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## No steps initiated to resolve nine demands

Sit-in by employees' union of ONGC completes 7 days

GUWAHATI, May 27: The indefinite sit-in by the employees' union of ONGC's Assam Asset completed a week on Tuesday with no immediate solution in sight to solve a slew of demands, including restarting a recruitment process, overtime allowance and regularisation of a section of temporary staff.

The ONGC Purbanchal Employees' Association (OPEA) initially protested by wearing black badges for a few days and then started a sit-in from May 21 at Assam Asset's head office in Nazira of Sivasagar district.

It, however, has not affected the company's operation as of now, the employees' union said.

"Our main focus is to restart the recruitment process. Nowadays, all work is being outsourced to private parties. Our local youths are being deprived of job opportunities due to this decision of the management," OPEA General Secretary Sanjeeb Boruah told PTI.

He alleged that despite having thousands of vacancies, the management has stopped the recruitment process since 2023, severely impacting operations and denying vital employment opportunities to the youths of Assam.

"It is known that in the year



2022, the Executive Committee of the PSU had sanctioned nearly 300 regular posts (unionised category) for ONGC Assam Asset, ONGC Jorhat and ONGC Silchar. But this process was halted due to unknown reasons," Boruah claimed.

As a Maharatna company operating in the state, ONGC has a "greater responsibility towards local employment generation, which is being undermined by this continued inaction," he added.

"After we announced our agitation programmes last month, a team from ONGC headquarters visited Assam and held talks with us on April 29. However, a solution to the impasse could not be found,"

Boruah said.

When contacted, a senior official of ONGC Assam Asset declined to comment on the development, saying that "it is an internal matter between the union and the management".

Boruah said if the company does not accept their demands, the employees' union will go to the next step of a 'hunger strike', followed by a 'tool-down strike'.

"The union has already served a notice for the hunger strike. We just hope that the management will listen to our legitimate demands before that," he added.

As part of the demands, OPEA has raised issues like the sudden

withdrawal of the 3-hour overtime allowance, a practice followed since 1991, from February 2023, "without serving any notice" to the union.

"This sudden and unjustified action has dealt a devastating blow, not only jeopardising the livelihoods of over 1,000 dedicated employees, but also casting a long shadow over the well-being of 1,000 families, including their children and spouses.

"This decision, made without foresight or compassion, will forever mark a painful chapter in the legacy of the Assam Asset — a blemished page in its history, etched with distress, betrayal, and hardship," the union claimed in the notice.

OPEA also demanded the regularisation of tenure-based field operators (TBO) and paramedical staff, who have served ONGC for over two decades with unwavering commitment, the union said.

"Despite repeated representations, deliberation, and commitment from ONGC Management, their regularisation remains pending. Their continued exclusion from permanent employment reflects poorly on our collective values and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Ex-AASU GS released on bail from Dibrugarh Jail

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, May 27: Shankar Jyoti Baruah, former general secretary of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), was released from Dibrugarh Central Jail on Tuesday, at approximately 2:00 PM, following interim bail granted by the Gauhati High Court on May 26, 2025.

Baruah was arrested on May 19, 2025, in connection with Duliayan Police Station Case Nos. 89/2025 and 90/2025, stemming from an alleged physical altercation at the B N Singh petrol depot in Duliayan, Dibrugarh district.

According to the Duliayan Police, the incident involved a confrontation with depot staff, leading to charges under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, including assault and public disturbance.

Baruah was remanded to judicial custody on May 19 and held at Dibrugarh Central Jail until his release.

The case gained attention due to Baruah's past role as AASU general secretary, a position he resigned from in September 2024 amid unrelated sexual harassment allegations, which he denied. AASU has since distanced itself from (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Will eradicate child marriage in Assam by 2026: Himanta



NEW DELHI, May 27: The Assam government's approach of taking legal action against child marriage led to an 81 per cent decline in such cases in 20 of its 35 districts between 2021-22 and 2023-24, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The chief minister also vowed to eradicate child marriage completely in Assam by 2026, according to an official release.

Assam's relentless campaign to weed out child marriage received commendation during the NDA chief ministers' conclave held here on Sunday, Sarma said.

At the conclave, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Assam came in for much appreciation from

the Union ministers, chief ministers of other states, and Modi himself, for its "vigorous and relentless" efforts to eliminate child marriage, he said. Modi asked the chief ministers of the NDA-ruled states to emulate the Assam model to eradicate the menace of child marriage, according to the release.

Modi also asked officials to visit Assam to get a first-hand experience of how the state has done away with child marriage, it said.

In the daylong conclave, the CMs showcased best practices adopted in their states in such areas as water conservation, grievance redressal, administrative frameworks, education, women empowerment, and sports. (PTI)

### HT BRIEFS

#### Road mishap

TEZPUR: A tragic road accident claimed the life of a college student and left several others injured near Dhekiajuli Tea Estate under Dhekiajuli Police Station in Sonitpur district on Tuesday afternoon. The incident occurred when a motorcycle bearing registration number AS-12-AL-0981 collided head-on with a Hyundai i20 car (AS-02-S-0313). The rider of the motorcycle, who died on the spot, was later identified as Irfan Ali, a second-semester student of the commerce department at LOKD College, Dhekiajuli. He was reportedly returning home after appearing for his semester examination. In the same incident, several other students sustained serious injuries. They were immediately rushed for medical treatment. Further details regarding their condition were not available at the time of reporting.

#### Crop insurance

BISWANATH CHARIALI: The crop insurance process under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has begun in Biswanath district. The district agriculture department has urged farmers to register for Kharif crop coverage to receive compensation in case of crop loss due to natural disasters or pests. Insurance for 1 hectare is available for just ₹ 100. The registration deadline is July 31 for paddy and September 15 for black gram. Aadhaar card, land revenue receipt, bank passbook, and mobile number are required. Farmers are advised to contact local agriculture officers for details.

## NIA chargesheets three accused for supplying arms, explosives to insurgents in Northeast

NEW DELHI, May 27: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted three more accused in a case of trafficking and supply of illegal arms, ammunition and explosives to insurgents in Mizoram, officials said on Tuesday.

The trio, identified as Vanlal-dailova, Lalmanpuia and Lalrinchunga alias Albert, hail from Mizoram, they said.

They were arrested on December 6, 2024, following the seizure of arms, ammunition and explosive material during searches at their residences.

Investigations revealed that all three had played significant roles in supporting terrorist activities and aggravating ethnic violence in

Manipur through the distribution of arms to insurgent groups, the officials claimed.

They had also raised funds with the knowledge that the proceeds would be used for procuring weapons for terror activities, thereby threatening public order and national integrity, the officials alleged.

Vanlaladailova, a licensed arms and ammunition dealer (M/s Israel Arms and Ammunition, Serchhip), had conspired with two other Mizoram-based co-accused Lalngaihawma and Lalmanpuia, to procure and illegally supply weapons across the border and in Manipur for use in terrorist activities, a statement issued by the NIA said.

He had misused his dealership to promote such activities, according to the probe agency.

Lalmanpuia and Lalrinchunga had actively participated in this illegal network by facilitating the procurement and delivery of arms, ammunition and explosives for insurgent use, the statement said.

Lalrinchunga was also engaged in the illegal manufacture and repair of firearms, it said.

A case was registered by the NIA in New Delhi in December 2023 on the basis of credible inputs relating to the involvement of Lalngaihawma and Lalmanpuia in the supply of arms, ammunition and explosives across the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## BSF thwarts infiltration bid by B'deshis: Official

GUWAHATI, May 27: An infiltration bid by a "large group of Bangladeshis" through Assam was thwarted by the BSF on Tuesday, an official said.

The attempt to enter India illegally was made early on Tuesday through South Salmara Mankachar district, the Border Security Force spokesperson said.

"In a significant operation on the morning of May 27, Border Security Force successfully thwarted an infiltration attempt by a large group of Bangladeshis nationals from the international boundary in South Salmara Mankachar district," he said.

The BSF personnel deployed at the border "observed suspicious movement of Bangladesh nationals



approaching towards the international boundary from their side to cross into Indian territory", the spokesperson said.

"Acting swiftly, BSF troops challenged them to prevent their unauthorised entry into Indian territory. The Bangladeshis mob subsequently retreated into their country," the spokesperson added. Another BSF (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Rajnath approves execution model for 5<sup>th</sup>-gen fighter jet project

NEW DELHI, May 27: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has cleared the "execution model" to design and produce India's ambitious fifth-generation stealth fighter jet -- the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA).

India has been working on the ambitious AMCA project to develop the medium weight deep penetration fighter jet with advanced stealth features to bolster its air power capability.

AMCA along with the Tejas light combat aircraft are planned to be the mainstays of the Indian Air Force.

The defence ministry on Tuesday said Singh has approved the "execution model" for AMCA that

will be developed by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in cooperation with industry partners.

The approval for the critical step for development of the aircraft came against the backdrop of increasing focus on bolstering India's air power in view of China's rapid stride in the domain.

"In a significant push towards enhancing India's indigenous defence capabilities and fostering a robust domestic aerospace industrial ecosystem, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model," the defence ministry said.

The "execution model" approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on competitive basis, it said. "They can bid either independently or as joint venture or as consortia. The entity/bidder should be an Indian company compliant with the laws and regulations of the country," the ministry said in a statement.

"This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the aerospace sector," it said. The cabinet committee on security led (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

mographic and social fabric of the region.

He maintained that the APDCL's solar power project, if established in Khatkhathi, could serve as a critical infrastructure project to counter the influence of what he referred to as "encroachers" from Nagaland.

"The solar project is not just a development initiative; it is a protective measure for our land," he said.

Speaking on the opposition to the project by the Indigenous People's Party (IPP), Teron was highly critical of the group's stance.

He claimed that the IPP lacks an understanding of the ground realities in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



local residents in the border areas, said that the Khatkhathi area, situated in the Borjan region of Karbi Anglong and sharing its boundary with Nagaland, has been witnessing increasing encroachment from across the border.

According to him, this issue is not only one of territorial concern but also poses a threat to the de-

## Heroin, firearm seized, one held

GUWAHATI, May 27: A person has been arrested after a firearm and heroin worth Rs 3.5 crore were recovered from his possession in Assam's Cachar district, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday.

The operation was carried out by a joint team of the state police, Assam Rifles and Assam Rifles Field Intelligence Unit (ARFIU), Sarma said in a post on X.

"In an anti-narcotics operation carried out by @cacharpolice, ARFIU and Assam Rifles - 648g heroin worth ₹ 3.5 crore and 1 pistol were recovered," he said. One peddler has also been arrested, the chief minister added. (PTI)

## Assam Govt aids Pahalgam victims' kin

GUWAHATI, May 26: The Assam government on Tuesday handed over financial assistance to the kin of three victims of the Pahalgam terror attack from Maharashtra.

State minister Chandra Mohan Patowary called on the victims' families and offered them financial aid, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X.

"Hon'ble Minister Shri @cmptowary visited the families of Late Hemant Suhas Joshi, Sanjay Laxman Lele of Dombivli West and Dilip Jayaram Desale of Panvel, the unfortunate victims of the #PahalgamTerroristAttack and offered a support amount of Rs 5 lakh on behalf of the people of Assam," it said.

The state government is providing ex gratia assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of all 26 victims of the April 22 attack.

Cabinet ministers of Assam have been visiting the bereaved families across the country since Friday to hand over the financial aid. (PTI)

'Rainfall between 96 % and 104 % of 50-year average of 87 cm considered normal'

## Above-normal June rainfall to keep heat in check: IMD

NEW DELHI, May 27: India is likely to receive above-normal rainfall in June, which is expected to keep maximum temperatures in check in most parts of the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

At a press conference, M Ravichandran, Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said rainfall across the country during June is likely to be more than 108 per cent of the long-period average of 166.9 mm.

"During June, most of the country is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall. However, some southern parts of peninsular India and parts of northwest and northeast India may receive below-normal rain," he said.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that due to this expected good rainfall, most parts



of the country may experience normal to below-normal maximum temperatures, except for many areas in Northwest and Northeast India.

Above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except some parts

of central India and the adjoining south Peninsula owing to the cloudiness, he said.

From June to September, he said, the country is likely to receive 106 per cent of the long-period average rainfall of 87 cm.

Rainfall between 96 per cent and

104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal', the IMD said.

Northwest India is likely to receive normal rainfall, while the Northeast may see below-normal rain. Central India and the southern peninsular region are expected to receive above-normal rainfall, he said.

The monsoon core zone is likely to receive above-normal rainfall (more than 106 per cent of the long-period average) this season. This zone includes parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and nearby areas, which depend heavily on monsoon rain for agriculture.

Above-normal rainfall is expected in most parts of the country, except for Ladakh, adjoining areas of Himachal Pradesh, northeastern states and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



KATHMANDU, May 27: Famed Nepalese Sherpa guide Kami Rita on Tuesday scaled Mount Everest for the 31st time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest mountain.

The 55-year-old climber leading stood atop the 8,849-meter summit at around 4 am under stable weather conditions, according to Mingma Sherpa, chairman of Seven Summit Treks, the expedition organiser.

He was guiding a team of the

Indian Army Adventure Wing Everest Expedition, led by Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Joshi.

"This new feat cements his status as the record holder for the highest number of ascents to the top of the world — a record that no one else has come close to," the Kathmandu Post newspaper quoted Mingma as saying.

"Kami Rita is safe and stable after his summit. He has started his descent and is on his way back to base camp," he added. "As always, Kami has demonstrated his unmatched skills and professionalism on the mountain. We are immensely proud of his achievement and the legacy he continues to build."

In the last two years, Kami Rita scaled Mt Everest twice each season taking his successful summits count to 30. Kami Rita developed a deep passion for climbing from a young age (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



## Stock markets snap 2-day rally, Sensex falls nearly 625 pts as banking, IT shares retreat

**MUMBAI, May 27:** Snapping the two-day gaining streak, benchmark Sensex tumbled nearly 625 points on Tuesday due to profit-taking in banking, IT and auto shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 624.82 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 81,551.63 in a volatile session. During the day, the barometer tanked 1,054.75 points or 1.28 per cent to 81,121.70. As many as 25 Sensex shares declined while five advanced.

The 50-issue NSE Nifty declined 174.95 points or 0.70 per cent to 24,826.20. The barometer saw sharp swings in both directions in the first half but sustained profit-taking in heavyweight stocks dragged the index down.

Key indices Sensex and Nifty had advanced around 1.5 per cent in the past two sessions.

Analysts said investors turned cautious ahead of the release of industrial and manufacturing production data for April on Wednesday and the first quarter GDP numbers, scheduled to be announced later this week.

From the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement fell the most by 2.21 per cent, followed by ITC which



declined 2.01 per cent. Tata Motors, NTPC, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Eternal were among the laggards.

IndusInd Bank, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Nestle and Asian Paints were the gainers.

"The domestic market witnessed volatility and snapped a two-day rally, as investors opted for profit booking driven by valuation concerns and weakness across Asian markets," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

Mid- and small-cap segments remained relatively resilient, supported by better-than-estimated Q4 earnings and moderation in premium valuation, Nair added.

The BSE smallcap gauge went up by 0.19 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.18 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG dropped 0.79 per cent, IT declined 0.71 per cent, BSE Focused IT by 0.68 per cent, auto by 0.66 per cent, bankex by 0.60 per cent, utilities by 0.57 per cent and metal by 0.52 per cent.

Healthcare, industrials, telecommunication, capital goods, realty and consumer durables were the gainers.

"We are currently witnessing a tug-of-war between bulls and bears amid mixed global cues. However, favourable domestic factors such as a good monsoon and strong macroeconomic data are helping maintain a positive undertone," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Regigare Broking Ltd said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled in the negative territory while Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading in the green. US markets were shut on Monday for Memorial Day.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹ 135.98 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.51 per cent to USD 65.07 a barrel.

The BSE Sensex jumped 455.37 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 82,176.45 on Monday. The Nifty climbed 148 points or 0.60 per cent to 25,001.15. (PTI)

## Airtel launches All-in-One OTT Packs for prepaid users

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, May 27:** Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecom service providers, has launched India's first all-in-one OTT entertainment packs exclusively for prepaid users.

According to an official statement issued on Monday, the new packs provide access to over 25 leading streaming platforms, including Netflix, JoCinema, Zee5, SonyLIV, and Airtel Xstream Play Premium.

The entertainment packs are available at a starting price of ₹279 for one month and are designed to offer unmatched value by bundling premium OTT subscriptions into a single recharge.

Airtel claims that the content available through this pack is worth nearly ₹750.

For users seeking a comprehensive experience, the company has also introduced bundled plans that include unlimited 5G data and voice calling, priced at ₹598 for 28 days and ₹1,729 for 84 days.

Through this initiative, Airtel aims to simplify access to digital content by consolidating subscriptions to multiple OTT platforms.

The packs allow users to stream a wide range of content, including popular TV shows, blockbuster movies, and exclusive web series across genres and languages.

Subscribers will be able to enjoy content in more than 16 Indian and international languages, catering to diverse entertainment preferences.

The company stated that these new offerings are part of its strategy to address the growing demand for bundled digital services among prepaid users.

By providing a single, affordable subscription to multiple platforms, Airtel intends to enhance user convenience while delivering a rich and varied entertainment experience.

The service is accessible via the Airtel Xstream Play app, making it easy for users to manage and enjoy their content without the hassle of juggling multiple individual subscriptions. This launch further strengthens Airtel's position in the Indian telecom market, where digital content consumption continues to rise sharply.

With a strong presence in India and associate operations in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Airtel is among the top three global mobile operators, serving over two billion people across its network footprint.

## BSNL posts second consecutive quarterly profit in 18 years at ₹ 280 cr in Q4: Scindia

**NEW DELHI, May 27:** State-owned telecom firm BSNL earned a profit of ₹ 280 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, marking its second consecutive quarterly profit in last 18 years, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday.

The company had posted a loss of ₹ 849 crore in the same period a year ago.

"For the first time in 18 years, back-to-back quarterly profits, net profits, not operating profit alone, not even the positive margin alone, but net profit on a quarterly basis for the second time running after 2007," he told reporters.

The company had posted a profit after tax of ₹ 262 crore for the third quarter of FY25.

"On a net profit basis, almost 10 circles have come in with a net profit compared to only 3 circles posting a net profit in financial year 2023-24. BSNL's net loss in 2023-24, which was close to ₹ 5,370 crore, has been slashed by

58 per cent to only ₹ 2,247 crore," Scindia said.

Operating revenue of BSNL in FY25 increased by 7.8 per cent to ₹ 20,841 crore from ₹ 19,330 crore in FY24.

The minister said that all three core engines of BSNL -- FTTH, customer mobility and the enterprise segment -- have posted healthy growth rates for 2024-25.

Total revenue grew by almost 10 per cent to ₹ 23,400 crore despite deployment of ₹ 24,432 crore capex in FY25, the largest amount in any financial year, Scindia said.

During FY25, BSNL's mobility revenue grew 6 per cent to ₹ 7,499 crore, Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) revenue was higher by 10 per cent to ₹ 2,923 crore and leased line including enterprise segment topline rose 3.5 per cent to ₹ 4,096 crore.

Scindia said BSNL's 4G is active now and all the towers are needed to be synchronised. He said that 93,450 towers for 4G services have been rolled out and the com-

pany's asset monetisation increased by 77 per cent to ₹ 1,120 crore in FY25.

"The sharp turnaround is testimony to professional management, government support and relentless focus on both the topline and the bottom line. BSNL is not just being revived, but redefined," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director A Robert J Ravi said.

Ravi said that with disciplined cost control and accelerated 4G/5G deployment, BSNL is confident of sustaining this growth trajectory and delivering affordable, high-quality connectivity to every Indian.

"We will not be chasing profits as our end goal. We will be redefining telecom excellence in public service. When we consistently do the right things - provide excellent service, reach the un-reached, innovate for inclusivity - profits will naturally follow as a byproduct of that excellence," Ravi added. (PTI)

## IESA and SEMI to boost ECMS impact in Assam through strategic initiatives

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, May 27:** In a joint initiative to enhance the impact of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) and SEMI have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Assam's electronics manufacturing ambitions.

This announcement was made through an official statement on Tuesday. Congratulating the Government of Assam, both organisations praised the state's strategic push to position itself as a hub for electronics component manufacturing.

The initiative aligns with India's broader semiconductor policy and is seen as a significant step in boosting domestic manufacturing capabilities, particularly in the North-East region.

Ashok Chandak, President of IESA and SEMI India, along with senior industry representatives, participated in the Assam Electronics Round Table 2025 held in New Delhi.

The event was graced by Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma. During the roundtable and in subsequent meetings with senior state officials, Chandak outlined a multi-pronged strategy to amplify ECMS's global relevance.

These efforts include building international partnerships for technology access, encouraging distributors to promote locally manufactured components, and supporting Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to invest in and adopt domestic products.

Notably, Assam's ECMS policy has been described as one of the most competitive in the country, offering a 60% top-up incentive along with additional benefits, making it highly attractive for investors and manufacturers alike. This collaborative effort by IESA and SEMI is expected to catalyze robust growth in Assam's electronics ecosystem, while contributing meaningfully to India's self-reliance in semiconductor and component manufacturing.

## KFC launches new 'Epic Savers' deal

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, May 27:** KFC India has rolled out a new value offer aimed at delighting chicken lovers across the country.

As per an official statement, the fast-food giant has introduced its 'Epic Savers' deal, offering nine pieces of chicken at just ₹299.

The combo includes seven boneless chicken strips and two pieces of Hot & Crispy Chicken—known for their signature crunch and bold flavour.

The offer is available for dine-in customers only at all of KFC's 1,300+ outlets nationwide.

As part of the promotional campaign, popular actor Murali Thakur and comedian Danish Sait appear in a new ad film, expressing their excitement over the "9 for 299" deal.

The campaign emphasises that customers no longer have to choose between great taste and savings—they can enjoy both.

KFC's latest offer is being positioned as a limited-time opportunity for families and groups to enjoy an affordable yet satisfying meal, reinforcing the brand's appeal among value-conscious consumers.

## Kansai Nerolac opens second premium paint store in Agartala

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, May 27:** Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited has further expanded its presence in Tripura with the launch of its second Nerolac Premium Partner (NPP) store in Agartala.

According to an official statement, the new outlet—Tania Paints & Hardware—is located at Bhagwan Thakur Chowmuni in the heart of the city and aims to serve as a comprehensive destination for painting solutions.

The store offers a wide range of high-quality paint products backed by Kansai Nerolac's 100-year legacy and advanced Japanese technology.

In addition to its product offerings, the outlet is designed to function as an expert consultation hub, where customers can receive personalised colour guidance and explore innovative painting solutions for

both interior and exterior applications.

Operated by Bikash Shah, who has been associated with Kansai Nerolac since 2024, the store is expected to combine local insight with the brand's nationwide standards of quality and service.

The company emphasised that this expansion aligns with its mission to enhance customer accessibility to premium, durable, and sustainable paint products.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashish Kumar Deb of Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited stated that the new store represents a key milestone in the brand's journey to improve consumer experience and extend its footprint in the region.

Tania Paints & Hardware will remain open throughout the week, from 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM, offering convenience to homeowners, contractors, and businesses alike.

*Contd. from Page 1...*

## No steps initiated to resolve

undermines the principle of dignity of labour," the union claimed. "These frontline workers deserve recognition and security, not indefinite contractual uncertainty," it said.

The notice also pointed out that the alleged unavailability of essential PPE items such as safety shoes, coveralls and hand gloves has been a "persistent concern, particularly affecting the safety of the field employees".

"Despite repeated concerns raised by the union, the management has consistently failed to ensure the timely provision of these basic protective items, thereby compromising the personal safety of our frontline workers," the union alleged. This ongoing issue continues to remain "unresolved, reflecting a serious lapse in compliance and accountability" within the entity," it claimed.

Some other important issues the union has raised are "inordinate delay in the agreed upgradation process of class IV fire personnel, field duty expenditure (FDE) to employees of central workshop (CWS), rising trend of privatisation and outsourcing and discontinuation of certain medical facilities". (PTI)

## Ex-AASU GS released

Baruah, clarifying he is no longer affiliated with the organisation. The incident, initially a local dispute, took on political dimensions, with some groups alleging targeted action against indigenous activists.

Public reactions have been polarised. Organisations like Bir Lachit Sena and Asomiya Yuva Mancha, along with political figures such as Lurinjyoti Gogoi, condemned the arrest as excessive, citing Baruah's history of student activism.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also criticised the use of handcuffs during Baruah's arrest.

Conversely, others, including local residents and legal commentators, have called for an impartial investigation, emphasising accountability regardless of Baruah's background.

The Gauhati High Court granted interim bail on May 26, 2025, citing procedural concerns raised by Baruah's legal counsel, who argued the arrest was disproportionate and politically motivated.

The prosecution, represented by the Dibrugarh district public prosecutor's office, maintained that the charges were based on evidence from depot staff and CCTV footage, though they have not publicly commented on the bail ruling. Legal proceedings are ongoing, with the next hearing scheduled for June 2025.

Upon his release, Baruah addressed supporters outside the jail, inferring, "The truth will prevail in court." He declined further comment, referring to a prior social media post where he described the allegations as a "conspiracy." Supporters gathered at the jail expressed relief, while critics reiterated the need for a fair trial.

The case continues to fuel discussions on student activism, indigenous rights, and judicial processes in Assam. Observers await further developments as the legal process unfolds.

## NIA chargesheets three accused

northeastern region and other parts of India, including Delhi.

The main charge sheet was filed against Lalngaihawma in July 2024, followed by a supplementary charge sheet against Solomon in November.

In the second supplementary chargesheet filed on Monday before the NIA special court here, Vanlaladailova, Lalmanpuia and Lalrinchunga have been charged under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Arms Act, 1959, Explosive Substances Act, 1908, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the statement said. (PTI)

## Teron backs APDCL solar project

Borjan and has not consulted the local populace. "IPP, which is opposing the project, knows nothing about Borjan. They haven't spoken to the residents. In fact, their president is not even from Borjan—he belongs to Langphar," Teron stated.

He further asserted that both the Lahorijan and Khathkhati areas in Karbi Anglong, located along the Assam-Nagaland border, are being encroached upon, and that any delay in establishing a permanent infrastructure like the solar power plant could worsen the situation.

According to Teron, the resistance to the solar project is part of a deliberate conspiracy by Naga encroachers from across the state border who, he claimed, are attempting to obstruct the project's implementation.

He warned that this opposition must be viewed through the lens of a larger agenda, which includes the alleged attempt to push for the creation of a so-called "Greater Nagalim" by encroaching into areas within Karbi Anglong.

During the press conference, Teron also pointed to a recent incident in Dudu Colony, where homes belonging to Karbi people were allegedly set on fire by individuals from Nagaland.

He cited this incident as evidence of the rising tension and the urgent need for governmental intervention. In a strong appeal to the authorities, Teron called upon the Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang; Member of Parliament Amar Sing Tisso; and chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to ensure the immediate commencement of the solar project.

"The government must act now. Starting the APDCL solar project in Khathkhati is not only essential for power generation but is also a necessary step to secure the land and rights of the indigenous people of Karbi Anglong," Teron urged.

## Rajnath approves execution

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given in-principle approval to the fighter jet programme last year. The initial development cost of the project has been estimated at around ₹ 15,000 crore.

The IAF has been pushing for the AMCA project in view of its long-term requirement.

India's confidence in the development of the AMCA saw a significant jump after the development of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas. Manufactured by state-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the Tejas aircraft is a potent platform for air combat and offensive air support missions while reconnaissance and anti-surface operations are its secondary roles.

The Indian Air Force (IAF), at present, does not have a fifth-generation fighter jet.

China already has Chengdu J-20 jets that it claimed to be a fifth-generation air superiority fighter with precision strike capability. The IAF is also in the process of procuring 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA). In April 2019, the IAF issued an RFI (Request for Information), or initial tender, to acquire 114 jets at a cost of around USD 18 billion.

It was billed as one of the world's biggest military procurement programmes in recent years. (PTI)

## BSF thwarts infiltration

official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a group of 14 illegal immigrants were pushed back by the security force through a border point in the same district in the early hours on Tuesday. (PTI)

## Nepalese Sherpa guide scales

and has been scaling mountains for over two decades. Chhang Dawa Sherpa, Expedition Director at Seven Summit Treks, said. His mountaineering journey began in 1992 when he joined an expedition to Everest as a support staff member.

According to Dawa, between 1994 to 2025 Kami Rita also scaled K2 and Mt Lhotse one time, Manaslu thrice, and Cho Oyu eight times. Hundreds of climbers attempt to climb Mount Everest from the Nepali side each year. Everest was first climbed in 1953 by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepali Sherpa Tenzing Norgay. (PTI)

## Above-normal June rainfall

some parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Some isolated areas in Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu may experience below-normal rainfall.

The southwest monsoon reached Kerala on May 24, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it reached the southern state on May 23.

The primary rain bearing system set in over Mumbai 16 days before the usual date, making it the earliest since 1950. The southwest monsoon usually makes its onset over Kerala by June 1, reaches Mumbai by June 11 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

Meteorologists emphasise that the date of monsoon onset has no direct correlation with the total seasonal rainfall. The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala or Mumbai does not mean it will cover other parts of the country. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features.

India saw 934.8 mm of rainfall in 2024, 108 per cent of the average. In 2022, it saw 925 mm; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020, according to the IMD data.

The monsoon plays a critical role in India's agriculture-dependent economy, providing vital water for crops, replenishing reservoirs, and supporting drinking water and hydropower generation.

Agriculture supports the livelihood of around 42 per cent of the population and accounts for 18.2 per cent of the country's GDP. (PTI)

## Rakesh Gangwal, family trust sell 5.7 pc stake in IndiGo for ₹ 11,559 crore

**NEW DELHI, May 27:** InterGlobe Aviation promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust on Tuesday sold a 5.7 per cent stake in the airline for about ₹ 11,559 crore (USD 1.36 billion) through a block deal, according to sources.

Following the stake sale, shares of InterGlobe Aviation slipped 2.20 per cent to trade at ₹ 5,301 apiece on the NSE in late afternoon trade.

Apart from Gangwal, the Chinkerpoo Family Trust, whose trustees are Shobha Gangwal and JP Morgan Trust Company of Delaware, has also participated in the transaction in the country's largest airline IndiGo, the sources said.

Investment banking firms Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Morgan Stanley India Company and JP Morgan India are the placement agents for the stake sale, they added.

Before the latest transaction, Gangwal and the family trust together owned about 13.5 per cent in IndiGo.

As per the latest block deal, up to 2.21 crore

equity shares were sold at a final price of ₹ 5,230.50 per share, as per a revised term sheet seen by PTI.

The total number of shares has been raised from the initial 13.2 million shares (1.32 crore shares) mentioned in the earlier term sheet.

The final price is at a 3.5 per cent discount compared to the closing price of ₹ 5,420 per share on Monday.

The sources said 2.21 crore shares amount to around 5.7 per cent stake in the company, and the offer size, based on the final price, is pegged at nearly USD 1.36 billion or about ₹ 11,559 crore.

The share sale, executed through multiple tranches on BSE and NSE, is entirely secondary in nature.

As part of the deal structure, a 150-day lock-up period will apply to the vendors and their immediate relatives, barring one exception -- they may transfer shares worth at least USD 300 mil-

lion to a single investor or investor group through a negotiated transaction, subject to certain pricing and lock-up conditions.

In August 2024, Rakesh Gangwal's family trust sold a 5.24 per cent stake in the airline for ₹ 9,549 crore. Before that, it had sold shares in March.

The share sale is part of Gangwal's decision in February 2022 to trim his shareholding after a bitter feud with co-founder Rahul Bhatia over alleged corporate governance issues.

Since February 2022, Gangwal and his wife Shobha Gangwal have been offloading their shares in IndiGo.

In September 2022, Rakesh Gangwal and Shobha Gangwal sold a 2.74 per cent shareholding for ₹ 2,005 crore. In February 2023, Shobha divested a 4 per cent stake in the company for ₹ 2,944 crore. Later in August, she sold a nearly 2.9 per cent stake in the company for a little over ₹ 2,800 crore. (PTI)



## Minister hails Chotomamda Hospital's first ever C-section achievement

### 'Beacon of rural healthcare progress in Barak Valley'

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, May 27:** In a defining moment for healthcare delivery in southern Assam, Chotomamda Model Hospital in Cachar district has achieved a historic milestone by successfully conducting its first-ever Caesarean Section (C-section) on May 20, 2025. This achievement marks the hospital as the second Community Health Centre (CHC)-level First Referral Unit (FRU) in the district capable of performing such advanced maternal care, following Katigora Hospital's pioneering efforts in 2017. The development heralds a transformative step in making emergency obstetric care accessible to women in remote and underserved regions of Barak Valley. The occasion was formally acknowledged during a high-level District Health Society review meeting held in the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Office, here on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Mridul Yadav, District Commissioner of Cachar, and witnessed the presence of Borkhola MLA Misbahul Islam Laskar and top officials from the Health Department. Gracing the meeting as Chief Guest, Minister for Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, Mines and Minerals, and Barak Valley Development, Kaushik Rai, delivered a stirring address that underscored the government's enduring resolve to strengthen grassroots health infrastructure. Commending the achievement, Minister Kaushik Rai declared, "Today's accomplishment at Chotomamda Model Hospital is not merely a medical success, it is a milestone in our journey toward equitable healthcare. It demonstrates the courage, competence, and commitment of our medical personnel who work tirelessly to ensure that every mother, regardless of location, receives the dignity and safety she deserves during childbirth. Cachar has set an inspiring example for the entire state." The Minister reiterated the State Government's commitment to bolstering rural healthcare, emphasizing the importance of synergized efforts between State and District health authorities.

The meeting also became a platform to discuss the future roadmap of healthcare expansion across the district. Minister Rai urged the Health Department to expedite the operationalization of health centres currently under construction through the National Health Mission (NHM) and the Public Works Department (PWD). He emphasized that timely commissioning of these facilities is critical to achieving comprehensive healthcare access in rural and tea garden areas.

Turning special attention to tea garden welfare, Minister Rai directed health officials to ensure the robust implementation of the Tea Garden Wage Compensation Scheme. He stressed that no pregnant woman in tea garden communities should be left out of its benefits, as the scheme plays a vital role in supporting maternal health in economically vulnerable sections.

In a heartwarming gesture of appreciation, doctors, nurses, and supporting staff of the Health Department were felicitated during the meeting by Minister Kaushik Rai, MLA Misbahul Islam Laskar, and DC Mridul Yadav. Their commendable efforts in not only launching C-section services at Chotomamda but also in maintaining consistent public health delivery across the district were deeply lauded.

It is important to note that the success of Chotomamda Model Hospital is a testament to the coordinated strength of the health and administrative machinery in Cachar. The transformation of the hospital into an FRU-level facility was realized through the tireless push by the District Health Society and Minister Rai's proactive engagement as the local MLA and Chairman of the hospital's development initiatives. His instrumental role in securing critical infrastructure—ranging from residential quarters for healthcare personnel to the establishment of a Block Public Health Unit has laid the foundation for sustained medical excellence in the region.

## Enforcement drive launched in Morigaon to curb SOP violations by commercial vehicles

**HT Correspondent**  
**MORIGAON, May 27:** A joint enforcement drive was conducted in Morigaon on Monday to crack down on violations of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for commercial vehicles, as laid out by the district administration. The operation was led by the Circle Officer, Executive Officer of Morigaon Municipal Board, District Transport Officer, and the local police, targeting vehicles found parked improperly or operating outside permitted zones.

Several challans were issued during the drive to commercial vehicles parked hazardingly along highways, which officials say posed serious threats to public safety. The authorities emphasized that such drives will continue in the coming days and are expected to act as a deterrent against non-compliance.

The SOP, originally issued on November 15, 2024, was a comprehensive guideline aimed at regulating the movement and parking of commercial vehicles and various types of rickshaws. The SOP designated specific parking and operational zones at locations including Ghankanta Baruah College Chari (Morigaon-Jagiroad Road), Gurukul and MB Park Chari (Morigaon-Nagaon Road), MB Road, Lothabari Bishnu Mandir Chari, Morigaon Damal Path, and Usha Chari.

## Margherita Block Congress Committee pays tribute to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

**HT Correspondent**  
**MARGHERITA, May 27:** In a solemn and heartfelt ceremony, the Margherita Block Congress Committee commemorated the 61st death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, freedom fighter, and Bharat Ratna awardee, on Tuesday. The event, held at Margherita Congress Bhawan, served as a poignant tribute to the visionary leader whose foundational contributions continue to shape the fabric of modern India.

Led by Tara Prasad Dehingia, President of the Margherita Block Congress Committee, and Vice President Devendra Pandey, the ceremony began with the lighting of earthen lamps and floral tributes placed before a portrait of Pandit Nehru, symbolising deep reverence for his enduring legacy. The occasion was graced by the presence of Arup Sharma, General Secretary, along with Secretaries Mridul Buragohain and Jyotirmoi Nath, who joined in the commemorative proceedings.

In his address, Tara Prasad Dehingia spoke eloquently of Nehru's visionary leadership and transformative role in shaping India's destiny. "Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a beacon of progress and unity for our nation. His foresight laid the foundation for modern India through pioneering initiatives such as the establishment of IITs, IIMs, ISRO, Indian School of Mines, AIIMS, BARC, and several agricultural and scientific research institutes," Dehingia stated. He also recalled major infrastructural landmarks under Nehru's tenure, including the Bhakra Nangal, Hirakud, and Nagarjuna Sagar dams, as part of Nehru's vision for a self-reliant India.

"His legacy continues to inspire generations as we strive for inclusive development and national unity," Dehingia added. The event served not only as a tribute to Nehru's pivotal role in India's freedom struggle and post-independence development but also as a reaffirmation of his ideals that still guide the nation's aspirations. The Margherita Block Congress Committee's homage echoed with pride, respect, and a renewed commitment to uphold the values of progress, secularism, and democracy championed by Pandit Nehru.

## KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL, OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER::: KARBI ANGLONG EAST DIVISION

### D I P H U

Dated \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025.

#### TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF UNCLAIMED SEIZED TIMBER

- (a) Under the Provision made in the Assam Sale of Forest produce timber lots by tender system Rule 1977 (Amended upto date) sealed tenders in the prescribed form affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Money receipt worth of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only, are inviting for the unclaimed seized timber lots as shown in the prescribed schedule.  
(b) The tenderers are requested to drop their tender papers in the tender box which will be kept opened in the Divisional Forest Office, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu during the office working hours from the date of issue of this sale notice on **05/06/2025 TO 07/06/2025 from 10.30 a.m. (I.S.T.) to 3.30 p.m. (I.S.T.)**.  
(c) The last date for submission of tender papers is fixed on **07/06/2025**.  
(d) The tender box will be **opened on the 10/06/2025** in presence of the interested bidders. If the office is closed on the last date of receiving tender for any reason, the next working day will be considered as the last date of tender submission. No tender delivered by post or hand after this date shall be considered under any circumstance.  
(e) The successful tenderers shall have to deposit the bid value alongwith Dragging Cost, G.S.T. etc as shown in the statement order by the undersigned. The settlement is liable to be cancelled and shall be forfeited if the highest bidder fails to deposit the tender value and the tender shall be settled with the second highest bidder subject to fulfilment of terms and condition of the sale value.
- (a) The tender must be accompanied by earnest money draft, "as call deposit pleased to Divisional Forest Officer, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu" of Rs.250/- for S.T. and General Class Rs. 500/- for each timber lot. Cash or money order will not be accepted as Earnest money under any circumstance.  
(b) Upto date G.S.T., Caste Certificate, P.Tax and in case of General category Trading License & I. Tax must be enclosed alongwith the tender and without these documents no tender will be considered.  
(c) The intending tenderer should inspect the timber lots at the place shown in the attached schedule before submitting tender and no claim shall be considered after any circumstances afterwards.  
(d) The intending tenderers are requested to contact the office of the undersigned or the office of the concerned range office during office hours on any working days for further details of the sale notice and collect the sale notice and tender form etc. on payment of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One hundred) only per copy.

Enclosed:- **Statement**

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.  
Dated 26/05/2025.

Memo No. B/KAE/Unclaimed Seized Timber/2025-26/1541-48

#### Statement of Unclaimed Seized Timber Lots under Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu for the year 2023-24 to 2025-2026.

SI. No.	Lots no. & Year	Species	No. of Logs	Volume	Royalty	D/Cost	Stacking	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	CR/01 of 2025-26 (Offence Case)	Teak	88 pieces	19.813 m <sup>3</sup>	4,86,805.00		Central Range, Manja	
2	N/06 of 2023-24	M-Sal	63 pieces	5.012 M <sup>3</sup>	30,057.00	5012.00	Bagori Sub-Beat	
3	N/01 of 2025-26	M-Sal	18 pieces	1.533 M <sup>3</sup>	12,298.00	1200.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
4	N/02 of 2025-26	M-Sal	10 pieces	1.629 M <sup>3</sup>	5,872.00	1000.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
5	N/03 of 2025-26	M-Sal	85 pieces	5.17 M <sup>3</sup>	41,340.00	4000.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
6	N/04 of 2025-26	M-Sal	61 pieces	8.433 M <sup>3</sup>	30,397.00	35000.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
7	N/05 of 2025-26	M-Sal	34 pieces	0.992 M <sup>3</sup>	3,576.00	1000.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
8	N/06 of 2025-26	M-Sal	45 pieces	3.943 M <sup>3</sup>	23,646.00	2500.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
9	N/07 of 2025-26	M-Sal	52 pieces	2.176 M <sup>3</sup>	13,049.00	1400.00	Northern Range, Dolamara	
10	NER/01 of 2025-26	Teak	17 pieces	0.947 M <sup>3</sup>	5,688.00	2000.00	North Eastern Range, Silonijan	
11	NER/02 of 2025-26	Teak	16 pieces.	1.269 M <sup>3</sup>	7,621.00	2000.00	North Eastern Range, Silonijan	
12	NER/03 of 2025-26	Bogipoma	55 pieces	2.785 M <sup>3</sup>	16,701.00	4000.00	North Eastern Range, Silonijan	
13	NER/04 of 2025-26	Teak	16 pieces	0.892 M <sup>3</sup>	5,421.00	2000.00	North Eastern Range, Silonijan	
14	NWR/01 of 2025-26	M-Sal	07 pieces	0.894 M <sup>3</sup>	5,361.31	715.2	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
15	NWR/02 of 2025-26	M-Sal	07 pieces	1.030 M <sup>3</sup>	6,176.00	824.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
16	NWR/03 of 2025-26	M-Sal	09 pieces	1.123 M <sup>3</sup>	6,734.00	898.4	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
17	NWR/04 of 2025-26	Titasopa	06 pieces	0.695 M <sup>3</sup>	6,667.00	347.5	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
18	NWR/05 of 2025-26	Titasopa	07 pieces	0.576 M <sup>3</sup>	5,526.00	288.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
19	NWR/06 of 2025-26	Titasopa	06 pieces	0.588M <sup>3</sup>	5,641.00	294.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
20	NWR/07 of 2025-26	Titasopa	05 pieces	0.706 M <sup>3</sup>	6,673.00	353.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
21	NWR/08 of 2025-26	Titasopa	05 pieces	0.577 M <sup>3</sup>	5,535.00	288.5	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
22	NWR/09 of 2025-26	Titasopa	06 pieces	0.664 M <sup>3</sup>	6,370.00	332.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
23	NWR/10 of 2025-26	Titasopa	09 pieces	0669 M <sup>3</sup>	6,418.00	335.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
24	NWR/11 of 2025-26	Titasopa	08 pieces	0.679 M <sup>3</sup>	6,514.00	340.00	North Western Range, Parkup Pahar	
25	LSB/01 of 2025-26	M-Sal	05 pieces	0.526M <sup>3</sup>	2,527.00	368.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
26	LSB/02 of 2025-26	M-Sal	05 pieces	0.66M <sup>3</sup>	3,171.00	462.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
27	LSB/03 of 2025-26	M-Sal	06 pieces	0.742M <sup>3</sup>	3,563.00	519.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
28	LSB/04 of 2025-26	M-Sal	06 pieces	0.652 M <sup>3</sup>	3,133.00	456.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
29	LSB/05 of 2025-26	M-Sal	04 pieces	0.282 M <sup>3</sup>	1,355.00	197.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
30	LSB/06 of 2025-26	M-Sal	10 pieces	0.828 M <sup>3</sup>	3,978.00	579.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
31	LSB/07 of 2025-26	M-Sal	07 pieces	0.709 M <sup>3</sup>	3,406.00	496.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
32	NWR/23 of 2025-26	Teak	10 pieces	0.068 M <sup>3</sup>	4,016.00	500.00	Langkhang Forest Sub-Beat	
33	LJ/27 of 2025-26	Teak	05 pieces	1.143 M <sup>3</sup>	5,310.00	2000.00	Dillai Soil	
34	LJ/28 of 2025-26	Teak	04 pieces	0.057 M <sup>3</sup>	4,330.00	1500.00	I.B. Compound	
35	LJ/29 of 2025-26	Teak	03 pieces	0.09 M <sup>3</sup>	4,100.00	1500.00	I.B. Compound	
36	LJ/30 of 2025-26	Teak	04 pieces	0.077 M <sup>3</sup>	4,620.00	1700.00	I.B. Compound	
37	LJ/31 of 2025-26	Teak	04 pieces	0.142 M <sup>3</sup>	5,610.00	2000.00	I.B. Compound	
38	LJ/32 of 2025-26	Teak	07 pieces	0.084 M <sup>3</sup>	5,040.00	2000.00	I.B. Compound	
39	LJ/33 of 2025-26	Teak	07 pieces	0.082 M <sup>3</sup>	4,920.00	1600.00	I.B. Compound	
40	LJ/34 of 2025-26	Teak	03 pieces	0.069 M <sup>3</sup>	6,020.00	1400.00	I.B. Compound	
41	LJ/35 of 2025-26	Teak	05 pieces	0.083 M <sup>3</sup>	4,900.00	1500.00	I.B. Compound	
42	LJ/36 of 2025-26	M-Sal	03 pieces	0.06 M <sup>3</sup>	3,603.00	1400.00	I.B. Compound	

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.



## Visit of Parliamentary teams

The Modi government has launched a significant international diplomacy effort to seek support from the global community in the fight against Pak-sponsored terrorism. Seven all-party delegations have been sent to major international capitals this week. New Delhi launched 'Operation Sindoor' following a terrorist attack by militants linked to Pakistan in Pahalgam on April 22. It saw the death of 26 civilians. This marked the worst assault on civilians since the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. New Delhi is working on diplomatic efforts regarding the Pahalgam attack and New Delhi's retaliation. However, the international response has been mixed. The U.S., Japan, the UAE, and the UN have called for restraint and dialogue, while Israel supports New Delhi. China has condemned the strikes and urged both sides to stay calm. Citing Pakistan's role in fostering terrorism, New Delhi asserts that de-escalation must come from Pakistan. While Pakistan adopts a victim narrative, New Delhi will vigorously attack its involvement in terrorism. Delegations will highlight global double standards on terrorism, emphasizing the need to combat it. The all-party delegations of MPs are a good strategy to inform and seek support from the global community. Notable MPs chosen include Shashi Tharoor and Anand Sharma (Congress), Baijant Pandya and Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP), Sanjay Kumar Jha (JDU), Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena), Kanimozhi (DMK), and Supriya Sule (NCP) among others.

The delegation members will engage with various stakeholders, including political leaders and intellectuals. They are articulate and well-prepared to perform their roles. They will engage with many people, including political leaders and intellectuals. The delegations, which is already on its job, are scheduled to visit 33 countries. There are 31 political leaders from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and 20 from other parties in the delegations. They will be assisted by former diplomats. Their mission embraces the message of the "One Message, One Nation, One Bharat" campaign. The goal is to present a unified stance against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. This united effort, where the BJP, Opposition and Muslim communities speak in one voice about zero tolerance of terrorism, not only strengthens New Delhi's commitment but also reassures the global community of India's resolve. This is not the first time the government has taken the Opposition on board on foreign policy issues. Former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao (Congress), A.B. Vajpayee (BJP) and Dr Manmohan Singh had previously sent such delegations. Rao believed that appointing a prominent opposition leader to head the Indian delegation had a significant impact. Despite the government and the Opposition not being on the same page on many issues, when the government invited the Opposition to join the global outreach efforts, this time, the response was favourable.

The Modi government aims to reduce criticism of its 'Operation Sindoor' by involving Opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) in international diplomatic efforts. The primary goal is to present a united front against terrorism. This move of the BJP is a welcome step for democracy as it will strengthen India's position in a multipolar world. Incorporating diverse opinions is a positive step for India's diplomatic efforts. Overall, sending all-party delegations to address this crucial issue is commendable.

# Northeast rising: Modi's vision turns frontier into economic powerhouse

The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 23, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, marks a pivotal moment in the economic reawakening of India's Northeastern Region (NER). This two-day summit, concluding on May 24, serves as a clarion call to global and domestic investors, spotlighting the Northeast as a land brimming with untapped potential. Long overshadowed by its geographic isolation and a historical lens that prioritized security over development, the NER is now poised to emerge as a cornerstone of India's vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047. With investment proposals totaling an unprecedented Rs 4.22 lakh crore, as announced by Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the summit underscores a transformative shift in perception—from a peripheral frontier to a dynamic front-runner in India's growth narrative.

The Northeast, comprising eight states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—has historically been marginalized due to its challenging terrain and a myopic policy approach that viewed the region primarily through a security prism. This isolation, compounded by decades of underinvestment, left the NER trailing behind India's more developed regions. However, the past two decades have witnessed a gradual shift, with infrastructure projects, policy reforms, and a renewed focus on economic integration beginning to reshape the region. Despite these strides, the journey to parity remains long, necessitating events like the Rising North East Investors Summit to catalyze sustainable and inclusive growth.

Prime Minister Modi, in his inaugural address, described the Northeast as "the most diverse region of our diverse nation," encapsulating its unparalleled richness in nature, wildlife, landscapes, ethnic cultures, history, and heritage. This diversity, he emphasized, is the region's greatest asset, positioning it as a hub for tourism, bio-economy, bamboo industry, tea, petroleum, sports, and skill development. The summit, attended by dignitaries including Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, was a testament to the col-

lective commitment to transforming the NER into a beacon of opportunity.

The summit's significance lies not only in its scale but also in its strategic intent. It builds on a series of pre-summit activities, including roadshows, state roundtables, an Ambassador's Meet, and Bilateral Chambers Meet, orchestrated by the central government with robust support from NER state governments. These efforts culminated in a platform that brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and investors to explore key sectors: tourism and hospitality, agro-food processing, textiles, handloom, handicrafts, healthcare, education, skill development, information technology, infrastructure, logistics, energy, entertainment, and sports. The event featured ministerial sessions, Business-to-Government dialogues, Business-to-Business meetings, startup showcases, and exhibitions highlighting policy initiatives, creating a vibrant ecosystem for investment discussions.

A cornerstone of the summit's narrative was the shift from India's erstwhile "Look East" policy to the more proactive "Act East" framework, which Prime Minister Modi articulated as a vision defined by the acronym EAST: Empower, Act, Strengthen, and Transform. This policy shift has placed the Northeast at the heart of India's economic and geopolitical strategy, particularly as a gateway to Southeast Asia. The region's strategic location, bordering ASEAN nations, positions it as a critical trade bridge. Modi highlighted the potential for trade with ASEAN, currently valued at \$125 billion and projected to surpass \$200 billion in the coming years, with the Northeast playing a pivotal role. Projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project, which will connect Kolkata Port to Myanmar's Sittoung Port via Mizoram, are set to enhance regional connectivity, reduce trade distances, and boost industrial growth.

Infrastructure development emerged as a central theme, with Modi underscoring its role in fostering investor confidence and driving economic activity. The past decade has seen an "Infrastructure Revolution" in the NER, with investments of thousands of crores transforming connectivity. Notable projects include the Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, the Bhepu Hazarika Bridge in Assam, 11,000 kilometers of highways, new railway lines, doubled airport capacity, waterways on the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers, and a 1,600-kilometer Northeast Gas Grid ensuring

reliable energy for industries. The expansion of digital infrastructure, including 13,000 kilometers of optical fiber and 4G/5G coverage, has further positioned the Northeast as a digital gateway. These advancements, coupled with the development of Guwahati, Imphal, and Agartala as Multi-Modal Logistics Hubs and Land Custom Stations in Meghalaya and Mizoram, are unlocking new avenues for trade with Indo-Pacific nations.

Tourism, a sector with "mindboggling potential" as described by Modi, is a key focus for the NER. The region's biodiversity, cultural heritage, and natural landscapes make it an ideal destination for eco-tourism, cultural tourism, and wellness tourism under India's "Heal in India" initiative. The doubling of tourist numbers in recent years has spurred the growth of homestays, created jobs for young guides, and expanded the tour and travel ecosystem. However, realizing this potential requires a futuristic vision backed by robust planning and ground-level execution. The state governments must balance development with the preservation of the region's natural environment, which Modi described as its "very soul." Sustainable tourism, intertwined with environmental conservation, is non-negotiable to maintain the Northeast's unique appeal.

The bio-economy and bamboo industry, alongside tea and petroleum, represent time-tested and emerging sectors with significant investment potential. The Northeast's climate and soil are ideal for organic farming, with products like tea, pineapples, oranges, lemons, turmeric, and ginger gaining international acclaim. The region's organic farming scope has doubled over the past decade, aligning with the global demand for organic food. Modi's vision of an Indian food brand on every global dining table hinges on the Northeast's agricultural prowess. Initiatives like the Oil Palm Mission, leveraging the region's suitability for palm oil cultivation, promise strong income for farmers and reduced import dependency. Additionally, the government is facilitating food processing units through mega food parks, cold storage networks, and testing labs, further enhancing the agro-food processing sector.

Energy and semiconductors are emerging as strategic sectors for the Northeast. Investments in hydropower and solar power, coupled with the region's first semiconductor plant, signal a high-tech future. Modi announced that the first "Made in India" chip from an NER-based facility will soon be in-

troduced, marking a milestone in India's quest for technological self-reliance. These developments, alongside opportunities in solar modules, cells, and storage solutions, position the Northeast as a hub for innovation and manufacturing. The summit's investment proposals, totaling ₹ 4.22 lakh crore, reflect strong confidence in the NER's economic potential. While Indian conglomerates like Reliance and Adani Group have led the charge—Adani alone committed ₹ 50,000 crore for projects in Assam, including aerocities, hotels, cement plants, and the Joghghopa Multimodal Logistics Park—the focus remains on attracting foreign investors. To achieve this, state governments must present a compelling and realistic investment climate, addressing challenges like bureaucratic hurdles and land acquisition complexities. The presence of global investors and foreign missions at the summit underscores the NER's growing appeal, but matching rhetoric with actionable outcomes is critical.

Peace and stability are foundational to the region's development. Modi highlighted the government's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and insurgency, noting that over 10,000 youth have embraced peace through agreements over the past decade. This shift has unlocked entrepreneurial opportunities, supported by schemes like MUDRA, which has disbursed thousands of crores to NER youth. Education and skill development are also priorities, with ₹ 21,000 crore invested in the education sector, including new schools, AIIMS, medical colleges, IIITs, and a sports university. The Khelo India program, with eight Centers of Excellence and over 250 Khelo India Centers, is nurturing sports talent, while digital innovation is empowering young entrepreneurs to launch startups.

The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 is more than an event; it is, as Modi described, "a movement and a call to action." It embodies the Ashtalakshmi vision, symbolizing the Northeast's multifaceted potential to drive India's progress. The region's transformation from a neglected frontier to a land of opportunity hinges on sustained collaboration between the central and state governments, industry leaders, and global investors. By leveraging its diversity, strategic location, and robust infrastructure, the Northeast is poised to become a powerhouse of trade, tourism, and technology. As Modi concluded, the region's progress will propel India to new heights, making the Northeast not just a participant but a leader in the journey toward a Viksit Bharat. *(The writer can be reached at dipakkurmigpltd@gmail.com)*

## Syria's new relationship with USA marks a watershed in West Asia politics

By Asad Mirza

The American President Donald Trump in a significant shift in US foreign policy, recently announced the easing of long-standing sanctions on Syria, marking a pivotal moment for the war-torn nation and the broader Middle East. This decision came during the President's middle east tour and discussions with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The meeting between Syria's interim President Ahmad Al-Sharaa, formerly known as Abu Mohammed Al-Golani and President Rump, apparently at the behest of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS), was followed by a sudden announcement of ending economic sanctions against Syria. It reflects a pragmatic approach to fostering stability and economic recovery in the region.

Though unexpected, yet the fact is that these sanctions were imposed by the US itself in 1979, when it designated Syria as a "state sponsor of terrorism", citing its support for groups like Hezbollah and its military presence in Lebanon.

The next round of sanction was imposed in 2004 under the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, targeting Syria's alleged pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and its interference in neighbouring Iraq.

The most stringent measures came in 2011, in response to the Assad regime's brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, leading to the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, which aimed to hold the regime accountable for war crimes.

However, the easing of sanctions may offer a way forward to Syria and its new leader to rebuild the country and reintegrate into the international community.

Bashar Al-Assad's regime's collapse in December 2024 ushered in a new era for Syria. While concerns have been expressed about his past affiliations, Al-Sharaa has made concerted efforts to distance himself from his militant past and present himself as a statesman committed to rebuilding Syria.

His first diplomatic outreach was to Saudi Arabia, including a visit to Makkah with his wife. The visit signalled a desire to align Syria with its Arab neighbours - as opposed to Iran - and embrace a more moderate form of Islam and governance.

The world's attention on Syria today is because of its strategic location - as it has been for millennia. The emerging political trends in the Levant and the wider Middle East for years to come, will be based on the outcome of the competition to control Syrian governance.

In fact, domestic, regional, and global actors are competing for power and influence in Syria because of the country's

unique position and status. Syria, by heritage is a rather rare complete and consequential Arab country, due to its human and natural resources, strategic geography, and political, cultural, and ethnic ties in the Middle East and the world. Syria today, even in its dilapidated state after half a century of autocratic abuse and 13 years of war, hosts hundreds of diplomats, businesspeople, civic activists, and carpetbaggers. But this is not new.

This has been the Syria's global contribution for the last 5,000 years, ever since Damascus and Aleppo emerged as productive, vibrant, and strategic urban centres in the third millennium BC. Historically, the land and people of Syria have consistently generated knowledge, value systems, food, wealth, culture, technology, and identities that have made their land a strategic and coveted global crossroads.

As Faisal J Abbas opines very aptly in his article in the Arab News, that in fact, the American decision to ease sanctions should not be viewed as an endorsement of past actions but a recognition of the changing dynamics, and a bet on a future that the US, Saudi Arabia, and other middle eastern states can help support in rebuilding their country and as a result extend their sphere of influence. And the main factor behind this benevolence is to keep Syria away from its old allies i.e. Russia and Iran.

The western sanctions were primarily aimed at the Assad regime's oppressive policies and its destabilising role in the region. With the regime's fall, maintaining these sanctions would have only hindered the Syrian people's aspirations for peace and prosperity.

Moreover, Al-Sharaa has shown commitment to forming an inclusive government, respecting minority rights, and focusing on reconstruction efforts aligns with the hope of broader goal of giving a chance to the regional stability.

Syria's economy has been devastated by years of conflict and sanctions, with over 90 percent of the population living in poverty. The lifting of sanctions would open the doors for international investment, aid, and the rebuilding of critical infrastructure.

It also allows Syria to shift from being a hub for illicit activities, such as drug trafficking, to becoming a centre for trade and tourism, reminiscent of its pre-war status. For the Syrian people, the lifting of sanctions brings hope for a future free from conflict and economic despair.

Faisal further opines that Syria has always been and remains special because it is the most complete Arab country that enjoys all the assets of genuine statehood and nationhood. These include fertile land and water resources; mineral and

agricultural wealth; an industrial base; human wealth in skilled citizens, proficient managers, and entrepreneurial businesspeople; a pluralistic citizenry across vibrant and creative urban centres, alongside deeply anchored villages, and rural settlements; a strong national and cultural identity; and, access by land and sea to the wealth and trade routes of three continents.

It is also a consequential country because of its intrinsic wealth and its strategic geography. Ancient and modern empires - from Greece, Rome, Persia, Byzantium, and India to Britain and France, not to mention Russia and the United States - have fought to control Syria in order to secure access to its resources and important cross-continental routes that traverse it.

More than any other Arab land, including modern Egypt and energy-rich Gulf states, Syria is also consequential because it emits across the region waves of emotion and identity that reflect what ordinary Arabs seek in order to fulfil both their human and civic aspirations. At various moments in the past century, these sentiments emanated from the realms of pluralism, constitutionalism, Islamism, anti-colonialism, and Arabism.

Syria is also important for people around the world to grasp because its experience reminds us in a single stroke of the entire modern Arab region's strengths, weaknesses, failures, identities, and aspirations.

Al-Sharaa's overtures to Arab nations and his efforts to distance Syria from former allies like Iran and Russia suggest a potential realignment that could serve US strategic interests.

However, the one definite fact is that the easing of sanctions on Syria represents a pragmatic approach to a complex situation. It acknowledges the transformative changes in Syria's political landscape and offers a pathway for the country to rebuild and reintegrate into the international community.

For the Syrian people, it brings hope for a future free from conflict and economic despair. For the region and the world, it presents an opportunity to foster stability and counteract extremist influences.

In a way, Syria's struggle for dignified, stable statehood today is the delayed culmination of the historic but quashed decade of mass Arab uprising for democracy, pluralism, and equal rights for all.

As in 1920, Syria today also tests whether external powers can allow its citizens to define themselves, and set an example for the rest of the region. If there is any Arab citizenry that can achieve this, it is the Syrians, because they have been practicing for this moment for 5,000 years. *(IPA Service)*

## Pakistan's ethnic faultlines and the rise of secessionist sentiments

By: Shashanka Das

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, forged in the crucible of Partition on religious lines in 1947, is now reeling under the weight of internal contradictions that threaten its very unity. Even as it seeks to ignite tensions across the border with India—most recently by sponsoring cross-border terrorism that culminated in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack—it faces a far more dangerous challenge from within: the burgeoning calls for independence emanating from its own disenfranchised provinces. The Sindhi, Baloch, Pashtun, and the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are no longer content with the illusion of federal harmony. Instead, they are demanding autonomy, dignity, and, increasingly, secession from what they see as a Punjabi-dominated, militarised theocracy.

**Balochistan: A Legacy of Betrayal and Resistance**

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest yet most neglected province, has long simmered with discontent. Rich in natural resources—gas, coal, and precious minerals—yet poverty-stricken and underdeveloped, the region remains a stark symbol of Pakistan's extractive federalism. Historically, the princely state of Kalat, which comprised most of modern-day Balochistan, was recognised as independent following a Standstill Agreement with Pakistan in August 1947. However, in 1948, under coercion and against the will of its ruler, the Khan of Kalat, and its people, Balochistan was annexed into Pakistan.

Since then, the province has witnessed five major insurgencies: in 1948, 1958, 1962, 1973–77, and the ongoing rebellion since the early 2000s. These movements have stemmed from grievances over political marginalisation, cultural erasure, and the exploitation of Balochistan's natural wealth without due recompense to its people. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), now the torchbearer of the independence movement, recently declared independence and sought recognition of a sovereign "Democratic Republic of Balochistan" from the United Nations. Their struggle, however, is met with brutal repression. Pakistan's infamous "Kill and Dump" policy—operational since 2009—has led to the abduction, torture, and assassination of thousands of Baloch activists.

**Sindh: The Forgotten Cradle of Indus Civilisation**

Sindh, home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, has long resented what it perceives as cultural and political colonisation by Pakistan's cen-

tral regime. The Jeay Sindh Freedom Movement (JSFM) has reinvigorated its long-standing demand for an independent "Sindh Desh." The grievances are manifold: systematic erasure of Sindhi language and culture, land encroachments by the military, and a state-led campaign to impose Urdu as a hegemonic national identity. The Sindhi nationalists accuse the Pakistani state of promoting a monocultural Islamic identity at the expense of their syncretic, Sufi-based traditions. Enforced disappearances, illegal detentions, and assassinations of activists have become tragically commonplace. The voice for Sindhi independence is no longer a fringe cry; it echoes in the streets of Karachi, Hyderabad, and interior Sindh—louder and bolder than ever before.

**Pashtunistan: A Homeland Denied**

The Pashtuns, the second-largest ethnic group in Pakistan, have historically straddled the Durand Line, the arbitrary border drawn by the British in 1893 to separate British India from Afghanistan. Neither the Afghan nor the Pakistani Pashtuns have ever recognised the legitimacy of this line. In modern Pakistan, Pashtuns largely inhabit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and parts of northern Balochistan. Despite their numbers, the community has long suffered marginalisation, especially in the wake of Pakistan's post-9/11 alliance with the West.

The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), a civil rights campaign, has emerged as the principal platform for Pashtun grievances. It speaks against enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and the militarisation of civilian spaces in the name of counterterrorism. While PTM originally called for human rights and justice, its discourse is gradually evolving into one of national self-determination. The dream of Pashtunistan, an independent homeland for Pashtuns, is no longer confined to history books; it is alive in the chants of protesters and in the blood of those martyred for daring to dissent.

**Gilgit-Baltistan: The Silenced Frontier**

Nestled amidst the mighty Karakoram and the Himalayas, Gilgit-Baltistan is not only one of the most picturesque regions in South Asia but also one of the most strategically vital. Bordered by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor, China's Xinjiang, Indian-administered Ladakh, and Pakistan's own Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the region is crucial for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Yet, its people have remained politically disenfranchised and economically neglected. Locals complain of rampant land grabs by the Pakistani

Army and a lack of basic infrastructure, healthcare, and education. With no constitutional status and no representation in Pakistan's Parliament, Gilgit-Baltistan exists in a legal and political limbo. Now, youth movements and civil society voices from the region are beginning to speak out more forcefully, demanding autonomy or outright independence from Islamabad's yoke.

**The Military State and the Mirage of Unity**

Pakistan's central problem lies in its over-reliance on the military as the custodian of its national identity. Since its creation, the country has oscillated between military rule and weak civilian governments, with the military establishment functioning as the de facto ruler. Instead of fostering a pluralistic democracy, successive regimes have pursued the chimera of Islamic unity, often by silencing ethnic diversity and dissent.

What is more alarming is that the state seems to have learnt nothing from the secession of East Pakistan in 1971, which led to the birth of Bangladesh. That conflict, too, was rooted in the denial of political rights, cultural identity, and economic justice. History, it seems, is poised to repeat itself—this time in the west.

**A State on the Brink**

Today, as the world watches the Islamic Republic of Pakistan escalate hostilities with India in an effort to deflect attention from its internal woes, its house is increasingly engulfed in flames. From the rugged mountains of Balochistan to the deserts of Sindh, from the valleys of Pashtunistan to the icy peaks of Gilgit-Baltistan, voices of rebellion are rising—each one echoing the same sentiment: freedom.

Economic collapse, religious extremism, ethnic marginalisation, and authoritarian governance have pushed the country into a vortex of instability. In attempting to homogenise its population under the banner of Islam and military discipline, Pakistan has alienated its own citizens. The writing on the wall is clear: unless Pakistan moves swiftly towards a more inclusive, federal, and democratic model, it risks fracturing under the very weight of its suppressed diversities. A new chapter in South Asian geopolitics is being written—not by cartographers, but by the oppressed who have dared to rise. As Pakistan clings to its imperial delusions, its ethnic peripheries may well become the epicentres of new nations. The question now is not if the federation will fracture, but when. *(The author can be reached at shashankadasnovi@gmail.com or 9706619975)*



# How many eggs does a woman have?

By: Rachel Ann Tee-Melegrito

A female's egg quality and quantity determine their likelihood of conceiving. Unlike other cells in the body, egg cells cannot regenerate.

A person's life stage and the presence of various health conditions also affect the number and quality of their eggs.

This article explores how many eggs a female has and their role at different stages of their life. We also discuss tests to measure egg count, fertility options, conditions that may impact eggs, and more.

## How many eggs are females born with?

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (ACOG), a female fetus typically has around 6–7 million eggs at 20 weeks of gestation, dropping to 1–2 million at birth. The number of immature egg cells — oocytes — decreases by around 11,000 each month before puberty.

## Why does menstruation not start at birth?

While females have millions of eggs in their ovaries, they do not mature until puberty. Puberty begins when the hypothalamus, an area of the brain that plays a role in hormone production, produces the gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH).

Menstruation typically begins when a female is 12–13 years old. However, some may start as early as 8 years old.

A female typically has around 300,000–500,000 eggs when puberty begins and rapidly loses more eggs each month. Aside from their monthly cycles, many factors affect how many eggs a person loses every cycle.

## How are eggs released?

The GnRH regulates the onset of puberty, sexual development, egg development, and ovulation by signaling the release of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and luteinizing hormone (LH).

The FSH activates several immature eggs in fluid-filled sacs called follicles to mature during each menstrual cycle. Known as the follicular phase, this process begins on the first day of a person's period.

The ovulation phase begins when the LH stimulates the ovaries to release an egg. However, the ovaries are programmed to allow only one egg to fully mature and be released each cycle. The body reabsorbs the rest.

The chance of fertilization is dependent on the release of a mature egg from the ovary in a particular menstrual cycle.

## How many eggs does a female have in their 30s?

A female is most fertile in their mid-20s, with a 25–30% chance of becoming pregnant each month.

ACOG states that a female's fertility gradually and significantly drops around age 32. They will have around 120,000 eggs, with a 20% chance of conceiving per cycle.

ACOG further states that a female will experience a rapid decline by age 37, when egg count drops to around 25,000.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), around 1 in 5 couples where the female partner is 30–39 years old experience problems conceiving their first child. However, both males and females may experience infertility.

## How fertile is a female at 40?

By 40, a female's chance of conceiving drops to 5%. Older females generally have a lower success rate with fertility treatments such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF).

However, more people are successfully conceiving in their 40s. The number of births in women between 40–44 years old rose almost continuously from 1985 to 2019. There was a slight decline in birth rates in 2020 across all age groups.

Using eggs donated by younger females increases the chance of success with IVF for

older females.

## Menopause

By the time a female reaches menopause, they may have fewer than 1,000 eggs. As a person ages, immature eggs become increasingly resistant to the FSH. As the number of viable eggs decreases, the ovaries also begin to produce significantly less estrogen and progesterone. This leads to menopause, when a person's menstrual cycle ends and they no longer ovulate.

The average age a person reaches menopause in the United States is 52 years. This varies depending on how many eggs a person has at birth and other factors, such as medical conditions and treatment.

## Egg quality

Aside from decreasing in number, eggs also drop in quality as a person ages. A few hours before ovulation, the oocyte divides, resulting in an egg that contains 23 chromosomes. Older age is highly associated with oocyte abnormalities.

These older eggs are more likely to contain abnormal chromosomes. This is why the risk of having a child with Down Syndrome and other abnormalities is higher as a person ages.

This tendency to have extra or missing chromosomes is also responsible for the increased miscarriage and low birth rates among older adult females.

## Tests to measure egg count

There are tests that a person can take to estimate their egg count.

## Antral follicle count

The antral follicle test involves a medical practitioner using ultrasound to count visible follicles. This gives them an idea of a person's total egg count and how many eggs a person can potentially freeze during one cycle.

## Anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) test

The anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) is a protein hormone produced by special follicular cells. The AMH level in the blood can help healthcare professionals estimate the number of follicles in a person's ovaries, which gives them an idea of their total egg count.

Since AMH levels are stable throughout the menstrual cycle, a doctor can perform this test at any time.

## Fertility options

There are several options a person may consider to improve their chances of pregnancy.

## Egg donation

Older people or those who have premature ovarian failure (POF) that causes early menopause may consider egg donation. This involves using eggs donated by another female, typically someone in their 20s or early 30s.

In an egg donation cycle, a donor takes medications to stimulate the production of multiple eggs. At the same time, the recipient undergoes hormone therapy to prepare the uterus for pregnancy.

After the donor's eggs are fertilized in a laboratory, a doctor places one or more embryos into the recipient's uterus.

## Egg freezing or fertility preservation

Individuals who want to delay childbearing may consider preserving their healthy eggs in a process known as egg freezing. A doctor can extract the eggs while the person is younger and use when they want to become pregnant.

The process involves taking medications to stimulate the ovaries to produce multiple eggs. These eggs are retrieved and kept in a laboratory at sub-zero temperatures.

When a person is ready to conceive, a doctor thaws the eggs and injects surviving eggs with a partner or a donor's sperm for fertilization.

## Assisted reproductive technologies

People with unexplained infertility, or when traditional options have failed, may try more advanced therapies. These can include IVF and superovulation with timed intrauterine insemination (IUI).

In superovulation and IUI, a female takes

medications to stimulate the growth of multiple eggs in the ovaries. When the eggs are ready to ovulate, a donor or partner's washed sperm is injected directly into the uterus. Sometimes an additional medication is given to stimulate ovulation so that timing is more certain.

In contrast, IVF involves removing a person's egg that a doctor fertilizes with a donor or partner's sperm in a laboratory. Once successful in fertilization, the doctor transfers the embryo to the uterus.

## LBGTQI+ and egg supply

Most information about egg supply and fertility options is for cisgender and heterosexual females. However, fertility issues can affect anyone born with ovaries.

A person transitioning to male can freeze their eggs, embryos, or ovarian tissue before hormone therapy or gender-affirmation surgery. People assigned female at birth (AFAB) and taking the male hormone testosterone may experience amenorrhea, the absence of menstruation due to the hormone suppressing ovulation.

The effect of taking testosterone on egg supply is unclear. But a recent small study found that functional ovarian reserve was preserved in transgender men receiving testosterone therapy over a prolonged period.

A case study from 2020 documented a person taking testosterone who was able to retrieve eggs for freezing. They stopped testosterone treatment for only 24 days around the time of egg stimulation. This compares to cases where hormone treatment ceased for up to 6 months before egg retrieval.

Another case study from 2019 reported a 20-year-old transgender male becoming pregnant 2 months after stopping testosterone therapy.

More research is needed to offer accurate fertility guidance to trans people.

A person wishing to discuss their fertility options before or after transitioning should speak with a medical professional.

Conditions that may impact eggs  
Age is the major factor that affects a female's egg quality. However, some conditions may also contribute, including:

- endometriosis
- ovulation disorders, such as polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and POF
- obesity
- immune disorders
- cancer treatments
- inadequate nutrition
- stress

A 2017 study found that oxidative stress damages oocytes and impairs their fertilization capacity. Smoking, drinking, drug use, and inadequate diet can increase free radicals in the body, damaging the egg.

## When to contact a doctor

According to the CDC, medical professionals recommend that females younger than 35 years with no health or fertility issues and regular periods try to conceive for at least 1 year before consulting a doctor. However, females 35 years or older should contact a doctor after 6 months and even sooner for those over 40 years old.

People who have other health issues or circumstances such as irregular periods or have received chemotherapy should also consider discussing their fertility options sooner.

## Summary

A person's biological clock affects their fertility. Age not only decreases egg quantity but can also affect their quality.

People concerned about their egg supply due to factors such as aging, different priorities, gender-affirming surgery or hormone therapy, or preparation for cancer treatment have several fertility options to consider.

A person should discuss these options with a healthcare professional to determine which options are most suitable. *(Courtesy: Medical News Today)*

# Biodiversity funds not reaching indigenous people, women who protect nature: Report

By: Shimali Chauhan

Money meant to protect forests, oceans and wildlife is not reaching the people who live closest to nature, a new study has found.

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), a United Kingdom-based policy research organisation, along with partners in five countries, conducted a detailed analysis of biodiversity funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

GEF is one of the largest international funds for nature and climate action. It is playing a key role in delivering on the \$200 billion annual biodiversity finance goal under Target 19 of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Their study analysed data from GEF-funded projects and interviews from community groups in Kenya, the Philippines, Malawi, Vanuatu and Antigua. The findings showed that most indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) received little to no direct support from these funds, despite being the primary custodians of biodiversity.

## Local voices left out

Although 24 per cent of GEF-6 funding and 30 per cent of GEF-7 funding was targeted at local actors, in most cases, these groups were listed as indirect beneficiaries and not direct recipients of funding, according to the analysis.

In Malawi, only one local organisation received direct funding and that too just 0.3 per cent of the project's total budget.

"Our research shows not enough money is getting to those who are best placed to protect nature," said Nicola Sorsby, researcher at IIED.

Most of the earth's biodiversity is managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, which is why it's critically important to ensure they get the support they need to protect and restore nature. - Nicola Sorsby, researcher, IIED

In Bangladesh, researchers could not find local recipients because the projects hadn't started.

No IPLC women's organisations were found to be receiving direct support in any of the five countries studied. One indigenous group in the Philippines said: "We have tried to get funding from GEF since 2009, but we got no clear information on how to apply or take part." Meanwhile, other groups in the country were selected by intermediaries.

The findings echo concerns raised at COP16 in Colombia, where governments failed to agree on clear strategies for mobilising funds to meet the KMGBF Target 19, which aims

to raise \$200 billion per year by 2030 from all sources.

A factsheet by Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on the money trail for biodiversity pointed out that funding flows remained unclear and hard to track, with gaps between pledges and actual delivery from developed countries.

## Too many middlemen

The research shows that a major reason for the funding gap is GEF's reliance on large international agencies, development banks, and national government offices to distribute the money.

The intermediaries known as 'implementing agencies' and 'operational focal points' often make decisions without involving the communities the funds are meant to support.

projects.

In Antigua, one community used SGP grant to restore a village reservoir and develop a tourism park. In Vanuatu, several communities praised the simpler process and more direct support.

However, the study also found that the small funding amount and delays in approval still posed problems, especially for groups in remote areas.

## Women missing from the picture

IIED's research also found that gender equality is largely missing from GEF's main funding streams. While there are gender indicators in project documents, they are rarely used properly and there's no requirement to track how much money reaches women's organisations directly.

As a result, indigenous and



This system creates confusion, delays and often locks out small communities groups. IIED's interviews found that many indigenous organisations did not even understand how to access GEF funding or were told no projects were available even when the groups were actively receiving funds.

The findings also highlighted that communities were often brought into projects after they had been designed and approved, giving them no real say in what is done or how funds are used. In Malawi, one group was asked to join a project only after another partner had dropped out.

## Small Grants Programme shows what works

The study pointed to one big spot — the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP). This programme provides a small amount of money, usually upto \$50,000, directly to local groups.

The analysis showed that SGP has been more successful in reaching indigenous and local actors, offering them more flexibility and ownership of their

local women who play a crucial role in managing natural resources are left out of decision making and funding.

With the next round of GEF funding talks (GEF-9) scheduled for later this year, and Target 19 progress is under close global scrutiny, researchers say its time for real change. The CSE factsheet also emphasised that financial solutions currently on the table remain small-scale and fragmented.

IIED recommended expanding the successful SGP approach across all GEF funding; publishing clear data on who is receiving funds and how much; and simplifying the funding process so that local groups can apply directly without relying on intermediaries.

They also advocated for long-term, flexible funding to help local organisations build capacity and lead projects. Committing to principles for local-led, gender-responsive biodiversity action is the need of the hour, the experts highlighted. *(Courtesy: Down to Earth)*

# Let's learn face yoga for healthy and glowing skin

By: Shahnaz Husain

Have you ever thought about giving your face a workout, just like you do for your body?

While the human face is a thing of beauty, maintaining taut, smooth skin often becomes a source of stress as we age.

Face exercises — which you can easily perform from the comfort of your home — can lift and tone the face, reduce signs of ageing, prevent sagging and wrinkles, and generally improve facial appearance.

It relaxes, tones and gives a natural boost to the skin, while simultaneously resetting your facial muscles.

Face exercises, also known as "face yoga," are the latest wellness trend to take social media by storm. The face-sculpting workouts involve repetitive movements and massages targeting different muscles of the face. When your facial muscles are put to use with face yoga, they feel toned and give the sensation of a natural facelift, if practised regularly. The idea is to stretch the 57 face and neck muscles to tone, firm and boost circulation, for a youthful appearance.

Puff your cheeks: The chipmunk cheek squeeze is a facial exercise that can help slim the face. To do this exercise, inhale through the mouth to make them larger and rounder by filling them with air, and distend the breath from cheek to cheek, then release.

Tilt your head back, push your chin forward, suck in your cheeks, and hold for 8–10 second.

Open your mouth wide, keep your teeth covering your lips and lift your cheeks. Hold for 10 seconds, then return to normal. Aim to repeat 50 times.

## How does it work?

This simple practice will increase blood circulation to your cheeks, promoting a healthy glow. It will strengthen the cheek muscles.

This facial exercise relaxes the muscles around the lips and cheeks and also brightens up



the face.

These quick and easy movements will strengthen the cheek muscles and prevent them from looking hollow. Do this face exercise regularly for lifted and plump cheeks.

Smiler: Pout and then smile as fast as you can. This exercise can enhance blood circulation and strengthen jaw muscles.

Keep up the smile wide, hold it for about 15 seconds and then release it. Continue this process about 10 times at once.

Bring the lips together and push them outward as if you are about to kiss and then smile broadly. Practice this regularly 10–15 times in one sitting.

Facial yoga can be extremely beneficial for those who want glowing, youthful skin.

Face yoga is a natural, alternative option that uses a variety of massage and exercises to target your face, neck, and shoulders.

This beauty trend has grown in popularity in the past few years with various face yoga meth-

ods making an appearance on our social media feeds.

Face yoga relaxes, tones and gives a natural boost to the skin, while simultaneously resetting your facial muscles.

When you regularly do facial exercises, the blood circulation increases to that area and that tightens your skin and brings a glow to your face.

When your facial muscles are put to use with face yoga, it stretches the 57 face and neck muscles to tone, firm and boost circulation, for a youthful appearance.

Make a fish face: This pose stretches the neck region and helps tone the jawline and chin. Fish Face exercise is the easiest and the best way to ensure a firmer looking skin.

Fill your mouth up with as much air as possible. Puff up your cheeks to accommodate more air.

Now, shift the air from one side to the other with as much speed as possible. Practise this for

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a couple of minutes every day to achieve glowing skin and fuller cheeks.

Alternatively softly close your lips and then draw your cheeks inwards as much as possible, making a 'fish face' look. Try smiling while holding this posture for about 15 seconds and then withdraw. Repeat this exercise for about next five minutes

For wrinkle-free facial skin, try this yoga "asana" along with Pranayama. Stand straight and place feet and legs wide apart. Cover face with palms and breathe deeply and quickly for 10 counts. Then while continuing breathing, rub the face with the fingers, starting from the chin and going to the forehead. Include the area around the eyes. This helps to make the skin smooth, firm and radiant.

Forehead: Did you know that frowning is an exercise for the forehead? Frown as much as possible, pulling the eyebrows towards one another. Then lift the eyebrows as far as possible. While doing this, open your eyes as much as you can. Relax them and repeat 5 times.

Anti-ageing facial yoga for forehead: Place both hands on the forehead facing inwards and spread all of the fingers out between the eye-

brows and hairline. Now Gently sweep the fingers outwards across the forehead, applying light pressure to tighten the skin.

Relax and repeat 10 times.

Eyes: This not only benefits the skin around the eyes, but the eyes itself. They have much relevance nowadays, for people who are glued to computer and television screens for long periods. Keeping your head still, move only the eyes up and down ten times. Then move them from one side to the other ten times. Then, roll the eyes, first clockwise and then anticlockwise, for a total of ten times.

Widen your eyes as big as you can for your best surprised face. Hold this expression as long as you can—even until your eyes start to water! After, relax your face and repeat.

Look upwards and raise your eyebrows at the same time. Then gently close your eyelids, while still looking up.

Since our eyelids have the tendency to droop with age, this stretching exercise can help keep them firm.

Neck: Sitting straight, tilt the head back and look at the ceiling. Keeping the mouth closed, do a chewing movement, while still looking up. Repeat the chewing movement 15 to 20 times. Then pucker lips and stretch the lips forward, as if you are trying to kiss the ceiling. Do this 10 times. Relax and repeat 5 to 6 times.

Still sitting upright and tilting the head back, with mouth closed, move the lower lip over the upper lip as far as possible. Hold it for a count of 5. Relax and repeat 5 times.

Sit upright and open the mouth wide open, drop the lower jaw and push it forward, holding it for a count of 10. Come back to the starting position and repeat it 5 times.

I will advise you to do facial yoga consistently for 20–30 minutes, seven times a week, changes may start to be noticeable in four to six weeks. *(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)*



# Distinction between state of Pak & terrorism has withered away: Ravi Shankar Prasad

PARIS, May 27: The distinction between the state of Pakistan and terrorism has now withered away, BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Tuesday, underlining that terrorism as an instrument of state policy is a part of the military state in the neighbouring country. Prasad, who is leading an all-party parliamentary delegation to France, conveyed India's zero-tolerance stance against terrorism emanating from Pakistan in a briefing with local French media.

During a press conference hosted at the Indian Ambassador to France's residence, the team presented photographic evidence of Pakistani military officials attending the funerals of terrorists and flagged how 52 UN-designated terrorist organisations found a safe harbour by Pakistan.

"The distinction between the state of Pakistan and terrorism has now withered away," Prasad told reporters.

"Terrorism as an instrument of state policy is a part of the military state of Pakistan. There is no democracy there and the most hilarious aspect was that the general whose forces were defeated at the hands of India, decisively, got promoted to Field Marshal. This is their state of denial, always," he said.

The performance of military gear in the conflict was also raised by the local media in Paris, to which the delegation pointed to the multiple briefings by the Ministry of Defence with digital proof.



"Not even a single aircraft from India crossed into Pakistani territory," he said. "On operational details, Pakistan keeps on lying but today our military establishment has explained everything, with digital proof," the BJP leader said.

On India-France bilateral ties, he added: "We have a strategic partnership dating back to 1998. Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi also has a personal friendship equation for the French President (Macron)... There is a whole big horizon as to how these two nations undertake their partnership, including for de-

fence gear. "I would also like to highlight that only three days ago India became the fourth biggest economy in the world. That is what India's economic might is."

Fellow MP Daggubati Purandeswari highlighted the resounding success of Operation Sindoor in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack last month.

"Ultimately it is the goal that matters. Our focus was completely on how do we neutralise the terrorist camps, which our soldiers and our weapons have actually done their job. And, we have not lost even one soldier. All of them are back home safely," she said.

Former Union minister M J Akbar asserted India's clear and thought-through "no first use" doctrine on nuclear weapons.

"Pakistan is a military state, it is no longer a civilian state. And a military state has a vested interest in conflict because conflict justifies its presence... now it sometimes thinks it can provide a nuclear shelter to terrorists. The Prime Minister (Modi) has made it very clear that there can be no nuclear blackmail," he said.

The delegation, one of 33 similar all-party teams travelling across the globe to express India's zero-tolerance stance against terror, will hold meetings with Senators and National Assembly members before departing for Italy on Tuesday evening. (PTI)

## Singapore minister says city-state stands with India against terrorism

SINGAPORE, May 27: Singapore strongly condemns all acts of terrorism and stands with India against the menace, a senior minister of the city-state told an all-party Indian parliamentary delegation on Tuesday.

The delegation, led by JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha, which arrived here from South Korea, met Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sim Ann and briefed her on India's stance on the events since the terror attack in Pahalgam, Operation Sin-

door, and the new normal in India's strategy against terrorism.

Sim conveyed that Singapore strongly condemns all acts of terrorism and stands with India against terrorism, the High Commission of India in Singapore said in a statement.

She also said that Singapore and India are close partners and will continue efforts to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, it added.

The all-party delegation conveyed that if there is a terrorist attack on India, New

Delhi will give a fitting reply.

"India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will strike precisely and decisively at the terrorist hideouts developing under the cover of nuclear blackmail. India will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism," it said.

The delegation members requested Singapore's support in the fight against terrorism, particularly at multilateral fora like the UN and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money

laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, the Indian mission said in the statement.

As close friends and partners, India and Singapore will continue to work closely on regional and global issues, including terrorism, it said.

Jha highlighted that the delegation brings representatives of different political parties together to convey India's united resolve against terrorism.

The delegation members conveyed that the terrorist attack in Pahalgam was an attempt to disturb the trajectory of peace, development, and normalcy in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the statement said.

The Government of India deemed it essential that the perpetrators and planners of the April 22 terror attack be brought to justice. In response to this heinous act of terror, India launched Operation Sindoor, targeting the terrorist infrastructure. India's response was measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible, it said. (PTI)

### AFFIDAVIT/ NAME CORRECTION

The name of my daughters are Pooja Boro (elder) and Manisha Boro which were recorded as Puja Boro and Monisha Boro in my Records BDE of the Guards/ Service records of the Indian Army.

The name Pooja Bodo is the same person Puja Bodo and Manisha Boro is the same person Monisha Boro.

Molen Chandra Boro,  
S/o Late Thubla Boro,  
Vill- Thelamara, Ghatgaon,  
Dist.- Sonitpur, Assam  
PIN- 784 149

### AFFIDAVIT/ NAME CORRECTION

I, Ratna Barik, W/o No. 4375925P, Rank- SEP, Name- Nityananda Barik, resident of Village- 2 No. Udali Bakalia, PO. Bakaklia, PS. Bakalia, District Karbi Anglong, Assam, PIN- 782482, declare via affidavit before the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Karbi Anglong, dated 12.08.2024, that I have changed my name from Ratna Barik to Ratna Ronghangpi Barik. I wish to change my name in my husband's service record to Ratna Ronghangpi Barik where it is recorded as Ratna Barik.

I declare that Ratna Barik and Ratna Ronghangpi Barik are the names of the same person and I will be known as Ratna Ronghangpi Barik for all future purposes.

**NEW COOCHBEHAR - GOLAKGANJ - THROUGH BALLASTING OF TRACK**

**E-Tender Notice No.: 23/W-2/APDJ**  
**Dated: 23-05-2025.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. 09-AP-I-2025. Name of work:** New Coochbehar-Golakganj -Through Ballasting of Track -16.50 Km. **Tender Value:** ₹1,91,62,479.91/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹2,45,800/-. **E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 13-06-2025 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 13-06-2025.** The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**DRM (Works) Alipurduar Jn. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**SUPPLY OF NON-PERISHABLE DIETARY ARTICLES**

Re E-Tender Notice No.: 01-Medical-DBRT-2025-26, Dated: 19-05-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **E-Tender No.: RE-01-Medical-DBRT-25-26. Brief Description of item:** Supply of Non-Perishable dietary articles for preparation of diet for the indoor admitted patients of Divisional Railway Hospital, N.F.Railway, Dibrugarh for two years w.e.f.04.07.2025 or from the date of awarding contract. **Approximate Cost:** ₹11,70,743/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹23,400/-. **E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 12-06-2025.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**Chief Medical Superintendent, Tinsukia NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers with a smile

**GOVT. OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICER (FAMILY WELFARE)**  
**KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT, DIPHU**  
No. DFWB/Estt/Medl./Staff/Vacancy/2024-25/ Dated- 26/05/2025  
**VIVA-VOCE/INTERVIEW NOTICE**

In continuation of this office advertisement vide no. DFWB/Estt/Medl./Staff/Vacancy/2024-25/602 Dated 27/05/2025, it hereby notified for information to all concerned that the Viva-Voce/Interview for the recruitment to the 3 (Three) Grade-IV posts under the establishment of the Addl. Chief Medical & Health Officer (FW), Diphu, Karbi Anglong will be held as per the following schedule-

Sl No	Date & Time	Name of the Post	Venue
1	10-06-2025 (Tuesday) 11:00 AM onwards	Domestic Staff (Grade-IV) post	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Secretariat New Building, Room No: F-20

The eligible candidates are hereby informed to attend the said Viva-Voce/Interview as per the schedule venue, date and time. The candidates will have to bring original admit cards to be issued from 27<sup>th</sup> May' 2025 onwards in the office of the Addl. Chief Medical & Health Officer (FW), Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

This list of candidates to appear Viva-Voce/Interview will be made available in the notice board 0/0 Addl. Chief Medical & Health Officer (FW), Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

**Important Instructions:**

- All eligible Candidates must bring the following documents in original for verification.
  - ✓ Educational Qualification Certificates as applicable.
  - ✓ Age proof Certificate.
  - ✓ Employment Exchange Certificate.
  - ✓ Valid Identity proof (Aadhaar card/Voter ID/Driving Licence etc.)
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the Viva-Voce/Interview.
- Failure to appear in Viva-Voce/Interview on the scheduled date and time will result in the cancellation of the candidates.

Sd/-  
Member Secretary,  
Selection Board cum  
i/c Addl. Chief Medical & Health Officer (FW)  
Karbi Anglong District, Diphu.

Memo No. DFWB/Estt/Medl./Staff/Vacancy/2024-25/114-A Dated- 26/05/2025

**NOTICE**

It is for general information for all concerned that the un-claimed vehicles bearing Registration No. AS-28AC-0452, AS-09AC-7090 and WB/23C-3253 were seized on dated 24/03/2024, 09/02/2024 and 08/08/2019 for commission of Forest Offence. The vehicles were seized at Northern Range, Dolamara and Central Range, Mania under Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.

The seized vehicle is liable to be confiscated under section 49 of Assam forest regulation (Amendment) ACT. 1995 for it is involvement in forest offence.

So, the claimant of the vehicle is hereby called upon to produce legality and proof of ownership of the seized vehicle within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of issue of this letter.

The claimant will also explain as to why the seized vehicle should not be confiscated to the state for it is involvement in forest offence.

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu

Memo No. B/KAE/F.O./Vehicle/2025-26/1537-40 Date/26/05/2025.

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, HANDLOOM & TEXTILES, (HILLS) ASSAM.**  
**DIPHU**  
No. HTHC.40/NIT/2025-26/12 Date Diphu the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tender in Prescribed format affixing non-refundable KAAC money receipt of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only for ST, SC, OBC and Rs. 20/- for general are hereby invited from the intending Govt. Registered Contractors and local eligible contractors for the following works (schemes under SOPD) for the year 2025-26. The tender will be received up to 2.00 pm on 04/06/2025 and will be opened thereafter on the same day in presence of the contractors or their authorized person.

In the case, if the opening day of tender falls on holiday the then tender will be opened on the next working day in the same time. The undersigned reserved the right to accept or reject one or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof after and will not be bound himself to accept the lowest rate of tender.

Group	Name of work	Tender amount	Earnest money	Time of completion
1.	Construction of Boundary wall with Electrification at Joint Director Office, Diphu.	20.00 L	1% ST/SC/OBC 2% for General	60 days
2.	Construction of RCC Gate at Joint Director Office, Diphu.	07.00 L	1% ST/SC/OBC 2% for General	60 days
3.	Construction of RCC ring Well at Joint Director Office, Diphu.	03.00 L	1% ST/SC/OBC 2% for General	60 days
4.	Construction of Chain link fencing with garden at Joint Director Office premises.	0.5.00 L	1% ST/SC/OBC 2% for General	60 days
5.	Construction of Retaining wall at Joint Director Office, Diphu.	40.00 L	1% ST/SC/OBC 2% for General	60 days

**Term & Condition**

- The rate should be quoted as above/below/ Reserved rate of % (percentage) basis as per APWD Building & Sanitary schedule works for 2020-21.
- The tender should submit Earnest Money 1% for ST/SC/OBC and 2 % for general to be deposited as call deposit/ Bank draft in favour of The Joint Director, H&T (Hills) Diphu.
- The tenderer should furnish the following document along with the tender paper as –
  - Upto date any Govt. Registration Certificate
  - Professional Tax Clearance Certificate
  - GST Registration & Clearance Certificate
  - Caste/Tribe Certificate for ST/SC/OBC
  - Valid Trading License for General category (1) Photo copy of PAN Card
- The tender will be received at the 0/0 the Joint Director, Handloom & Textiles (Hills), Diphu.

Sd/-  
Joint Director  
Handloom & Textiles (Hills),  
Diphu

Memo No. HTHC.40/NIT/2025-26/12 Date Diphu the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.



## Wangsu further revealed the state government's plan to introduce fish hatcheries across various districts

### Fishery minister G D Wangsu urges youth participation in fisheries for economic sustainability



**HT Bureau**  
NAMSAL, May 27: In a significant step towards encouraging self-employment and sustainable economic practices among the youth, Arunachal Pradesh Minister for Fisheries, Gabriel D. Wangsu, has called for increased participation of young people in the field of aquaculture. The Minister made this appeal during an awareness-cum-input distribution programme held at the D.K. State Convention Centre in Itanagar, aimed at promoting ornamental fisheries across schools in the state.

The programme was jointly organised by the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, Kolkata, and the Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Arunachal

Pradesh. The event formed part of a broader strategy to integrate scientific advancements with grassroots participation in the fisheries sector.

Addressing a diverse gathering as the chief guest, Minister Wangsu lauded the efforts of ICAR-CIFRI for initiating such an innovative and timely programme. However, he also voiced deep concern over the declining number of farmers in Arunachal Pradesh. "While our farmers are aging and very few youth are turning up for farming, it is a very serious concern," the Minister stated, highlighting the urgent need for rejuvenating the sector through youth engagement.

Minister Wangsu further revealed the state government's

plan to introduce fish hatcheries across various districts. These hatcheries are expected to boost fish production and play a key role in strengthening inland fisheries, which is gradually emerging as an alternative livelihood sector in the state. He urged school representatives and educators present at the event to serve as motivators and mentors, encouraging students to consider fisheries not only as a career option but as a path to self-reliance and economic stability.

"Since Arunachal was a late starter in development, the ICAR-CIFRI should take special care of the state, especially with regard to transferring technological know-how to the farmers," Wangsu added. His remarks un-

derscored the importance of scientific collaboration in advancing agricultural and aquacultural practices in the state.

The programme was attended by several key dignitaries, including Advisor to the Minister (Fisheries) and MLA Er. Talem Taboh, Secretary (Fisheries) Hage Tari, and Joint Director (Higher & Technical Education) Joram Muthu. Representing ICAR-CIFRI were Dr. Sullip Kumar Majhi, Principal Scientist and Head, Dr. A.K. Yadav, Senior Scientist, and Dr. Simanku Borah, Scientist. The event also saw the presence of officers from various departments, local leaders, and heads of educational institutions from across the state.

As a highlight of the programme, aquariums and certificates were distributed to representatives of 50 schools throughout Arunachal Pradesh. These inputs are designed to offer both practical engagement tools and formal recognition, thereby reinforcing school-level participation in ornamental fisheries.

The event marked a vital step forward in not just raising awareness but also laying the foundation for a sustainable, youth-driven fisheries ecosystem in the state. With coordinated efforts from scientific institutions, government bodies, and educational establishments, Arunachal Pradesh aims to cultivate a new generation of self-reliant, economically empowered citizens through the fisheries sector.

## Inauguration of staff quarters marks milestone in school infrastructure development at Chongkam

**HT Bureau**

NAMSAL, May 27: The inauguration ceremony for the newly constructed 06 Units of Type-II (G+2) Staff Quarter Building under the project titled "Infrastructure Development of Government Higher Secondary School at Chongkam" was held with great enthusiasm and community participation. The initiative is a key component of the Golden Jubilee Model School Scheme, aimed at uplifting educational infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh.

The event was graced by the Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Chowna Mein, who attended as the Chief Guest. He was joined by Chow Zingnu Namchoom, MLA of the 47-Namsai Constituency and Advisor for Rural Works, Sports & Youth Affairs; CR Khampa, Deputy Commissioner of Namsai District; senior officials from various departments, and members of the public.

The ceremony commenced with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and the unveiling of the inaugural plaque, followed by a detailed inspection of the newly completed staff quarters. Er Mosum Sema, Executive Engineer of the Urban Development, Namsai Division, delivered the welcome address. He also proposed identifying old SPT government buildings for dismantling, advocating for the construction of vertically extended quarters as a space-optimizing solution.

He went on to congratulate the Urban Development Department, Namsai Division, for the timely completion of the staff quarters. He praised the team's efficiency and dedication, especially for delivering the project ahead of the scheduled timeline, a testament to the department's commitment to



Mein lauded the ongoing developmental strides in Namsai district, with notable improvements in road infrastructure, hydroelectric power projects, tourism development, and air connectivity. He called upon the youth of Namsai to move beyond the pursuit of government jobs and to explore entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly in the burgeoning tourism sector, where the district holds tremendous untapped potential.

In a forward-looking gesture, Mein requested the Deputy Commissioner to organize workshops for the youth to showcase their talents in local handicrafts, and to create mechanisms to support startups and young entrepreneurs. He also proposed identifying old SPT government buildings for dismantling, advocating for the construction of vertically extended quarters as a space-optimizing solution.

He went on to congratulate the Urban Development Department, Namsai Division, for the timely completion of the staff quarters. He praised the team's efficiency and dedication, especially for delivering the project ahead of the scheduled timeline, a testament to the department's commitment to

quality and punctuality.

In a significant announcement, the Deputy Chief Minister revealed that the Tai Khampti Heritage Research and Development Centre Building is currently under construction. This centre, once completed, will serve as a repository for the digital preservation and study of ancient Tai Khampti manuscripts, fostering historical research and cultural preservation.

As part of the day's events, the newly constructed Staff Quarter Building was officially handed over to the Principal of the Government Higher Secondary School, Chongkam, marking the beginning of its operational use.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the School Principal, who expressed heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders, government officials, and departments whose collaborative efforts ensured the successful execution of the project.

This inauguration stands as a testament to the government's commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure and promoting sustainable development in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in the remote and aspirational regions like Chongkam.

## NNMTWS mourns demise of head Gaon Bura of Poma Village

**HT Bureau**

NAMSAL, May 27: The Ninge, Natung Myokang Moya and Tacha Welfare Society (NNMTWS) has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Lt. Tacha Markha, one of its senior-most members and the Head Gaon Bura of Poma Village under Sangdupota Circle in Papum Pare District. Lt. Tacha Markha breathed his last on May 26, 2025, at his residence in Poma Village after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 80 years old. Born on February 16, 1945, to Lt. Tacha Roma, he was a widely respected figure known for his lifelong service to the community.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Tacha Memin, along with two other wives, six sons, three daughters, and several grandchildren. Lt. Markha served as a Gram Panchayat Member for two terms between 1978-1980 and 1980-1982. At the time of his passing, he was serving as the Head Gaon Bura of Poma Village, a position he held with dignity and dedication.

Chairman of NNMTWS, Shri Tada Natung, described the death of Lt. Tacha Markha as "an irreparable loss" and said that the void left behind will be difficult to fill. "He was a torchbearer and a mentor to many in the society. His guidance and contributions for the upliftment of the community will be fondly remembered and deeply missed," said Natung.

## Tripartite MoU signed to enhance governance and civil service capacity in Arunachal Pradesh

**HT Bureau**

NAMSAL, May 27: In a major push towards modernizing governance and enhancing civil service capabilities, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Karmayogi Bharat, and the Capacity Building Commission (CBC).

This strategic collaboration is aligned with the national Mission Karmayogi initiative and aims to transform public administration through a competency-based training framework focused on continuous learning and citizen-centric governance.

**Key Objectives of the MoU are:**  
Modernization of Governance: The partnership aligns with nationwide efforts to make public administration more modern, transparent, and citizen-oriented.

**Skill Development:** Civil servants in Arunachal Pradesh will gain access to targeted, role-specific, and on-demand learning via the iGOT Karmayogi platform, enhancing their capacity to deliver outcome-based services.

**Institutional Strengthening:** The MoU seeks to upgrade state-level training institutions and HR systems by embedding modern capacity-building practices.

**Cost-Effective Reform:** By leveraging existing national digital infrastructure and expert resources, the initiative minimizes

cost for the state while maximizing developmental impact.

**Strategic Partnerships:** Collaboration with Karmayogi Bharat and the CBC will ensure expert support, standardized evaluation metrics, and long-term sustainability of reforms.

As part of this initiative, the Administrative Training Institute (ATI) in Arunachal Pradesh will integrate relevant courses from the Mission Karmayogi content library into its existing training modules. These courses will also be tailored to the state's unique administrative and developmental needs, ensuring high relevance and practical application.

Officials highlighted that the MoU represents a significant milestone in building a future-ready bureaucracy that is committed to delivering more efficient, responsive, and citizen-centric services.

"This partnership reflects our shared commitment to citizen-centric governance and will go a long way in building a bureaucracy that is future-ready and service-oriented," said a senior government official.

With the signing of this MoU, Arunachal Pradesh takes a decisive step toward institutionalizing behavioral transformation and continuous professional development for its civil servants, ultimately benefiting the people it serves.

## ANYA demands more digital exam centres for CUET aspirants in Arunachal



**HT Bureau**

NAMSAL, May 27: The All Nyishi Youth Association (ANYA) has once again strongly reiterated its demand for the establishment of four additional digital examination centres for CUET aspirants in Arunachal Pradesh. The state currently has only four centres, and the organization has urged the Arunachal Pradesh government to take proactive steps in preparing necessary infrastructure well in advance to facilitate the process.

Addressing the media, ANYA President Jamru Ruja said that the association has already met the state's Education Minister, P.D. Sona, and submitted a detailed memorandum regarding the matter. Ruja stressed that while the issue is serious, it is indeed feasible, provided the central government takes into account the unique geographical challenges of Arunachal Pradesh and the fact that the state shares international borders with three countries.

Highlighting the hardships faced by students, Ruja said that hundreds of students from remote and far-flung districts of Arunachal are forced to travel to the state capital Itanagar, and due to the shortage of examination centres, many are assigned centres located in various parts of

Assam. As a result, students appearing for the CUET (Common University Entrance Test) 2025 are facing several logistical and financial challenges.

According to Ruja, the lack of sufficient computer-based exam centres in Arunachal Pradesh has become a pressing concern. This inadequacy has compelled candidates to journey to distant exam locations outside the state, especially in Assam, leading to significant hardship not just for the students, but for their families as well. He cited recent incidents where students faced problems at centres in Dibrugarh and even in Guwahati, reflecting the ongoing difficulties in managing the examination logistics.

Ruja further added that numerous students have reportedly missed their exams due to issues such as poor transportation, financial constraints, insufficient information, and the inaccessibility of exam centres. He expressed concern over the evident digital infrastructure gap in the state, questioning how such basic facilities remain inadequate even in the year 2025.

He emphasized the importance of the state government being prepared. "We are hopeful that the Union Government may approve or recommend approval for new digital centres. But for that to happen, the

State Government must be ready with identified locations and infrastructure details, so that when a query arises from the Centre, they can respond promptly," Ruja stated. ANYA concluded its statement with a firm demand for budget allocation in the upcoming Budget Estimate or Revised Estimate for the financial year 2025-26 to set up government-run digital/computer examination centres in each district of Arunachal Pradesh. The organization believes that such a move would not only address the current concerns of the students but also promote the long-term development of digital education infrastructure across the state.

Meanwhile, reacting to the demand, Education and RWD Minister P.D. Sona acknowledged that the representatives of ANYA had approached him recently. He confirmed that a meeting was held to discuss the matter. "At present, there are four digital centres in the state, namely at NIT, NERIST, RGU, and Model Village iON Digital Zone, all of which are situated near the state capital. These are clearly not sufficient to meet the needs of students from remote districts," the Minister said.

He further informed that the demand for four additional centres in other parts of the state has been officially received and taken seriously. "Since the authority to approve such centres lies with the Central Government, I have already written a letter to the Union Education Minister drawing attention to the matter," said Sona.

The Minister expressed optimism that the central government would consider the proposal favorably, keeping in mind the importance of educational equity and accessibility for all students across Arunachal Pradesh. He added that the state government is ready to respond promptly once a query or follow-up is received from the central authorities.

## Govt committed to quality infrastructure in remote areas: WCD Minister Dasanglu Pul

**HT Bureau**

NAMSAL, May 27: Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Dasanglu Pul on Monday reiterated the state government's commitment to improving the living conditions of government employees in remote areas, with a strong emphasis on timely completion of quality infrastructure.

Speaking during an inspection of an under-construction residential complex for government staff in Anini, Dibang Valley district, Pul said, "The government is committed to improving living conditions for our employees in remote areas. Ensuring timely completion of quality infrastructure is a top priority."

The minister was accompanied by local MLA Mopi Mihu, ZPC T. Tayu, Deputy Commissioner Pagli Sora, Superintendent of Police Manish Saurya, and other senior officials during her tour of several major development projects.

Pul reviewed the progress of multiple infrastructure projects, including the Panchayat Bhawan, Child Development Project Office (CDPO), a new medical facility, and the District Secretariat, all of which are in various stages of completion.

At the Panchayat Bhawan site, the minister underscored its role in strengthening grassroots democracy, urging officials to expedite the work.

"This facility will enhance local self-



governance and community participation," she remarked.

Inspecting the CDPO office and health facility, Pul stressed the importance of access to quality child welfare and healthcare services, especially in tribal and far-flung regions.

"Strengthening service delivery in health and child development is crucial for inclusive growth," she said.

Highlighting the upcoming District Secretariat, Pul called it a "game-changer" for the district.

"Such integrated infrastructure will streamline public service delivery and reflects our government's resolve to develop the frontier districts at par with the rest of the state," she added.

Pul also visited the local BJP office, where she interacted with party workers and appreciated their grassroots outreach efforts.

Concluding her visit with a review meeting at the circuit house, the minister expressed satisfaction with the pace and quality of the ongoing works. She commended the district administration and particularly acknowledged the dedication of MLA Mopi Mihu.

"Dibang Valley is making steady progress under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Pema Khandu and the tireless efforts of local representatives. The focus remains on delivering lasting infrastructure that meets the needs of the people," Pul stated.

No. KED/NIT-66/2024-25/3856

### DETAILS TENDER NOTICE

Dated, Kokrajhar the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Sealed tender in prescribed form affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only subsequently to be drawn up in printed "F-2" form with validity period of "90 (Ninety) days from the date of receipt of tenders are invited from the Registered Class - I (A,B,C) & Class-II P.W.D. Electrical Contractor under Addl. Chief Engineer, (Electrical) Chandmani, Guwahati -3, Superintending Engineer, PWD Guwahati Electrical Circle, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-I and the Registered Class - III, P.W.D. Kokrajhar Electrical Division of 2024-25 and having valid Electrical Contractor licence for the following electrical works and will be received in the Office of the undersigned up to 2.00 P.M. of 31-05-2025 and will be opened at 2.30 P.M. of the same date. The Contractors or their authorized agents may be present at the time of opening tender.

Sl. No	Name of work	Approx. Estimated value	Time of Completion	Cost of Tender document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money
1	Construction of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalaya at Agomoni Block, Dhubri District. (Provide External electrification)	Rs.12,57,112.00	90 (Ninety) Days	Rs.500.00	General 2% (P.C.) of Tender value, 1% of Tender value in case of SC/ST/BC
2	Supplying & Installation of 10 Nos of AC Machine 1.5 Ton Cap. at 5(Five) Nos. of Judicial Officers Qtrs. (Rented House) under District & Sessions Judge Office, South Salmara Mankachar, Fakamari.	Rs.12,07,220.00	90 (Ninety) Days	Rs.500.00	
3	Supplying & Installation of lighting conductor with earthing at 10 Nos. of Judicial Officers Govt. Residential Qtr. in Dhubri District.	Rs.7,86,807.00	90 (Ninety) Days	Rs.300.00	

The Contractors shall be received the Tender Documents forms the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Kokrajhar Electrical Division, Kokrajhar during working hour by submitting the cost of Tender Document with a non-refundable fees as indicated in the table above, by Indian crossed Postal Order payable to the undersigned up to 3.00p.m dated 30-05-2025 on application mentioned registration No. etc. No, application for issue of tender document will be received after the deadline as mentioned.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D.  
Kokrajhar Electrical Division, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/522



## Terrorism is Pakistan's deliberate 'war strategy', India to respond accordingly: PM Modi

**GANDHINAGAR, May 27:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said terrorism was not a proxy war but a deliberate war strategy adopted by Pakistan, and India will respond to it accordingly.

Refusing to make any distinction between non-state and state actors in Pakistan, Modi said the neighbouring country is engaging in war by continuing to support terrorism. "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family) is our 'sanskrit' (value imbibed through tradition), we want happiness for our neighbours too, but if you challenge our strength, then India is also a land of heroes," Modi said, speaking at an urban development programme of the Gujarat government here.

"We can not call this a proxy war, as those who were killed after May 6 (during

Operation Sindoor) were given state honours in Pakistan. Pakistani flags were draped over their coffins, and their military saluted them. This proves that these terrorist activities are not just a proxy war, this is a deliberate war strategy on their part," the prime minister said.

"If they are engaging in war, then the response will be accordingly," he said.

Modi was on his first visit to Gujarat after Operation Sindoor undertaken by the Indian armed forces to strike terrorism bases in Pakistan in response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. During his visit to Vadodra, Dahod, Bhuj, Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, he experienced "fervour of patriotism with the roar of success of Operation Sindoor", he said, adding that this feeling could be seen across the country.

A single thorn can cause constant pain

even if a body is strong otherwise, the prime minister said, adding India made up its mind to "remove the thorn of terrorism", and did it with utmost conviction.

"We should have killed the Mujahideens who entered Kashmir in 1947" and then the present situation would not have arisen, he said, referring to the incursions in Kashmir immediately after Independence. "During Partition, Maa Bharati (Mother India) was divided into two, and that very night, the first terror attack on Kashmir was launched by Mujahideens," Modi said, adding that with the help of these terrorists Pakistan captured a "part of Mother India".

"Sardar Patel was of opinion then that the Indian army should not have stopped until Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) was reclaimed." (PTI)

### KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

**KAAC::DIPHU:: 782414**

No.KAAC/TRN/CS/Tender/2016-17/93/1215

Dated. Diphu the 27<sup>th</sup> May' 2025

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tender by affixing of the KAAC money receipt of worth Rs. 10/- only are hereby invited from the registered contractor /firms / persons etc. for execution of Civil Work as mention below in details of AAP 2025-26 (SOPD) duly approved and accorded Administrative Approval by the KAAC authority vide No.KAAC/ Tn/AAP/2022-23/16 (A) Dated Diphu the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 under KAAC Transport Department for the financial year 2025-26 (SOPD).

The tender will be received by the undersigned from 28/05/2024 up to 2.00 P.M on 15/06/2025 and the same will be opened on the same will be opened on the same day and hour in presence of the tenderer or their authorized agents if any. If the date of opening of the tender falls on bandh/holiday the day for opening of the same shall be taken place on the next working day during office hours.

The following are the details schemes/ Items of Civil Works (SOPD)

Sl. No	Name of Works	Qty.	Govt. Quoted Rate	Earnest Money ST/ SC	OBC/ Gen	Time of Completion
1.	Construction of KAAC Transport Bus Counter cum Canteen and I.B at Langhin.	1 Unit	90.00	1%	2%	6 Months
2.	Construction of Boundary Wall with Drain, KAAC Workshop, Diphu.	1 Unit	25.00	1%	2%	45 Days
3.	Construction of Generator House at ISBT, Diphu.	1 Unit	20.00	1%	2%	45 Days
4.	Construction of Public Toilet at ISBT, Diphu	12 Units	45.00	1%	2%	45 Days
5.	Renovation of Conference Room & Office Room with necessary accessories at KAAC Transport Office Building, Hamren.	1 Unit	10.00	1%	2%	45 Days
6.	Supply of materials for Guest House at KAAC Transport Office Building, Hamren.	1 Unit	20.00	1%	2%	45 Days
7.	Construction of waiting Shed at Diphu Medical College & Hospital (DMCH), Diphu.	1 Unit	10.00	1%	2%	45 Days
8.	Construction of court yard and earth filling at Donka bus counter.	1 Unit	27.15	1%	2%	45 Days
9.	Construction of ticket counter cum staff quarter at Umlapher	1 Unit	20.00	1%	2%	2 Months

The A/A accorded under Head of Account 2225-02-190-2419-670-32-99 (SOPD) CO. Road Transport for the financial year-2025-26 of Grant No. 76.

#### Terms and Condition:-

- The Tender must quote their rate distinctly both in figure and in works on percentage basis as per below/above and the estimated rates/departamental approved rates.
- The KAAC money receipt of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only must be enclosed along with necessary documents.
- The earnest money will bank draft from any bank of India must be attached along with the tender paper, pledge in favour of the Executive Engineer (M), Transport, KAAC, Diphu a the rate of 1% for ST/SC and 2% for General which must attached along with the tender paper.
- The successful tenderer/ bidder shall have to complete his/her/ their works within given period from the date of issue or formal order with agreement (where necessary) which shall be provided the required format.
- The authority reserves the right to accept any or reject the all tenders without assigning any reason thereof, and will not bound himself/herself to accept the lower rate.
- Ali tenders will be opened on the same day and hours with presence of the tendert Or their authorized agent as mention below,
- No tender will be allowed after the time schedule is over in any circumstances.
- The Tenderers shall have to mentioned their name of work/group of work SL. No. at the time of submission of Tender. If any of the items as noted below is not found with their quoted documents the tender will summarily rejected.
  - Professional Tax Clearance Certificate duty certified by the Superintendent of Tax KAAC, Diphu.
  - GST Registration Copy from the Superintendent of Taxes, Diphu, Assam along with the name of contractors/ firms is mandatory.
  - KAAC Transport Registration.
  - The Tenders must attached the up to date return copy of GST properly in the month May'2025.
- The work must be executed with due consultation with presence of E.E (Mechanical) i/c Transport, KAAC, Diphu.
- The Above term and conditions are compulsory.
- The bills shall be paid after completion of work and subject to availability of fund.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (M)  
Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council  
DIPHU

Memo. No. KAAC/TRN/CS/Tender/2016-17/93/1215(A)

Diphu the 27th May'2025

### GOVT. OF ASSAM

#### OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT A.H. & VETY. OFFICER,

#### KARBI ANGLONG, DIPHU

### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

It is hereby informed to all the Govt. Registered Contractors and various Govt. Departments to collect the Tender Paper/ Details of work, terms & conditions etc. vide Notification No KAAC/AA-FS/2011-12/222/Dt. 08/05/2025 from the various establishments of A.H & Vety. Department, Karbi Anglong as mention below. The Tender paper will be received by the respective DDO's up to 2:00 PM on 09<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 and will be opened on the same date place and hour in presence of the tenderer of their authorized agent if any. In case the last date for receipt and opening of tender happen to be a holiday the tender so invited will be received and open on the next working Day in the same time at respective venue to determined the eligibility of the tenders for the work.

The detailed tender paper may be obtained from the office of the following establishment on all working days with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and will received by the respective DDO's upto 2:00 PM on 09<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### Name of the Establishments

- Sub- Divisional A.H & Vety. Office, Diphu.
- Sub- Divisional A.H & Vety. Office, Hamren.
- Office in-Charge, Intensive Cattle Development Project ( I.C.D.P), Manja.
- Manager Govt. Pig cum Poultry Farm, Diphu.
- Manager, Cattle Demonstration Farm, Manja.
- Manager, Govt. Poultry Farm, Hamren.
- Manager, Duck Breeding cum Demonstration Unit, Phuloni.
- Manager, Pork Production Centre cum Pig Breeding Farm, Donkamokam.
- Manager, Fodder Demonstration Farm, manja.

Sd/-

District A.H & Vety. Officer,  
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.

Memo No. KDVD/AA/21/2024-25/87/A

/Dated Diphu the 27/05/2025.

### GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

#### Office of the Additional Chief Medical & Health Officer (FW)

#### Diphu, Karbi Anglong District.

No. DFWB/Estt/Medl./Staff/Vacancy/2025-25/

Dated : 26/05/2025

### NOTICE

#### Sub: Declaration of Written Examination Result and Schedule for Interview.

In reference to this offices Advertisement No. DFWB/Estt/Medl./Staff/Vacancy/2025-25/602, dated 27/02/2025. It is hereby notified for information to all candidates who have appeared in the written examination for recruitment to the posts of **Grade-III (Computer — 03 posts, Steno-Typist —01 post, and ANNM — 19 posts)** under the establishment of the Additional Chief Medical & Health Officer (F.W.). Diphu, Karbi Anglong, that the **Viva-Voce/Interview** for the said posts will be held as per the following schedule:

The shortlisted candidates are hereby informed that the Interview/Viva-voce and Document Verification will be conducted as per the following schedule:

#### 1. List of short-listed Candidates: -

Name of posts	Roll Numbers
Auxiliary Nurse	02,05,06,07,08,09,10,11,12,14,15,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,57,58,59,60,61,62,64,65,67,68,69,70,71,72,74,75,76,77,78,79,81,82,83
Computer	01,02,04,05,06,07,08,10,11,13,14,15,16,18,24,25,28,29,30,32,34,35,36,37,39,40,41,42,43,44,46,47
Steno-Typist	01,02

#### 2. Schedule for Interview: -

Posts	Roll No.	Date	Time & Venue
Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	02,05,06,07,08,09,10,11,12,14,15,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,57,58,59,60,61,62,64,65,67,68,69,70,71,72,74,75,76,77,78,79,81,82,83	10/06/2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Secretariat New Building, KAAC, Room No. F 1-12 11:00 AM onwards
Computer	01,02,04,05,06,07,08,10,11,13,14,15,16,18,24,25,28,29,30,32,34,35,36,37,39,40,41,42,43,44,46,47	10/06/2025	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Secretariat New Building, Room No: F2-20 11:00 AM onwards
Steno-Typist	01,02	10/06/2025	11:00 AM onwards

#### 3. Instructions for Candidates:

- The shortlisted candidates must bring the original documents along with self-attested photocopies for verification.
- Candidates failing to appear for the interview on the specified date and time shall forfeit their candidature.
- No separate call letter will be issued. Candidates must carry a valid government-issued photo ID for verification.
- Any candidate found to have submitted false information at any stage will be disqualified.
- The decision of the Selection Board will be final.

Sd/-

Member Secretary,  
Selection Board cum  
i/c Addl. Chief Medical & Health Officer (FW)  
Karbi Anglong District, Diphu.

Memo No. DFWB/Estt/Medl./Staff/Vacancy/2024-25/113-A

Dated : 26/05/2025



## 'Governor should be recalled'

## President's rule failed to maintain peace in Manipur, alleges Cong

**IMPHAL, May 27:** Amid protests over concealing the state's name on the windshield of a government bus, Manipur Congress president Keisham Meghachandra alleged that the President's rule has "failed" to maintain peace in the state.

He also claimed Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who took charge in January this year, should be recalled by the Centre.

The Centre had on February 13 imposed the President's rule in Manipur after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned, following a prolonged ethnic violence in the state.

The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation.

In a post on X, Meghachandra, the Wangkhem MLA, alleged, "Double-engine government had already failed Manipur for the last more than 2 years. President's Rule, too, has failed Manipur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly fails Manipur. Home Minister Amit Shah should resign. Manipur governor should be recalled."



The term "double engine" is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state.

The Congress leader's remarks come at a time when the state has been witnessing protests for the last few days over the concealing of the state's name on the windshield of a government bus last week.

The protesters have been demanding an apology from the governor for the May 20 incident.

The security personnel had stopped the bus at Gwalitabi check post, around 25 km from Imphal, and allegedly forced the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) staff to conceal the state's name written on the top of the vehicle's windshield with a piece of white paper.

The bus with journalists on board was heading to the Shirui Lily festival in Ukhrul district on May 20 when the incident happened.

Referring to the Gwalitabi incident, Meghachandra said, "Who instructed Manipur Governor to remove the word 'Manipur' from the Manipur State Transport Corporation bus?"

To intensify their protest, students and women's groups had on Monday formed a human chain, covering a stretch of six kilometres from Imphal airport to Keisampat, around 200 metres away from the governor's residence.

In view of the demonstration, the governor, who had arrived in Imphal from New Delhi on Monday, had taken an Army helicopter to reach Kangla Fort, located around 300 metres from the Raj Bhavan.

In a post late on Monday, Meghachandra also said, "Manipur Governor had to take a helicopter to fly from Imphal International Airport in order to reach Raj Bhavan, which is around 7 km by road travel from the airport, today."

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. (PTI)

## Five militants arrested in Manipur

**IMPHAL, May 27:** Five militants belonging to several proscribed outfits in Manipur were arrested in Thoubal, Tengnoupal and Kakching districts, police said on Tuesday. These arrests were made as part of the ongoing intelligence-based combing and search operations in the state, a senior officer said.

Two active cadres of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) were apprehended from Samaram Lamkhai in Thoubal, he said. They were involved in extortion activities, and two demand letters of KCP (PWG) were recovered from their possession, the officer said.

Security forces also apprehended two members of the proscribed Peoples' Liberation Army from Moirengthel village near the India-Myanmar border in Tengnoupal, he said.

One active cadre of Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (SOREPA) was arrested from Chajing Khunou area in Kakching. Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out two years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. The Centre had on February 13 imposed the President's rule in Manipur after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned.

The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation. (PTI)

## AAI initiates process to revive Kailashahar airport in Tripura

**AGARTALA, May 27:** The AAI has initiated a process to revive the now-defunct Kailashahar airport in Tripura's Unakoti district, an official said on Tuesday.

Following a request from the state government for the revival of the facility, Airport Authority of India (AAI), Northeast, Regional Executive Director M Raju Krishore, accompanied by MBB Airport (Agartala) Director K C Meena, on Monday visited Kailashahar airport to take stock of the ground situation.

"Following the state government's request and the Civil Aviation Ministry's instruction, AAI, Northeast, regional executive director visited Kailashahar airport on Monday to see the infrastructure, land availability and visibility condition," Meena told PTI.

The Kailashahar airport, strategically located in Unakoti district, has remained defunct for over 30 years.



The airport played a key role during the India-Pakistan war in 1971 as the Indian Air Force carried out missions and surveillance, another official said.

"We have given two options for land to the state government before pushing the revival plan of the airport. Currently, the airport has a runway of only 1000 metres, which is not feasible even for operating an ATR. The small-sized plane, which carries 16 or 19 passengers, will not be made available all the time, and safety is also a concern," he said.

Meena said the AAI has "sought land, measuring either 75 acres or 205 acres" to develop the defunct airport, and will prepare a revival plan on the availability of land arranged by the state.

Earlier, senior Congress MLA Birajit Sinha strongly demanded the revival of the airport at the earliest. (PTI)

## Nagaland seeks legal infrastructure support from Centre



**KOHIMA, May 27:** Nagaland has sought enhanced legal infrastructure support from the Centre. In this regard, Principal Secretary for Law & Justice, Government of Nagaland, Y Kikheto Sema met with Union Minister for Law & Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, at his office in Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi recently. The meeting was held in continuation of the commitments made by the Union Minister during his visits to Nagaland on October 22, 2024, and April 12, 2025, an official statement said today.

During the discussion, Kikheto Sema urged the Union Minister to enhance the quota of Notary Publics in the state from the existing 200 to 400 under Rule 8(4A) of the Notaries Rules, 1956, the statement also said. He highlighted that while the original quota of 200 was allotted during statehood in 1963, when Nagaland had just 3 districts and a population of 3.7 lakhs, the state now comprises of 20 districts with an estimated population of 22.58 lakhs, creating a substantial demand for notarial services. In response, Union Minister Meghwal, along with Additional Secretary (Legal Affairs), Ashutosh Mishra, assured that the proposal would be duly considered and the necessary amendment to the Rules could be expected within two months, the statement added.

Sema also drew attention to the long-pending High Court building project in Nagaland, noting that the state may be the only one yet to receive central funding for such a project. Despite financial constraints, the state government has already invested ₹ 242 crore, but an additional ₹ 299 crore is needed to complete the construction, the statement also said. The Union Minister informed that the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and expressed hope for its consideration in the current financial year.

Furthermore, Sema requested central funding support for the construction of new district courts at Niluland, Tseminyu, and Shamator, where land acquisition has recently been approved by the State Government. He also sought early release of funds for the ongoing construction of district courts at Mon and Noklak, and for various other district-level projects. Union Minister Meghwal, along with Joint Secretary (Justice) Gaurav Masaldan, assured that these requests would be considered, subject to the completion of requisite procedures and compliance with the SNA-SPARSH system, which has been recently introduced by the Government of India for the release of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) funds, the statement added. (NNV)

## NFR continues its commitment to cleanliness with intensified drives

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, May 27:** Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship through a series of impactful cleanliness campaigns and sustainability initiatives across its divisions. A special Cleanliness Drive was carried out at New Tinsukia Railway Station, with the active participation of railway staff, local volunteers, and environmental advocates. The initiative emphasized the importance of maintaining clean public spaces and reducing plastic waste. The campaign delivered a clear message – Say No to Single-Use Plastic. Participants focused on cleaning the station premises, removing litter and plastic waste, and advocating for eco-friendly alternatives.

At the Wagon Care Centre, New Tinsukia, another focused drive was organized, underlining environmental responsibility within railway operations. Staff and volunteers joined hands to clean the area and educate others on sustainable practices. In support of the 'Go Green' initiative, staff and patients at Divisional Railway Hospital, New Bongaigaon were encouraged to plant trees within hospital premises. This activity aimed to enhance green spaces and spread awareness about the importance of trees in promoting a healthy environment. A special waste segregation drive was launched at Dibrugarh Station, introducing separate bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. This initiative aimed to streamline waste management and reinforce the principles of recycling and reuse. Cleanliness drives were also conducted at the railway colony in Dibrugarh and Hojai health unit, ensuring residential and health facility areas remain hygienic and environmentally sound. Additional cleaning efforts were undertaken at Old Sick Line and New Sick Line, Kathar where comprehensive cleaning of premises and railway tracks was conducted. These activities focused on maintaining the cleanliness of operational zones and enhancing the overall working environment.

## AIJCP felicitates Dr Kadam Tisso, first woman MBBS graduate from Borjan

**HT Correspondent**

**BOKAJAN, May 27:** In a proud moment for the Borjan region, Dr. Kadam Tisso, who recently completed her MBBS, was felicitated by the Asom Jatiyabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad (AIJCP) for her achievement. A resident of Koilajan Udeng Tisso, Dr. Tisso is the daughter of Longki Tisso and Ambika Teronpi. She has earned the distinction of being the first woman from the Borjan area to successfully complete the MBBS degree.

The felicitation ceremony was led by Sandeep Saikia, President of the AIJCP Bokajan Regional Committee, and was attended by Jitu Phukon, Central Executive Committee (CEC) member of AIJCP; Horen Engti, advisor, and several other members of the organization.

Speaking on the occasion, Jitu Phukon expressed pride in Dr. Tisso's accomplishment, stating, "It is a historic moment for the Borjan area, and we wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Kadam Tisso on this significant milestone." The AIJCP members lauded her achievement as a source of inspiration for young women across the region, particularly in the field of medical education.

## Financial aid provided to religious places, community halls in Jalukbari

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, May 27:** Around 100 religious institutions, Namghars, clubs, and libraries in the New and Old Jalukbari areas under the Jalukbari Legislative Assembly Constituency received financial assistance today for infrastructure development. The aid was distributed from the MLA Local Area Development Fund and Assam Government's contingency fund.

The financial assistance was granted to support the development and renovation of these community and religious institutions. The distribution ceremony was held at the Public Works Department auditorium in Amingaon, where the funds were officially handed over by Hemanta Choudhury, Special Duty Officer to the Chief Minister.

## Authority who ordered removal of state's name from bus owes apology to people: Manipur's ex-CM



**IMPHAL, May 27:** Senior Manipur Congress leader Ogram Ibobi Singh on Tuesday demanded that the "competent authority" who ordered the removal of the state's name from a government bus must apologise to the people of the state.

The Congress Legislative Party leader also termed as "embarrassing" the act of Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla taking a helicopter to reach Raj Bhavan from Imphal Airport on Monday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event marking the 61st death anniversary of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru at Congress Bhavan, he said, "It is very unlikely that without orders from a competent authority, personnel of the Mahar regiment of the Indian Army would ask the staffers to cover the name of Manipur on a government bus."

"That competent authority may be the governor, the DGP or the security advisor... whoever that is should politely admit the mistake to the people before any further damage is done," he added.

Manipur's name has been in existence for centuries before its merger with India in 1949. The respected governor and other competent authorities must understand this, he asserted.

"Who gave the order?" the former three-times chief minister questioned.

"The uniformed personnel have come to the state to aid the civil administration in law and order issues. But if the personnel of the Mahar regiment acted on their own, why no action has been taken against them?" the Thoubal MLA asked. Protests erupted in Manipur after security personnel asked staffers of a government bus carrying journalists to attend Shirui Lily Festival in Ukhrul on May 20 to cover the state's name on the vehicle.

"Yesterday, the governor took a helicopter ride for just a few kilometres to reach Raj Bhavan from Imphal Airport... this is embarrassing. The road does not pass through jungles but through areas inhabited by ordinary civilians," the Congress leader added.

As Bhalla reached Imphal from Delhi on Monday afternoon, he took a helicopter from the airport to reach Kangla Fort, around 300 metres from Raj Bhavan as protesters had formed a human chain along the 6-km route from the airport to the governor's house demanding an apology for the May 20 incident.

Ibobi Singh also called the ruling party MLAs as being irresponsible for not forming the government despite having sufficient numbers.

"Let them gather at the Raj Bhavan and tell the governor that they want to form the government," he asserted.

Also, till now no attempts have been made to reach a solution to the crisis in the state, he added.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis in Manipur since May, 2023. (PTI)

## Social worker passes away CEM Boro lays foundation stone for animal feed plant in Kokrajhar

**HT Correspondent**

**JORHAT, May 27:** Budhin Saikia, a noted social worker and a retired accountant of the Jorhat Treasury office, who was a resident of Nauboisia outskirts here, breathed his last on Monday. Saikia, who was 87, is survived by his wife Mintumoni Saikia, a writer and a radio artist, and a host of relatives along with a large number friends and well-wishers. Saikia, who was associated with several socio-cultural and children's development organisations, was the founder of Kalyani Sishu Kalyan Kendra here in 1962.

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, May 27:** In a significant step toward strengthening the livestock and dairy farming sector in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Chief Executive Member (CEM) Pramod Boro laid the foundation stone for the construction of an Animal Feed Plant at Harinaguri, Simbargaon in Kokrajhar district on Tuesday.

CEM Boro was accompanied by Lok Sabha MP Joyanta Basumatary, MLA Lawrence Isary, and several senior government officials during the foundation-laying ceremony, which marked a new milestone in BTR's agricultural and rural development roadmap. Speaking at the event, CEM Pramod Boro expressed optimism about the plant's future impact, stating, "I'm delighted to lay the foundation stone for the upcoming Animal Feed Plant at Harinaguri, Simbargaon, Kokrajhar today. This marks yet another step towards strengthening livestock and dairy farming in BTR."

The plant is expected to play a crucial role in ensuring better feed supply for livestock farmers, thereby improving the productivity and sustainability of dairy and livestock practices across the region.

The initiative reflects the BTR administration's ongoing commitment to rural development and economic self-reliance through modern agricultural infrastructure and allied industries.

## Climate projects worth ₹ 547 cr launched in Meghalaya

**SHILLONG, May 27:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma recently launched several key initiatives to advance Climate Action and Climate Adaptation goals in Meghalaya at Mendipathar in North Garo Hills. He unveiled the plaques of various initiatives in presence of PHE Minister Marcuse Marak and Social Welfare Minister Paul Lyngdoh and MLAs Marthon Sangma and Rupert Momin, including inauguration of two newly constructed hostels - Girl's Hostel at Mendipathar and Tribal Hostel at Resubelpara.

He informed that the Climate Adaptive Community-Based Water Harvesting Project – Supported by ADB, is over ₹ 500 crore project which will be implemented across all districts of Meghalaya to enhance water resilience and sustainability. He also launched the "Megh Adapt Pay", a project amounting to ₹ 47.19 crore. The project is part of Climate Adaptive Community Based Water Harvesting Project for afforestation, conservation of existing forests and agricultural land development implemented by Soil and Water Conservation Department.

The chief minister informed that through the project the community and government will forge partnerships to help protect forests, restore degraded lands, improve ecosystem health, rehabilitate degraded catchment areas, and expand green cover across the state.

The Girls' Hostel at Mendipathar College, constructed at a cost of ₹ 3 crore will operate on a not-for-profit model and will be managed by the Awe Self-Help Group (SHG). The Tribal Girls' Hostel at Resubelpara, built at a cost of ₹ 2.5 crore, which will be managed by Ramke Memorial School. "These hostels will provide a safe, secure, and supportive living environment for girls, especially those from remote areas, and will help them pursue their education without barriers", the chief minister added. (NNV)

## Nagaland power made dept rolls out smart prepaid metering

Nagaland has been allocated a target of 32.8 MW of residential rooftop solar capacity

**HT Correspondent**

**DIMAPUR, May 27:** The Nagaland power department has rolled out smart prepaid metering and loss reduction measures across the state as part of the ongoing power reforms initiative under the Government of India's revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS).

Elaborating on the power reforms at the Dimapur District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting at the DC's conference hall on Monday, executive engineer (power), Dimapur, Er. Lhuvoyi said the RDSS aims to reduce aggregate technical and commercial losses to 12–15% by March 2026 and bridge the gap between the average cost of supply and average revenue realised.

He said under the state action plan for smart consumer interface, 18,000 smart meters had been sanctioned for Kohima, Dimapur and Chümoukedima.

Lhuvoyi said smart prepaid meters are expected to yield several benefits, including energy conservation, reduced outages, flexible tariff op-



tions, better financial planning for consumers, and easy online recharge, ultimately contributing to improved service delivery and economic growth.

The department also highlighted the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in February 2024, which promotes rooftop solar installations in residential areas.

Lhuvoyi said Nagaland has been allocated a target of 32.8 MW of residential rooftop solar capacity, with 8.337 MW earmarked for Dimapur alone.

The department urged all stakeholders to support the implementation of these initiatives to ensure a reliable and sustainable power infrastructure for the state.

During the meeting, Nagaland adviser to youth employment & skill development and excise Moatoshi Longkumer officially took charge as the new chairman of the Dimapur DPDB.

In his inaugural address, Longkumer urged all officers to work in unity to transform Dimapur into a model district.

"Let us work hand in hand so that other districts envy Dimapur," he stated, emphasising the need for collective commitment and efficient execution of developmental initiatives.



## Rapper Raja Kumari becomes first Indian origin musician to win AMA award



**BENGALURU, May 27:** Indian origin singer-songwriter and rapper Raja Kumari wins an American Music Award (AMA) on Tuesday. She was nominated for 'Arcane League of Legends: Season 2' at the 51st AMA held in Los Angeles on Monday night.

In an interview, Kumari had said she was the first Indian origin musician to be nominated for an AMA. "Renegade (We Never Run)" from 'Arcane League of Legends', a collaboration between Kumari, UK hip-hop artist Stefflon Don and Dominican-Brazilian artist Jarina de Marco, was nominated under the Favourite Soundtrack category.

Kumari said that the song was really special for her. "Stefflon (Don) and I kind of share the Sidhu (Moose Wala) connection. She has a song with Sidhu, too. And when I was meeting Sidhu during the time that we were collaborating, he had played me the song."

"So, I've always had this soft spot in my heart for her because we both kind of share this gentle

giant," Kumari said.

She said she was approached for the song because the character in the film is Indian.

"They (Arcane team) had heard about me as being representative of our culture and being able to make aggressive music as a woman," added Kumari.

She said she never really expected the song to become such a big hit.

"The song actually went top 10 in the world on the 'Viral 50' charts on Spotify. It was something that kind of came out of nowhere. I just did a song for a film. I didn't have many expectations for it. It ended up really impacting people," said Kumari.

The AMA nomination, added the rapper, came at a time when she was beginning to believe that perhaps one has to focus on one genre to make it big.

"And I've always been a global artist, so an AMA award is a great reminder that there's still much more work for me to do, and still much more for me to impact and grow," she added. (PTI)

## IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER, TO BE HANDLED BY COURT: AKSHAY KUMAR ON PARESH RAWAL'S 'HERA PHERI 3' EXIT



**MUMBAI, May 27:** Bollywood star Akshay Kumar on Tuesday (May 27, 2025) said that the on-going controversy over the exit of his co-star Paresh Rawal from "Hera Pheri 3" is a "serious matter", which is being "handled by the court".

About two weeks ago, Rawal's sudden departure from the project sent shockwaves in the film industry and among the fans of the franchise who have been waiting for the third part for close to 20 years.

Kumar, who also serves as a producer on "Hera Pheri 3", has sued Rawal, for ₹25 crore in damages.

At the trailer launch of the superstar's upcoming film, "Housefull 5", he was asked how fans are disappointed with the exit of Rawal from "Hera Pheri 3", and have called the acclaimed actor, "foolish", to which Kumar said it is "not right" to address his "good friend" Rawal as "foolish".

"Using this kind of word for one of my co-star like a foolish word or something. I would not appreciate it, and that's not right. I worked with him since the last 30-35 years, we are very good friends. He's a great actor and I really admire him. Whatever it is (referring to controversy), I don't think this is a place where I'm

going to talk about it because whatever has to happen, it's a very serious matter. It is a matter which is going to be handled by the court and things like that. So, I don't think I'm going to speak about it here," he told reporters.

Last week, Rawal broke his silence over the controversy and said his lawyer has responded to the legal suit.

Directed by Priyadarshan, "Hera Pheri" released in 2000 and also featured Suniel Shetty and Kumar. It revolved around a quirky, kind-hearted garage owner Baburao Ganpatrao Apte (Rawal), a cunning loafer Raju (Kumar) and a struggling pauper Shyam (Shetty).

The trio returned with a sequel "Phir Hera Pheri" in 2006, which was directed by Neeraj Vora. The third part of the film will be helmed by Priyadarshan.

It was on May 18, when Rawal took to X to officially announce that he is no longer part of "Hera Pheri".

"I wish to put it on record that my decision to step away from 'Hera Pheri 3' was not due to creative differences. I reiterate that there are no creative disagreement with the filmmaker. I hold immense love, respect, and faith in Mr Priyadarshan," Rawal had said. (PTI)

## There's a beautiful co-parenting relationship with Sophie Turner: Joe Jonas

**LOS ANGELES, May 27:** Singer-songwriter Joe Jonas says he shares a beautiful co-parenting relationship with his ex-wife and actor Sophie Turner, and he is grateful for it. Jonas, 35, and Turner, 29, announced their divorce in 2024 after being married for four years. They share two daughters, Willa, 4, and Delphine, 2.

In the video that has surfaced online, Jonas is seen praising Turner, calling her an "incredible mother". "They have an incredible mom. There's a beautiful co-parenting relationship that I'm really grateful for... Having an incredible mom, Sophie, for those girls is like a dream come true," he is heard saying in the video.

On being asked about the values he would want his daughters to possess, he said, "I think what values I want for them are to be open-minded and have a big heart... Be able to walk into any room and feel confident and know that they can do literally anything they want." Jonas and Turner began dating in 2016 and got married in 2019. Jonas is a member of "Jonas Brothers" band alongside his brothers Kevin Jonas and Nick Jonas. They formed the band in 2005 and were active till 2013, post which there was a hiatus. They reunited in 2019.

Turner is best known for her work in the HBO series "Game of Thrones". She essayed the role of Sansa Stark. (PTI)



## Christopher McQuarrie says plot for 'Top Gun 3' is 'already in the bag'

**LOS ANGELES, May 27:** Filmmaker Christopher McQuarrie says the plot of the much-awaited "Top Gun 3" is "already in the bag", and wasn't "hard to crack" compared to the previous installment of the franchise. McQuarrie served as a co-writer and producer on the second film, titled "Top Gun: Maverick" from Joseph Kosinski. The first part was directed by Tony Scott and came out in 1986. Both were led by Tom Cruise.

The 56-year-old filmmaker, who is a frequent collaborator of Cruise, said the "framework" for the film is already there.

"No, it's already in the bag. I already know what it is. It wasn't hard," he said at Happy Sad Confused podcast. "I thought it would be, and that's a good place to go from as you walk into the room going, 'Come on, what are we going to do?' And Ehren Kruger pitched something and I went, 'Mhm actually,' and we had one conversation about it and the framework is there. So, no, it's not hard to crack. The truth of the matter is, none of these are hard to crack," he added.

"It's as you start to execute it, and as you start to interrogate it, as you start why these movies are made the way they are. It's not even the level of or intensity of or the scope and scale of the action the engineering around the action, it's none of those things, it's the emotion," McQuarrie concluded. Earlier this month, Cruise said the discussions on the possible sequels of "Days of Thunder" and "Top Gun: Maverick", are taking place. (PTI)

## Boney Kapoor's firm submits layout of International Film City project to YEIDA

**LUCKNOW, May 27:** Bollywood film producer Boney Kapoor's company Bayview Projects LLP on Tuesday submitted the layout of the International Film City to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), an official statement issued here said.

YEIDA will now review the plan, and after necessary approvals, formal construction work will begin. The International Film City is planned to be developed over 1,000 acres along the Yamuna Expressway at Sector-21 in Greater Noida.

The first phase will kick off on 230 acres of land with an estimated investment of Rs 1,510 crore, the statement said. OSD (Officer on special duty) to Yamuna Authority (YEIDA) Shailendra Bhatia said Kapoor, who has taken the responsibility of building the film city, submitted the complete layout of

the project on behalf of his company. Now, the authority will review and examine the entire layout, after which they will give the necessary approval to start work, he said.

CEO, YEIDA, Arun Veer Singh made it clear that the construction will fully follow the agreement, and no changes will be accepted without approval.

Separate NOCs (no-objection certificates) will be required for approvals like parking, landscaping, and gardening.

He said that Bayview Projects LLP, selected as the highest bidder by offering 18 per cent of gross revenue share, was issued the Letter of Award last year.

On June 27, 2024, YEIDA and the concessionaire representative Kapoor signed the concession agreement. The site's right of way was transferred to the concessionaire on February 27, 2025.

The master plan of the film city was approved on January 30, 2025.

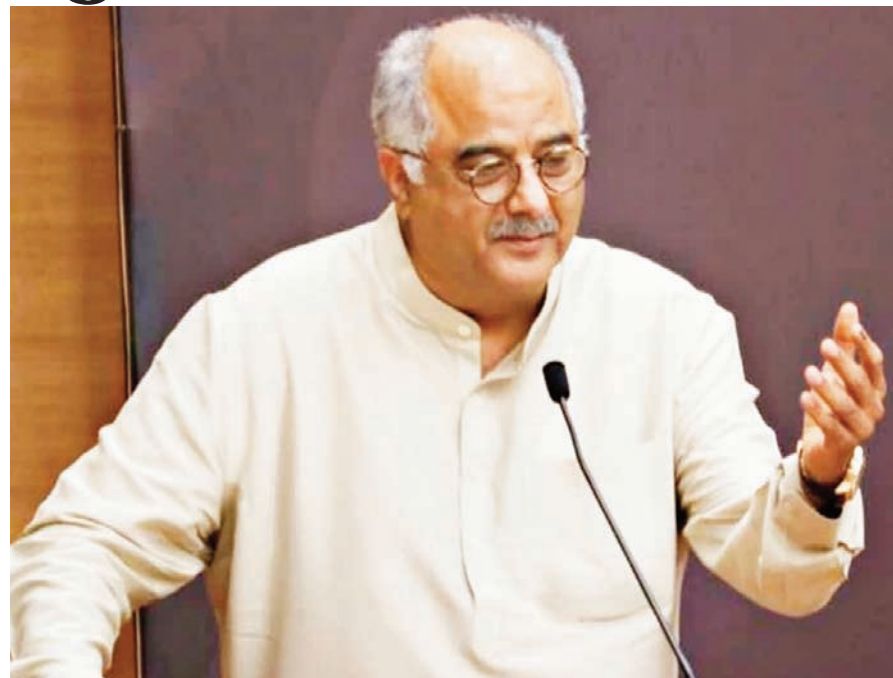
The project will be completed in three phases over the next eight years. In the first phase, construction will take place on 230 acres, and in future, expansion will happen on the remaining 770 acres in phases 2 and 3, the statement said.

In the first 155 acres, main structures like film studios, sound stages, post-production units, and a film institute will be built. Besides, on 75 acres, a commercial centre with retail, offices, and entertainment complexes will be developed, but this will start only after the film-related buildings are completed, it said.

GM of Bayview Projects LLP Rajiv Arora, according to the statement, said the construction will begin immediately after all approvals. "We will build a film city that will fulfil Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's dreams," Arora said.

The project's foundation stone will be laid by the chief minister.

According to the statement, the proposed international film city is a historic step to make Uttar Pradesh a national and international film production hub. This project will create about 500,000 direct and indirect jobs and will take Uttar Pradesh's economy to new heights. The upcoming film city will also include a grand convention centre with 10,000 seats, where big film ceremonies and events will take place, a museum based on Indian cinema, a special film festival area, which will have a guest house, and an auditorium and separate accommodation facilities for artists. It will also have small studio units with different Indian architectural styles, which could be rented for shooting or staying, apart from having large sound stages and an underwater shooting studio. (PTI)





# The French Open is picking humans over technology: Novak Djokovic thinks that's a bad call

**PARIS, May 27:** For Novak Djokovic, this is a relatively easy call: He, like many players, thinks the French Open is making a mistake by eschewing the electronic line-calling used at most big tennis tournaments and instead remaining old school by letting line judges decide whether serves or other shots land in or out.

Plenty of sports, from soccer and baseball to the NFL, are replacing, or at least helping, officials with some form of high-tech replays or other technology. Tennis, too, is following that trend, except at

Roland-Garros, where competition continues through June 8.

Even the longest-running and most tradition-bound of the majors, Wimbledon, is — gasp! — abandoning line judges and moving to an automatic system this year. The WTA and ATP added machine-generated rulings this season for four events on red clay, the surface at the French Open. But Grand Slam hosts can do what they want, and the French tennis federation is keeping the human element.

Djokovic, the 24-time major

champion scheduled to play his first-round match in Paris on Tuesday, understands why folks might prefer the way to keep things the way they were for more than a century in his sport. He gets why there could be an inclination to shy away from too much change in a world now drowning in cell phones and streaming and social media.

“You don't want to give everything away to the technology, right? But if I have to choose between the two, I'm more of a proponent of technology. It's just more accurate, saves time, and ...

(means) less people on the court” said Djokovic, 38, who was disqualified from the 2020 U.S. Open for inadvertently hitting an official with a ball hit out of frustration between games.

That edition of the tournament in New York only placed line judges on its two largest courts, while others used an electronic setup, a nod to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian Open got rid of all line judges in 2021, a first at a tennis major; the U.S. Open did the same later that year.

The French Open remains a

holdout, and that's not likely to change anytime soon.

“Unless the players are unanimous and come to us and say, 'We won't play if there isn't a machine' ... then I think we've got a great future ahead of us to maintain this style of refereeing,” French federation president Gilles Moretton said, while boasting of the quality of his country's officials.

Players don't sound that adamant, although they tend to echo the opinion of 2023 U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff, who is 21: “I mean, I don't know if it's

like the Gen Z' in me, but I think if we have the technology, we should use it.”

Still, there is some charm to be found in the choreography of players insisting a call was wrong and chair umpires climbing down for a closer look at a ball mark on the clay. Watch a day of TV coverage from Paris and odds are good that dance will take place — probably more than once.

“That's what makes clay special, in a way — that you can always review the shots. ... Obviously, you can't deny that electronic line-call-

ing is the future, and everything is moving towards AI and artificial intelligence,” said Stefanos Tsitsipas, the runner-up to Djokovic at Roland-Garros four years ago.

“But me, personally, I wouldn't mind playing on clay with maybe the judgment of a human instead of a robot.”

No matter the form of officiating, there invariably are times when athletes — perhaps eyesight or faith strained by heat-of-the-moment tension and an eagerness to be correct — just won't agree with a call. (AP)

## IGU sends 4-member team to Hong Kong for APGC Jr C'ship

**HONG KONG, May 27:** The Indian Golf Union (IGU) has sent a four-member team to compete in the prestigious Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC) Junior Championship beginning Tuesday at the Hong Kong Golf Club.

The Indian boys' team comprises Krish Chawla and Ranveer Mitroo and the girls' squad includes Saanvi Somu and Kashika Mishra.

The team is accompanied by non-playing captain Komal Narwar.

The three-round championship, which is played in strokeplay format, will take place from May 27 to 29 and have boys individual, boys team, girls individual, girls team and mixed team titles on offer.

Combined scores of boys and girls will be considered for boys and girls team titles whereas best scores among boys and girls from one team will be added to calculate the mixed team standings.

Talking about his preparations, Chawla said: “My preparation for the APGC Junior Championship has been very good. I practice daily and try to improve my performance every day while noting any mistakes or shortcomings I may have.

“I expect a positive outcome from the event, and I think it's a great learning experience that will benefit my career and me overall.”

Mitroo, who will be participating in the Singapore Junior Championship next and several events in the USA, has been working on his swing and fine-tuning his short game. He feels that his focused approach will fetch him the desired result in APGC Junior Championship.

“Competing in an event like the APGC Juniors is an incredible opportunity to showcase my level of golf against the best in the Asia-Pacific region. It's always a proud feeling to be representing my country.

“The IGU plays a crucial role in the development of golfers in our country. They provide us with opportunities like this to experience higher levels of competition and resources that are essential for our growth,” Ranveer said.

Saanvi Somu, who is competing in an international event for the first time, has been focusing on her physical fitness, technical skills and mental game and is hopeful of gaining valuable experience from the tournament. (PTI)

# Asian Athletics: Gulveer wins Gold in men's 10,000m; Bronze for race walker Sebastian

**GUMI (SOUTH KOREA), May 27:** National record holder Gulveer Singh snared India's first gold with a top finish in the men's 10,000m event while Servin Sebastian clinched the 20km race walk bronze on a reasonably good opening day for the country at the 27th Asian Athletics Championships here on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old Gulveer, a bronze-medallist at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games and a pre-race favourite, clocked 28 minute 38.63 seconds to win his maiden Asian Championships gold.

Japan's Mebuki Suzuki (28:43.84) took the silver while Bahrain's Albert Kibichi Rop (28:46.82) won the bronze. Another Indian in the fray, Sawan Barwal finished fourth with a time of 28:50.53.

At the end of the opening day, India stood at second place with one gold and one bronze, behind China (5 gold, 2 silver) and above Japan (3 silver, 2 bronze).

Gulveer was elated to pocket gold at the continental championships, though the warm weather at the time of his 25-lap race denied him a better timing.

“Irrespective of the time, the main goal was to finish first. I am happy to have successfully implemented my race strategy,” Gulveer said here.

“The gold medal will certainly enhance my world ranking and brighten chances to win a ticket to Tokyo World Athletics Champi-



onships in September.”

The automatic qualification in the men's 10,000m is 27 minute.

Due to warm weather conditions, the local organising committee set up a water station during the 10,000m track race.

“I surged ahead in the last lap and shifted top gear at the 200m mark of the race. Had someone pushed me I could have gone faster as I wasn't tired after crossing the finish

line,” Gulveer said.

Earlier in the day, Sebastian claimed India's first medal with a bronze in the men's 20km race walk event, clocking 1 hour 21 minute and 13.60 seconds.

There was disappointment, though, in women's javelin throw with Asian Games gold medallist and national record holder Annu Rani finishing fourth with a below-par effort of 58.30m.

Born to a farmer father at Sirsa village of Atrauli Tehsil in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, Gulveer has been on a national record breaking spree, the last one being the 27:00.22 in 10000m earlier this year. Going into the event as Asian leader this season, Gulveer ran a well calculated race to eventually leave behind his rivals by a fare distance. He was in the leading pack throughout. Towards the end, it was

a contest among the eventual three medal winners.

Just before the last lap, Kibichi was leading with Gulveer closely behind him. But soon, he made his final kick and was well ahead of the other two rivals midway into the last lap.

He had enough fuel in the tank to virtually sprint down the last 100m stretch. Suzuki, the second best Asian so far this season, overtook Kibichi in the end to take the silver.

Gulveer is the third Indian to win the 10000m gold after Hari Chand (1975) and G Lakshmanan (2017).

He also holds the national record in 5000m, in which he is also competing here and would be aiming to better the bronze in the 2023 Asian Championships.

Sebastian's timing was just shy of his personal best of 1:21:23sec, set earlier this year for a gold at the Uttarakhanda National Games in February. China's Wang Zhaozhao (1:20:36.90) and Japan's Kento Yoshikawa (1:20:44.90) won the gold and silver respectively.

Amit, the other Indian in the field, finished fifth with a time of 1:22:14.30.

All the three medal winners in the men's 20km race walk event bettered the championships record of 1:24:42 set by Japanese Yutaro Murayama at the previous edition of the continental meet in 2023 in Bangkok.

Sebastian has been a consistent performer since the beginning of the 2025 season. (PTI)

## Sheoran and Dhanda finish on top in Shotgun National Trials

**NEW DELHI, May 27:** Lakshay Sheoran and Neeru Dhanda finished on top in the men's and women's category respectively in the trap finals of the second shotgun national trials here Tuesday.

Lakshay, who made the cut with a score of 120 in qualification, shot 43 in the finals, a two-shot difference over Jaswinder Singh, who finished second with a score of 41.

In the women's finals, Nationals Games gold medallist Neeru edged Aashima Ahlawat 40-39 to secure the top spot. Olympian Rajeshwari Kumari secured third place with a score of 31 while Bhowneesh Mendiratta finished third in the men's category with a score of 33.

Earlier, in the qualification round, Jungsheer S. Virk shot 119 to qualify for the finals behind Lakshay. National champion Shardul Vihan, Jaswinder Singh, Bhowneesh and Rayyan Rizvi completed the top six with scores of 118, 117, 116 and 116 respectively. Olympians Kynan Chenai (114) and Prithviraj Tondaiman (112) and World Cup finals silver medallist Vivaan Kapoor (113) failed to reach the finals.

In the women's category, Neeru topped the qualification with a score of 115 followed by Preeti Rajak with 114, Aashima Ahlawat with 113, Rajeshwari with 110, Pragati Dubey with 109, and Addya Katyal finished in the top six. (PTI)

# Carlos Alcaraz, Iga Swiatek are off to good starts at the French Open

**PARIS, May 27:** Iga Swiatek, who has struggled lately, and Carlos Alcaraz, who has not, got off to good starts in the French Open title defenses, recording straight-set victories to reach the second round. Swiatek was up first in Court Philippe-Chatrier and defeated 42nd-ranked Rebecca Sramkova 6-3, 6-3. Swiatek compiled 25 winners and 17 unforced errors in the 1-hour, 24-minute contest.

Alcaraz needed only about a half-hour more than that for a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Giulio Zepieri, an Italian qualifier who is ranked 310th. Alcaraz won all 14 of his service games, saving the three break points he faced, at Court Suzanne-Lenglen.

“It was really, really solid,” Alcaraz said. “Really proud about my start.”

Both Swiatek and Alcaraz sat in the Chatrier stands a day earlier to watch the farewell tribute to 14-time champion Rafael Nadal — and both active players wore the rust-colored T-shirts that read “Merci Rafa” distributed to spectators. Swiatek has often talked about her admiration for Nadal; Alcaraz is considered the 22-time Grand Slam champion's heir apparent. “For sure, there were tears,” said Swiatek, who faces 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu next. “It was amazing ceremony, and I'm happy that Roland Garros did this for Rafa. I'm happy that also the whole tennis world had an opportunity to kind of come together and just thank him. ... He's a GOAT, so I'm happy that I was there.”

Alcaraz is seeded No. 2 behind Jannik Sinner — who advanced

Monday night with a 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 victory over 75th-ranked Arthur Rinderknech — and is coming off a clay-court title at the Italian Open a little more than a week ago. Alcaraz beat Sinner in the final there. Monday's result gave Alcaraz 28 wins in his past 30 matches on red clay, including going 7 for 7 a year ago at Roland-Garros. One of the losses came against Novak Djokovic in the gold-medal match at last year's Paris Olympics, held at the same site as the French Open.

Swiatek has slipped to No. 5 in the rankings, her first time out of the top two spots in about three years. She hasn't reached a final at any tournament since collecting her third consecutive championship — and fourth in five years — in Paris in 2024.

The 23-year-old from Poland

extended her French Open unbeaten streak to 22 matches and is trying to become the first woman with four trophies in a row at the tournament in the professional era, which began in 1968. Monica Seles and Justine Henin also won three straight titles at Roland-Garros. Two highly seeded Americans who made career-best runs at the U.S. Open last September bowed out quickly in Paris: No. 4 Taylor Fritz, the runner-up to Sinner in New York, and No. 9 Emma Navarro, a semifinalist at Flushing Meadows.

Fritz lost 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to 66th-ranked Daniel Altmaier of Germany. The big-serving Fritz was broken five times and saw the end of his 15-match Grand Slam winning streak against opponents ranked outside the top 50. (AP)

# Carlsen overcomes world champion Gukesh's challenge in thriller

**STAVANGER (NORWAY), May 27:** World No.1 Magnus Carlsen inflicted a huge blow to reigning World Champion D Gukesh's chances in the opening round of Norway Chess here, showing his endgame expertise to log three full points. In what had been touted as the match of the tournament with the five-time world champion playing against an opponent half his age, Gukesh kept the Norwegian defending champion under pressure for most part of the over four-hour-long game of classical chess before the Indian made a losing mistake and lost in 55 moves.

Following the win, Carlsen earned three points and is in joint lead with American Grandmaster and world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura, who beat American GM Fabiano Caruana. The second Indian in the fray, Arjun Erigaisi defeated China's No.1 Wei Yi in an exciting Armageddon game after the classical game had ended in a draw.

Erigaisi earned 1.5 points from the win, while Wei secured one. The tournament's scoring system gives three points to the winner in the Classical format.

If the Classical game is drawn, the players gain one point each and then play for another half-point in Armageddon. Two-time World Rapid champion Koneru Humpy score a decisive win against R. Vaishali in an all-Indian match-up.

Playing with characteristic calm and precision, Humpy capitalised on her opponent's mistake in the endgame. The Carlsen-Gukesh match went down to the wire, with the Norwegian, playing with the white pieces, pressuring his opponent to make a mistake in the endgame to accurately finished the game in his favour. Carlsen, who hasn't played an individual Classical event in the whole year since winning the Norway Chess 2024 title, was off to a less-promising start, with the Norwegian admitting his decision to play the Jobava London did not work out as planned. “I just realised I don't know anything,”

said Carlsen. The Norwegian tried to unnerve Gukesh with the rarely-applied opening but realised after only a few moves that he was not going anywhere.

In fact, Gukesh, playing with black pieces, had neutralised his opponent's white advantage by the 11th move, when he had the Norwegian thinking for more than 15 minutes. But Carlsen, the five-time world champion who has since moved to shorter formats, such as Rapid and Blitz and, more recently, Freestyle chess, showed he has not lost his touch with the Classical format, winning the contest after 55 engrossing moves.

“I tried to surprise him (with the opening). I responded the way you often do, especially in the first round, in the absolute wussiest way possible,” said the 34-year-old Carlsen. Gukesh later offered a pawn sacrifice, while Carlsen instead steered toward the kind of endgame on which he's built his dominance in the chess world.

“It's still fairly equal, but there's this small imbalance as his pawn structure is a little bit ruined,” said Carlsen after the match.

He felt that Gukesh “did really, really well for a long time (in the game),” and then, when a pawn race developed, the price of a move had suddenly grown exponentially. Asked if it meant a lot for him to beat the reigning world champion, Carlsen downplayed the moment, saying, “Not necessarily, but every win in this tournament is hard to come by, so I'm happy with that.” Earlier, Erigaisi impressed in the first round beating his Chinese opponent Wei Yi in Armageddon after the two had agreed to a draw.

Even as the spotlight was firmly on the match between India's teenage world champion D Gukesh and world No.1 Magnus Carlsen, Erigaisi, ranked No.4 in the world, was the first to take the opening points by beating China's No.1 player Wei in Armageddon after the two had agreed to a draw after 54 moves. (PTI)

# New Brazil coach Ancelotti turns down Neymar and predicts a 'better' Vinicius Júnior

**RIO DE JANEIRO, May 27:** Carlo Ancelotti's first day as Brazil coach included saying “No” to Neymar and a promise to find more improvement from his former Real Madrid striker Vinicius Júnior.

Ancelotti was introduced on Monday at a packed press conference in a Rio de Janeiro hotel, and just to ensure he was under no illusions as to his primary task, he was welcomed by Brazil's last two World Cup-winning coaches, 1994's Carlos Alberto Parreira and 2002's Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Scolari gave Ancelotti a national team jacket and told the first foreigner in a century to coach Brazil full-time, “Just be you, the person you always were, and you will win with Brazil. We all wish you well with Brazil, we will always support you.”

The Italian, contracted to the end of the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mex-



ico, announced his first squad for World Cup qualifiers next week against Ecuador and Paraguay.

Neymar returned to Santos only last week from a muscular injury, and that was too late for the new coach.

“Unfortunately, we have a lot of players who suffered injuries and cannot be in the national team, like Neymar,” Ancelotti said. “Brazil has many talented players, and in Neymar's specific case we are counting on him. He

came back to Brazil to play and prepare for the World Cup. I spoke to him this morning to explain that to him, and he is totally in agreement.”

Ancelotti said Vinicius will grow as a Brazil striker under his management. Vinicius has been criticized by Brazil fans for not reproducing his sterling Real Madrid form in the national team.

“I am totally convinced that Vinicius will show his best version in the national team,” Ancelotti said. Then he joked, “Like Madrid. Not the one of this year, the one of last year.”

Madrid wasn't as good this season as last season, easing Ancelotti's decision to leave the club after 15 trophies in two stints.

Another talking point of his 25-man squad was the recall of midfielder Casemiro after missing out for almost a year and a half.

“The national team needs these players, who have charisma, per-

sonality, talent,” the coach said. “In modern soccer, you have to have also posture, compromise, sacrifice. And Casemiro does have that. As many of those in the squad do. That is key to prepare for the World Cup.”

The 65-year-old Ancelotti charmed about 200 media in the press conference.

On a stellar club career including a record five Champions League titles and national titles in Italy, Spain, France, England and Germany: “After 40 years I still don't know what makes teams win. I know I want players in a comfortable position on the pitch.”

On vacation plans: “I want to enjoy this country. Rio, I don't know yet. I've never been to the Christ Redeemer.”

On the World Cup: “Brazilian society wants me to deliver a first World Cup title after 24 years. I know. What a tall order.” (AP)



# We haven't achieved anything yet: PBKS head coach Ponting

JAIPUR, May 27: Punjab Kings have been on a roll this IPL season but head coach Ricky Ponting feels the side has not achieved anything yet, declaring that a play-off qualification in more than a decade is merely a job half done at this point.

Punjab Kings convincingly thrashed Mumbai Indians by seven wickets to ensure a top two finish in the play-offs and two chances to enter the final of the cash-rich league.

"I think it's pretty obvious to see that this is a really talented team that are all on the same page and heading in the same direction," Ponting told JioHotstar in an interview.

"I mean yeah, it's a great achievement till now but really, if you look back, we haven't achieved anything yet. That's the one thing I've been saying to the players since the moment we qualified," Ponting said.

"The vision for me was always to finish in the top two, and we've got there now. It's a really happy group and we've enjoyed our time in each other's company for the



last ten weeks, but we've got another week to go yet," added the former Australian skipper.

Ponting was effusive in his praise for skipper Shreyas Iyer.

The last time that the Ponting-Iyer duo were coach and captain, it was for the Delhi Capitals and had steered the franchise into its maiden final during the UAE leg in

COVID times.

"I was pretty keen to work with him (Iyer) again. It was pretty obvious that how much money I was willing to spend on him at the auction," Ponting said.

"We had a great working relationship in Delhi, we made a final in Delhi under his captaincy."

Ponting feels players like Iyer make the team environment great.

"I've known him as a person and as a player for a long time. He's a quality person and when you've got quality people around your team, when you're trying to make a difference and you're trying to change culture, that's what you need," he said.

"If you spoke to the players individually, I think every single one of them would give Shreyas a great rap because he has spent a lot of time with them."

"He's pumped them up, he's given them a pat on the back when they needed it, and he's given them a kick in the pants when they've needed it as well, which is a sign of a really good and strong leader."

(PTI)

**The 33-year-old said belief and hard work were key to turning their vision into reality**  
**Surreal feeling but job isn't done yet, says Shashank Singh**



JAIPUR, May 27: Punjab Kings batter Shashank Singh revealed that the team collectively "manifested" a top-two finish after the mini-auction, but emphasised that the job is only half done, with the ultimate goal of winning the IPL trophy this season.

PBKS became the first team to secure a top-two spot and sealed their place in Qualifier 1 with a stunning seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians on Monday.

Often labelled perennial under-achievers, this marks the franchise's first playoff appearance in 11 years.

"It feels surreal," Shashank said at the post-match press conference.

ference.

"The best thing is, obviously, we manifested this as a team - not just individually, but as a unit. Right after the auction, we created a WhatsApp group and talked about winning the title this year. Our first aim was to finish in the top two, and we've cleared that hurdle," he added.

The 33-year-old said belief and hard work were key to turning their vision into reality.

"Manifesting is one thing, believing is another. We worked hard for this, and credit goes to every single individual associated with Punjab Kings. It's not easy

finishing in the top two of the league like the IPL," he added.

"Finishing top two is just half job done. We want to win. On June 4 at 12am when we are sitting in press conference having won the title, I can say that yes we are on top of the world."

While Shashank was among the few players retained ahead of the mega auction, the team underwent a complete overhaul, bringing in Australian legend Ricky Ponting as head coach and Shreyas Iyer as captain.

"The main motto of Ricky sir and Shreyas since day one has been the need to maintain a culture, the need to care for each other, and then the result will take care of itself."

"Ricky has been by far the best coach I've played under. He has changed our mindset and belief, and the credit must go to him for changing our perspective of the game," he added.

PBKS will be without South African pacer Marco Jansen, who has returned to prepare for the World Test Championship final. However, Shashank expressed confidence in the team's bench strength.

"Marco has been an asset. But, we have players like Azmat (Omarzai) and Kyle (Jamieson) who can fill his boots. In all the league games we've played, we've had new heroes, and hopefully we can all come together and win the title," the middle-order batter said. (PTI)

## Tribute to Operation Sindoor at IPL final: BCCI invites all three service chiefs

NEW DELHI, May 27: The BCCI on Tuesday said it has invited all three service chiefs of the Indian armed forces to attend the IPL final on June 3 in Ahmedabad, where the event's closing ceremony will also feature a tribute to their "heroic efforts" during the recent Operation Sindoor.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia made the announcement in a media statement.

"We have extended an invitation to all Indian Armed Forces chiefs top-ranked officers and soldiers for the IPL final in Ahmedabad to celebrate the success of Operation Sindoor," Saikia told PTI on Tuesday.

Saikia said that the BCCI salutes the "bravery, courage, and selfless service" of the country's armed forces.

He lauded the "heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor" which protected and inspired the nation.

"As a tribute, we have decided to dedicate the closing ceremony to the armed forces and honor our heroes. While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country," Saikia said.

While General Upendra Dwivedi is the Chief of Army Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi is the Naval Chief, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh is the Chief of Air Staff.

Operation Sindoor was triggered by the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The retaliatory action led to a brief military showdown between the two arch foes before India agreed to halt its operations on Pakistan's request for a cease fire.

"It's a gracious gesture by the BCCI to invite the three service chiefs as the armed forces have done the country proud during Operation Sindoor. We are forever indebted to our forces for keeping us safe," former BCCI acting president C K Khanna said reacting to the Board's decision. (PTI)



MUMBAI, May 27: Can he play the same way next year?, wondered Steve Waugh as he spoke about India's newest IPL batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, expressing disbelief at the 14-year-old's impeccable timing and advising him to focus on "control" to avoid being a supernova.

The legendary former Australian captain, who doesn't follow the IPL religiously, said Suryavanshi is a "fantastic attraction" but one that needs to be kept grounded for his own good, a thought that has been echoed by multiple followers of the game.

Suryavanshi, playing for Rajasthan Royals, entered history books with a 351-ball century against Gujarat Titans. His 105 came off only 38 balls and was the fastest ton in IPL for any Indian.

"I watched that century and I just couldn't believe how well he struck the ball and how easy he was hitting the sixes and how relaxed he was," Waugh said in a media interaction alongside Anil Kumble, Matthew Hayden and Robin Uthappa on 'Australian Summer of Cricket 2025-26' organised by JioStar, Cricket Australia and the Australian Government.

"As a 14-year-old, he had no concept of pressure...just play with complete freedom, so that was great to watch. I guess for him the challenge will be to keep it under control," he added.

Waugh believes that Suryavanshi, who already has an IPL contract worth over Rs one crore, will be a multi-millionaire "before he is 16 years of age" and would be faced with



the pressures and expectations.

"Can he play the same way with the same enthusiasm, the same freedom as he has done this year? That'll be his challenge," he added.

"He's got a lot of skill, he's mentally tough and he's got a great backstory, so you want to see someone like that be successful. It's a great story for cricket and for me watching from a long way away," Waugh

## Sindhu, Prannoy advance to second round of Singapore Open

SINGAPORE, May 27: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy moved to the second round of the Singapore Open Super 750 tournament with contrasting victories here on Tuesday.

Sindhu made light work of Canada's Wen Yu Zhang to notch a 21-14, 21-9 win in just 31 minutes.

A far tougher challenge awaits the former world champion in the next round, where she will face Tokyo Olympic gold medallist and current world No.5 Chen Yu Fei of China.

World No. 34 Prannoy, meanwhile, had to dig deep for his win. The 32-year-old battled past Denmark's higher-ranked Rasmus Gemke, fighting back from a game down to triumph 19-21, 21-16, 21-14. He will lock horns with France's Christov Popov in the round of 16.

However, it was a disappointing day for the rest of the Indian contingent with Malvika Bansod, Anmol Kharb, Priyanshu Rajawat, and Kiran George all crashing out after suffering defeats in their respective opening round singles matches.

Malvika and Priyanshu both let slip a one-game lead.

Malvika lost 21-14, 18-21, 11-21 to Thailand's eighth seed Supanida Katethong, while Priyanshu fell 21-14, 10-21, 14-21 to seventh-seeded Japanese shuttler Kodai Naraoka in a match that lasted over an hour.

Anmol was outclassed by Chen. The Indian showed grit in the second game before going down



11-21, 22-24.

George, who reached the India Open quarterfinal earlier this year, was defeated by China's Weng Hong Yang 19-21, 17-21, while R. Santhosh Ramraj lost his men's singles opener 14-21, 8-21 to South Korea's Kim Ga Eun.

In mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were beaten 18-21, 13-21 by China's Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi.

Ashith Surya and Amrutha Parmuthesh also bowed out, losing 11-21, 17-21 to Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara. The women's doubles duo of Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh was no match for Korea's Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee, going down 4-21 9-21. (PTI)

## IGU sends four-member team to Hong Kong for APGC Junior Championship

HONG KONG, May 27: The Indian Golf Union (IGU) has sent a four-member team to compete in the prestigious Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC) Junior Championship beginning Tuesday at the Hong Kong Golf Club.

The Indian boys' team comprises Krish Chawla and Ranveer Mitroo and the girls' squad includes Saanvi Somu and Kashika Mishra. The team is accompanied by non-playing captain Komal Narwar.

The three-round championship, which is played in strokeplay format, will take place from May 27 to 29 and have boys individual, boys team, girls individual, girls team and mixed team titles on offer.

Combined scores of boys and girls will be considered for boys and girls team titles whereas best scores among boys and girls from



one team will be added to calculate the mixed team standings.

Talking about his preparations, Chawla said: "My preparation for the APGC Junior Championship has been very good. I practice daily and try to improve my performance every day while noting any mistakes or shortcomings I

may have.

"I expect a positive outcome from the event, and I think it's a great learning experience that will benefit my career and me overall."

Mitroo, who will be participating in the Singapore Junior Championship next and several events in the USA, has been working on his

swing and fine-tuning his short game. He feels that his focused approach will fetch him the desired result in APGC Junior Championship. "Competing in an event like the APGC Juniors is an incredible opportunity to showcase my level of golf against the best in the Asia-Pacific region. It's always a proud feeling to be representing my country."

"The IGU plays a crucial role in the development of golfers in our country. They provide us with opportunities like this to experience higher levels of competition and resources that are essential for our growth," Ranveer said.

Saanvi Somu, who is competing in an international event for the first time, has been focusing on her physical fitness, technical skills and mental game and is hopeful of gaining valuable experience from the tournament. (PTI)

## Iranian wrestler lifts title as 'Dangal' returns to J-K's Ramban after 5 years

RAMBAN (J&K), May 27: Iranian wrestler Ahmad Mirza Puria defeated Bupinder Ajnala from Punjab in a 'Dangal' organised in this hilly district of Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of five years, organisers said. The wrestling competition, held for the first time after COVID-19, saw over 50 wrestlers in action at the event organised by Dangal Committee Chanderkote in collaboration with police and Army, drawing hundreds of enthusiastic sport lovers.

This was the fifth 'Dangal' in the district and attracted athletes from different parts of the country and Iran as well, a member of the organising committee said. Ramban MLA Arjun Singh Raju thanked the organisers especially police officer Majid Ali, and said the event successfully conveyed two messages outside the world that the security situation in the Union territory is peaceful in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent Operation Sindoor to destroy terror infrastructure across the border. (PTI)

## Vaibhav Suryavanshi's challenge will be to keep it under control, feels Steve Waugh

Tendulkar's 114 at a Test in Perth in 1991-92 as an 18-year-old still inspires awe Down Under.

"I don't think you can compare anyone to Sachin Tendulkar. I mean, a 16-year-old (18-year-old) coming out to Australia and scoring a century in Perth on the hardest, (the) most unique pitch in world cricket where most players really struggle to play on a pitch," he said.

"...for him to score a century as a teenager in Perth was a freakish performance. It's very rare you get a Sachin Tendulkar come along. But I would never have expected a 14-year-old to score a 100 in the IPL, that was unthinkable."

"Even right now it's unthinkable. I look back to myself as a 14-year-old and I couldn't contemplate being in that situation and being successful," Waugh added.

One of the most successful Test captains ever, Waugh said Indian teams aren't as "intimidated" while touring Australia now and also enjoy massive support from fans.

"I don't think teams are intimidated like they used to be from away tours. They're so well-travelled and well-experienced and have played a lot of conditions, a lot of experience."

"I don't think playing away from home is the same intimidation factor as it used to be 10 (or) 20 years ago and the fact that India have won two Test series recently in Australia, and also they have probably more crowd support in Australia than Australia has got," he added. (PTI)