviously helps having Bhuvni, who has so much experience, quite a calm customer, so that sort of rubs off on the rest of their attack. I'm probably pretty similar to Bhuvni as well in that regard, everything's quite relaxed, quite calm, focus on your skill and try and execute that."

"I think maybe a few of the younger guys in the attack have picked up on that and taken it into their own games."

There was swing and seam on offer and RCB made the most of the conditions and bundled out the opposition for 101 before chasing the small target in 10 overs.

"There was a little bit of seam movement, the bounce was probably a little bit inconsistent, so we sort of utilised that as best we could. Yeah, the conditions were great to bowl first."

"Then obviously Suyash went for the middle order, he has bowled really well in spells throughout the whole tournament, but has been a little bit unlucky in the wicket-taking front, but obviously tonight got on a roll," added Hazlewood. (PTI)

Goa Challengers eye hat-trick of UTT titles

AHMEDABAD, May 30: Defending champions Goa Challengers will look to extend their dominance and complete a hat-trick of titles when the sixth season of Ultimate Table Tennis, a franchise-based league, begins here on Saturday.

Goa Challengers is the most successful team in the eight-team league, winning the title twice in 2023 and 2024.

They defeated Chennai Lions in the 2023 final and then prevailed over Dabang Delhi TTC in last edition's title clash.

Goa Challengers boast of a strong side comprising India international Harmeet Desai, the only Gujarat player who have won back-to-back UTT titles in season 4 and 5.

Besides Desai, the Goan side also has Zeng Jian (Singapore), Tiago Apolonia (Portugal), Ronit Bhanja, Krittika Sinha Roy and Sayali Wani.

The other teams in the league are Ahmedabad SG Pipers, Chennai Lions, Dabang Delhi TTC, Kolkata Thunderblades, Pune Jaguars, Jaipur Patriots and U Mumba TT.

The tournament will conclude with the grand final on June 15 at the EKA Arena here.

For the first time in UTT history, the teams have been allowed to choose coaches and a player auction was held, making the competition more strategic and balanced.

The tournament organisers have also introduced UTT juniors, the matches of which will be held in the morning session.

Other big names from India who will be part of the event are Ahlyika Mukherjee (Ahmedabad SG Pipers), Diya Chitale, Sathyan Gnanasekaran (Dabang Delhi TTC), and Sreeja Akula (Jaipur Patriots) among others.

The international line-up will feature world No. 13 Bernadette Szocs (Romania), world No. 16 Adriana Diaz (Puerto Rico), world No. 20 Aruna Quadri (Nigeria), world No. 27 Kanak Jha (USA), world No. 35 Alvaro Robles (Spain), and Chinese paddler Fan Siqi. On the opening day, Jaipur Patriots will take on Dabang Delhi TTC, while Ahmedabad SG Pipers will be up against reigning champions Goa Challengers. (PTI)

Asian Athletics: Golden brace for record-breaking Gulveer; High-jumper Pooja also on top



GUMI (SOUTH KOREA), May 30: Long-distance runner Gulveer Singh shattered a decade-old meet record, while teenaged high-jumper Pooja Singh produced a personal best performance as the duo added a couple of more gold medals to India's kitty on the penultimate day of the 26th Asian Athletics Championships here on Friday.

Gulveer etched his name among the greats of Indian long-distance running by winning a tightly-contested men's 5000m final to add to his 10,000m gold won on the opening day of the competition.

The national-record-holding runner clocked 13:24.77sec to edge past Thailand's Kieran Tunivate, who finished close behind at 13:24.97sec, while Japan's Nagiya Mori took bronze in 13:25.06sec.

The previous championship record belonged to Qatar's Mohamed Al-Garni, who had clocked 13:34.47sec in the 2015 edition.

Later, 18-year-old Pooja jumped to a personal best of 1.89m in her penultimate attempt to finish ahead of Uzbekistan's Safina Sadullaeva (1.86m). The Haryana teen, whose father is a construction worker, has been doing well at the continental level, having earlier collected a gold at the Asian Under-23 Championships in 2023.

The win completed a remarkable

double for Gulveer, who had earlier bagged gold in the 10,000m competition on the opening day with a timing of 28:38.63sec.

With this performance, Gulveer joined an elite group of Indian athletes to have won gold in the men's 5000m event of the continental meet -- the other three being Gopal Saini (1981), Bahadur Prasad (1993), and G Lakshmanan (2017).

The 26-year-old from Atrauli in Uttar Pradesh had also won a bronze in the 2023 edition.

However, there was mild disappointment in the women's 3000m steeplechase, where defending champion Parul Chaudhary had to settle for silver.

She clocked 9:12.46sec and was bested by Kazakhstan's Norah Jeruto Tanui (9:10.46sec). The bronze also went to a Kazakh, Daisy Jekpemei (9:27.51sec).

Gulveer's triumph gave India their sixth gold medal of the championships, pushing the country's overall tally to six gold, seven silver, and three bronze medals so far.

Earlier, India's 4x100m men's relay team was disqualified during the preliminary round after a faulty baton exchange but Sachin Yadav and Yashvir Singh made the men's javelin throw finals alongside reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan. (PTI)

Satwik-Chirag pair outplays world no.1 Goh-Nur, sail into Singapore Open semis

SINGAPORE, May 30: India's top men's doubles pair of Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stayed on course for their maiden title of the season, storming into the Singapore Open semifinals with a straight-game win over world No. 1 Malaysian duo of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin here on Friday.

Making a comeback after battling fitness issues for the last few weeks, the Indian pair displayed rock-solid defence and controlled the front court with precision to register a 21-17, 21-15 win in a 39-minute quarterfinal clash at the Super 750 badminton tournament.

"Yeah, it's a big victory. Because we are world number 27 right now. Last year when we played Singapore, we were world number one. So, yeah, it feels really good that we could beat Goh and Izzuddin."

Because we lost to them at the start of the year in the semi-finals of India Open. So, sweet victory," Chirag said.

"Really happy with the way we played over the past couple of days. And looking forward to tomorrow now."

Satwik and Chirag will next face third-seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia.

"We have played them before many times. We couldn't capitalise in the India Open. But, we were well-prepared. We are more focusing on our strategy than the opponent's strategy. We wanted to play our A game and see what they come up with," said Satwik, who was down with health issues in April and had to miss the Sudirman Cup. "We are not just thinking too much about the opponents. We are preparing ourselves every point in

each and every point. We are supporting each other and it's been a quiet two-month journey. So, really happy with the way we played and looking forward for more."

This is their third semifinal appearance of the season, having reached the last-four stage at both the Malaysia and India Open earlier this year.

The last time the two played was in March at the All England Championships which ended with Chirag aggravating his back injury and the duo was forced to withdraw in the second round.

Chirag, the 27-year-old from Mumbai, said he had doubts if he would be able to play in Singapore.

"Every day I'm getting better. We didn't really know how and if we will be able to play at Singapore because, frankly speaking, we just trained for 10 days in a span of

two months," he said.

"And for me, I had a lot of doubts whether I will be able to play because with my back condition, I didn't really know how it will go. But I think it's really amazing that we could play the way we are." The former world No. 1 Indians held a 6-2 head-to-head record against the Malaysians going into the match, although they had lost their most recent meeting at the India Open.

The match began with two service faults in the first four points and featured short rallies as both pairs looked to execute angled returns and attack at the earliest opportunity. As a result, the score moved evenly from 1-1 to 7-7 before the Indians gained a three-point cushion at the interval, with Satwik dictating the serve and third shot. (PTI)

Brook's Eng ODI reign begins with crushing win over WI by 238 runs

BIRMINGHAM, May 30: Harry Brook's reign as England's new white-ball captain began by thumping the West Indies by 238 runs in a one-day international at Edgbaston on Thursday. For the first time in an ODI, the first seven batters scored 35 or more as England racked up 400-8. Brook was among four players to contribute half-centuries.

The West Indies needed to pull off a record run chase but was out for 162 in the 27th.

Medium-pacer Saqib Mahmood knocked over the top order and fast bowler Jamie Overton got hold of the tail. "That was a pretty phenomenal performance," Brook said. "I'm not concerned (no one converted fifties into hundreds). We got 400 runs. If one of us kicks on, that's a complete performance."

England can clinch its first ODI bilateral series win since September 2023 on Sunday in Cardiff. The

third and last match is on Tuesday at the Oval.

About all that England lost at Edgbaston was the toss.

West Indies thought it could exploit humid conditions but the initial bowling was mediocre and Ben Duckett and Jamie Smith, who was opening for the first time and dropped on 1, smashed 64 runs within seven overs. By the end of the powerplay, England was 90 for the loss of only Smith.

Duckett made 60 off 48 balls, and Joe Root 57. Brook added 58 as the scoring rate was pegged back in the middle overs.

But as 400 looked to fall out of reach, Barbados-born Jacob Bethell, brought back from the Indian Premier League to play his first international at his home ground, launched into the West Indies with 82 off 53 until falling in the last over.

Bethell and Will Jacks added 98

from 44 balls.

England reached 400 for the sixth time ever, and has never lost from that vantage point.

The total might have been much higher if ordinary West Indies bowling hadn't been compensated by outstanding catches.

Roston Chase's leaping one-handed take at backward point to dismiss Duckett was the pick, just ahead of Brandon King's reflexes to snatch Smith's rocket at short mid-wicket and Keacy Carty's diving catch at deep cover to end Brook's threatening innings.

The batting performance wasn't in the same class. Mahmood nagged out Justin Greaves in the third over and Carty in the 10th, while Brydon Carse was too quick for King. Carse's stunning boundary catch ended captain Shai Hope in the 12th over at 66-4 and it was all downhill for the visitors. (PTI)

Norway Chess: Gukesh wins thriller against Caruana, Erigaisi loses to Carlsen

STAVANGER (NORWAY), May 30: Reigning world champion D Gukesh emerged the winner in a thrilling Armageddon tie-break against American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana but Arjun Erigaisi succumbed to Magnus Carlsen's intuitive skills on a mixed day for the Indians in the 'Open' category of Norway Chess here.

World No. 3 Caruana enjoyed a pawn advantage for most part of the Round 4 game against his Indian opponent, who turned 19 on Thursday, but the American could not convert it into a significant advantage in over four hours of engrossing chess thanks to Gukesh's superb defensive skills.

The Armageddon tie-break was applied to break the stalemate. Both Gukesh and Erigaisi are now tied fourth in the six-player field with 4.5 points apiece, while Carlsen is the sole leader with 8 points, followed by Caruana on 7 and American GM Hikaru Nakamura on 5.5.

With Gukesh, playing with white pieces and having a huge three-minute advantage in Armageddon -- white gets 10 minutes and black seven -- after coming out of a tricky situation during the Classical slugfest less than 15 minutes earlier, the Indian overpowered Caruana on the clock to take 1.5 points from the game.

A win in the Classical format earns the players in this double-round robin format tournament three points, while a draw fetches them one point each. However, the players have to immediately play the Armageddon tie-break to break the deadlock.

Gukesh, following his magnificent Classical win in the third round

against world No.2 Nakamura and a thrilling come-from behind victory against Caruana, is on 4.5 points in a six-player field led by five-time world champion Carlsen, who is in sole lead with eight points.

Gukesh later said that he doesn't really enjoy playing on his birthday but would gladly take this crucial morale-boosting win.

"Most of my birthdays I end up losing the game, so glad it did not repeat in the classical. When I was playing, I felt fine, but when I was losing, I was like, 'ok, not again,'" said Gukesh.

The youngest world champion found himself down a pawn in a very tricky position early in the contest.

With the unforgiving time control in place, where only a 10-second increment per move is given instead of 30 seconds after the 40th move, the situation can quickly get out of control, but Gukesh kept his balance to emerge from the tough situation and take the match in the Armageddon tie-break -- something which is not his forte.

"The Classical game could have easily gone bad, but luckily, I managed to save it in the time scramble, and then Armageddon was very good," he said later.

World No. 1 Carlsen showed his tactical superiority in the endgame against India No. 2 Erigaisi, who played with black pieces, to earn three full points.

The Norwegian superstar, who had lost two Armageddon games in the last two rounds, made a strong statement with this win on home turf.

This was the second setback for Erigaisi in two days after he had lost to Caruana in Round 3. (PTI)



I have no doubt in my mind Kohli is going to play a big hand in final: AB de Villiers

MULLANPUR, May 30: South African batting great AB de Villiers is backing "ultimate team man" Virat Kohli to play a big hand in the IPL final and lead a multi-dimensional Royal Challengers Bengaluru outfit to its maiden title in the world's biggest T20 league.

Chasing a paltry 102, RCB crushed Punjab Kings by eight wickets in the first qualifier here on Thursday to storm into the final of the 2025 edition of the league.

One of their biggest performers this season, Kohli (12) missed out with the bat in the one-sided game, but his former RCB teammate De Villiers is confident the Indian superstar would fire in the title clash in Ahmedabad on June 3.

"The first time I saw him on the screen for PBKS vs RCB game, was when he got out of the bus, and I just saw a lot of focus in that guy. That's the typical kind of body language we're so used to seeing."

"And what I love most about this is -- he

didn't score runs today, but we still saw him right till the end, celebrating with the batters," De Villiers told JioHotstar.

"The ultimate team man, and he looks very, very focused. Obviously, the job's not done yet, but I'm very excited to watch him play. I have no doubt in my mind he's going to play a big hand in the final," the South African added.

RCB, who was one of the participating teams when the IPL began way back in 2008 with eight franchises, have never won the IPL title despite reaching the finals on three occasions in the past.

De Villiers shared his thoughts about RCB's journey and their potential to win the title this time.

"I think 2011 was a really good chance to win the title. Everyone talks about the 2016 season, but let's forget about the past. Where are RCB now? In another final -- 2025. It's closer than you think and smaller than you think."



"So hopefully those little moments will go in RCB's favour, come the 3rd of June. It was around the auction time when I felt like RCB really got the balance right this year. It's not a one-dimensional batting line-up, not a one-dimensional bowling line-up -- there are options."

"I just loved the look of that squad when I saw it come out. They found a way to gel together as a unit. As you can see, all the play-

ers individually chipped in at times, and that is a sign of a healthy environment," De Villiers said.

Having missed few games over last couple of weeks, pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood (3/21) marked his return with a brilliant exhibition of fast bowling, and RCB opener Phil Salt emphasised the importance of having the Australian in their ranks.

"Josh is such a key figure for us -- not just with his bowling, because we know it's world-class and what he does time and again -- but also as part of the bowling unit, that sort of calm head out there for everybody else to lean on. It's massive."

"And we've obviously got Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) as well doing the same job. So to have Josh back in the team and contributing to the bowling unit, making the observations he does, and then performing the way he did -- that's almost the cherry on top." So pleased that he's back fit again for us," Salt said. (PTI)