

## Good News

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Government of Assam  
Department of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs



**Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma**  
Chief Minister, Assam

Another Stride Towards  
Building a Nourished Society

Addition of  
**5,04,000**

new beneficiaries under  
National Food Security Act

4,000 new beneficiaries in each LAC

Application form submission period

**25 June - 14 July 2025**

Forms available at Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs branch  
in all districts/co-districts and online at [pds.assam.gov.in](http://pds.assam.gov.in)

### Eligibility Criteria



Indian citizens with annual family income of less than ₹4 lakh



**Muster Roll** employees under state government, **Daily Wage Earners**, **Retired Grade IV** employees, **Contractual** employees under Central/ State Government with annual income less than ₹4 lakh

### Success at a Glance



#### Till date

Total beneficiaries | **2,45,00,670**  
Total households | **70,35,508**



#### New Addition in Jan-24 to Dec-24

New beneficiaries | **60,70,926**  
New ration cards issued | **14,14,461**



Total allocation of free rice  
June, July, August – 2025  
**4,05,719.57 MT**

Rate of online distribution of  
free rice through e-PoS device  
June, July, August – 2025

**98.7%**

Distribution of free rice on **Anna Sewa Din** (first 10 days of every month)



Completed application form (Form 'C') along with copies of required documents to be submitted to the office of the **Gaon Panchayat/concerned Municipality/ Municipal Corporation** or in the **Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs branch** in the district/co-district



**For more details  
contact**

- Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs branch in the district / co-district
- Toll – Free numbers **1800-345-3611** and **1800-345-3588** (10:00 am – 5:00 pm)



## Markets trim gains on renewed geopolitical tensions in Middle East

**MUMBAI, June 24:** Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Tuesday gave up most of their sharp intra-day gains due to the emergence of profit-taking as investors turned cautious amid reports of a ceasefire violation between Iran and Israel.

In the morning trade, markets bounced back sharply, mirroring a rally in global peers and a steep decline in crude oil prices amid hopes of a potential de-escalation in the Middle East conflict.

After surging 1,121.37 points or 1.36 per cent to 83,018.16 in intra-day trade, the 30-share Sensex later trimmed most of its gains as reports surfaced of the ceasefire plan faltering. But, the benchmark still managed to settle in the green, climbing 158.32 points or 0.19 per cent to 82,055.11. As many as 2,662 stocks advanced and 1,339 declined while 143 remained unchanged on the BSE. On similar lines, the 50-share Nifty rose 72.45 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 25,044.35. The index fell from an intra-day high of 25,317.70. "Initial gains in the domestic market, driven by the ceasefire announcement and sharp drop in crude prices, were short-lived as renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East unsettled investor sentiment."

"Adding to the uncertainty was heightened volatility due to expiry day dynamics. Although the market attempted to break out of its recent consolidation range, persistent global risks continue to impede momentum," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. From the Sensex constituents, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the biggest gainers. In contrast, Power Grid, Trent, NTPC, Maruti, HCL Tech and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards.

Shares of crude oil sensitive sectors -- oil marketing companies, aviation, paints and adhesives -- jumped on Tuesday after a sharp correction in Brent crude oil prices. The stock of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd jumped 3.24 per cent, Indian Oil Corporation rallied 2.04 per cent and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd went up by 1.92 per cent on the BSE.

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation edged higher by 2.55 per cent and SpiceJet rallied 2.15 per cent. Kansai Nerolac Paints advanced by 1.82 per cent, Shalimar Paints rallied by 1.80 per cent, Asian Paints went up by 0.48 per cent and Indigo Paints (0.38 per cent).

"It turned out to be an eventful day for market participants, as the benchmark index witnessed sharp swings in both directions before finally closing with marginal gains. Initially, sentiment was buoyed by reports of a potential ceasefire between Iran and Israel, along with a sharp decline in crude oil prices."

"However, concerns resurfaced in the latter half following reports of a possible ceasefire violation by Iran, which led to a pullback and erased most of the early gains. Eventually, the Nifty ended with marginal gains," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.71 per cent and the mid-cap index rose 0.54 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, services jumped 2.13 per cent, telecommunication (1.13 per cent), commodities (1.12 per cent), metal (0.96 per cent), financial services (0.81 per cent), bankex (0.72 per cent) and auto (0.62 per cent).

On the other hand, IT, oil & gas, tech and BSE Focused IT were the



laggards. "Indian equity benchmarks pared early gains on Tuesday after fresh geopolitical tensions emerged. Investors are now watching oil prices and geopolitical cues closely. A sustained spike in crude could cap any near-term upside in equities despite otherwise supportive domestic fundamentals," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said. All of the 10 listed Adani group stocks ended higher on Tuesday, with Ambuja Cements surging 4 per cent, on a day when the group conducted its annual general meeting. The Adani Group also plans to invest a record USD 15-20 billion across businesses over the next five years to chart out the next phase of growth, Chairman Gautam Adani said on Tuesday as he touted the conglomerate's strong balance sheet and robust business to shrug off relentless scrutiny it faces.

Meanwhile, Adani Group has raised USD 1 billion from global investors led by New York-based Apollo Global Management to refinance existing debt for its Mumbai airport. Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), a unit which operates India's second largest airport, will use the proceeds to refinance debt raised in 2022, it said in a statement. In another development, London-based Vedanta Resources Limited (VRL), the parent firm of Mumbai-listed mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd, has secured a term loan facility of up to USD 600 million that will be used to refinance a high-cost private credit facility, according to a communication sent to bondholders. (PTI)

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## Trade agreements with US, EU to be concluded soon: Sitharaman

**NEW DELHI, June 24:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said negotiations for the proposed free trade agreements with the US and European Union (EU) are progressing at a fast pace and would be concluded soon.

All efforts are being made to boost exports to achieve the ambitious target of USD 2 trillion by 2030.

India has already signed free trade agreements with the UAE, Australia, and 4-nation EFTA (European Free Trade Association) bloc and negotiations have been completed with the UK, she said adding "with the US and the European Union, negotiations are really intensifying going on and should come to conclusion sooner."

The emphasis now is on concluding more free trade agreements, she said while inaugurating Trade Conclave by India Exim Bank here.

She also mentioned Budget announcements of Export Promotion Mission and Bharat Trade Net, a digital public infrastructure which provides a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions.

The Budget also proposed a National Framework for Global Capability Centres (GCC) to further support services-led growth in emerging tier 2 cities and Trade Facilitation Measures.

Referring to the country's exports, the finance minister said total exports of goods and services reached a record high of USD 825 billion in FY25, achieving 6 per cent growth over previous year.

group-level, revenues grew by 7 per cent, EBITDA by 8.2 per cent, and our net debt-to-EBITDA ratio remained healthy at 2.6x. Total revenues were ₹ 2,71,664 crore and our adjusted EBITDA was ₹ 89,806 crore," he said.

Adani, Asia's second-richest person behind Mukesh Ambani, said the objective of his conglomerate is not to just build businesses -- it is to create new possibilities. "Not just to serve markets -- but to serve our nation's destiny. Not to chase valuation. But build valuation -- brick by brick." "And in this context, our capital investment across businesses is set to break all records. We anticipate an annual capex spend of USD 15-20 billion for the next 5 years. These are not just investments in our group, but investments in the possibilities for doing our part to build India's infrastructure," he said.

Talking of business performance, Adani said the group's electricity generation unit, Adani Power crossed 100 billion units of generation and is on track to reach 31 GW capacity by 2030. Renewable energy arm, Adani Green is building the world's largest renewable energy park at Khavda in Gujarat with a target of 50 GW by 2030. "In fact, when we combine our thermal, renewable and pumped hydro generation capacities, we expect to have a 100 GW capacity by 2030," he said.

The group's electricity transmission unit, Adani Energy Solutions handled smart metering, high-voltage links and secured close to ₹ 44,000 crore in transmission orders and is executing ₹ 13,600 crore worth of smart metering projects. (PTI)

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## Airtel protects over 4 mn users in MP, Chhattisgarh from cyber threats through fraud detection system

**BHOPAL, June 24:** Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said it has safeguarded more than 4 million users across Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh from ever-evolving cyber threats through its AI-powered fraud detection solution.

As part of the nationwide rollout of its AI-powered fraud detection system, Airtel has successfully safeguarded more than 4 million users within 41 days of launching its advanced system, a company release said. Automatically enabled for all Airtel mobile and broadband customers, the advanced system scans and filters links across SMS, WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, Email and other browsers.

It leverages real-time threat intelligence to examine over 1 billion URLs daily and blocks access to harmful sites in under 100 milliseconds, the release said.

"At Airtel, customer safety remains our top priority. We are proud to launch the world's first AI-powered fraud detection solution in Madhya Pradesh - an innovation designed to protect our users from ever-evolving cyber threats. As digital risks continue to grow in scale and complexity, our solution delivers proactive protection embedded directly into the network, at no cost to our customers. "We are confident that this advanced technology will offer robust security and empower our users across both states to engage in the digital world with complete confidence," Ritesh Agrawal, CEO of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Bharti Airtel, said.

A Sai Manohar, ADGP, State Cyber Headquarter, Bhopal, praised Airtel for its effective fraud detection solution, highlighting the significance of collaboration in enhancing digital safety and reducing online harm.

"There is an urgent need to intensify efforts to combat cyber financial frauds and scams. It's possible only through robust fraud prevention strategies and use of AI/ML," he said. (PTI)

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group-level, revenues grew by 7 per cent, EBITDA by 8.2 per cent, and our net debt-to-EBITDA ratio remained healthy at 2.6x. Total revenues were ₹ 2,71,



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

THE HILLS TIMES 3

## Conrad to meet US Ambassador to India to clear air

*'US travel advisory linking Meghalaya with terrorism and violence not correct'*

**SHILLONG, June 24:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Tuesday asserted that the travel advisory issued by the United States linking the state and the northeastern region with terrorism and violence is incorrect, and he would take up the matter with the US Ambassador to India.

Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong also asserted that the state is the safest place in the world for tourists. The US government had recently issued an advisory asking its citizens to reconsider visiting Meghalaya and other northeastern states due to terrorism and violence.

Permission is not required if employees are travelling only to the capital cities of these states, it said.

"The US Embassy has given a completely wrong status to Meghalaya and the North East as a whole. I do not think the notification is correct," Sangma told PTI. The chief minister said he would be meeting the US Ambassador to India in this regard.

"I will be presenting facts and figures to the US Ambassador as well as to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs," he said.

Responding to the advisory, Deputy Chief Minister



Prestone Tynsong said, "It's unfortunate that the US has issued such an advisory. We don't know where they collect their information from to place Meghalaya in that category."

Tynsong, who also holds the Home portfolio, defended the state's record on safety and hospitality.

"Meghalaya is one of the safest places in the world, and people of the state are known for their hospitality," he told PTI. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

*High-level meeting reviews law and order situation in Dhubri post meat recovery*

## 150 arrested, mastermind identified: CM

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 24:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that more than 150 individuals have been arrested in connection with the recent communal unrest in Dhubri district.

Addressing the media during his second visit to the troubled region in just ten days, Sarma also announced that the alleged mastermind behind the violence has been identified.

The tensions in Dhubri erupted after cattle remains were reportedly found near a temple during Eid al-Zuha, sparking widespread disturbances and raising concerns over communal harmony in the sensitive border district.

"The mastermind has been identified. So far, over 150 arrests have been made, and investigations are progressing swiftly," the Chief Minister stated, emphasizing the state government's firm stance



against those inciting communal violence.

Sarma reiterated that shoot-at-sight orders during the night curfew remain in effect, underscoring

the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards any attempt to disrupt public order. He also revealed that the state is in talks with the Indian Army to establish a permanent military base in Dhubri—a move aimed at strengthening long-term security in the volatile area.

"We are in discussions with the appropriate authorities. A permanent army camp in Dhubri would significantly enhance security and help maintain peace," Sarma said. He further added that intelligence and police operations are being intensified across key locations to prevent any recurrence of violence.

Meanwhile, the district administration continues to enforce partial curfews and maintain a heightened security presence in sensitive zones. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## ONGC maintains operational momentum amid adverse weather

**HT Correspondent**

**SIVASAGAR, June 24:** The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) continues to make steady progress in its well control operations at RDS#147A, despite challenging weather and site conditions, according to an official press release issued by the company on Tuesday.

The statement highlighted a major milestone in the ongoing efforts—the successful installation and commissioning of a 200-ton crane with an approximately 80-metre boom.

The crane is now fully operational and playing a vital role in executing critical tasks at the site.

This development marks a significant step forward in the preparatory phase leading up to the well-capping operation.

Ongoing rainfall in the region has necessitated a series of stabilisation and preparatory activities to ensure the safe functioning of the heavy machinery.

ONGC teams reportedly acted promptly to reinforce the location, thereby sustaining operational momentum.

In response to rising water levels in the Dikhow River, the Regional Crisis Management Team (RCMT) relocated key water pump systems to elevated ground.

This move is intended to maintain uninterrupted operations, particularly the essential water blanketing protocol, which continues round-the-clock as a core safety measure.

Furthermore, a gas composition analysis conducted on June 24 confirmed that the discharge from the well is approximately 97 percent methane. ONGC stated that the composition remains within manageable and safe limits, posing no immediate risk to nearby human settlements.

The Corporation reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety, technical precision, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Op Sindoor made clear India's stringent policy against terrorism to world: Modi

**NEW DELHI, June 24:** Asserting that Operation Sindoor has made clear to the world India's stringent policy against terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that his government takes whatever steps are appropriate in national interest.

Weapons manufactured in India showed their impact during the conflict with Pakistan, he said, without naming the country, at an event to mark the centenary celebration of the conversation between spiritual figure and social reformer Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi.

"We have shown that no hideout is safe for terrorists who spill the blood of Indians," he said, adding that his government has worked on the ideals of the revered spiritual figure who wanted a strong India that was free of any dis-



crimination. Modi said his government has, in the past 11 years, worked to make India strong in social, economic and defence sectors.

He said India's reliance on foreign countries to meet its defence needs is declining and it is becoming "aatmanirbhar" in the defence sector.

Indian military brought the enemy to its knees with made-in-India weapons

in 22 minutes, he said of the precision attacks on terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir following the horrific killing of 26 civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22.

The prime minister said he was confident that made-in-India weapons will be fêted across the world in future.

Modi cited his government's welfare schemes in housing, drinking water and health insurance among other fields to assert that these have empowered the deprived and backward sections of society. More number of IITs, IIMs and AIIMS have been opened in the last 11 years than earlier, he said, adding that the country is on the path to becoming the world's third-biggest economy.

He said, "Narayana Guru envisioned a society free from all forms of discrimination." (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Gauhati HC asks Assam govt to train Foreigners Tribunal staff for proper maintenance of records

**GUWAHATI, June 24:** The Gauhati High Court has observed that records related to a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) case were placed in a "haphazard manner" and asked the Assam government to consider training of members and superintendents of these quasi-judicial bodies to maintain such documents properly.

The FTs, exclusive to Assam, are tasked with determining whether individuals suspected of being foreigners are Indian citizens or not.

A bench of justices Kalyan Rai Surana and Malsri Nandi made the observation while hearing a writ petition filed by one Gobinda Saha, who was



declared an "illegal foreigner" by a tribunal in Nagaon, but the high court later set it aside.

The division bench, while examining the documents and records of the FT in the case, found multiple instances of

mislabeling or overlapping of the exhibits, "...all the exhibited documents, with overlapping as indicated hereinbefore, are not found to have been referred and discussed by the learned (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## NFR works to restore Lumding-Badarpur rail connectivity after landslide

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 24:** Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is working tirelessly to restore train services on the Lumding-Badarpur hill section following a major landslide that caused significant disruption.

The landslide blocked the track, leading to the suspension of train operations to ensure the safety of passengers and protect the railway infrastructure.

In response to the situation, a high-level emergency meeting was convened to review the damage and formulate immediate solutions. The meeting was attended by senior officials from NFR, the State Government, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), and other concerned agencies.

The goal of this meeting was to coordinate efforts for clearing the debris and restoring the disrupted rail line as soon as possible.

The landslide, which impacted the critical hill section, presented significant challenges for the



restoration process.

Nevertheless, NFR has mobilised its resources swiftly, deploying heavy machinery, equipment, and skilled manpower to the site. Railway teams are working around the clock to clear approximately 50,000 cubic metres of muck and stones that have accumulated near the railway retaining wall. Of this, an estimated 30,000 cubic metres of debris must be cleared before work on the track can begin.

While the restoration work is ongoing, train services on the affected section remain suspended for the safety of passengers.

Continuous joint monitoring and coordinated efforts are underway, with senior railway officials from the Lumding Division and Headquarters actively overseeing the restoration operations.

NFR has assured the public that train services will return to normal as soon as the track is cleared and safety can be guaranteed.

Until the track is fully restored, several trains will be either cancelled or partially cancelled.

The list of affected trains includes those departing on June 24, 25, and 27, 2025, including the Rangiya-Silchar Express, Silchar-Rangiya Express, and Guwahati-Silchar Express, along with a number of other key services.

Passengers are advised to stay informed through official communication channels for updates on train services and restoration timelines.

In addition to the train cancellations, partial cancellations have also been announced for several trains. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Conserving three major waterbodies in Goalpara aimed at 'salvaging' damage already caused: Himanta

**GOALPARA, June 24:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said the government's initiatives to conserve three major waterbodies or 'beels' in Goalpara district are aimed at restoring ecological balance and salvaging past damage caused by widespread encroachment.

He said people who had encroached the waterbodies should not be blamed, as they were 'invited' by some politicians to settle in these areas.

Talking to reporters after reviewing the situation of Hasila beel, where an eviction drive was carried out last week, Sarma said, "The Cabinet has already decided to notify Hasila beel and Urpud beel as Proposed Reserve Forest (PRF). The same will be done for Kumri beel. Within three months, we will take public opinion and work on declaring these as PRFs."

Sarma also directed the tourism department to prepare a master plan to develop tourism prospects around these ecologically important areas.

"I reviewed the situation here today. We will need people's cooperation. Two other beels have been encroached upon, and it will be cleared," Sarma said.

He said that encroachers will be 'requested to leave', while the government will buy land from those

who are legal settlers and have land ownership documents.

The CM claimed that encroachment in these areas is new, and when illegal settlements started can be determined through satellite imagery. "We have to first know where the encroachers came from. You can see that these houses are 12-15 years old. We will facilitate their return to their original place. For those who are landless, it is a different matter," he said.

"We need to understand the geography and history of every person. Our aim is not people, but to protect the beels. We won't allow encroachment," he asserted.

He maintained that some issues have to be resolved through eviction, while some can be done through negotiations.

"If encroachers come for talks, we will listen to them. We are always accessible. Even today, some people here greeted me with 'gamosa' and I accepted it. People don't dislike me, I am always available for them," he said.

The CM said encroachers are "not to be blamed", claiming they were invited by some politicians to settle in the ecologically sensitive zones. Asked about Rakhyasini hill, which is already an RPF but has been encroached massively, the chief minister said, "It is an old issue and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## 'Business of throwing beef has to stop, else there may be retaliation'

**GOALPARA, June 24:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma asserted on Tuesday that the "business" of throwing beef in various places should stop, else it could lead to others placing pork in different areas in retaliation.

He asserted that the government doesn't want anything of this sort to happen and there should not be a "fight" over such matters.

"We have to stop these people from this business of throwing beef, else others will start placing pork at different places," Sarma said when asked for his reaction to recent incidents of beef and cow parts being allegedly thrown near Hindu religious places and other areas in different parts of the state.

"Those who are doing it should understand that if Hindus don't like one form of meat, the Muslims also do not prefer another type...if beef is thrown in front of temples and 'namghars' (Vaishnavite place of worship), what will they do if pork is placed in front of mosques?" he asked. There should not be fights over these things, Sarma said.

"We don't want any of it to happen. These places should be kept vegetarian, it is good for the health of the people also," Sarma added.

On June 8, Sarma had said that several cattle were allegedly slaughtered illegally at several places during the Bakrid festival and parts of the meat were thrown at multiple locations across Assam. (PTI)

## Portable kit enables on-site detection in minutes; to be deployed in high-risk states

## NIV develops rapid Nipah test kit

**NEW DELHI, June 24:** India will now be able to detect the Nipah virus within minutes as the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has developed a portable 'point-of-care' test kit for detecting the virus.

This kit can provide instant results even outside laboratory settings and will be deployed soon in high-risk areas like Kerala and West Bengal, Dr Naveen Kumar, the director of NIV, said.

"We have developed a LAMP-based portable kit for quick and reliable detection of the Nipah virus. It provides results in just a few minutes without the need for a laboratory. The kit has also been patented," Dr Kumar said.

The Nipah virus primarily spreads through fruit bats and has caused several outbreaks in India.

With a mortality rate exceeding 50 per cent, it is one of the most lethal viral diseases.

In India, the capability to culture the Nipah virus exists only at NIV



Pune, where genomic analysis, vaccine development, and drug testing are also carried out, said Dr Pragya Yadav, senior scientist at NIV.

The NIV is working with a pharma company and research partners to develop monoclonal antibodies to treat Nipah. Additionally, the institute is also working on an indigenous vaccine for the Nipah virus, which is expected to enter trial phases in the coming years.

According to data, the Nipah virus samples found in India so far belong to the 'Genotype B' category, seen in both Bangladesh and India, Dr Kumar said.

This variant spreads rapidly and causes severe symptoms, whereas the Malaysian variant (Genotype M) is comparatively less infectious. Over the past decade, most Nipah virus cases in India have been reported from Kerala and

West Bengal, he said. The NIV has set up specialised labs and monitoring systems in these states to enable early detection and containment, Dr Kumar added.

From 1998 to 2018, more than 700 cases were reported across India, Malaysia, and Bangladesh.

The first case in India was recorded in West Bengal in 2001, with a 74 per cent fatality rate. The 2007 outbreak in the same region saw a 100 per cent fatality rate.

Data shows that the first Nipah case in India emerged in 2001 in West Bengal. The state saw the second outbreak in 2007. The third major outbreak occurred in Kerala in 2018, resulting in 16 deaths. Since then, Kerala has seen many outbreaks, with 19 fatalities in total.

Dr Yadav, who has led six to seven studies on Nipah infection in India, revealed that antibody surveys found Nipah virus antibodies in 20 per cent of bats across nine states and one Union Territory, indicating prior exposure to the virus. (PTI)

## CM visits proposed site for 3,400 MW thermal power plant in Bilasipara

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 24:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday visited the proposed site for a 3,400 MW thermal power plant at Chirakuta Charuwa Bakra in Bilasipara Co-District under Dhubri district, as part of the state government's broader push to achieve self-reliance in power generation.

According to an official statement, the Chief Minister inspected the land, measuring 3,300 bighas, 2 kathas, and 15 lechas, to assess its suitability for the major power generation project.

During his visit, Sarma reviewed various technical and geographical aspects of the location

and interacted with local residents. He assured those legally residing on the proposed site of proper compensation and rehabilitation as per government provisions.

Highlighting the government's long-term energy strategy, the statement noted that Assam's power demand is projected to reach approximately 5,000 MW by 2030 and around 7,000 MW by 2035. In anticipation of this rising demand, the state aims to position itself as a regional hub for thermal power generation.

To this end, the Assam Cabinet, in its meeting held on May 5, 2025, approved the Assam Thermal Power Generation Project Promotion Policy 2025, which is

aimed at attracting significant private and public sector investment in the thermal power sector.

As per the policy, the 3,400 MW thermal plant is planned to be established at the Bilasipara site, with the tendering process expected to commence soon.

Speaking at the site, the Chief Minister stated that the upcoming plant is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, especially for the local youth. He also appealed to the people of the region to extend their cooperation for the successful execution of the project. Assam Chief Secretary Dr Ravi Kota accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*Heaven lent you a soul, Earth will lend a grave*  
—Christian Nestell Bovee

## Upsurge in military expenditure

There is an upsurge in military expenditure all over the world which is spearheaded by the upsurge in Europe. Of course there are different estimates of military expenditure, depending on what one includes under this heading. We shall, in what follows, take the estimates of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) for our analysis. According to SIPRI, while there has been an increase in real military spending each year for the last ten consecutive years, the increase in this spending in 2024 over the previous year, at 9.4 per cent, was the highest annual increase for any year since the end of the Cold War. The total global military expenditure in 2024 was as much as \$ 2.718 trillion. One can think of two obvious reasons behind this upsurge: the first is that the metropolitan empire led by the US is coming under increasing challenge, especially with the crisis of neoliberal capitalism that set in with the collapse of the housing bubble in the US; the second is the fact that the US is no longer willing to meet the lion's share of the burden of military spending for maintaining this empire, but would like its European partners to take over a part of this burden. With the aggressive increase in military spending by the imperialist powers because of these reasons, other countries have also been under pressure to increase their military spending in real terms, so that they do not get rolled over by the imperialist juggernaut.

A word on each of these two reasons is in order. A number of countries which either had no serious current account deficits on the balance of payments before the crisis, or had deficits but could finance them through financial inflows, found themselves in distress after the crisis; and the situation became even worse for them after the onset of the pandemic. Their current account deficits widened as export markets shrank; and the inflow of finance dried up in anticipation of repatriation difficulties. They were engulfed in a debt crisis. A similar fate befell many countries in an even more accentuated form after the pandemic. These developments caused a disillusionment with the neoliberal international arrangement imposed on the world by imperialist powers led by the US. At the same time China, which had shown remarkably high growth rates, stimulated initially at least by the relocation of activities from the metropolitan centres under the aegis of metropolitan capital itself, and which had robust current account surpluses, came forward to provide some succour to such distressed and not-so-immediately-distressed countries. This has posed a serious challenge to the hegemony of imperialism, against which it wants to strengthen its capacity for military intervention.

Simultaneously, the US wants to offload some of its military expenditure onto other imperialist countries in the wake of the crisis, just as it is resorting to tariffs to ward off the effects of the crisis on its own economy through "beggar-thy-neighbour" policies. Such offloading raises the overall military expenditure of the imperialist world as a whole, as Europe, which was partially at least under the US military umbrella, now undertakes larger military expenditure of its own.

## Why Trump isn't a peacemaker

Donald Trump's political career, spanning his first presidential term (2017-2021), his post-presidency activities, and his current second term (2025), presents a complex and polarizing legacy. While his supporters view him as a bold leader who prioritizes American interests, his critics argue that his policies, rhetoric, and actions have consistently sown division, instability, and conflict both domestically and internationally. Far from being a peacemaker, Trump's approach to leadership has often exacerbated tensions, undermined diplomatic efforts, and fueled confrontations. This article examines Trump's record, with a particular focus on his first and current terms, including recent tensions involving Iran, to argue that his actions align more with conflict than with peace.

During his first term, Trump's "America First" policy defined his approach to foreign relations. While intended to safeguard American economic and security interests, this doctrine often strained relationships with allies and adversaries alike. One of the most significant examples was his decision to withdraw the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, in 2018. The JCPOA, negotiated under the Obama administration, aimed to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief, fostering a fragile but functional framework for regional stability. Trump's withdrawal, coupled with the reimposition of stringent sanctions, destabilized this arrangement. Iran responded by resuming uranium enrichment, escalating tensions in the Middle East. The 2020 assassination of Qassem Soleimani, a top Iranian military commander, ordered by Trump, further inflamed the situation. Iran vowed retaliation, and the region teetered on the brink of open conflict. These actions undermined diplomatic pathways and prioritized confrontation over negotiation, casting doubt on Trump's commitment to peace.

In his current second term, which began in 2025, Trump's approach to Iran has continued to reflect this hardline stance. Recent developments indicate a persistence of aggressive policies. In early 2025, the Trump administration announced new economic sanctions targeting Iran's oil and financial sectors, citing concerns over its nuclear activities and support for proxy groups in the region. While specific details of a direct Iranian attack remain unclear, reports of skirmishes involving Iran-backed militias and U.S. or Israeli forces in the Middle East have heightened fears of escalation. For instance, tensions between Israel and Iran's proxies, such as Hezbollah, have intensified, with U.S. military support for Israel further



complicating the situation. Trump's unwavering backing of Israel, including increased military aid in 2025, has been perceived by Iran as provocative, reducing the prospects for de-escalation. Rather than pursuing diplomatic channels to address these tensions, Trump's policies have leaned toward economic pressure and military posturing, reinforcing a cycle of hostility that undermines peace.

Trump's supporters often cite his engagement with North Korea during his first term as evidence of his peacemaking efforts. His historic summits with Kim Jong-un in 2018 and 2019 marked the first time a sitting U.S.

president met with a North Korean leader. However, these meetings yielded no concrete agreements on denuclearization or lasting peace. Trump's earlier rhetoric, including referring to Kim as "Rocket Man" and threatening "fire and fury," had already raised the specter of conflict. In his current term, there has been little progress on North Korea. The absence of new diplomatic initiatives and the continuation of sanctions without meaningful dialogue suggest that Trump's approach remains more symbolic than substantive. His willingness to oscillate between bellicose threats and high-profile but inconclusive summits highlights a lack of consistent strategy for fostering peace.

Trump's foreign policy has often strained alliances critical to global stability. During his first term, he frequently criticized NATO allies, demanding increased defense spending and questioning the alliance's relevance. This approach alienated key partners like Germany and France, weakening the cohesion of a bloc designed to maintain peace through collective security. In his current term, similar tensions persist. Trade disputes with the European Union, including tariffs imposed in 2025, have strained transatlantic relations. These actions prioritize unilateral-

ism over multilateral cooperation, creating friction that undermines the international frameworks necessary for peace. Even relations with close allies like Canada have faced challenges, as trade renegotiations in 2025 have sparked economic disputes. By prioritizing American interests at the expense of alliances, Trump's policies foster division rather than unity.

Domestically, Trump's leadership has also contributed to division and unrest, further challenging the notion of him as a peacemaker. His first term saw heightened social and racial tensions, particularly following the 2020 killing of George Floyd. The nationwide protests that followed demanded justice and systemic reform, but Trump's response—emphasizing "law and order" and deploying federal forces to quell demonstrations—escalated tensions. His rhetoric, often perceived as dismissive of systemic racism, deepened societal divides. The January 6, 2021, Capitol riot, fueled by Trump's claims of a stolen election, remains a stark example of how his words incited violence. In his current term, domestic polarization continues. His 2025 immigration policies, including mass deportation plans, have sparked protests and legal challenges, creating further social unrest. By framing issues in adversarial terms, Trump's leadership fosters conflict rather than reconciliation within the United States.

Trump's communication style has consistently amplified division. His use of social media, particularly during his first term, was marked by inflammatory rhetoric that targeted opponents, marginalized groups, and even allies. Posts on platforms like Twitter (now X) often escalated political and cultural tensions. In his current term, Trump's presence on social media remains a source of controversy. His 2025 posts criticizing political opponents and media outlets have

fueled partisan animosity. This rhetoric, combined with his combative tone at rallies, undermines efforts to build consensus or promote unity. A peacemaker seeks to bridge divides, but Trump's approach thrives on polarization, making conflict more likely.

Environmental policy offers another lens through which to evaluate Trump's legacy. During his first term, his withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017 signaled a rejection of global cooperation on climate change, a pressing issue with implications for peace. Climate-induced resource scarcity and displacement can exacerbate conflicts, yet Trump's policies prioritized deregulation over sustainability. In his current term, this trend continues. The 2025 rollback of environmental protections and expansion of fossil fuel projects reflect a disregard for international climate commitments. By sidelining global efforts to address a shared challenge, Trump's actions contribute to long-term instability rather than peace.

Supporters point to initiatives like the Abraham Accords, signed in 2020, as evidence of Trump's peacemaking credentials. These agreements normalized relations between Israel and several Arab states, including the UAE and Bahrain. However, they sidelined the Palestinian issue, leaving a core driver of Middle East conflict unresolved. In 2025, the lack of progress on Israeli-Palestinian peace, coupled with ongoing tensions involving Iran's proxies, suggests that the accords have not translated into broader regional stability. While a diplomatic achievement, their limited scope and failure to address underlying issues diminish their impact as a foundation for lasting peace.

Trump's record, from his first term to his current presidency, reveals a pattern of actions that prioritize confrontation over cooperation. His withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and assassination of Soleimani set the stage for ongoing tensions, which his 2025 policies have exacerbated through new sanctions and military support for Israel. His engagement with North Korea, while bold, lacked substance, and his current term shows no significant progress. His strained relations with allies, divisive domestic policies, and inflammatory rhetoric have deepened global and national divides. Even his environmental policies undermine the collective efforts needed to prevent climate-driven conflicts. While Trump's supporters celebrate his unapologetic nationalism, his critics see a leader whose actions consistently undermine peace. The evidence suggests that Donald Trump is not a peacemaker but a source of conflict, whose legacy is defined by division rather than unity.

## Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas: Black chapter in Indian Democracy

By: Diganta Barooah

The Government of India officially decided to observe 25th June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' (Constitution Assassination Day). The day serves as a poignant reminder of the period when the Constitution of India was undermined, particularly during the Emergency imposed in 1975.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah said that on June 25th, 1975, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in a brazen display of a dictatorial mindset, strangled the soul of our democracy by imposing the Emergency on the nation. Lakhs of people were thrown behind bars for no fault of their own, and the voice of the media was silenced. The Government of India has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'. This day will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency.

Union Home Minister said that the decision made by the government led by PM Narendra Modi is intended to honour the spirit of millions who struggled to revive democracy despite facing inexplicable persecution at the hands of an oppressive government. The observance of 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defense of our democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing any dictatorial force from repeating those horrors.

The Prime Minister of India emphasised that this day will pay homage to all those who suffered from the excesses of the Emergency. It serves as a tool for educating citizens about their rights and the significance of the Constitution in protecting democracy.

The Emergency was a period from 25th June 1975 to 21st March 1977, when then PM Indira Gandhi's government used special provisions in the Constitution to impose significant executive and legislative changes in the country.

The declaration of Emergency centralises power, allowing the Union to direct state governments, bringing them under the complete control of the Centre, effectively creating a unitary system. India has declared a National Emergency three times. The first was from 1962 to 1968 during the India-China war, the second was in 1971 during the Indo-Pakistan war, and the third was from 1975 to 1977 due to political instability.

"Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas" is a mark of honour to millions of people who struggled to revive democracy. Amit Shah 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to safeguard democracy and keep alive the immortal flame of individual liberty in every Indian. In a move that shook the nation, then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of Emergency on June 25th, 1975, which lasted for 21 months. This decision, announced in a broadcast on All India Radio, came shortly after the Supreme Court granted a conditional stay on the Allahabad High Court verdict, declaring Gandhi's election to the Lok Sabha null and void. The Supreme Court also asked Gandhi

to stay away from parliamentary proceedings. Gandhi justified the Emergency by citing a "deep and widespread conspiracy" against her government. During this period, civil liberties were suspended, and the government imposed strict censorship on the press. The Emergency also witnessed the centralization of power and the mass arrest of opposition leaders, including Jayaprakash Narayan, L K Advani, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Morarji Desai. These actions were met with widespread criticism and protests, both domestically and internationally.

On 25th June, 1975, the spirit of Indian democracy was strangled to death by imposing Emergency and millions of people were unreasonably put behind bars.

During Emergency, the dictator got subjected people to innumerable tortures and muzzled the voice of media.

After the Emergency was declared on June 25th, 1975, there was "gross abuse of power... and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities". The people of

government.

**1971:** Political opponent Raj Narain lodges complaint of electoral fraud against Indira Gandhi.

**June 12, 1975:** Allahabad High Court found Gandhi guilty over discrepancies in the electoral campaign.

**June 24, 1975:** Supreme Court rules that MP privileges no longer apply to Gandhi. She is barred from voting but allowed to continue as Prime Minister.

**June 25, 1975:** Declaration of Emergency by president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on the advice of Indira Gandhi.

**June 26, 1975:** Indira Gandhi addresses the nation on All India Radio.

**September 1976:** Sanjay Gandhi initiates mass forced sterilization program in Delhi.

**January 18, 1977:** Indira Gandhi calls for fresh elections and releases all political prisoners.

**March 23, 1977:** Emergency officially comes to an end.

The political landscape during Emergency



India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy.

**(1975-1977):** The third and most controversial national emergency was declared in 1975, primarily due to "internal disturbance" amidst internal political unrest. This period witnessed a significant suspension of civil liberties.

Constitution (39th Amendment) Act, 1975 was enacted in response to the Allahabad High Court's ruling declaring PM Indira Gandhi's election void. The Act placed disputes involving the president, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Speaker beyond the judiciary's scope and included certain Central Acts in the Ninth Schedule.

**1975 Emergency: Timeline of Key Events:**

**January 1966:** Indira Gandhi elected prime minister.

**November 1969:** The Congress splits after Gandhi is expelled for violating party discipline.

**1973-75:** Surge in political unrest and demonstrations against the Indira Gandhi-led

gency in 1975:

The Emergency period was marked by various political movements and events, including the Navnirman agitation in Gujarat, Jayaprakash Narayan's movement in Bihar, and the Railway strike led by George Fernandes. These events, along with the Allahabad High Court's judgment declaring Gandhi's election void, created an atmosphere of instability and unrest in the country.

**1975 Emergency: Economic Development and Controversies:**

While Gandhi's government claimed that the Emergency was necessary for economic development and political stability, it was also marked by controversies. Forced sterilization drives, spearheaded by Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi, raised humanitarian concerns. The period also saw slum clearance programs and other initiatives that were criticized for their authoritarian nature.

**End of the Emergency:**

In a surprising turn of events, Gandhi called for elections on January 18, 1977, and released all political prisoners. The general

elections were held between March 16 and March 20, and the Emergency was officially lifted on March 21, 1977. This marked the end of one of the darkest chapters in India's history post-independence.

"The President has proclaimed the Emergency. This is nothing to panic about. I am sure you are all aware of the deep and widespread conspiracy, which has been brewing ever since I began to introduce certain progressive measures of benefit for the common man and woman in India," said Indira Gandhi in her address to the nation announcing the Emergency. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the most brutal assault on the Indian Constitution post-independence, which lasted until 21st March 1977. Indira Gandhi strangled Indian democracy by imposing the Emergency. The actions that followed were a brutal assault on the Indian Constitution. When leaders from the Opposition parties were imprisoned by the Indira government—except for the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Muslim League, who supported her—it was primarily the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), aided by the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, that led both the underground and overground movement to restore democracy. The RSS was banned by Indira Gandhi during the Emergency, and Sarsangchalak Balasaheb Deoras, along with most of its functionaries, was jailed. However, a substantial number escaped and ran an underground movement that the world watched with awe.

The Indian press was already facing the brunt of censorship. Those who were ready to propagate the Congress propaganda were allowed to publish, while those who didn't toe the line were crushed. Journalists like K.R. Malkani, editor of the RSS-inspired weekly Organiser, were even sent to jail and many remained incarcerated throughout the Emergency. In fact, Malkani was the first person to be arrested during the Emergency. He was arrested from his Pandara Road residence at 2:30 am on the morning of 26th June, 1975.

The Economist published an article titled 'Yes, there is an Underground' on 24th January 1976. It said, "In formal terms, the underground is an alliance of four opposition parties: the Jana Sangh, the Socialist Party, the breakaway faction of the Congress Party and the Lok Dal. But the shock troops of the movement come largely from the Jana Sangh and its affiliate RSS, which claim a combined membership of 10 million (of whom 80,000, including 6,000 full-time party workers, are in prison)."

The Guardian published a report on 2nd August, 1976 that gave a clear picture of how many RSS workers had crossed over the border to Nepal and were running the underground movement from there as well.

The crackdown machinery led by the then Union Home Minister felt frustrated about the way the RSS was hitting hard at the anti-democratic forces. Titled The Empress Reigns Supreme (2nd August, 1976), it said, "Reports from Kathmandu say that the Nepalese government has rejected appeals from the Indian police to arrest and intern members of the Indian underground."

"A source close to the Nepalese embassy said that Kathmandu will never hand over to the Indian government members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), banned by the Gandhi regime shortly after the promulgation of the Emergency," the article stated.

It further added, "The RSS continues to be active all over India," Brahmanand Reddy, the Indian Home Minister, said recently. "It has even extended its tentacles to far-off Kerala in the south."

The foreign press also exposed the anti-RSS propaganda of the Indira government. Anthony Lukas wrote an article titled India as Indira Does in The New York Times Magazine, published on 4th April, 1976. Lukas wrote, "The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, commonly known as the RSS, are a tightly disciplined band of volunteers between the ages of 12 and 21, but they can hardly be called 'troops'. Pictures of material seized from the RSS offices after the Emergency primarily show long wooden staves and wooden swords. I asked Om Mehta, a Minister of State in the Home Ministry, about this and he replied vaguely. 'There were some metal swords too.' Even with some metal swords, I asked, how could boys with staves pose much of a threat to a superbly equipped army of about one million men, the Border Security Force of about 85,000, the Central Reserve Police of about 57,000 and some 7.55,000 state policemen?"

"Well," Mehta said, "there were undoubtedly some rifles." "Did you seize any?" I asked. "No," he said. "But they probably kept them at home. Don't underestimate these people's capacity for mischief!"

Satyavani, an underground journal published and distributed during the Emergency, reproduced a report by The Economist titled 'The Opposition Wins Friends'. This report was reprinted on 26th January, 1977 in Satyavani, and it said, "The underground campaign against Mrs Gandhi claims to be the only non-left-wing revolutionary force in the world, disavowing both bloodshed and class struggle... It is dominated by the Jana Sangh and the RSS but its platform at the moment has only one non-ideological plank — to bring back democracy to India."

This report gives an indication of how the RSS was mobilising cadres and common people at the ground level, unperturbed by government excesses and the brutal targeting of its leadership and cadres. The report elaborates, "The ground troops of this operation consist of tens of thousands of cadres who are organised down to the village level into four-man cells. Most of them are RSS regulars... the other opposition parties which started out as partners in the underground have effectively abandoned the field to the Jana Sangh and the RSS. The function of the RSS cadre network... is mainly to spread the anti-Gandhi word. Once the ground is prepared and political consciousness raised, so the leaders are ready, any spark can set off the revolutionary prairie fire." (The writer can be reached at 7002699011 or digantaraju@gmail.com)



## Mass joining signals BJP's growing foothold in hill district ahead of polls

# Over 1,400 opposition workers join BJP in West Karbi Anglong



**HT Correspondent**

**KHERONI, June 24:** In a major political development, more than 1,400 workers from opposition parties, including the Congress and the All Party Hill Leaders Conference (APHLC), joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during a rally at Hawaipur Higher Secondary School Playground in West Karbi Anglong on Tuesday.

The event, jointly organised by

the BJP's Amrengh and Kapili Mandal Committees, was attended by Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Chief Executive Member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang, who formally welcomed the new members.

The rally witnessed a turnout of over 5,000 supporters.

Addressing the gathering, Ronghang called for unity among all communities to ensure peace and

inclusive development in the region.

He announced plans to build a community hall and stage at the rally venue and highlighted upcoming infrastructure projects in the Amrengh and Kapili constituencies under BJP rule.

Pawan Kumar, Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) from 7 No. Kapili, and Executive Member Rina Terangpi of 09 No. Amrengh

constituency, praised Ronghang's leadership and the BJP government's welfare and development initiatives.

The rally was also attended by Lok Sabha MP Amarsing Tisso, MLAs Bidya Sing Englang (Diphu), Dorsing Ronghang (Howraghat), and Rupsing Teron (Baithalango), along with KAAC Executive Members, MACs, Board Chairmen, former MAC Chandra Bahadur Chettri, and BJP district office bearers.

BJP West Karbi Anglong District President Radip Ronghang and other senior leaders were present.

Speaking to the media, CEM Ronghang said the opposition's influence in the hills was diminishing and predicted further defections to the BJP in the coming days.

The mass induction is seen as a significant boost for the BJP ahead of upcoming political challenges in the region.

## Massive protest in Sonapur demands justice for murdered worker Deboraham Ronghang

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, June 24:** In a massive outpouring of public anger and collective demand for justice, the Karbi Cultural Society (KCS), supported by as many as 35 ethnic national organisations, staged a large-scale protest rally in Sonapur on Tuesday.

The rally was organised in response to the alleged murder of Deboraham Ronghang, a young man from Korkhanti village in Karbi Anglong, who was reportedly killed near the premises of the GM Coke Factory in Bymihat, Meghalaya, on June 7, 2025.

Ronghang, who was employed at the GM Coke Factory, was allegedly assaulted by the factory manager Manab Roy and several other workers under circumstances that are still under investigation.

According to accounts from community members and eyewitnesses, the assault led to serious injuries, and the victim succumbed due to delayed medical attention.

His death has sparked widespread outrage, particularly among indigenous communities, who have long expressed concerns over the growing threat posed by unregulated industrial expansion in the region.

The protest march, which began in the morning and continued till afternoon, culminated at the office of the District Administration in Sonapur, where the demonstrators submitted a memorandum ad-

dressed to the Chief Minister of Assam. Throughout the march, demonstrators held placards and shouted slogans condemning what they termed as 'state negligence and industrial apathy' that they believe contributed directly to the death of Deboraham Ronghang.

The GM Coke Factory, already facing allegations of labour and environmental violations, is now at the centre of heightened ethnic tensions in the area.

KCS general secretary Sunil Tokbi, who spearheaded the rally along with KCS secretary (in-charge of organisation) Bhubon Tokbi, KCS secretary (in-charge of music and culture) Dilip Bey, and KCS secretary (in-charge of literature) Daniel Bey, addressed the gathering and called the incident a tipping point in the community's long-standing struggle against exploitative industrial activities.

They criticised the failure of authorities to take swift and effective action, even after the grievous nature of the allegations surfaced. Tokbi, in a strongly worded statement, said, "We will not be silenced. We have lost a promising young life. We will not rest until justice is delivered."

He also demanded the immediate intervention of the Chief Minister of Assam, stating that any delay in addressing the issue would only escalate the unrest.

The protestors, he said, were unified in their resolve and pre-

pared to intensify the movement if the government failed to act on their demands.

In the memorandum submitted to the administration, the organisations raised four key demands.

They called for an immediate and impartial investigation into the murder of Deboraham Ronghang and the arrest of all those involved.

They also urged the state government to officially recognise Ronghang as a martyr and confer suitable honours in his memory.

A demand was made for appropriate government compensation to the bereaved family, acknowledging both the personal loss and the industrial negligence that allegedly led to his death.

Finally, the memorandum sought the closure of the GM Coke Factory if it was found to be operating outside the legal framework or violating human rights.

The incident has reignited concerns over the rapid industrialisation in the Assam-Meghalaya border areas, where several factories have come under fire for violating safety norms and for alleged exploitation of workers, many of whom come from indigenous and economically vulnerable communities.

The protest in Sonapur has, therefore, become not just a call for justice for one individual, but a broader cry for accountability, regulation, and respect for the rights of the region's native populations.

## Six-year-old girl found dead in Bokajan pond

**HT Correspondent**

**BOKAJAN, June 24:** The body of a six-year-old girl was recovered from a pond in Amarjan under Bokajan subdivision on Tuesday, triggering shock and suspicion in the locality. The deceased child was the daughter of Suraj Puri and Sunita Puri, residents of a rented accommodation in the area.

According to initial reports, the girl was reported missing around noon, prompting an immediate search by family members and locals. The body was later spotted floating in a nearby pond.

Police were informed and arrived at the scene to initiate necessary procedures.

The body was sent to Diphu for a post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death.

The parents of the deceased have raised suspicion over the possible involvement of the child's maternal uncle, identified as Ranjit Basumatary, who has reportedly been missing since the incident.

Police have launched a search operation to trace Basumatary, who remains absconding at the time of filing this report.

A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

## VARTALAP regional media workshop held in Kokrajhar

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, June 24:** The VARTALAP Regional Media Workshop on the theme 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amrit Kaal: 11 Years of Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan' was held on Tuesday at NTPC Bongaigaon, Salakati, in Kokrajhar district.

The event was jointly organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Guwahati, and NTPC Bongaigaon, and witnessed the participation of over 50 media professionals from Kokrajhar and Chirang districts of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

The workshop commenced with opening remarks by Pavi Gupta, deputy director, PIB Guwahati, who underlined the media's pivotal role in communicating government initiatives and welfare programmes to the public.

She highlighted the importance of regional media in bridging the information gap and amplifying development narratives.

Lok Sabha MP from Kokrajhar, Joyanta Basumatary, graced the event as Chief Guest.

In his address, he reflected on the nation's developmental journey over the past 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He emphasised the government's focus on inclusive governance, poverty alleviation, and transformative public service delivery, reiterating the vision for a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

Executive Member of BTR, Wilson Hasda, in his inaugural address, spoke about various youth welfare initiatives being implemented by the BTR government.

He stressed the need to empower young people through education, skill development, and active participation in the region's progress.

Welcoming the attendees, Arnab Maitra, head of project, NTPC Bongaigaon, shared an overview of NTPC's contributions to regional growth and development.

He outlined the organisation's commitment to sustainable progress and corporate social responsibility in the local communities.

KM Prashanth, General Manager (Corporate Communications), NTPC, spoke on the strategic role of communication in nation-building and shared insights into NTPC's public engagement efforts.

Ankur Lahoty, Head of the Regional News Unit, Doordarshan News Assam, delivered a detailed presentation on 'New Age Prasar Bharati: PB SHABD & Waves OTT', focusing on the evolution of public broadcasting in the digital era and the emergence of new platforms to engage younger audiences.

A key segment of the event was a panel discussion on 'Empowering Amrit Peedhi & Youth Welfare', where media experts and stakeholders discussed how journalism can play a transformative role in amplifying youth-centric schemes and driving social change.

The workshop was also attended by Dr P L Bharati, in-charge of the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Guwahati, among other dignitaries.

The event concluded with an interactive session, reaffirming the shared commitment of media, public sector entities, and local stakeholders to the vision of a developed and inclusive India.

## UNB Trust urges visitors to uphold sanctity of Thulungapuri

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, June 24:** The Upendra Nath Brahma Trust (UNBT) has appealed to all visitors to maintain the sanctity of Thulungapuri—the resting place of Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma—by refraining from making political statements within the premises. Thulungapuri, located in Dotma in Kokrajhar district of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), has become a revered site for followers of Bodofa's ideals.

In an official press statement issued on Tuesday, UNBT Chairman Dimacha Dwibrang Mwchahary expressed heartfelt gratitude to the scholars, political leaders, social activists, and citizens who regularly visit Thulungapuri to pay tribute to the iconic Bodo leader. The Trust acknowledged the site's evolution into a spiritual and philosophical centre, symbolising Bodofa's enduring message of peace, unity, and the philosophy of "Live and Let Live."

## Nominations open for Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, June 24:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has invited online nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2025, which aims to honour exceptional achievements of children below the age of 18 as on July 31, 2025.

According to an official statement, the national-level award is conferred in six categories—Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art & Culture, and Science & Technology.

The initiative seeks to identify and recognize children who have demonstrated excellence in these fields, with special emphasis on candidates from

weaker sections of society, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and divyang (differently-abled) individuals. The Ministry has called upon all departments and concerned authorities to actively identify and recommend deserving candidates for the prestigious award.

Nominations must be submitted exclusively through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal at <https://awards.gov.in>, and the window for submissions will remain open from April 1 to July 31, 2025.

The PMRBP is one of the highest civilian honours for children in India and aims to inspire young achievers across the country to continue contributing meaningfully to society.

## Cairn Oil & Gas powers Assam's Tea Industry towards a greener, sustainable future

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 24:** Assam's iconic tea industry, a vital sector that has shaped the state's identity for over two centuries, is undergoing a significant transformation.

This evolution is being propelled by clean energy initiatives led by Cairn Oil & Gas, marking a quiet yet impactful revolution in one of India's oldest and most economically important industries.

Through a combination of clean fuel solutions and climate-smart innovation, Cairn is helping Assam's tea estates embrace a more sustainable future, ensuring the continued growth and resilience of this heritage sector.

Assam, known worldwide for its sprawling tea gardens and distinct aromatic brews, produces over 55% of India's tea and contributes nearly one-sixth of the global supply.

With annual production exceeding 650 million kilograms, Assam's tea industry supports the livelihoods of approximately three million people, ranging from tea pluckers to factory workers, and plays a pivotal role in the region's economy.

Beyond its economic significance, Assam's tea industry is also a cultural symbol of the state's history and progress.

In an official statement, Cairn Oil & Gas highlighted the importance of this sector and the company's commitment to fostering its sustainability.

Recognising the critical role of Assam's tea industry in both the state and national economies, Cairn has been providing clean, natural gas to tea estates across Upper Assam since 2023.

This supply comes from Cairn's Hazari-

gaon Gas Unit, the first northeast block auctioned under the Discovered Small Fields (DSF) policy to be put into production.

This project, which is a collaboration with Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL), provides a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective alternative to coal-based energy systems, traditionally used in the tea estates.

The clean natural gas is supplied through a dedicated trunk pipeline and a gas cascading system, directly replacing coal in the tea processing stages.

This shift is delivering multiple benefits to the tea industry, including a reduction in carbon emissions, lower energy costs, and the creation of a more sustainable business model for the estates.

"Assam's tea is one of India's proudest exports, and at Cairn, we see clean energy as a catalyst for strengthening this legacy," said a Cairn Oil & Gas spokesperson. "Our mission is to support the industry's evolution with affordable and reliable energy solutions that enable both operational efficiency and long-term sustainability."

Estate owners across Assam are already seeing the tangible advantages of switching to cleaner energy.

With Cairn's natural gas supply, many tea gardens are reporting substantial savings in fuel costs, with some estates achieving reductions of up to 15-20%.

In addition to these financial gains, there has been a measurable decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, allowing producers to significantly improve their environmental footprint.



The improved energy efficiency is also enabling tea estates to diversify their operations.

Tea producers are increasingly adopting drought-resistant plant varieties, exploring specialty tea cultivation, and introducing water-saving irrigation techniques—key strategies to adapt to the growing challenges posed by climate change.

One notable example of this transition is Arin Tea Pvt Ltd, an estate that has embraced modern, sustainable practices thanks to Cairn's clean energy support.

Rakhi Saikia, the Director of Arin Tea, shared that the estate has implemented drip irrigation across 30% of its plantation, which has led to a 15% saving in water usage while maintaining optimal yields.

"Cairn's clean energy support has em-

powered us to innovate while staying true to Assam's rich tea legacy. We're tackling the climate crisis with practical solutions—like shade trees, efficient irrigation, and climate-adapted cultivation techniques—and clean energy is central to our journey," Saikia remarked.

This forward-thinking approach mirrors the larger vision of Assam's leaders and stakeholders.

In February 2025, during the Advantage Assam 2.0 summit, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal highlighted Assam's rich natural resources and emphasized the transformative potential of aligning the state's traditional industries, such as tea, with sustainable, technology-driven growth.

Cairn's commitment to integrating clean

energy solutions with Assam's tea production reflects this vision of sustainable growth, underscoring the importance of green energy in both economic and environmental progress.

The impact of Cairn's local gas production is not limited to the tea industry alone.

The company's clean natural gas is also contributing to Assam's broader clean energy initiatives, powering CNG buses in Guwahati, the state's largest city. This initiative is in line with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) vision, which aims for greater energy independence and environmental stewardship.

Cairn's local gas production, therefore, is a key contributor to both the state and national efforts towards achieving sustainability and reducing reliance on traditional fossil fuels.

With clean energy now deeply embedded in Assam's tea industry, Cairn Oil & Gas is playing a vital role in driving the state's transition towards a greener, more resilient economy.

As the industry continues to adopt sustainable practices, it is clear that clean energy is not only reshaping Assam's tea sector but also paving the way for a sustainable future in agriculture, business, and local communities.

The transformation of Assam's tea sector exemplifies the growing global movement toward sustainable business practices.

With Cairn Oil & Gas' ongoing commitment to providing cleaner, cost-effective energy solutions, the Assam tea industry is well-poised to continue as a global leader in both quality and sustainability.

## 1971 war veteran Mohiram Bey passes away at 82

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, June 24:** Mohiram Bey, a veteran of the 1971 India-Pakistan war, passed away at his residence in Rongcheklam near Diphu on Sunday midnight following a cardiac arrest. He was 82.

His last rites were performed at the Rongcheklam village crematorium ground on Monday morning. He is survived by his wife, sons, daughters, and grandchildren.

Bey had joined the Indian Army's Assam Regiment on July 15, 1961, and underwent training in Shillong before being posted in Srinagar's Kherbosti area. He was later transferred to Kapurthala, Punjab, in 1970 and subsequently deployed to Wada, near the India-Pakistan border, during the 1971 war.

During the conflict, he was briefly knocked unconscious in a valley and credited a fellow soldier with saving his life, calling it an act of divine intervention. For his service, Bey was awarded eight medals.

He continued his service until his retirement on September 7, 1990, during which time he was posted in several locations including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland.

After retirement, Bey ran a family business, M/S Bey Computers, which he initially set up near the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) gate and later shifted to the Diphu bus stand area. He also worked as a physical trainer at Modern English High School in Diphu.

Despite his age, Bey remained dedicated to national service, having recently expressed willingness to join the fight again in light of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

## Iron structure falls on shop in Jorhat

**HT Correspondent**

**JORHAT, June 24:** A large iron structure meant for the ongoing construction of a flyover on AT Road in Jorhat collapsed on a shop at Baruah Chariali on Tuesday, causing significant damage to property.

Fortunately, no injuries were reported. The incident, which occurred at the busy Baruah Chariali area, has sparked concerns among residents and traders about safety measures at the construction site.

Locals have called upon the concerned authorities to immediately address the lapses and ensure that public safety is not compromised during the execution of the project.

According to reports, the shop owner has informed the district administration about the incident and urged prompt action to prevent further risks in the area.

The flyover, spanning approximately 1.5 km from Baruah Chariali to the Bhogdoi bridge on AT Road, is being built to ease traffic congestion as part of a series of infrastructure initiatives undertaken by the state government.



# Israel says Iran launches more missiles after ceasefire starts

*'As of now, there is NO agreement' on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations'*

**BEERSHEBA (ISRAEL), June 24:** A tentative truce faltered Tuesday when Israel vowed to retaliate after saying Iran launched missiles into its airspace more than two hours after the ceasefire was supposed to take effect.

Iran's military denied firing on Israel, state media reported - but explosions boomed and sirens sounded across northern Israel mid-morning. Earlier, both Israel and Iran had accepted the ceasefire plan to end their 12-day war.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz called the missiles a violation of the ceasefire and instructed Israel's military to resume "the intense operations to attack Tehran and to destroy targets of the regime and terror infrastructure."

The shaky agreement was announced early Tuesday morning by US President Donald Trump after Tehran launched a limited retaliatory missile attack on a US military base in Qatar on Monday. Between Trump's post and the start of the ceasefire, Israel launched a blitz of airstrikes targeting sites across Iran before dawn and Iran replied with an onslaught of missiles that killed at least four people in Israel.

An Israeli military official who spoke on the condition of

anonymity in line with military regulations said Iran launched two missiles at Israel hours into the tenuous ceasefire. Both missiles were intercepted, the official said.

"Tehran will tremble," Israeli Finance Minister Betzalel Smotrich wrote on X after the missiles were launched.

**Netanyahu accepts ceasefire as Iranian state TV says fighting has stopped**

The mid-morning barrage of missiles came after regional leaders, including in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, welcomed Trump's announcement of the ceasefire.

"THE CEASEFIRE IS NOW IN EFFECT. PLEASE DO NOT VIOLATE IT! DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!" he wrote on his social media platform Tuesday morning.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had agreed to a bilateral ceasefire with Iran in coordination with Trump, pledging to respond to any subsequent violation. He said he had told Israel's security cabinet that the country had achieved all of its war goals, including removing the threat of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Israel also damaged Iran's military leadership and sev-



eral government sites and achieved control over Tehran's skies, Netanyahu said. Iranian officials did not comment either after Trump announced the ceasefire or Israel claimed it had intercepted additional missiles hours after it supposedly went into effect. Hours earlier, Iran's top diplomat had said the country was prepared to halt airstrikes. "As of now, there is NO agreement" on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X.

**Iranian missiles kill 4 in Israel as hostilities expand**

The shaky ceasefire followed a

day of hostilities spreading further across the region.

Iran launched a limited missile attack Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for earlier American bombing of its nuclear sites. The U.S. was warned by Iran in advance, and there were no casualties. Israel's military said Iran launched 20 missiles toward Israel before the ceasefire began on Tuesday morning. Police said they damaged at least three densely packed residential buildings in the city of Beersheba.

First responders said they retrieved four bodies from one building and were searching for more.

Earlier, the Fire and Rescue service said five bodies were found before revising the number downward.

At least 20 people were injured. Outside, the shells of burned out cars littered the streets. Broken glass and rubble covered the area. Hundreds of emergency workers gathered to search for anyone else trapped in the buildings.

Police said some people were injured even while inside their apartments' reinforced safe rooms, which are meant to withstand rockets and shrapnel but not direct hits from ballistic missiles.

**Bases hit in Iraq**

Drones attacked military bases in Iraq overnight, including some housing US troops, the Iraqi army and a US military official said Tuesday. No casualties were reported and no group claimed responsibility for the attacks in Iraq. Some Iran-backed Iraqi militias had previously threatened to target US bases if the US attacked Iran.

Iraqi army spokesperson Sabah Al-Naaman in a statement called the attacks a "treacherous and cowardly act of aggression" and said they had damaged radar systems at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, and at Imam Ali Base in Dhi Qar province. (AP)

# Russian attacks kill 13 civilians in Ukraine as Zelenskyy seeks more Western aid



**KYIV, June 24:** Russian drones, missiles and artillery killed at least 16 civilians and injured almost 100 others in Ukraine, officials said on Tuesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought guarantees of further Western military aid for his country's efforts to repel Russia's invasion.

Russian forces have relentlessly blasted civilian areas of Ukraine throughout the war, which is now in its fourth year. More than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed, according to the United Nations. Ukraine has also launched long-range drones against Russia, hitting residential areas.

Zelenskyy was set to meet on Tuesday with Western leaders attending a NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands. He is keen to lock in additional military support for Ukraine's fight against Russia's bigger army, as recent direct peace talks have delivered no progress on a possible settlement.

Key US military commitments to Ukraine left over from the Biden administration are expected to run out within months, according to analysts, and there is uncertainty over whether US President Donald Trump is willing to provide more.

A Russian ballistic missile attack on Dnipro hit multiple civilian sites in the central Ukrainian city around midday on Tuesday, killing seven people and injuring 70, local officials said.

In the nearby town of Samar, an attack killed two people and injured nine, Dnipro's regional administration head Serhii Lysak wrote on Telegram.

The barrage damaged 19 schools, 10 kindergartens, a voca-

tional school, a music school and a social welfare office, as well as eight medical facilities, according to Dnipro Mayor Borys Filatov. One of the blasts blew out the windows of a passenger train.

Russia also shelled residential neighbourhoods and critical infrastructure across Ukraine's southern Kherson region, killing four civilians and wounding at least eleven others, according to Oleksandr Prokudin, head of the regional military administration.

In the Sumy region of northeastern Ukraine, a drone attack late Monday killed three civilians, including a 5-year-old boy, and injured six others, local authorities said.

Among the injured were two 17-year-old girls and a 12-year-old boy, according to officials.

Russian air defence forces overnight shot down 20 Ukrainian drones, the Russian Defence Ministry reported on Tuesday morning. It said 14 were downed over the Kursk region, which borders Ukraine, while two had been flying over the Moscow province.

One drone slammed into a tower block on the outskirts of the Russian capital, sparking a fire on its 17th floor, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said Tuesday. He said a 34-year-old resident suffered shrapnel wounds to his arm and leg. Two other drones were shot down on the approach to Moscow, according to Mayor Sergei Sobyannin. Air traffic was briefly halted as a precaution at two major Moscow airports, Vnukovo and Sheremetyevo, a representative of Russia's aviation authority Rosaviatsiya said. (AP)

## At least 120 children abducted by insurgents in Mozambique: Rights group

**CAPE TOWN (South Africa), June 24:** At least 120 children have been kidnapped by jihadist insurgents in northern Mozambique in recent days, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday, warning of a rise in abductions in the country's troubled Cabo Delgado province.

The children are reportedly being used by an Islamic State-linked group known locally as al-Shabab to transport looted goods, perform forced labor, and in some cases serve as child soldiers or be forced into marriage. Mozambique has been battling the Islamist insurgency in Cabo Delgado since 2017. Government forces have struggled to contain the violence, relying on support from troops sent by Rwanda, South Africa, and other regional partners.

In 2020, the insurgents carried out a wave attacks in which they beheaded dozens of people, including children. Witnesses have said that children abducted from towns

and villages have been used as fighters in subsequent attacks.

The violence has displaced more than 600,000 people and spilled into neighbouring provinces, according to the United Nations. Human Rights Watch said there had been a resurgence of attacks and child kidnappings in the last two months and called on Mozambique's government to do more to find the children and prevent further abductions.

The problems in Cabo Delgado were largely overshadowed by Mozambique's deadly and long-running post-election protests last year. Cabo Delgado has also been battered by several recent cyclones and hurt by US President Donald Trump's cuts to foreign aid.

The Norwegian Refugee Council's Secretary General, Jan Egeland, visited Cabo Delgado this month and described the situation in northern Mozambique as a neglected crisis. (AP)

## China's financial support help stabilise Pak economy, says Pak PM Sharif

**ISLAMABAD, June 24:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed Pakistan's deep appreciation for China's consistent financial and economic support which has "stabilised Pakistan's economy" and said Islamabad was committed to work with Beijing for the completion of various projects under the CPEC.

The over USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province. Sharif's comments came during a meeting with Chinese ambassador Jiang Zaidong, according to an official statement here. Recalling the historic, deep-rooted and iron-clad 'All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' between Pakistan and China, the Prime Minister said that "Pakistan was fully committed to continue working closely with China for the successful im-

plementation of ongoing CPEC projects." In this regard, he highlighted key projects including ML-1 railway (Main Line-1) project to modernise the link between Peshawar and Karachi, realignment of the Karakoram Highway, operationalisation of the Gwadar Port, as well as cooperation in agriculture, industrial and IT sectors.

"The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's deep appreciation for China's consistent financial and economic support that had helped to stabilise Pakistan's economy and resulted in the improvement of the macro-economic outlook of the country," the statement said.

"This was vital to the government's socio-economic development agenda," he added. The CPEC, a global infrastructure and investment initiative by Beijing, was launched in 2013. It is considered the largest partnership of

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It increased to over USD 62 billion over time, and at least USD 25 billion was invested in cash-strapped Pakistan. The CPEC is opposed by India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The regional security situation, particularly recent developments in the Iran-Israel conflict, was also discussed during the meeting between Sharif and Jiang. The Ambassador lauded the "proactive and positive role" being played by Pakistan at every diplomatic forum, including at the UN Security Council, for a peaceful settlement of the crisis through dialogue and diplomacy, the statement added.

The Prime Minister also conveyed his warm regards and good wishes for President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, extending his sincere wishes for the successful holding of the SCO Summit. (PTI)

## EU help in healing Cyprus' ethnic split could bring benefits to all: Officials

**NICOSIA (CYPRUS), June 24:** The European Union can help resolve Cyprus' decades-old ethnic division by underscoring to all sides in the dispute that a peace accord would bring with benefits and a significant improvement in relations with the 27-member bloc, officials said on Tuesday.

Johannes Hahn, the EU envoy for Cyprus, held his first meeting on Tuesday with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides in his new capacity, which officials hope will build momentum toward reviving stalled negotiations led by the United Nations.

Cyprus was cleaved along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup that aimed to unify the island with Greece. Only Turkey recognises a 1983 Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence in the island's northern third where Turkey maintains more than 35,000 troops.

Hahn said after the discussion with Christodoulides on Tuesday that he would reach out to all stakeholders, including Turkey, to help build confidence and support for Maria Angela Holguin, who is heading up peace efforts as the envoy to Cyprus representing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Asked how the EU could help bridge what appear to be diametrically opposed positions held by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides, Hahn said "all parties have particular interests related to the European Union and this is exactly what I try to figure out in all my meetings".

Although Cyprus joined the EU in 2004, only the southern Greek Cypriot part where the internationally recognised government is seated enjoys full membership benefits.

Turkey began EU membership talks in 2005, but those have stalled over its refusal to recognise the Cypriot government as the island's sole legal authority. Turkey remains keen to conclude visa liberalisation talks with the EU that began in 2013.

Cyprus backs closer EU-Turkiye ties as long as there is clear progress on Cyprus peace talks, government spokesman Konstantinos Letymiotis said. (PTI)

## NATO leaders gather for historic summit with unity on line

**THE HAGUE (Netherlands), June 24:** NATO leaders were gathering in the Netherlands on Tuesday for the start of a historic two-day summit that could unite the world's biggest security organisation around a new defense spending pledge or widen divisions among the 32 allies.

The allies are likely to endorse a goal of spending 5 per cent of their gross domestic product on their security, to be able to fulfil the alliance's plans for defending against outside attack. Still, Spain has said it cannot, and that the target is "unreasonable". President Donald Trump has said the US should not have to. Slovakia said that it reserves the right to decide how to reach the target by NATO's new 2035 deadline.

"We are not living in happy land after the Berlin Wall came down. We are living in much more dangerous times and there are enemies, adversaries who might want to attack us," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said ahead of the summit in The Hague. "We have to make sure that we defend our beautiful way of life and systems and our values," he said.

Ahead of the two-day meeting, Britain, France and Germany committed to the 5 per cent goal. Host country the Netherlands is also onboard. Nations closer to the borders of Ukraine, Russia and its ally Belarus had previously pledged to do so.

"It's a historic moment. It's probably one of the most consequential moments in this alliance's history," US Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker said. "We're going to see a renaissance of our defense industries." Trump's first appearance at NATO since returning to the White House was supposed to center on how the US secured the historic military spending pledge from others in the security alliance — effectively bending it to its will.

But in the spotlight instead now is Trump's decision to strike three nuclear enrichment facilities in Iran that the administration says eroded Tehran's nuclear ambitions, as well as the president's sudden announcement that Israel and Iran had reached a "complete and total ceasefire".

Ukraine has also suffered as a result of that conflict. It has created a need for weapons and ammunition that Kyiv desperately wants, and shifted the world's attention away. Past NATO summits have focused almost entirely on the war in Ukraine, now in its fourth year. Still, Rutte insists it remains a vital issue for NATO, and that the allies can manage more than one conflict. "If we would not be able to deal with ... the Middle East, which is very big and commanding all the headlines, and Ukraine at the same time, we should not be in the business of politics and military at all," he said. (AP)

## Israel kills 25 waiting on aid as war death toll exceeds 56,000: Palestinian health authorities

**DEIR AL-BALAH (Gaza Strip), June 24:** Israeli forces and drones opened fire toward hundreds of people waiting for aid trucks in central Gaza early Tuesday, killing at least 25 people, Palestinian witnesses and hospitals said, as health authorities said the number of Palestinians killed in the war has risen above 56,000.

New food-distribution sites run by an American contractor, with US and Israeli government support, have been plagued by scenes of violence and chaos since opening last month. Palestinians say that Israeli troops often fire toward desperate crowds trying to collect food. The army says it only fires warning shots to control the crowds.

In Tuesday's incident, Palestinian witnesses told The Associated Press that Israeli forces opened fire as people advanced eastward toward trucks delivering food to a distribution site. "It was a massacre," said Ahmed Halawa. He said tanks and drones fired at people, "even as we were fleeing. Many people were either martyred or wounded".

Hossam Abu Shahada, another eyewitness, said drones were flying over the area, watching the crowds first, then there was gunfire from tanks and drones as people were moving eastward. He described a "chaotic and bloody" scene as people



were attempting to escape. He said he saw at least three people lying on the ground motionless and many others wounded as he fled the site.

The military said it was reviewing the incident, which took place near the Netzarim corridor, a road that bisects northern and southern Gaza.

The Awda hospital in the urban Nu-seirat refugee camp, which received the victims, confirmed 25 deaths and said 146 others were wounded. It said 62 were in critical condition and transferred to other hospitals. In the central town of Deir al-Balah, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital said it received the bodies of six people who were killed in the same incident. Palestinian witnesses and health officials say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds seeking desperately needed food, killing hundreds of people in recent weeks.

The military says it has fired warning shots at people it said approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Israel's 21-month military operation in Gaza has killed 56,077 people since the start of the war following Hamas' surprise attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. The number is by far the highest death toll in any round of Israeli-Palestinian fighting and felt acutely in the territory of about 2 million people.

The dead include 5,759 who have been killed since Israel resumed fighting on March 18, shuttering a two-month ceasefire, it said, and 131,848 have been wounded since the war started.

The ministry doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants but says more than half of the dead were women and children. Israel says over 20,000 Hamas militants have been killed, though it has provided no evidence to support that claim, while Hamas has not commented on its casualties.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, which operates in heavily populated areas. Hamas' attack left around 1,200 people dead, mostly civilians, and 251 others were taken hostage. Most of the hostages were released by ceasefire agreements. (AP)

## US strikes on Iran add to global travel disruptions and flight cancellations

**NEW YORK, June 24:** The US entry into Israel's war with Iran has caused travel disruptions to pile up globally.

Following unprecedented bombings ordered by President Donald Trump on three Iranian nuclear and military sites over the weekend, Iran on Monday launched a missile attack on US forces at Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base. Qatar had closed its airspace just hours earlier, after both the US and UK also urged their citizens to shelter in place there.

The region has been on edge following the weekend strikes from the US — and since Israel began the war with a surprise bombardment on Iran, which has responded with its own missile and drone strikes, earlier this month.

As deadly attacks escalated between Israel and Iran, sections of airspace and airports throughout the region have temporarily closed. And airlines cancelled more flights in recent days, with some halting select routes through the middle of the week — particularly in Qatar

and the United Arab Emirates, just across the Persian Gulf from Iran.

**Mideast is worst affected**

The Middle East carriers were severely affected with cancellations and delays. Qatar Airways said its flights were suspended because of the closure of air traffic in Qatar. "The airline is working closely with government stakeholders and the relevant authorities to support impacted passengers, and will resume operations when the airspace reopens," it said, while warning that delays were likely even after operations resume. Additional ground staff was sent to Hamad International Airport and other key airports to assist affected passengers, it said.

Emirates suspended all flights to Iran and Iraq, including those serving Baghdad and Basra, until and including Monday 30 June 2025. An unspecified number of other Emirates flights were rerouted but continuing to operate flights as scheduled, using flight paths well distanced from conflict areas. Some flights may be delayed.



Etihad Airways, the other of the two flag carriers of the United Arab Emirates, suspended all flights between Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv through July 15, and also announced several regional flight cancellations for Monday and Tuesday, including those connecting Abu Dhabi to and from Kuwait, Doha, Dammam and Muscat. Gulf Air, the carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, extended the cancellation of scheduled flights to Jordan and until June 27.

"As the safety of its passengers and crew members remains a top priority, Gulf Air will continue to monitor developments in the region closely, and work with its partners to help accommodate and reroute passengers affected by these flight cancellations," it said.

**Many other airlines cancel and delay flights**

Singapore Airlines, for example, cancelled some flights to and from Dubai starting Sunday and through Wednesday, citing "a security as-

essment of the geopolitical situation in the Middle East." And British Airways has similarly suspended flights to and from Doha through Wednesday. "Safety is always our highest priority," British Airways said in a statement confirming its cancellations to The Associated Press, adding that it "will keep the situation under review."

Air India on Monday announced it was ceasing "all operations to the region as well as to and from the East Coast of North America and Europe" immediately until further notice. The airline, which is still reeling from a plane crash that killed at least 270 people earlier this month, added that India-bound flights from North America were being diverted or rerouted away from closed airspaces.

Air tracking data from FlightAware showed 243 cancellations worldwide as of Tuesday. Dubai International Airport topped the list with 26 cancellations in and out of the airport as of 0600 GMT. And Air India had the highest amount of cancellations among

carriers, totaling 25 at about 0600 GMT. In other developments, Philippine Airlines cancelled several flights to the Middle East, including those to Doha, Dubai and Riyadh for Tuesday and one to Doha Wednesday. Japan Airlines said a flight from Tokyo's Haneda airport to Doha had to return Monday, and subsequently scheduled flights have all been cancelled through June 27.

A Qatar Airways flight from Hong Kong to Doha was cancelled on Tuesday. Hong Kong's flagship carrier Cathay Pacific said none of its flights enter the airspace of Israel, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan or Lebanon, and their operations to and from the Middle East remain normal.

**Safety comes first**

Such disruptions have snarled travel, particularly as central hubs in the Middle East often connect flights worldwide — but experts stress that these kind of airspace closures and flight diversions are critical to ensuring safety, especially if future escalation emerges suddenly. (AP)



*National dialogue focuses on health, water, and sustainability in Himalayan region*

# Governor inaugurates 'HIM SAMWAAD 2025' in Itanagar

**HT Correspondent**  
ITANAGAR, June 24: In a significant step towards addressing the unique challenges of the Himalayan region, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), inaugurated the much-anticipated 'HIM SAMWAAD 2025' on June 23 at the Golden Jubilee Banquet Hall in Niti Vihar, Itanagar.

The three-day national dialogue, which brings together experts, policy-makers, civil society representatives, and community leaders, aims to deliberate on pressing social, environmental, and policy concerns confronting the Himalayan belt.

According to an official statement, the Governor, in his keynote address, highlighted the urgent need for collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable action across all sectors.

"The path forward lies in meaningful collaboration between governments, academic institutions, civil society, and most importantly, local communities," he said, setting the tone for the conference.

Lt Gen Parnaik emphasised that the dialogue is not just a discussion forum but a launch pad for tangible action — especially in sectors like clean water access, public health infrastructure, and ecological resilience.

He praised the organizing partners, including Sewa International, RI-WATCH (Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions, Cultures and Heritage), the State Government, and several environment-conscious NGOs, for bringing together diverse voices on a shared platform.



This year's HIM SAMWAAD places a focused lens on two fundamental and interlinked issues—Health and Water—described by the Governor as "pillars of mountain life."

He noted that clean water in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem goes beyond daily utility; it is a matter of health, survival, and resilience.

The looming threats of climate change, glacial retreat, and degradation of traditional water sources, he warned, are directly impacting communities across the Himalayas.

The Governor called HIM SAMWAAD a "timely and necessary

convergence" of stakeholders to develop community-led, sustainable solutions in water conservation, hygiene, and healthcare.

The initiative aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), both of which are critical to the well-being and future security of the Himalayan people.

In a notable announcement, Governor Parnaik lauded Arunachal Pradesh's recent achievement in becoming the first Northeastern state — and the 10th in India — to achieve 100% saturation under the 'Har Ghar

Jal' mission, ensuring functional tap water connections to every household.

However, he clarified that this milestone is only the beginning, emphasizing the next phase: ensuring safe and adequate water supply to every healthcare facility, from rural clinics to tertiary hospitals.

Addressing the importance of cultural and ecological wisdom, the Governor stressed that the region's indigenous traditions hold keys to sustainable development.

"Traditional healing practices, community-led water conservation methods, and local agricultural systems

offer time-tested solutions that are both rooted and relevant," he said, praising initiatives like the State Biodiversity Action Plan for integrating such wisdom into scientific policy frameworks.

Speaking about the people of Arunachal Pradesh, the Governor described them as the "heart and soul of the state," whose rich cultural diversity and close bond with nature provide valuable lessons in resilience and sustainability.

He cited major ongoing initiatives under the leadership of Chief Minister Pema Khandu — including the Pakke Declaration, the ban on single-use plastics, Sewa Aapke Dwar, and innovations such as the Anti-Drug App and GIS-based Terrain Mapping — as indicators of Arunachal's commitment to a green and inclusive development model.

The Governor also drew attention to the unique challenges in border areas, where many Vibrant Villages are located within 20–40 km of international borders.

He emphasised the need for strategic, ecologically sensitive, and people-first development, and called for coordinated efforts between the state, Centre, and armed forces.

A joint initiative involving the Indian Army and paramilitary forces is currently being planned to enhance infrastructure and security in these sensitive regions, he revealed.

On the international front, the Governor underscored the importance of diplomatic and transparent cooperation in managing shared water resources. He advocated for mechanisms that fos-

ter trust and mutual respect among neighboring countries, especially in the context of rivers and glacial systems that cross borders.

Looking to the future, the Governor called for greater awareness, research, and preservation of indigenous knowledge systems, especially in areas like health, agriculture, and water management.

He underscored the importance of documenting oral traditions and community practices, which are at risk of fading, and identified institutions like the Tribal Research Centre at Rajiv Gandhi University and a planned centre at Arunachal Pradesh University, Pasighat, as critical to this endeavor.

Prominent dignitaries present at the inaugural session included Shyam Parande, General Secretary and Global Coordinator of Sewa International; Swami Vedasarananda, Secretary Maharaj of Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar; Prof Anil Kaul, Acting Vice Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad; Dr Emi Rumi, President of the Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh; and Vijay Swami, Executive Director of RIWATCH.

Delegates and participants have gathered from across the Himalayan states, underlining the pan-regional significance of HIM SAMWAAD 2025.

As discussions and working groups progress over the next two days, the hope is that this collective platform will drive actionable outcomes and deepen cooperation across borders, disciplines, and communities.

## Governor reviews TB Mukht Abhiyan progress



**HT Correspondent**  
ITANAGAR, June 24: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General KT Parnaik (Retd), PVSM, UYSM, YSM, on Tuesday, reviewed the progress of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan with senior State Tuberculosis Officers during a meeting held at Raj Bhavan in Itanagar.

The review meeting focused on evaluating the achievements, addressing challenges, and reinforcing strategies to accelerate the elimination of tuberculosis in the State.

According to an official statement issued after the meeting, the Governor stressed the national and humanitarian significance of the campaign and called for a collective and mission-mode approach to make Arunachal Pradesh a TB-free state.

He described the Abhiyan as both an honour and a responsibility for all stakeholders.

The Governor, who has actively participated in the initiative as a Ni-kshay Mitra by personally adopting TB patients from multiple districts, underscored the need for emotional and nutritional support alongside medical treatment to ensure the complete recovery and dignity of TB patients.

He appealed to Ministers, MLAs, Deputy Commissioners, district officials, business leaders, and concerned citizens to come forward and register as Ni-kshay Mitras to support the cause.

Reinforcing his grassroots-oriented approach, the Governor suggested introducing competitions at the circle and village levels under the titles 'TB

Mukht Circle' and 'TB Mukht Village' to foster public awareness and increase community engagement. He said such efforts would strengthen local participation and create a sense of ownership in the campaign.

During his recent interactions with Gaon Burahs, Panchayat leaders, and village communities, the Governor has been actively advocating the TB Mukht Bharat mission.

At the review meeting, he called for renewed commitment and energy from all sections of society to make Arunachal Pradesh a model in TB elimination.

The Governor expressed confidence that with the collective effort of the people and administration, the State can contribute significantly toward achieving the national target of eliminating tuberculosis by 2025 — a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United Nations.

State Tuberculosis Officer Dr P D Thongchi, Assistant Programme Officer Dr Orik Apang, WHO Consultant (TB) for Arunachal Pradesh Dr Nidhi Sumnyan, and IEC Officer Tare Bage were present at the meeting and briefed the Governor on the current status of the Abhiyan.

They highlighted the progress made in diagnosis, treatment, community outreach, and patient support mechanisms.

The official statement emphasized that the Governor's consistent engagement and guidance have served as a strong motivator for the TB elimination drive in the State.

## SCITeG chairman reviews e-governance initiatives

**HT Correspondent**  
ITANAGAR, June 24: In a significant push towards strengthening Arunachal Pradesh's digital transformation agenda, Shri Nyamar Karbak, the newly appointed Chairman of the State Council for IT & e-Governance (SCITeG), convened a comprehensive review meeting with the Director of IT & e-Governance, Smti Neelam Yatin Tana, and senior officials of the IT Council on June 24, 2025. The session, held at the IT Council's headquarters, focused on evaluating the progress of various ongoing IT and e-Governance projects and exploring strategic pathways to enhance the state's digital governance infrastructure.

According to an official statement issued after the meeting, the Chairman reiterated the Council's pivotal role in realising the vision of a digitally empowered Arunachal Pradesh and aligning departmental efforts with national initiatives under the Digital India programme. The discussion encompassed project implementation status, existing service delivery mechanisms, technological innovations, and the expansion of digital services to the grassroots level.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Karbak acknowledged the rapid evolution of the global digital ecosystem and expressed serious concern over the increasing frequency of cyber threats and the unethical use of emerging technologies, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI). He drew attention to the rising menace of deepfake technology—manipulated images and videos capable of causing severe reputational damage and undermining public trust.

Stressing that the responsible and ethical use of technology has become a collective responsibility, the Chairman called for a multi-tiered awareness and

education campaign on cybersecurity and AI literacy. He proposed that such initiatives target not only the general public but also elected representatives, government officials, educational institutions, and private sector stakeholders.

"Technology is a double-edged sword. While it offers immense opportunities for growth and governance, it also brings along new vulnerabilities. We must build a society that is not only digitally equipped but also digitally aware," Karbak said. He urged the IT Council to take a lead role in organizing workshops, training sessions, and outreach programmes to educate citizens on safe digital practices and the implications of AI misuse.

One of the key proposals discussed during the meeting was the development of a comprehensive one-stop dig-

ital platform for the delivery of all IT-related public services across the state. Chairman Karbak emphasized the importance of integrating various departmental services into a unified mobile application to enhance public convenience, streamline access, and promote transparency and accountability in governance. He suggested that the proposed platform should be designed with user-friendly interfaces, multilingual support, and accessibility features

to ensure inclusivity across all regions and communities.

The Chairman also reviewed ongoing e-Governance initiatives being implemented in collaboration with multiple departments, including digitisation of records, online grievance redressal systems, e-office modules, and digital payment systems. He expressed satisfaction with the Council's commitment and appreciated the dedication of the officers in driving these projects forward.

Commending the sincere efforts made by the Council under the leadership of the Director and her team, Karbak assured his full support in scaling up these initiatives. He noted that the digital transformation of Arunachal Pradesh must be inclusive, secure, and citizen-centric. He also urged the officials to constantly innovate and adapt to new technologies to ensure that the digital governance ecosystem remains robust and future-ready.

As part of the broader strategy, the Chairman encouraged inter-departmental collaboration, capacity building of government staff, and private sector partnerships to leverage technological expertise and resources. He further emphasised the need for real-time monitoring and regular audits of digital infrastructure to ensure reliability, efficiency, and security.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to accelerate the pace of implementation and deliver tangible benefits of digital governance to every corner of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chairman reiterated that the state has immense potential to emerge as a digital leader in the Northeast and that with coordinated efforts, transparency, and technological foresight, Arunachal Pradesh can set new benchmarks in citizen-centric e-Governance.



### IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

**E-Tender Notice No.: 29 of 2025**  
**Dated: 21-06-2025.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1. Tender No. DENGHY-42-2025. Name of work:** (A) At Guwahati - For improvement of water supply system by periodical overhauling of filter beds at Hill Top, replacement of filter media of MGF at Lamella water treatment plant, De-silting of 3 (three) nos. pre settlement tank (Twice in two year duration) including other ancillary works under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/ Guwahati. (B) At New Guwahati - For improvement of water supply system by periodical overhauling of filter beds at Hill Top, De-silting of 02 (two) nos. pre settlement tank, 3 nos Jack pits and 01 ground storage tank at Pitline (Twice in two year duration) including other ancillary works under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/New Guwahati. **Tender Value:** ₹99,78,322.87/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹1,99,600/-, **SN.2. Tender No. DENGHY-45-2025. Name of work:** (i) At Pandu: Maintenance and operation of different valves provided at water intake point, waterworks complex, filtration plant, reserve tanks located at Pandu hillock, distribution of water to service buildings, colonies, Kamakhya railway station etc. including other establishments through the existing water supply network of greater Pandu-Malgao area for a period of Two(2) years. (ii) At Malgaon: Supply of labour for maintenance and operation of different valves provided at Gotanagar Pump House, distribution of water to service buildings, colonies, Central Hospital etc. including other establishments through the existing water supply network of Malgaon-Nambani area for a period of two (2) years. **Tender Value:** ₹10,38,25,216.40/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹6,69,100/-, **Date & Time of closing of Tender:** 13:00 hrs. of 14-07-2025 & opening at 13:00 hrs. of 14-07-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website [www.iimps.gov.in](http://www.iimps.gov.in)

**Divisional Engineer/Guwahati**  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
*Serving Customers With A Smile*

## Miss Universe Arunachal-2025, Longku Komal, receives warm reception in Itanagar



**HT Correspondent**  
ITANAGAR, June 24: Longku Komal, the newly crowned Miss Universe Arunachal-2025, was given a grand reception in the state capital on Monday evening, following her victory at the state-level beauty pageant in Tawang.

Hundreds of family members, friends, well-wishers, and members of the Pei Welfare Society gathered to celebrate Komal's achievement as she prepares to represent Arunachal Pradesh at the Miss Universe India competition in the coming months.

Komal, a 21-year-old from Kamle district, secured the prestigious crown at the second edition of the Miss Universe Arunachal pageant, which was held on Saturday in Tawang.

The competition saw 31 contestants from across Arunachal Pradesh competing for the title.

Komal emerged victorious in a highly competitive field, showcasing her talents, confidence, and poise.

The grand finale, which took place at the Tawang Monastery, was graced by several dignitaries, including chief minister Pema Khandu, Law and Justice Minister Kento Jini, MLA Likha Soni (Chief Patron of Miss Universe Arunachal), and Takam Manju, the Di-

rector of Miss Universe Arunachal.

The event was a significant celebration of the state's cultural diversity, talent, and emerging beauty queens.

Speaking to the media during her reception in Itanagar, Komal expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Arunachal Pradesh for electing her to represent the state.

"I am truly honored and grateful for the opportunity to represent Arunachal Pradesh at the national level," she said. "I promise to work diligently for the empowerment of youth, and I will focus on youth development at both the state and national levels. My preparations for the national event begin today, and I request the continued love and support of everyone to ensure that I can bring the name and fame of Arunachal Pradesh to the national stage."

Komal's victory in the Miss Universe Arunachal-2025 competition not only marks a personal achievement but also signifies the growing recognition of Arunachal Pradesh as a center of talent and beauty in the national arena.

As she embarks on her journey to the Miss Universe India competition, all eyes will be on her as she carries the hopes and aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

### STATE LEVEL RECRUITMENT COMMISSION FOR CLASS-IV POSTS ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI - 22

No. SLRC-G-IV/Assam/Office Order/2025-26/01/32

#### PRESS NOTE

**Special Interview opportunity for Candidates from Dima Hasao and Barak Valley Districts in view of disruption of Road and Rail communication.**

In light of the information received regarding the recent landslide incidents near Jaginga-Lampu section of NH-27 affecting the rail connectivity to Guwahati from Dima Hasao and Barak Valley Districts and considering Bulletin-1 regarding cancellation and re-scheduling of trains issued by Railway, NFHQ dated 23-06-2025, special consideration is being extended to the candidates from the affected districts who may be unable to appear for their scheduled interviews for Class-IV posts conducted by State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-IV Posts vide notice No. SLRC-G-IV/Assam/Advertisement for Analogous Posts-IV/2023-24/01/128 dated 27-05-2025.

To ensure equal opportunity for all candidates impacted by this natural calamity on 23-06-2025, candidates belonging to Dima Hasao and Barak Valley districts will be given an opportunity to appear for the interview on a revised date.

Further details regarding the revised interview schedule will be communicated shortly. Affected candidates are advised to stay updated through the official website of ASSEB (erstwhile SEBA) i.e. [www.sebaonline.org](http://www.sebaonline.org) and daily newspapers.

Sd/-  
Secretary,  
State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-IV Posts

DIPR /D/HLT/41/25-Jun-25



# Central Zonal Council meeting in Kashi to boost PM Modi's 'Team India' vision: Adityanath

VARANASI, June 24: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the Central Zonal Council meeting in Kashi will strengthen federal unity, national integrity and regional development in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Team India' vision.

"In the divine land of Baba Vishwanath, the indestructible Kashi, I will participate in the Central Zonal Council meeting today. This council, which strengthens federal unity, national integrity and regional development, will give new strength and momentum to the 'Team India' vision of our respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

Adityanath visited the Kashi Vishwanath temple this morning where he offered prayers and rituals, including milk bath, at the shrine.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who is also in Varanasi, said the agenda of the Central Zonal Council meeting, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will centre around enhancing coordination among states, sharing development strategies and ensuring citizen welfare under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Speaking to reporters after offering prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Yadav said, "I have just come out after offering prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath temple. Today's Zonal Council meeting, to be chaired by the Home Minister, comes at a time when under PM Modi's leadership, states must work in coordination, share development practices and learn from each other's experiences to ensure progress and public welfare." The 25th meeting of the Central Zonal Council is being chaired by Shah, who arrived in Varanasi on Monday.



Soon after his arrival, Shah visited the Baba Kaal Bhairav temple at Maidagin, accompanied by Adityanath, with the locals greeting him along the route with traditional instruments and flower showers.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai will also attend this meeting.

Senior ministers and officials from these states will take part in the deliberations as well.

All preparations for this high-level meeting have been made under Chief Minister Adityanath's directions, said Varanasi Divisional Commissioner S. Rajlingam.

As per the official itinerary, the visiting dignitaries paid obeisance at the Kaal Bhairav and Baba Vishwanath temples on Monday evening following which a formal dinner was hosted by the chief minister. (PTI)

## BJP govt in Chhattisgarh failed on all fronts, says Pilot

RAIPUR, June 24: Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday accused the Vishnu Deo Sai-led Chhattisgarh government of failing on all fronts in the last one-and-a-half years, as he targeted it over a string of issues, including over Rs 37,000 crore loan and "deteriorating" law and order situation.

The BJP intends to give mines and minerals to just a few selected people, he claimed, adding that playing communal politics is the policy of the saffron party.

Reacting sharply to Pilot's remarks, state Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said the Congress leader should look after the affairs of his own party in view of its current political "plight".

Addressing a press conference at Rajiv Bhavan, the Congress' state headquarters here, Pilot, who is the party's Chhattisgarh in-charge, said party president Mallikarjun Kharge will address a public rally titled 'Kisan, Jawan, Samvidhan' (Farmer, Youth and the Constitution) in Raipur on July 7.

"The BJP government has failed on every front. As many as 17 welfare schemes functional in the state during the previous Congress government were discontinued by the BJP so that the former would not get credit for it," he said. The government has taken a loan of more than Rs 37,000 crore in just one-and-a-half years. The law and order situation has deteriorated. The SP and Collector offices were burnt (in Balodabazar) in the state, while in-

cidents of murder, rape, loot, robbery are on the rise. People are dying in police custody. The government has failed to fulfil the promises made to farmers, Pilot claimed.

"Congress has always been in favour of investment and industry. Apart from the government sector, there should be resources in the private sector and employment opportunities should be provided to educated boys and girls. Congress framed many such policies in the central and state government, but this dispensation has been giving the 'jal, jungle and zamin' (water, forest and land) of the state and the neighbouring states to a select few people, and now they are doing it blatantly without any hesitation," he said.

Congress party is in favour of industry, but there should be competition and transparency. Everyone should get equal opportunity, he added.

Accusing the BJP of resorting to polarisation, Pilot said, "BJP has always had a policy that when everything fails, they indulge in communal politics. BJP has always created the narrative of temple-mosque Hindu-Muslim."

He also alleged that the BJP government was ignoring several demands of farmers.

The double engine government of BJP (at the Centre and state) has failed to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers to farmers. The state requires 3 lakh metric tonnes of DAP fertilizer, but the government has so far been able to deliver only 80,000 metric tonnes of DAP to the societies, Pilot

added.

On the state government's move of rationalisation of government schools and teachers, he said, "The BJP (in their manifesto) promised 1 lakh government jobs but instead of filling up 30,000 vacant jobs for teachers they are shutting schools down in name of rationalisation."

"Rationalisation is an anti-employment, anti-education step. The rationalisation process will end the posts of more than 45,000 teachers in the state and has resulted in shutting down of 10,463 government schools," he claimed.

The BJP government has been harassing Congress leaders to hide its failure, but the grand old party will fight against it strongly, he said.

Hitting back at Pilot over his statements, deputy CM Sao said the Congress leader should look after the affairs of his own party.

"Pilot should worry about Congress' plight in the last one-and-a-half years in Chhattisgarh. Congress has suffered a massive defeat in the assembly elections (2023), Lok Sabha polls (2024), Raipur City South assembly by-polls last year and then in panchayat and urban body elections. Pilot should take care of his own party," he said. Sao said the people of Chhattisgarh have repeatedly expressed their faith in the Sai-led government. "People's blessings have given strength and power to the government. We are fulfilling each and every guarantee (poll promises) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," he added. (PTI)

## RS Secretariat confirms 44 MPs' signatures to remove HC Judge Yadav

NEW DELHI, June 24: The Rajya Sabha secretariat has verified the signatures of 44 of the 55 MPs who had signed a notice to bring a motion for the removal of Allahabad High Court Judge Shekhar Yadav over his "hate speech" even as Kapil Sibal and nine others were yet to verify their signatures.

Sibal, who has been vocal for early action on the notice, has claimed that he has not received any email from the Rajya Sabha secretariat, which confirmed having sent the same to his official email thrice during the past six months.

He has questioned the need for verification of signatures and the delay in initiating the process in March when the notice was submitted on December 13, 2024.

While 55 MPs have signed the notice for the removal of Justice Yadav, the signature of one of the MPs, Sarfaraz Ahmed, appears twice on the notice. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is verifying how his signature appeared twice on the notice and whether they are forged.

Ahmed, the JMM MP from Jharkhand, has already met Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on the issue and confirmed having signed only once and not twice, sources said.

They also said the notice for removal of Justice Yadav, which was submitted by 55 opposition MPs, is undated and not addressed to anyone. The Constitution states that a judge can only be removed from service after both Houses of Parliament approve a motion with a two-thirds majority of the present members. Thereafter, the President has to grant approval to the same. Such a motion can be moved in the Rajya Sabha only after 50 MPs sign the same. For Lok Sabha, signatures of 100 MPs are needed.

According to sources, Sibal, a former Union minister and now an Independent MP, is yet to

verify his signature with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat even after three reminders on his official email in the last six months. "I have met Chairman Dhankhar several times but he has never raised the issue of verification of my signatures on the notice for the removal of Justice Yadav as I am the presenter and initiator of the entire process," Sibal told PTI.

He also mentioned that the need for signature verification arises only when someone questions the signatures on the notice. He also questioned the delay and said the House chairman should accept or reject the notice and not delay the process. Sibal has been extremely vocal on the issue and has questioned the delay in the acceptance of the notice for removal of Justice Yadav by the Rajya Sabha chairman.

He has said that such a judge should not be protected and has called for the removal of Justice Yadav for making communal remarks at an event last year. While he has also questioned the logic behind the six-month period taken for signature verification, sources point out at least 10 MPs were yet to verify their signatures before the Rajya Sabha Secretariat which has sent them reminders to do so on March 7, March 13, and May 1.

P Chidambaram said the physical document (notice) was shown to him for the first time on Tuesday for verification of his signature, which he has done. However, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat did not confirm the same.

The MPs whose signatures have not been verified and were yet to respond to the email queries of the Rajya Sabha secretariat include AAP's Raghav Chadha and Sanjeev Arora, TMC's Sushmita Dev, Kerala Congress MP Jose K Mani, Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, G C Chandrasekhar and Faiyaz Ahmed. (PTI)

## Advertisement

Dated Diphu the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

**No. ADED/E-12/2025-26/99 Dtd. 24/06/2025** In pursuance of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous council, Diphu approval letter No. KAAC/Estt.52/P(B)/Dairy/2018-19/56 Dtd.28/05/2025 application are invited form intending and eligible candidates in prescribed Standard Forms with all testimonials and KAAC Cash Receipt of Rs. 10/- in case of ST/SC categories and Rs. 20/-for General Category as defined in Articles 5 & 8 of Constitution of India for filling up of the following vacant sanctioned Grade-III & Grade-IV posts under Dairy Development Department, Karbi Anglong District. The date of Written Test, ITI/Skill Test and Viva-Voce Interview will be announced later on through local news paper.

Sl. No.	Name of Vacant Posts	Total No. of Vacancy	Grade	Scale Pay	Minimum Educational Qualification
1.	Lower Division Asstt. (L.DA)	1 Nos.	III	PB-II, 14000-70000/- Grade Pay Rs, 6200/-	Graduate with Computer Diploma.
2.	Electrician	1 Nos.	III	PB-II, 14000-70000/- Grade Pay Rs, 6200	H.S.L.C. Passed with ITI Diploma
3.	Peon	1 Nos.	IV	PB-I, 12000 - 52000/- Grade Pay Rs. 3900/-	Class VIII Passed
Total:-		3 Nos.			

N.B. Number of posts may increase or decrease.

### TERMS & CONDITION

- Candidates must be a citizen of India as defined in Articles 5 & 8 of the Constitution of India and must be a local permanent resident under the jurisdiction of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.
- Age limit of the candidates should not be less then, 18 years and not more then, 38 years as on 01/014/2025, relaxation of upper age limit for the reserved category will be admissible as per Govt. Rules in force.
- The last date of submission of application form is 14/07/2025 upto 5:00 P.M. no application will be accepted/entertained after the last date fixed.
- Incomplete and late received applications will be rejected without assigning any reasons thereof and the undersigned shall not be responsible for any postal delay.
- The candidates should apply along with self-attested copies of testimonials along with complete Bio-data (Birth Certificate, Cast certificate, Current Employment Exchange Registration Number etc.) and two copies of recent colour passport size photographs has to be submitted along with Standard Form duly filled up.
- All candidates applying for the above posts need to deposit Council Challan pledged in favour of Asstt. Director, Dairy Extension Service, Dairy Dev. Department, Karbi Anglong, Diphu amounting Rs. 20/- for General/OBC/MOBC category and Rs. 10/- for ST/SC/APWD candidates along with their application.
- The envelope containing application along with complete testimonials must be mentioned against the applied post and may be submitted by self or by post.
- Candidates canvassing directly or indirectly will be liable for disqualification.
- Reservation of the posts will be as per prescribed Govt. Rules.
- Name of eligible candidates for Grade-III & Grade-IV posts can be seen on the Notice Board of the Assn. Director, Dairy Extension Service, Dairy Dev. Department, Karbi Anglong, Diphu office after 10 days from the last application form submission date fixed.
- Date and Venue for written Examination, and Skill Test and Viva-Voce for Grade-III posts will be mentioned on the Hall Ticket issued from the office of the undersigned and are requested to collect their Hall Ticket during office hours i.e. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm after 15 days from the last application submission date fixed. Candidates are requested to bring their original testimonial at the time of interview.**
- Date and Venue for Viva-Voce for Grade-IV posts Viva- Voce** will be mentioned on the Hall Ticket issued from the office of the undersigned and are requested to collect their Hall Ticket during office hours i.e. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm after 15 days from the last application submission date fixed. Candidates are requested to bring their original testimonial at the time of viva-voce interview.
- No TA/DA will be provided from the department for the same.
- The competent authority reserves all the rights to enhance or reduce the posts and also be cancel/postpone the interview at any time without assigning any reason thereof and any intimation to the candidate.

N.B. Next working day will be count for interview if some unavoidable Holiday/Bandh Call arises.

Written Examination----- 100 Marks  
Viva-Voce Test----- 30 Marks

The written Examination shall consists of the following subjects:-

- English.
- General Knowledge.

Sd/-  
Asstt. Director,  
Dairy Extension Service,  
Dairy Dev. Department  
Diphu, Karbi Anglong  
Cum  
Member Secretary,  
Recruitment Board



Groups claim 'Any Kuki Tribes' category threatens indigenous rights, fuels ethnic discord

## Tribal ministry urged to delete 'Any Kuki Tribes' category from Manipur's ST list



**IMPHAL, June 24:** Two Manipur-based organisations have urged the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to delete the 'Any Kuki Tribes' category from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list in the state as it allegedly allows "foreigners to claim rights"

of the indigenous people and "poses a threat to their land and resources".

In a memorandum to the ministry, the two organisations - Thadou Inpi manipur and Meitei Alliance - stated that "the appeal

aligns with the official position of the Government of Manipur, which, following cabinet decisions on October 19, 2018 and January 2, 2023, formally recommended the deletion of 'Any Kuki Tribes' category.

"The vague nature of 'Any Kuki tribes' (AKT) allows foreigners to claim tribal rights in Manipur. This poses a serious threat to land, resources, and constitutional privileges of pre-existing scheduled tribes," the two organisations claimed in the memorandum.

They also alleged, "AKT has no unique language, separate cultural heritage, and geographical isolation, all of which are the basic criteria for Scheduled Tribe recognition under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. It fails every benchmark and only serves to sow ethnic discord and legal confusion."

The two organisations also claimed that the category 'Any Kuki tribes' was inserted into the Scheduled Tribes list of Manipur in 2003 through "politically motivated and non-transparent means".

"Unlike any of the Scheduled Tribes of Manipur that are linguistically and culturally distinct, AKT is an ambiguous and arbitrary insertion without a legitimate basis. AKT is not accepted or recognised by any of the Scheduled Tribes of Manipur...instead, its existence has only exacerbated ethnic tension and undermined social harmony," the memorandum said. (PTI)

## NSF launches 1<sup>st</sup> youth awareness prog on ILP



**HT Correspondent**

**DIMAPUR, June 24:** The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) Inner Line Regulation Commission (ILRC) launched the first of its series of youth awareness programmes in Kohima College on Tuesday, aimed at effective implementation of the inner line permit (ILP) regime in Nagaland.

Explaining the ILP provisions and compliance procedures, ILRC chairman Senchumo NSN Lotha, in his address, emphasised the urgent need for their effective implementation in the state.

"We have the gun [the ILP] but don't know how to use it, while others like the Mizos use theirs effectively," Lotha said.

Clarifying the NSF's stance on the issue, he reiterated that the

federation is not against people entering the state but insisted the visitors must abide by the laws.

He further explained that the ILP originated from a convergence of interests, and the British enforced it both to protect the culture and economy of the Nagas and also to protect "their subjects" in the plains.

He said the ILP is simply a travel document valid for a specific period, adding that on its expiry, the holder has no right to remain in the ILP zone unless it is extended.

Lotha stressed that this document must not be confused with a longer-term permit.

He exhorted the youth to join the struggle to safeguard their future and secure what is rightfully

theirs. He reiterated that the ILRC seeks cooperation and not confrontation with the government.

ILRC member secretary Seve R Vadeo stressed the collective duty to uphold the ILP system.

"The ILP is not just an old law. It is a vital shield to protect Nagaland's indigenous identity, land, and economic rights. Our youth must understand and actively defend this regulation. Our collective future depends on it."

The ILRC said it planned sensitisation tours across the region in the near future to engage the Naga youth on this critical regulation.

The programme was presided over by All Naga College Students' Union president Tenyesinlo Bukh.

## Three arrested for destroying evidence to be brought to Shillong

**SHILLONG, June 24:** East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police, Vivek Syiem on Tuesday informed that the three persons arrested for destroying crucial evidence related to the recent murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi at Sohra will be brought to Shillong on Thursday for further interrogation.

Lokendra Singh Tomar, a resident of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and landlord of a flat at Dewas Naka where Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the murder case, had taken shelter while hiding in Indore, was arrested on Monday for destruction and concealment of vital evidence.

On Sunday, Silome James, a property dealer who rented out a flat to Vishal Singh Chauhan, one of the main accused in the case, and Balia Ahirwar, a security guard posted at the apartment complex where the flat is located, were also arrested for destruction of evidence. "We have sought a seven days transit remand. All the accused persons will be brought to Shillong and they will be produced before the court the day after tomorrow (Thursday)," he said.

The SP said that the fact Sonam was staying in the flat at Gwalior only came to light after interrogation by the special investigation team (SIT). However, when the police team went there on June 10, they found the place empty.

Police have evidence of the involvement

of the three arrested persons in destroying evidence vital to the murder case. "We have proof of them taking the box out — whereby the gold of Sonam and the chain of Raja were in there," he added.

They are not involved in the murder per se but are involved in destroying vital evidence, he said, adding, "The only possible reason I could see now is greed. Probably these people got greedy as the accused got arrested, must have thought let us check what is there, maybe cash and all that, not knowing that police will trace the whole thing back. Later realizing that people will come and will be able to ascertain, these three people took off and from their actions, it shows that they are guilty and culpable."

"We have taken debris of the burnt materials from there. A Forensic team from Madhya Pradesh had come and we are sending them for forensic analysis to ascertain what it is. Probably it could be a phone. There is no sign of jewellery," he said.

Further, police have ascertained that Sonam and her lover Raj Singh Kushwaha are in a relationship and have their own companies. They wanted to further their businesses.

"These are apparently the only things in the interest of getting rid of Raja because they want to further their business and they are in a relationship. Nothing beyond this has come out," he said, adding, "We have



unraveled this case and it is our endeavour to build evidence and that is why it is not only a statement of admission but building evidence against those statements." The SP expressed confidence that police will be able to file a chargesheet at the earliest. On the demand for narco analysis, he said he doesn't see the need for such analysis at this

stage. "Narco analysis is actually banned by the Supreme Court. Narco tests are not admissible in court. It will just give us an idea or a clue. When they have already admitted to the crime, we have done reconstruction, and recorded evidence at the place of occurrence, I don't see why we should go for narco analysis at this stage," he added. (NNN)

## Heavy rains cause landslides on NH-10

**GANGTOK, June 24:** Several landslides triggered by incessant rains for the last few days occurred along National Highway 10, disrupting traffic movement on the road that connects Sikkim with West Bengal, officials said on Tuesday. Roadblocks have been reported along the 52-km highway stretch, which connects Sevoke in West Bengal with Rangpo in Sikkim, causing inconvenience to travellers, they said.

The roadblocks were reported from 29 Mile, Kali Jhora, Seti Jhora, Selfie Dara, Birik Dara, Likhuvveer, Melli and Bhalu Khola in West Bengal's Kalimpong district, they said. Officials of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) said operations related to the clearing of debris and restoration of the road are underway.

Heavy machinery has been deployed to clear roadblocks due to multiple landslides, they said. "One-way traffic movement has started in some areas. Traffic jams are inevitable as landslides continue in some areas regularly. The debris will be cleared soon as work is being carried out on war footing," an official said. (PTI)

## Over 2,000 catholic youths from NER to attend 5<sup>th</sup> regional convention in Kohima

**KOHIMA, June 24:** Over 2,000 Catholic youths from the Northeastern states are expected to gather here for the 5th Regional Catholic Youth Convention, scheduled from June 27 to 30 at the newly renovated Mary Help of Christians Cathedral.

Organised by the North Eastern Regional Youth Commission Indian Catholic Youth Movement North-East (NERYC - ICYM NE), the four-day convention themed 'Pilgrims of Hope' will be hosted by Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM).

Addressing the media, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima and chief patron of the youth movement, highlighted the Catholic church's unity in diversity, stating that Northeast India comprises 15 dioceses under three archdioceses, with over 1.5 million Catholics. Father Kokto Kurien, Youth Director of the Diocese of Kohima, said he expected a huge turnout from all 15 dioceses of the region.

Father John Burman, Regional Youth Director of the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), said the opening ceremony on June 27 will feature a procession, flag hoisting, blessing of diocesan stalls, and a holy mass. The event will also showcase cultural performances reflecting the vibrant tribal heritage of the region.

On June 28, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, along with state ministers, will attend the inaugural function. Distinguished Church leaders attending include Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh of Shillong, Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati, and Bishop Linus Neli, Chairman of the Northeastern Regional Youth Commission (NERYC).

The four-day convention will host sessions on faith, leadership, social media, and youth empowerment and will also address pressing issues such as substance abuse among youth. Eminent guests, including former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki, Nagaland Youth Resources and Sports Director Kethosituo Sekhose, and Transport Commissioner Elias Lotha will be present to encourage and engage with the youth. (PTI)

## Contrabands seized

**IMPHAL, June 24:** In a joint operation with Army personnel, Assam Rifles seized a large consignment of contraband items near the Moreh-Chandel route in Tengenpoual district on June 23, said officials on Tuesday.

The operation was launched following credible intelligence inputs regarding illegal movement along the route. (NNN)

## BSF additional DG arrives Tripura on four-day visit

**AGARTALA, June 24:** BSF Additional Director General (Eastern Command) Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal arrived here on Tuesday on a four-day visit to the state to check the operational preparedness of the border guards, an official release said. The visit assumes significance in the wake of continued infiltration from across the border over the past few months.

Tripura Motha lawmaker Ranjit Debbarma had earlier written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Tripura Governor N. Indrasena Reddy seeking their intervention to "detect and deport" all illegal immigrants, including those from Bangladesh.

Chief Minister Manik Saha has also made it clear that the state will not tolerate infiltration from across the border. Aggarwal was briefed by BSF Tripura Frontier Inspector General Ashawani Kumar Sharma about operational issues and key strategic matters, according to an official statement.

During the day, Aggarwal visited the border outposts at Bhagalpur and Lankamura and the Integrated Check Post (ICP) in Agartala to take stock of the operational preparedness and interacted with field commanders and jawans. The northeastern state shares an 856-km border with Bangladesh. (PTI)

## KHNAM seeks circulation of Reservation Policy report to political parties

**SHILLONG, June 24:** The Khun Hynniewtre National Awakening Movement (KHNAM) has urged the Meghalaya state government to circulate the report of the expert committee on the Meghalaya reservation policy to all political parties.

According to KHNAM working president Thomas Passah, the committee, headed by Justice (Retd) MC Garg, has submitted its report to the government after reviewing the existing reservation policy in Meghalaya.

The expert committee, constituted on September 12, 2023, comprises Justice (Retd) Dr Satish Chandra, Prof. DV Kumar, Prof. Chander Shekhar, and Prof. Subhadip Mukherjee as members. The committee's mandate is to review the state reservation policy by obtaining views from all stakeholders.

Passah stated that all political parties, NGOs, and stakeholders have met the committee and submitted their views and suggestions. He emphasized that it is essential to make the report available to all political parties, enabling them to study and submit further representations to the government if necessary. (NNN)

## Modi govt has refueled growth in northeast, says Tripura BJP president

Centre's focus on Northeast transformed region's development trajectory: Bhattacharjee

**AGARTALA, June 24:** Tripura BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee on Tuesday credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for ushering in all-round development in the northeast, which he claimed was long neglected by successive governments at the Centre.

"Be it literacy campaign or socio-economic development or infrastructure building, the northeast started getting due attention only after Modi became the prime minister," he told a press conference.

Bhattacharjee added that Modi visited the northeast 70 times in the past 11 years.

"The northeast was neglected by Congress-led governments. Prime Ministers like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and



Rajiv Gandhi hardly visited the region", he claimed.

He said Tripura has now become the second fully literate state in the northeast after Mizoram, thanks to sustained sup-

port from the central government.

Heaping praises on the BJP-led government in Tripura, Bhattacharjee said the state government has not only made the northeastern state fully literate, but has also taken several steps to improve the education system.

He said CBSE curriculum has been introduced in government-run schools, and many have been turned into Vidyajyoti Schools (English medium) to give proper exposure to students.

He added that many universities have come up in the northeastern state over the past few years, and the state government was also planning to set up a medical college in the tribal-dominated Dhalai district. (PTI)

NO. DD/BTC/Training/2025-26/1183		Date 23/06/2025			
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Procurement)					
TENDER NO. DD/BTC/Training/2025-26/1183					
The CHD, Dairy Development Department, BTC, Kokrajhar, invites bids through e-tendering process from eligible bidders for conducting Awareness, Training and Sensitization Programme in Dairying under SOPD for the year 2025-26. The Bidders must be well established, financially sound and past experience of conducting similar Programme.					
Details particulars may be seen at website <a href="http://assamtenders.gov.in">http://assamtenders.gov.in</a> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.					
Sl. No.	Work Details	Tender Amount (In Rs.)	Bid Security	Cost of Bid Documents (In Rs.)	Time of completion
1	Awareness, Training and Sensitization Programme in Dairying for Dairy farmers and college students of BTR under SOPD for the year 2025-26.	44,50,000.00	2% for General Category & 1% reserved category	1000.00	45 days
Online mode of submission of Tender Processing Fee, Bid Security, Technical Bid and Financial Bid is mandatory. Manual submission of Financial Bid will not be accepted.					
Along with the hard copy of the technical bid, the following documents must be submitted on or before 08-07-2025 up to 01.00 PM.					
Sd/- CHD, Dairy Development Deptt., BTC Kokrajhar					
IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/1115					

NO. DD/BTC/Training/2025-26/1183		Date 23/06/2025			
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# IT'S HEALTHY COMPETITION: SONAKSHI SINHA ON BO CLASH BETWEEN 'NIKITA ROY' AND KAJOL'S 'MAA'

**MUMBAI, June 24:** Actor Sonakshi Sinha says it is a significant moment that two women led films, her "Nikita Roy" and Kajol-starrer "Maa", are releasing side by side.

"Nikita Roy", a psychological thriller, is set to release in theatres across the country on June 27, alongside "Maa", a mythological horror film.

"It's so cool that we've two films led by women that are releasing side by side. That's like a step in the right direction, and, amazingly, it's happening. And there's room for everyone. Both are different films, and we wish them well. It's like a good, healthy competition (between the two films)," Sonakshi told PTI in an interview.

"I have seen the trailer of 'Maa' and I enjoyed it. Kajol is a phenomenal actress. She's somebody that I've looked up to and I admire. I'm looking forward to watching her film," the actor added. Both films tap into the celebration of strong female narratives, a theme that Sonakshi

is passionate about. For years, the actor said she has made a conscious effort to choose roles that empower women whether it is "Akira",

"Dahaad" or "Heeramandi".

"I've made it clear with the choices I've made for the last 8-9 years, that I want to portray strong female characters. It's something that gives me joy to be able to shoulder a film and play a title role, like 'Nikita Roy', 'Noor', and 'Akira'. It's very empowering. It's a big thing to be able to do that. I want to be the hero of my films," Sinha said.

In "Nikita Roy", Sinha plays the role of an investigator who debunks supernatural claims and exposes frauds and dismantles deceptive beliefs. But when she encounters a case that defies all beliefs, her convictions begin to falter.

Written by Pavan Kirpalani of "Phobia" fame, "Nikita Roy" explores the fragile boundary between perception and reality, unravelling themes of paranoia, buried truths, and the human mind's darker recesses.

It is helmed by Sonakshi's brother, Kush S Sinha, who is making his debut as a director.

"It's a story that's been with me for a long time. It came to me about ten years ago, and when Kush came to me in 2021-2022 with the story, I said this is a testament to the fact that if a role is written for you, it always comes to you," the actor said. With her brother Kush at the helm, Sonakshi said it turned out to be a "smooth" collaborative process. (PTI)



# VICTIM MINDSET IS A CHOICE AND I DON'T CHOOSE IT: RACHEL ZEGLER ON DEALING WITH ONLINE NEGATIVITY



**LONDON, June 24:** "Snow White" actor Rachel Zegler says online comments can be alarming, but she chooses to avoid having a "victim mindset" and instead focuses on positivity, light and happiness.

Zegler, who most recently appeared in the fantasy film "Snow White", received mixed reviews on her casting, with many questioning the makers' choice of the actor in 2021.

In 2022, she was criticised again after her comment on Prince Charming from the original 1937's story as she called him "dated", adding how he "literally stalks" Snow White.

The 24-year-old actor was asked about the comments people put out on social

media. "It's interesting...It's really alarming at times," Zegler told i-D magazine in an interview.

"I think a victim mindset is a choice, and I don't choose it. I also don't choose nastiness in the face of it. I don't choose negativity in the face of it. I choose positivity and light and happiness. And I do believe at times, happiness is absolutely a choice, and every day I wake up and I think I'm very lucky to live the life I live," she added addressing negativity.

Zegler has also been supportive of Palestine amidst the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

"My compassion has no boundaries, is really what it is, and my support for one cause does not denounce any others. That's always been at the core of who I am as a person. It's the way I was raised," she said.

Asked if she thinks her open support can bring potential professional consequences. She said, "There are obviously things that are at stake by being outspoken, but nothing is worth innocent lives. My heart doesn't have a fence around it, and if that is considered my downfall? There are worse things."

"Snow White" was directed by Marc Webb, best known for films such as "500 Days of Summer", "Amazing Spider-Man" series and "Gifted". It also featured Gal Gadot in the role of the Evil Queen and released in March. (PTI)



# John Abraham, Abhishek Sharma to reunite for superhero film 'Munkeeman'

**MUMBAI, June 24:** Actor John Abraham is set to reunite with filmmaker Abhishek Sharma for an upcoming superhero film, titled "Munkeeman".

Backed by producer Mahaveer Jain, the movie marks their first collaboration since the critically-acclaimed "Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran" in 2018.

"Munkeeman" is billed as a "high-octane, genre-bending" film that promises to bring a fresh take on the superhero genre in Indian cinema, a press release said.

The film is slated to go on floors in early 2026.

Further details of the project have been kept under wraps.

Abraham, who was most recently seen in "The Diplomat", is currently filming Rohit Shetty's upcoming biopic on former Mumbai Police Commissioner Rakesh Maria.

His next release is action thriller "Tehran", co-starring former Miss World Manushi Chhillar. (PTI)

# Prime Video unveils Manoj Bajpayee's first look from 'Family Man' season three



**NEW DELHI, June 24:** Streaming service Prime Video on Tuesday shared the first poster for the third season of its smash hit series "The Family Man".

The streamer shared the poster, featuring the show's lead star Manoj Bajpayee, on its official social media pages.

"All eyes on our family men. #TheFamilyManOnPrime, New Season, Coming Soon," Prime Video wrote in the caption.

Created and directed by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK, the Prime Video action thriller series will bring back original cast members, including Bajpayee, Priyamani, Sharib Hashmi, Ashlesha Thakur, and Vedant Sinha.

Written by Suman Kumar and Raj & DK, "The Family Man" season three will see Bajpayee reprise his character of Srikanth Tiwari, a "middle class guy and a world-class spy". In the forthcoming third season, Srikanth will expertly confront the looming threat to national security, while balancing the demands of family life and desperately working to mend his relationship with his wife Suchitra, played by Priyamani.

"As Srikanth races against time, the stakes escalate as he needs to outmaneuver a formidable adversary and protect his country and its sovereignty," read the official logline for season three.

The first season of "The Family Man", which debuted on Prime Video in late 2019, received glowing reviews. The second season, also starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu, premiered in 2021 and was also praised by the critics. (PTI)

# 'Tanvi: The Great' my salute to every child who dares to dream: Anupam Kher

**HOUSTON, June 24:** Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who returned to direction after a gap of 23 years, described his new film "Tanvi: The Great" as his salute to every child who dares to dream big.

The movie, which the actor-filmmaker promoted at Cannes market and recently screened at the New York India Film Festival, screened the film in theatres across Texas where it received standing ovation in Houston and Austin. The film follows Tanvi Raina, a young autistic girl who embarks on her late father's unfinished mission at the world's highest battlefield.

Kher, who last directed "Om Jai Jagdish" in 2002, described new film as "one of the most important" of his four-decade career.

"Tanvi is not just a character—she is a movement. This film is my salute to every child who dares to dream differently. It is not about disability—it is about unshakable courage and quiet power," he told PTI in an interview.

"There were moments while making this film where I had to stop and cry. Tanvi's courage made us all better people," he added.

Shubhangi Dutt, who made her debut with the film, said she has imbibed a lot of qualities from her character.

"I didn't just play her—I became her," she said. "Tanvi taught me that silence is not emptiness. It is strength in its purest, most dignified form." The film's emotional depth is heightened by Oscar-winner Resul Pookutty's immersive sound design and M.M. Keeravani's evocative score.

"This film doesn't just move you—it transforms you. I've never seen a portrayal of autism so dignified and human. 'Tanvi the Great' deserves every global award—but more importantly, it must be seen by every parent, teacher, and policymaker in India,"

Anil Kachru, a Houston viewer said at the premier.

The Houston premiere at Regal Edwards Greenway was organized by Rajinder Singh Pahl, a longtime advocate for Indian cinema in the US, who said, "We knew this film would touch hearts, but none of us were prepared for the wave of emotion it unleashed."

"This movie is touching a chord with people through truth, compassion, and kindness," Kher later posted. "It is making people believe in goodness again." Featuring a stellar ensemble—Jain Glen, Jackie Shroff, Boman Irani, Arvind Swami, Pallavi Joshi, Karan Tacker, and Nasser - "Tanvi the Great" releases worldwide on July 18. (PTI)



Earlier in Austin, the film was screened at Galaxy Theatres in an event hosted by Hindu Charities for America (HC4A). Board President Alok Singh called it "a celebration of courage and community," praising the film's message of inclusion and empowerment.

The film made its U.S. debut at the New York Indian Film Festival on June 19, where a packed house—including Robert De Niro—responded with a standing ovation.





MoS sports Raksha Khadse pays surprise visit to SAI Training Centre in Agartala



AGARTALA, June 24: Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse paid a surprise visit to the Sports Authority of India's Training Centre here on Tuesday to review the facilities and interact with the athletes to "understand the challenges they face".

Khadse is currently on a tour of Tripura as part of the government's 'Poorvottar Sampark Setu' dialogue initiative.

During her visit to the SAI operated Sports Training Center (STC) here, the Minister reviewed the training facilities, observed the work of the coaches, and assessed the progress of the athletes, stated a press release from the ministry.

"She also meticulously inspected the modern amenities and overall readiness of the STC center, which plays a pivotal role in the region's sports landscape."

The SAI-STC centre in Agartala is focussed on gymnastics.

Khadse's assessment included a close look at the training equipment, the hostel facilities provided to the athletes, their dietary provisions, and the medical and psychological support services at the centre that was established through a collaborative effort with the local government.

"The future of India lies with these young individuals. The central government stands firmly with them, committed to their success," Khadse said after the inspection.

The 'Poorvottar Sampark Setu' requires Union ministers to undertake direct public engagement tours across the North-Eastern states to conduct on-ground reviews and address local issues effectively.

"North-East India is not just geographically, but also in terms of human skill, talent, and energy, the backbone of India's bright future," she said. (PTI)

## BOTH TEAMS ENTER CLUB WC ROUND OF 16 PALMEIRAS COME BACK TO TIE INTER MIAMI 2-2



MIAMI GARDENS, FLA., JUNE 24: Palmeiras came from behind to play Inter Miami to a 2-2 draw in front of an electric crowd at Hard Rock Stadium, and both clubs advanced to the Club World Cup round of 16 on Monday night.

Mauricio sealed the comeback for the historic Brazilian club with the equalizer in the 87th minute after Palmeiras trailed most of the match.

A tie was enough to send both teams to the knockout round after they entered Monday's match tied atop the Group A standings with four points apiece.

For a while, it looked like Inter Miami would advance as winners of the group after taking a 2-0 lead deep into regulation on goals by Tadeo Allende in the 16th and veteran Luis Suarez in the 65th. Palmeiras clawed back after

a couple of second-half substitutions. Paulinho got his team on the board in the 80th, and the equalizer from Mauricio came a few minutes later.

Messi, who turns 39 on Tuesday, had numerous chances but did not score Monday despite the crowd chanting his name throughout the match.

Messi was seen shaking his head just after Mauricio broke through Miami's defense and hammered the tying goal past goalkeeper Oscar Ustari, as Miami's lead had slipped away in a matter of minutes.

Palmeiras finished as winners of Group A on goal differential and will face fellow Brazilian squad Botafogo in the round of 16, while Inter Miami will face Group B winner and Messi's former club Paris Saint-Germain. The Herons were the only MLS club to advance to the round of

16 after Los Angeles FC and Seattle were eliminated.

"It's very important that the team was able to compete at this level at the Club World Cup. I think we've left our mark as a competitive team. I think this is good for us to see where the limit really is for the MLS."

This is the message that we're giving. Beyond that, we've got to prepare for what's coming. We know it will be a challenge, just as this round was." — Suarez through an interpreter

"We could at the last moment have won the match, but quite honestly it wouldn't have been fair given how Inter Miami played in the first half. Tying was the best result. ... Whether it's by tying or by winning, this is what we came for." — Palmeiras head coach Abel Moreira through an interpreter. (AP)

## Porto and Al Ahly are eliminated from Club World Cup after a 4-4 draw

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., JUNE 24: Pepé's goal in the 89th minute gave Porto a 4-4 tie against Al Ahly in a back-and-forth match Monday night, before both teams were eliminated from the Club World Cup on goal differential. Rodrigo Mora, William Gomes and Samu Aghehova also scored for the Portuguese team. Wessam Abou Ali had a hat trick for the Egyptian team in front of a crowd of 39,893 at MetLife Stadium, where a sea of red jerseys dominated the stands.

Both teams pushed for a late goal before the final whistle but neither could score again to finish above Inter Miami after its 2-2 draw with Palmeiras.

Mohamed Seha saved Mora's 95th-minute shot from the left side of the box. Al Ahly had a strong counterattack all evening and nearly stole a late lead after Mohamed Hany sent a right-footed shot from outside the box but missed to the left in the 96th minute.

Porto held an advantage in possession with 56.5% but Al Ahly created more opportunities with a 22-14 advantage on shots.

A penalty just minutes into extra time kept Al Ahly in the lead going into halftime. Porto gained momentum after Gomes sent a right-footed shot from outside the box to the top right corner. Wessam consolidated his hat trick with a header that sent the ball into the center of the box. Pepé converted the tying goal with his right foot from outside the box into the bottom left corner. Both teams finished 0-2-1 in the tournament. "We did not come to not classify, we wanted to classify. There were a lot of factors that we need to analyze of what this Club World Cup was," said Porto coach Martin Anselmi. (AP)

## 'Ignored repeatedly' for coach's job, Olympic-medallist shooter expresses displeasure

NEW DELHI, June 24: "Pained" by the national shooting federation repeatedly "ignoring" him for the post of national coach, Olympic silver-medallist Vijay Kumar has written to its president requesting him to take note of his "unparalleled achievements" and provide him the opportunity to groom the next generation of shooters.

Kumar, the 2012 London Olympics silver-medallist and one of the finest rapid-fire pistol exponents, added that he felt demotivated seeing some coaches with absolutely "no international experience or performance" being selected for top coaching jobs while his credentials were being ignored.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president, Kalikesh Singh Deo, however, said that though he was not aware of a letter from Vijay, the veteran shooter was "a very deserving candidate and we are re-evaluating the coaching hiring after the Asian Championships (in Kazakhstan from August 16 to 30)." "So, we will be taking some new ones (coaches) and weeding out some of the old ones who may not be ranked," Kalikesh told PTI. The NRAI governing body had in February appointment nearly three dozen coaches and high-performance experts, including renowned names like Jaspal Rana and Deepali Deshpande, but Kumar's name didn't figure in the list. Kumar said he had reached out to several selection committee members in the NRAI but did not receive a satisfactory answer.

"I had reached out to you after being ignored by the selection committee for the position of pistol coach of the Indian shooting team in February 2025 and you had assured me of a re-look at the decision," said Kumar in his letter to Kalikesh, a copy of which is with PTI.

"I had reached out to the NRAI secretary-general and members of the selection committee to under-

stand the reasons for my non-selection to the coaching panel but did not receive any satisfactory answer," added Kumar, who is currently a Deputy Superintendent of Police in Himachal Pradesh.

Khel Ratna awardee and multiple-time Commonwealth Games medallist added that it is his moral obligation to bring up the next generation of shooters and he had it in him to mentally prepare them for big competitions.

"My achievements for India are unparalleled and I consider it my duty to help the next generation of Indian shooters dominate the international arena. Winning medals at Olympics and other top-flight competitions requires mental preparation along with shooting talent and you would agree that I possess those skillsets in abundance," said Kumar.

He alleged that some of the selected coaches had a history of doping or indiscipline and still they had been included in the setup. "There are some extremely fine coaches who have been selected for these posts. However, the selection committee has also in its wisdom selected candidates who have no comparable achievements and also those with a history of doping, or have been sanctioned on disciplinary grounds," he said.

"I urge you to kindly intervene in this matter and ensure I am treated with the respect deserving of an Olympic medallist," he added.

Kalikesh said that process of hiring coaches is still evolving as India build on the Paris Olympics success and indicated that Kumar had a good chance of getting into the national setup.

"I know Vijay Kumar had applied as a coach (ahead of the February selection) and there was an internal committee which was set up which had evaluated prospective coaches. The coaches were hired on their recommendation only. And Vijay Kumar had then further contacted me. (PTI)

## Leipzig hires Ole Werner as coach after he refused to sign extension at Bremen

LEIPZIG (GERMANY), June 24: Leipzig hired Ole Werner as coach on Tuesday, ending a long tangle with his former club Werder Bremen over his availability.

The 37-year-old Werner signed a two-year contract to the end of the 2026-27 season, Leipzig said on its website.

Werner was fired by Bremen in May once the season ended because he refused to extend his contract with the Bundesliga club. It had another year to run. Werner said he had reached a "certain point" at the club after leading it to promotion in 2022 and overseeing steady improvement despite limited resources.

Despite being dismissed as coach, Werner remained contracted to Bremen. Leipzig sporting director Marcel Schäfer and Bremen counterpart Clemens Fritz needed long negotiations before finally agreeing on a reported

transfer fee of 2 million euros (\$2.3 million) to release Werner. Assistants Patrick Kohlmann and Tom Cichon are joining him.

"We're convinced that he's ready for the next step and are very much looking forward to working with him to push ahead with our squad planning," Schäfer said.

Werner, who led Bremen to eighth place in the Bundesliga last season, will be expected to lead Leipzig back to the Champions League after it missed out on European qualification altogether for the first time since its promotion in 2016.

Leipzig only finished seventh last season despite far greater resources than Bremen.

"Both sides share the same ideas about how we want to play and work," Werner said. "That made the decision to take this next step together an easy one for me." (AP)

NEW DELHI, June 24: AITA Finance Committee member Hironmoy Chatterjee on Tuesday alleged that the tennis federation "wrongly" spent more than ₹ one crore on President Anil Jain's foreign visits, including a few to Grand Slams with his wife -- a charge the sports body chief denied by claiming that he was entitled to travel with spouse. Chatterjee also said that the All India Tennis Association (AITA) President worked against the members ahead of the September 2024 elections, forcing affiliated bodies to propose a no-confidence motion against him last year.

Chatterjee, who is also the AITA Vice President (Sports), said the Finance Committee in May 2022 raised the allowance of office-bearers for their foreign visits but it never got the approval of the EC.

"I was not invited to that meeting, though I am a member. They raised the lump sum entitlement to USD 700 per day for past and present presidents and secretary-generals. It

was set at USD 300 where a hotel was provided while for EC members it was set at USD 175 per day plus actual hotel expenses for a maximum of seven days," Chatterjee told PTI.

"But they never got these recommendations approved by the EC. And while the president is entitled to allowances, the president's wife is not. Mr. Jain travelled to Grand Slams with his wife multiple times in business class during his tenure and AITA wrongly paid for that," Chatterjee said.

"If you calculate, AITA spent more than ₹ one crore on the president's visits abroad between April 2021 and March 2025."

According to the AITA constitution, all the sub-committees, like the finance and legal committee, ethics committee and selection committees are recommendatory bodies and the final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

Asked why the issue is being raised now, and not when it came to



light in the past, Chatterjee said, "We did raise it at the 2023 AGM, but no information was given to us. Questions indeed were raised."

Asked to respond to the allegations, Jain told PTI that he travelled to tennis Majors with his wife but he did that because he was entitled to. "In the past, when the president's wife was not entitled, I paid for the travel of my wife and children from

my own pocket. But after the AITA approved it, my wife travelled with me on entitlement," Jain claimed.

"I have never asked for any personal favours. I have worked for AITA and raised huge amounts of money for AITA and never took any money."

When pointed out that the Finance Committee, in its meeting on May 3, 2022 did not include the

president's wife's entitlement, Jain replied, "It was done separately otherwise I would not take her along."

Chatterjee said exorbitant travel expense was one of the reasons for proposing a no-confidence motion against him last year.

The state units that proposed the no-confidence motion were Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Tripura but it was later withdrawn.

"He wanted to disqualify all the members before the elections. That's working against the Federation. He wanted us to fill a declaration form about eligibility after the election process had started."

"It could not be done because the guidelines were already circulated and electoral collage was already formed. Mr. Jain and Navneet Sehgal forced the RO to get the declaration form filled from all and we pointed it out to the RO also that it was illegal and he had agreed. (PTI)

## DILIP DOSHI: Feisty competitor who should have got more respect

NEW DELHI, June 24: It was in the late 1960s, Dilip Doshi used to be a terror for batters in the Indian university circuit when his Calcutta University and later Bengal Ranji teammate late Gopal Bose had asked him, "It's fine you get university batters out but can you get Gary Sobers out?" Doshi apparently was nonchalant as ever and said matter-of-factly, "Yeah, I can."

In fact, he did dismiss Sobers in a World XI match few years later but more importantly played alongside the West Indian legend in English County in Nottinghamshire for a number of seasons.

And in 1991 when Doshi's autobiography 'Spin Punch' was published, it was Sir Gary Sobers who wrote the foreword: "Dilip Doshi has an immeasurable knowledge to pass on to those who want to follow his path into professional cricket. He has played at all levels

over the world and there can be no one more qualified to talk about the art of spin bowling."

It was quite a heartwarming tribute from the greatest of them all but like many mysteries in Indian cricket, one can never really decode why Doshi's expertise was never sought by the BCCI.

Impossible wasn't a word in Doshi's dictionary or else in those days of late 70s, he couldn't have eclipsed Padmakar Shivalkar and Rajinder Goel to make his Test debut at 32 and still get more than 100 Test wickets, playing mostly on flat and dead tracks.

Doshi had great success on Indian tracks but it was the tour of Australia in 1980-81 where he picked up 11 wickets (6 in Adelaide and 5 in Melbourne) in more than 150-plus overs on non-responsive pitches. His scalps included Greg Chappell, Doug Walters, Rod Marsh, Kim Hughes,

among others.

His bowling was not a poetry in motion like the great Bishan Singh Bedi, neither was it dart like accuracy that was Padmakar Shivalkar's forte. Doshi was somewhere in between the two.

He could flight the ball, had a lovely loop and even when he wasn't turning the ball square, he could pitch it on same length ball after ball, creating doubts in batter's mind about how much it would turn or straighten or go in with the angle.

'Dilip Da', as he was known in Bengal cricket circles, believed in continuity -- whether pitching countless deliveries on same length or listening to Rolling Stones for 50 years and being one of Mick Jagger's closest buddies for nearly five decades.

What became his impediment was batting, as he could easily have been No. 11 in a squad of 'No.

11 batters'. And, his fielding was an apology.

Hence, when there's a slight dip in form, the cricket establishment at that time knew whom to get rid of. It was the 1982-83 tour of Pakistan where Javed Miandad really took his mickey.

Sunil Gavaskar often recollected how Miandad, in his slurry Hindi-Urdu, would sledge Doshi.

"Ae Dilip, tela loom number kya hai (Dilip what's your room number)," Miandad would play a forward defence and ask.

When Doshi asked, "why?", he said: "Teleko wahi six maroonga." (I would hit you for a six there). Doshi's exit was pretty bitter as he played his last Test in 1983, also against Pakistan in a drawn Test in Bengaluru and he got Wasim Raja's wicket in a rain-affected match. However, in his no-holds-barred autobiography 'Spin Punch', he didn't pull back punches while

narrating how things unfolded before his final Test. "Bishan Bedi, who was the North Zone selector for India, was also managing the Indian team. I found the atmosphere hostile and I couldn't help but feel it was because of my recall. My captain, Kapil Dev, greeted me with warmth and wished me luck. Somewhere in the hotel lobby the deposed captain Gavaskar was moving around with a heavy face. He was the only person in the team who didn't wish me or exchange a word with me," Doshi wrote on page number 180.

"The evening before the Test, Bedi drew me aside at a private party, repeatedly told me that I was lucky to be recalled and that I should react by taking five wickets in justification. I was appalled and I commented that all I could do was to try my best, but how could I guarantee the wickets?," he further wrote. (PTI)





# Expected stubbornness but Jay Shah is honest and proper: Ganguly

**NEW DELHI, June 24:** Reflecting on his eventful tenure as BCCI President, Sourav Ganguly has revealed that he expected a "certain kind of toughness and stubbornness" from the then Board secretary and current ICC chairman Jay Shah but was left impressed with his "honesty" and resolve to do things "properly".

Ganguly and Shah were colleagues at the world's richest cricket board from October 2019 to September 2022, navigating a tumultuous phase caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought sporting activity to a grinding halt for few months.

"He (Jay) had his own way of doing things but the best thing about him was he wanted to do things properly for Indian cricket," Ganguly told PTI in an exclusive interview at his residence in Kolkata.

"See, he had the power, the support, so you expected certain kind of toughness, stubbornness from him but he would do things for Indian cricket," the iconic former captain explained, referring to Shah's status of being the son of Home Minister Amit Shah.

It was the first time that both Ganguly and Shah held BCCI positions. Before that, Ganguly had headed the Cricket Association of Bengal, while Shah was an office-bearer in



the Gujarat Cricket Association.

While Ganguly was replaced by another former Test player Roger Binny in 2022, Shah continued as BCCI secretary till November 2024 before taking over as the youngest ever ICC chairman at 36 years of age.

Asked about how the power dynamics and relationship was between the scion of a po-

litical family and a celebrated cricket star, Ganguly said they shared a cordial equation which has continued to this date.

"Relationship was very good. It's still very good. When he came in September 2019...he was a young boy, straight from Gujarat CA, very cooperative, approachable," he recalled.

"Obviously, he had opinions and rightfully so, he wanted to do things and still does, he

is the ICC chairman and it is a bigger post." Ganguly believes that with time, Shah became better at his job.

"He is very supportive of players. He got better as he learnt. The good thing about him was he wanted to do good for the game," the soon-to-be-53 superstar said. The Kolkata-based legend said Shah was acutely aware of his status and always wanted to carry out his work in a principled manner.

"He is very honest, he always had the thought (about) who he was at the back of his mind, what baggage he carried. So, he wanted to do things rightfully and properly all the time.

"All of us made mistakes, I did, he did. It was never intentional but the game never stopped," Ganguly added.

The former captain said they do bump into each other occasionally.

"Obviously, he has progressed, he is the ICC Chairman now. You see him at times because you live in different cities. I am not involved in administration, I wish him the best.

"I saw him in England this time for a little bit. I meet him in ICC meetings because I am the chair of the (ICC cricket) committee and he wants the game to grow and go forward." (PTI)

## India sweat as Duckett fifty leads confident England to 117/0 at lunch



**LEEDS, June 24:** Indian bowlers' efforts to gain an early upper hand was thwarted by Ben Duckett's doughty unbeaten fifty as England cruised to 117 for no loss at lunch on the final day of the first Test here on Tuesday.

Chasing a tough 371 for victory, England were served by Duckett (64) and Zak Crawley (42) at the break with the hosts still 254 runs adrift of the target.

Besides Bumrah, the other Indian pacers — Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur — were erratic and gave enough freebies for England batters, who were more than happy to oblige.

The best moment for the Indian bowling unit, of course, was produced by Bumrah when he beat the defence of Duckett with a lovely off-cutter. Unfortunately, the second line pacers did not come anywhere close to create their own moment of magic, and remained ordinary.

Duckett and Crawley, who have together amassed over 2000 runs as Test openers, pounced on anything short or full to essay cuts, pulls and drives as England innings gained considerable steam, milking 96 runs in the first session after resuming from an overnight 21 for no loss.

The home batters' plan was quite evident — play out Bumrah without taking much risks and put other Indian quicks under pressure.

Duckett led this ploy from front and his full-frontal cover drive off Prasidh, perhaps, stood out as the shot of the morning.

The support pacers were unimaginative with their lengths, and it was not really a surprise to see bowling coach Morne Morkel coming out and having a word with them from the boundary ropes.

On other hand, Crawley gave good support to Duckett, standing a foot outside the crease to nullify swing, and he also played with a full face of the bat.

Bumrah could have had him on 42, but the Indian talisman could not grab a return catch despite making a desperate dive.

Ravindra Jadeja was introduced to give a different pace to the proceedings but the Headingley pitch, which was rolled using the heavy roller, did not offer him the desired assistance in the shape of turn or bounce.

India will require to find better lines and lengths in the second session with the rather uneasy memories of England chasing down 378 at Birmingham three years ago resurfacing. (PTI)

## Inter-School Football Tournament in Sonitpur district

**HT Correspondent**

**TEZPUR, June 24:** The District Level Inter-School Football Tournament is going to be organised by the Office of the District Sports Officer, Sonitpur, Tezpur on July 2 to 4 at Ghoramari H.S.S playground. The tournament will be comprised of U-15 (Boys) and U-17 (Boys & Girls) categories. The interested schools across the district are hereby invited to take part in the tournament as well as confirm their registrations on or before 28th June, 2025 and contact at mobile number 7896781452 and 7002468265.

## India, England players honour Dilip Doshi before start of day five



**LEEDS, June 24:** Players from India and England wore black armbands and observed a minute's silence in the memory of former spinner Dilip Doshi before start of day five of the first Test here on Tuesday.

Doshi, a former India spinner who took 113 wickets in 33 Tests, died of a cardiac arrest in London on Monday. He was 77.

"Both teams are wearing black armbands today in memory of former Indian cricketer Dilip Doshi, who passed away on Monday.

"The teams also observed a minute's silence before the start of Day 5," read a social media post from BCCI.

Doshi carved out a niche for himself despite being in the shadows of Bishan Singh Bedi for the majority of his international career.

He was also a stalwart in English county circuit having plied his trade for more than a decade there. He represented Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire. (PTI)

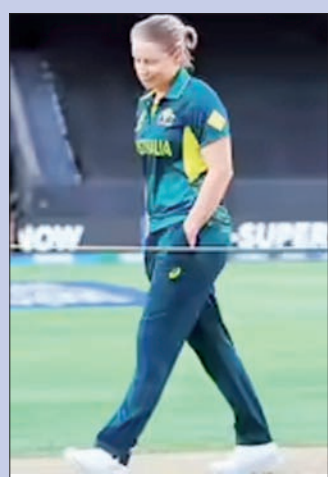
## Healy eyes back-to-back World Cup glory and 2026 India series

**SYDNEY, June 24:** Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy has ruled out retiring after the upcoming ODI World Cup, revealing that a series of injuries have only deepened her hunger to continue playing at least until the series against India in 2026.

The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has battled a string of injuries since last year, starting with a stress fracture in her foot during the T20 World Cup, followed by a knee issue that sidelined her from multiple fixtures.

Healy, who has joked about contemplating retirement several times before, admitted she had initially considered bowing out after the ODI World Cup in India this year. However, her perspective has shifted.

"It's (retirement date) probably shifted a little bit. It's (injuries have) made me realise that I still want to do a little bit more than maybe what I thought," Healy told the Australian Associated Press



(AAP).

Though she featured sporadically during Australia's victorious Ashes campaign at home, Healy missed tours to New Zealand and the Women's Premier League in India.

"At the same time, sometimes there's stuff in life that are a little

bit more important than pulling on the green and gold. So it's just a constant reassess.

"But at the moment I definitely want to play a home summer. I want to bring the World Cup home, but also to play against India (in 2026 at home)," she added.

Healy is expected to return to action in August, when Australia A face India A in Queensland.

Australia, the most decorated side in women's cricket, are now aiming to become the first team in nearly four decades to win back-to-back ODI World Cups, a feat that fuels Healy's determination.

"According to science, the ODI World Cups is one of the heaviest loads that we go through as cricketers. My aim is to play every game of that World Cup. So, to make sure I can do that is important."

"That was one of my goals, putting a timeline on it and saying

this is where I could take this group, even not knowing what I was going to do personally," Healy said.

"It definitely was a big focus of mine, to get the group to a place to compete at this World Cup, and win the trophy

Healy said the goal had always been to guide this group to peak performance at the World Cup.

"It's not so much about the captaincy, or ticking one more box (at a personal level). It's just that I want to win a World Cup for Australia, and no one has gone back-to-back, which is a real motivator."

"That was a big focus of mine — to get this group into a place where it can not just compete but win."

"It's not about ticking a personal box or just the captaincy. I want to win a World Cup for Australia. No team has gone back-to-back — and that's a real motivator," she added. (PTI)

## Pant reprimanded by ICC for showing dissent at umpire's decision

**LEEDS, June 24:** India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant has been reprimanded by the ICC for showing dissent at an umpire's decision during the third day's play of the ongoing opening Test against England here.

Pant, who had an exceptional outing with the bat during the Headingley Test with hundreds in both the innings, was reprimanded for his on-field conduct during England's first innings.

The 27-year-old was found to have breached Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct.

"Pant was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match," the ICC said in a statement.

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Pant's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in 24 months.

The incident happened in the 61st over of England's innings, when Harry Brook and Ben Stokes were batting. Pant was seen having



a discussion with the umpires regarding the condition of the ball.

When the umpires refused to change the ball after checking it with the ball gauge, the wicket-keeper showed his dissent by throwing the ball on the ground in front of the umpires.

There was no disciplinary hearing as Pant admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by ICC match referee Richie

Richardson.

The charges were brought in by the on-field umpires, Chris Gaffaney and Paul Reiffel, along with the third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and the fourth umpire, Mike Burns.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. (PTI)

## Wimbledon champ Murray to help design statue of himself for tournament's 150th birthday in 2027

**LONDON, June 24:** Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray is to help design a statue of himself to mark the grass-court tournament's 150th anniversary in 2027.

Wimbledon organizers said Tuesday they aim to unveil the statue of the British tennis great during the 2027 edition.

"He's got to rightly be very involved in that and him and his team will be," the All England Club chairwoman Debbie Jevans said.

Murray ended Britain's 77-year wait for a home champion in men's singles in 2013 when he beat Novak Djokovic in the final.

The Scotsman won a second title — and his third Grand Slam singles title overall — in the 2016 final against Milos Raonic.

An inspiration for the statue project is the way Rafael Nadal was honored, with Murray in attendance, this month at Roland Garros where he won 14 French Open titles.

"We looked at Rafa Nadal having that sort of plaque unveiled to him at Roland-Garros which was all very special," Jevans said. "But we thought, what do we want for Andy?"

A bronze statue of Fred Perry, the previous British men's champion before Murray in 1936, was put up at Wimbledon in 1984 marking 50 years after his first singles title at the tournament.

The 2025 tournament at Wimbledon starts Monday. (AP)



## We will go for win, that's the clear message in changing room: Tongue

**LEEDS, June 24:** England fast bowler Josh Tongue said they will go all out for a victory against India on the fifth and final day of the first Test here on Tuesday.

England ended day four at 21 without loss, needing 350 more runs to clinch the match and take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

If successful, it would mark England's second-highest successful run chase in Test cricket and the second-best at this venue.

"No. Just go for the win. That's the clear message in the changing room," said Tongue when asked about England's approach in the final innings.

"Hopefully we're not in that situation (draw) anyway. We'll try and be as positive as we can in that first session, then see where we are at lunch - then we'll take things from there." Tongue said the current England batting line up has the belief of chasing down any target against any side.

"With our batting line-up I feel we can chase down anything. Their bowlers are going to bowl well in periods, but it's about soaking up that pressure and putting it back on the bowlers. I don't see why we can't chase it," he said. (PTI)

# Indian cricket fraternity mourns Dilip Doshi's demise

**NEW DELHI, June 24:** A "heartbroken" Indian cricket fraternity came together in grief and reverence to pay tribute to former left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi, who died following a cardiac arrest in London.

Despite spending much of his early career in the shadow of the great Bishan Singh Bedi, Doshi carved a niche for himself with his unwavering resolve. He died at the age of 77 on Monday.

Leading the tributes for him was the great Sachin Tendulkar, who recalled his first meeting with the "warm-hearted" Doshi during a tour of the UK in 1990. "I met Dilip bhai for the first time in the UK in 1990, and he bowled to me in the nets on that tour. He was really fond of me, and I reciprocated his feelings.

"A warm-hearted soul like Dilip bhai will be deeply missed. I will miss those cricketing conversations which we invariably had. May his soul rest in peace. Om Shanti," Tendulkar posted on X.

Former India all-rounder and head coach Ravi Shastri, who shared the field

with Doshi, remembered him as "always immaculate, a gentleman to the core and a fine, fine bowler".

"Heartfelt condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace. Really sad to hear about the passing of Dilip Doshi."

Former wicketkeeper-batter Farokh Engineer also mourned the loss of his "dear friend".

"I couldn't believe it when I first heard. He was a dear friend. When he first came to England he stayed with me for a while. Extremely sad news. Our sincerest condolences to Kalindhi (Doshi's wife) and his family. RIP my dear friend," Engineer told PTI.

Doshi made his Test debut in 1979 after Bedi's retirement and played the last of his 33 games in 1983. In those matches, he took 114 wickets with six five-wicket hauls and was exceptional at home during the first three seasons, completing 100 scalps in just 28 Tests.

Former India cricketer and selector Sunil Joshi also a left-arm spinner like Doshi shared a poignant memory.



"Still can't believe it, we spoke just last Wednesday, and he sounded well. Heartbroken by the passing of Dilip Doshi Sir a legend on the field, a true gentleman off it, he meant a lot to me, and this loss is

deeply personal. My heartfelt condolences to Nayan & the Doshi family," Joshi tweeted.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) paid homage to the veteran.

"It is with deep sadness that we learn of the passing of Dilip Doshi. He was a true artist of spin bowling, a gentleman both on and off the field, and a dedicated servant of Indian cricket," BCCI President Roger Binny said in statement.

"His impact on the game was immense, and he inspired a generation of cricketers with his skill and dedication. His contribution to Indian cricket will always be remembered.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and the entire cricketing fraternity during this difficult time."

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia added "Dilip Doshi was a remarkable cricketer and a great human being. His passion for the game was evident in every ball he bowled. He had a calm demeanour and a fiercely competitive spirit."

Former India captain Anil Kumble, who was among the first to pay his tribute to the late cricketer, too, expressed his sorrow: "Heartbreaking to hear about Dilip bhai's passing. May God give

strength to his family and friends to bear this loss. Nayan, thinking of you buddy."

Former Indian keeper-batter Parthiv Patel wrote, "I'm heartbroken and still in shock about Dilip uncle...he was truly special. Nayan (Doshi's son), thinking of you all with love and strength."

Manoj Tiwary echoed the collective sense of loss.

"It's a shock! India's legendary cricketer Dilip Doshi passed away at the age of 77 due to a cardiac arrest in London. May God give his family and close ones the strength to deal with this. May his soul rest in peace."

Former cricketers Pragyan Ojha and Harbhajan Singh also paid their respects.

"Saddened to hear about the passing of Dilip Doshi sir, a distinguished left-arm spinner who served Indian cricket with grace and grit. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace," said Ojha.

"RIP Dilip Doshi sir Condolences to family," Harbhajan wrote. (PTI)