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# THE HILLS TIMES

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIPHU

*Voice of the hills people*

Vol .No. XXVI

Issue No. 143

RNI-ASSEN/2000/12862

DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

PAGES 12

PRICE ₹ 8



Government of Assam

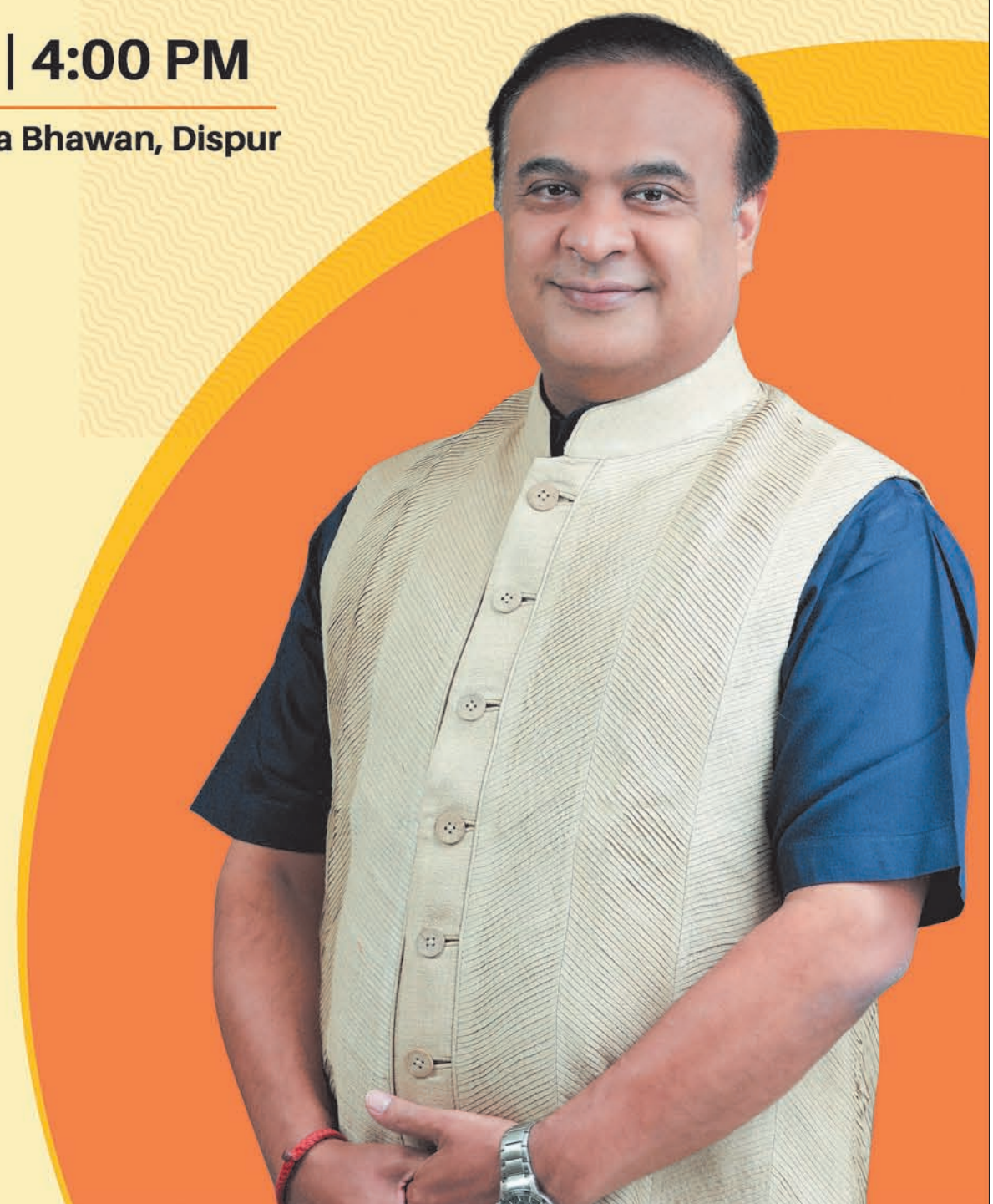
## Launching of Chief Minister's Jibon Anuprerana Scheme Portal Aiding Luminous Scholars

7 June 2025 | 4:00 PM

Ground Floor, Lok Sewa Bhawan, Dispur



- Financial assistance to research scholars during their scholastic journey
- Promotion of academic excellence and innovation in Assam
- Inclusive assistance for Divyang (differently-abled) scholars



### Scheme Benefits

#### Research Scholars

One-time  
Financial Assistance

**₹ 25,000/-**

#### Eligibility:

- Full-time Research Scholars from Govt./Public institutions of state or central, situated in Assam (excluding open universities and private institutions)

#### Divyang Research Scholars

One-time  
Financial Assistance

**₹ 40,000/-**

- Permanent Resident of Assam
- Admitted to PhD program in 2025 (at Central / State Universities in Assam)





# Sensex jumps over 700 points, Nifty reclaims 25,000-level as investors cheer RBI's jumbo rate cut

**MUMBAI, June 6:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged nearly 1 per cent on Friday, driven by a rally in rate-sensitive sectors following the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points.

Market analysts said in light of benign inflation forecasts, RBI has taken steps to boost growth. A 50 bps repo rate cut supported by phased 100 basis points CRR cut will boost growth and lower the borrowing costs.

The policy is broadly positive for growth and investment in a challenging global macro environment, they said.

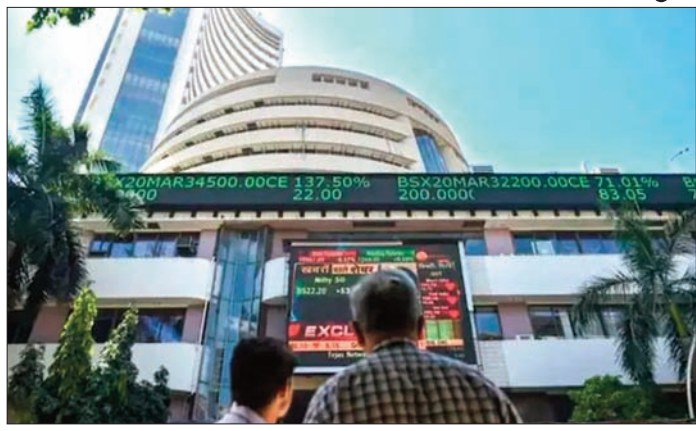
After a muted start, benchmark sensitive index Sensex and Nifty soon recovered all the early lost ground fuelled by the RBI monetary policy decision and gained over 1 per cent.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 82,188.99. During the day, it surged 857.85 points, or 1.05 per cent, to 82,996.89.

The 50-share NSE Nifty reclaimed the 25,000-level and climbed 252.15 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 25,003.05.

All key sectors contributed to the rally, with rate-sensitive segments such as realty, financials, and auto emerging as top gainers, closely followed by others.

Among sectoral indices, realty jumped 4.74 per cent, financial services (1.79 per cent), metal



(1.56 per cent), auto (1.50 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.38 per cent), consumer durables (1.30 per cent) and bankex (1.25 per cent). Industrials and capital goods were the only laggards.

Interest-rate-sensitive realty index jumped 4.74 per cent, while auto index went up 1.50 per cent and bankex climbed 1.25 per cent.

"The tone was initially cautious ahead of the outcome of the MPC's monetary policy review, but sentiment turned sharply positive following the surprise announcement of a 50-basis points repo rate cut and a staggered 100 basis points reduction in the CRR. This triggered a strong upward move, followed by a range-bound phase for the remainder of the session," Ajit Mishra SVP, Research, Religare Broking said.

Mishra further noted that "going

forward, the impact of the rate cut is expected to continue influencing market sentiment. The rate-sensitive pack, along with select themes like railways, are likely to stay in focus, while other sectors may contribute on a rotational basis."

From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance surged 4.93 per cent and Axis Bank climbed 3.15 per cent.

Maruti, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Eternal, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, HDFC Bank, and NTPC were among the other major gainers. Bharti Airtel and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.91 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.43 per cent. As many as 2,278 stocks advanced while 1,744 declined and 134 remained unchanged on the BSE.

According to Dhiraj Relli, MD

& CEO, HDFC Securities, several external headwinds -- ranging from US tariff policies and global trade tensions to sluggish world-wide growth and geopolitical risks -- have weighed on domestic economic prospects, reinforcing the rationale for monetary easing.

"With enhanced liquidity and reduced borrowing costs, conditions are now set for sustained economic momentum and a market recovery. Rate-sensitive sectors responded enthusiastically to the announcement, reflecting renewed investor confidence. This stimulus could propel Indian equity markets beyond their current trading range, potentially pushing the Nifty past 25,000 and toward previous highs of 26,200," Relli said.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark surged 737.98 points or 0.90 per cent and Nifty jumped 252.35 points or 1 per cent.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.46 per cent to USD 65.04 a barrel.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower. European markets were on a mixed note, while the US markets ended lower on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 208.47 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

## No move on hiking foreign ownership limits in banks right now; need more banks in India: RBI

**MUMBAI, June 6:** Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday said there is no move to increase foreign ownership limits beyond 15 per cent in a single institution at present.

Speaking to reporters at the central bank headquarters here, Malhotra said the RBI will be undertaking an exercise to re-look at the ownership structure in banks and various issues like ownership structures and eligibility criteria.

Malhotra, however, said that a growing economy like India needs more banks, but was quick to add that we need owners and managers, who are trustworthy.

"We allow 15 per cent for non-residents, and it can go up above 15 per cent on a case-to-case basis. There is no change in this anytime soon or immediately," Malhotra said.

It can be noted that usually, the RBI allows a single foreign institution to hold 15 per cent in a lender and has made some exceptions like that of CSB Bank, where Canada-based investor Fairfax has been allowed to own 51 per cent and recently, it allowed

Japan's SMBC to own 20 per cent of Yes Bank.

Terming it a "deeper question" which will take time to reach a conclusion, Malhotra hinted that the RBI may look at allowing higher foreign ownership of banks in the future.

"We have also said that we want to re-look at ownership structure and eligibility conditions under which non-residents, who are at 15 per cent, we are examining at present. It will not happen immediately, it will take time," he said, stressing that whatever is best for the economy will be taken on board.

"Certainly, our economy is growing, we require more banks. Keeping that in mind, if there is a need for change in the ownership criteria, we will do it," he added.

Meanwhile, when asked if the RBI will go back on its November 2023 regulation on increasing the risk weights in unsecured lending because of the comfort on asset quality from credit cards and personal portfolios, Malhotra replied in the negative, saying there are no such plans. (PTI)

## Starlink gets licence to start India services

**NEW DELHI, June 6:** Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence from the telecom department for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country.

Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications to provide satellite internet services in the country.

A fourth applicant, Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for approvals. DoT sources confirmed on Friday that Starlink has indeed received the licence, and

said the company will be granted trial spectrum in 15-20 days of applying for it. Starlink will now have to comply with the security norms such as providing access for lawful interception, before starting services.

The licence came hours after a huge public spat between Musk and US President Donald Trump. The falling-out between the world's richest man and the world's most powerful person began when Musk, who left his role as head of the Department of Government Efficiency a week ago, denounced Trump's sweeping tax-cut and spending bill.

On Thursday, it erupted in the verbal duel after Trump criticised

Musk in the Oval Office. Musk responded saying "Trump would have lost" without his help, prompting the US President to end US contracts.

The licence from DoT came nearly a month after the Starlink was issued a letter of intent (LoI) by the telecom department.

The companies that have received the licence would, however, have to wait a tad longer for commercial satcom spectrum as the Trai just recently sent its recommendations on pricing, terms and conditions, to the government for its consideration.

The players will be able to start their services after the allocation of radio wave frequencies. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 3...

## 'He might settle abroad any

The chief minister visited two flood-affected districts—Sribhumi and Hailakandi—and met people taking shelter in relief camps. He directed district administrations to ensure adequate supply of essential items to displaced residents.

Road connectivity to the Barak Valley has been severely impacted by recent torrential rains. Speaking on infrastructure, Sarma said, "Work on the East-West Corridor between Guwahati and Silchar via Dima Hasao district is progressing well. Except for a 5-km stretch, the rest of the road will be completed by early 2026. We plan to build an elevated road on that 5-km portion."

## No let up in Assam flood scene,

do not take advantage of the situation, he said. Patrolling in the sanctuary, particularly at night, has been increased and boats are being used to monitor forest camps, he said. Some departmental elephants have been relocated to Burha Mayong hills to ensure their safety due to the rising floodwaters, the official said.

The rising waters of the Brahmaputra and Kohora have inundated vast tracts of the Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, another official had said on Thursday.

Himanta visited Barak Valley: Meanwhile, visiting flood-affected Barak valley districts for the second time within four days, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday assured of timely rehabilitation grant to the people.

He said damaged infrastructure, like roads, will be repaired before Durga Puja festivities.

Addressing a press conference at Sribhumi after visiting relief camps in neighbouring Hailakandi district, Sarma said, "The problems due to floods will be there till July or so. I will again come before the Durga Puja and ensure that roads and other damaged infrastructure will be repaired."

He said the damage caused by the floods are being compiled and as soon as water recedes, help will be provided as per norms.

"The deputy commissioners will make a thorough assessment. Last year, we had provided proper rehabilitation grants and will provide it this year also," Sarma added.

He said during interaction with the people at the relief camps, they said there was no problem in the camps but expressed concern over the loss of household goods like utensils, clothes, etc.

Sarma visited relief camps in Sribhumi later in the day and interacted with the displaced people. In a series of posts on X earlier, Sarma said he visited two relief camps in Kalinagar and Panchgram in Hailakandi district.

He interacted with the people and sought their feedback on the facilities provided in the camps.

He assured of providing all necessary facilities, including overseeing any health requirements.

The chief minister requested all affected to share their bank details and other information so relief can be quickly disbursed.

Twenty-one people have been killed in floods and landslides so far this year, with over 5.6 lakh people reeling under the deluge in 16 districts. (PTI)

## Family of Assam woman killed

there were six occupants in the car, including Namrata, when the accident happened at around 4.44 am on Wednesday.

However, a video later emerged on social media, purportedly taken inside the car, which accounted for five persons inside it, with the son of an Assam AIUDF MLA at the wheel.

Three of Namrata's friends who were in the car have now claimed that it was the son of the MLA, also a common friend of theirs, who was driving the vehicle. Meghalaya police could not be immediately reached for their reaction on the difference between the survivors' media statements and initial police report. (PTI)

## IIT-Guwahati uses clay particles

but time consuming and require heavy equipment. Similarly, the antigen testing is fast but lacks accuracy, while antibody testing is used after the infection has occurred, highlighting limitations at various levels," lead author T.V. Bharat, professor at IIT Guwahati's department of civil engineering, said.

Further, many of the currently available methods are not practical in resource-limited settings or during large-scale outbreaks. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a critical gap in how we detect and track viral infections, he added.

For the study, the researchers used Bentonite clay because its unique chemical structure allows pollutants and heavy metals to be easily absorbed. "Previous studies have shown that clay particles can bind with viruses and bacteriophages, making it a promising material for virus detection," Bharat said. The team looked at particles of Bentonite clay interacted with viral material in a saline solution.

They found that a Coronavirus surrogate and Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV) bind to the negatively charged clay surfaces at a controlled room temperature and neutral pH of 7.

Bharat said the study offers a "faster, more affordable, and an accurate" alternative method -- "as simple as watching sand settle in water" -- to current methods, paving the way for a better disease monitoring and treatment strategies, especially during pandemics.

The method also "holds great promise for improving how viral outbreaks are monitored and controlled, especially in regions where expensive lab equipment and trained personnel are not readily available," the lead author said. (PTI)

## Assamese Cine star Urmila

Times Now, Times Network, for the recognition," said Mahanta expressing her gratitude.

Mahanta's accolade acknowledges her remarkable journey across multiple film industries, having delivered critically acclaimed performances in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, and Hindi cinema, in addition to her stellar work in Assamese films. Her versatility has made her a sought-after performer in pan-Indian cinema, breaking regional barriers and establishing herself as a truly national talent.

The actress's most recent theatrical venture, "Sikaar," the first Indo-British film, showcased her leading-lady prowess alongside Assamese singing sensation Zubeen Garg and internationally renowned actor Adil Hussain.

The glittering award ceremony brought together a constellation of renowned personalities, influential leaders, business magnates, and achievers from across Northeast India—creating an evening of inspiration and recognition for regional excellence.

## KAAC signs MoU for Northeast's

Representing Goal Gas Pvt. Ltd. were Raju Mitra, DGM (North-East), along with other company officials. The refinery will utilise agricultural waste and organic biomass to produce eco-friendly biofuel. This initiative is expected to generate local employment opportunities, support farmers, and reduce dependence on conventional fossil fuels—aligning with both environmental and economic development goals.

A unique feature of this partnership is the fuel price benefit for the public. Goal Gas Pvt. Ltd. announced that petrol and diesel will be sold at ₹ 2 less than the prevailing market price. In a further boost to rural livelihoods, farmers supplying raw materials to the refinery will receive an additional Rs 5 per litre discount on fuel.

## PhonePe to roll out UPI payments for feature phone users

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** PhonePe has announced the acquisition of the technology stack behind Gupshup's conversational engagement platform "GSPay", marking a significant move to bring UPI-based digital payments to India's large base of feature phone users.

According to an official statement, the acquisition will enable PhonePe to build and launch its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mobile application tailored for feature phones. The new app will be based on the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) UPI 123PAY solution and is expected to be rolled out over the next few quarters. The application will offer basic UPI functionalities such as peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers, offline QR payments, and the ability to receive money through mobile numbers or self-QR codes. PhonePe aims to establish full interoperability between feature phones and smartphones, thereby enabling seamless digital transactions for users across device types.

Commenting on the development, PhonePe Co-Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam said, "We are excited about acquiring the GSPay technology stack and using it to bring UPI payments to India's extensive feature phone user base. This segment of users has been historically underserved by the digital financial industry and the broader startup ecosystem. We hope we can enable crores of these feature phone customers to participate in India's burgeoning digital payments market." Industry estimates suggest that India had around 24 crore feature phone users in 2024, with approximately 15 crore additional feature phone shipments projected over the next five years. PhonePe's move is seen as a significant step toward enhancing financial inclusion by integrating this underserved demographic into the digital economy.

## Ather Energy expands presence in Assam

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** In a bid to strengthen its presence in the North East's fast-growing electric two-wheeler market, Ather Energy has launched its second Experience Centre (EC) in Guwahati.

The new outlet, located at Ananda Nagar, Christian Basti, will offer test rides and bookings for Ather's latest 2025 range of performance scooters, including the upgraded Ather 450 series and the newly launched family scooter, Rizta.

The announcement was made in an official statement by the company, which outlined its plans to expand distribution and fast-charging infrastructure in the region.

Ather Energy's Chief Business Officer, Ravneet Singh Phokela, said the North East is emerging as a stronghold for premium two-wheeler demand, and the company is committed to accelerating electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the region.

"Traditionally, Assam and the entire North East have shown a preference for premium two-wheelers. We believe the region is ready for a major shift towards EVs. To support this, we're investing in retail expansion, product variety, and charging infrastructure," Phokela said.

As part of its expansion plan, Ather aims to set up five additional Experience Centres in Assam—in Lakhimpur, Tezpur, Tinsukia, Nagaon, and Jorhat—

doubling its store count in the region to ten.

The company also plans to scale up its fast-charging network to 60 Ather Grids across the North East in the coming months. To address concerns related to EV ownership, Ather is offering a complimentary Eight70 battery warranty to customers in the region.

The warranty covers eight years or 80,000 km, guaranteeing a minimum of 70% battery health.

Financing support is also being extended through Flexipay, a no-income-proof financing option offered via 10 partnered NBFCs, featuring competitive interest rates and flexible tenures.

The company also unveiled its 2025 scooter lineup in Guwahati. The Ather 450X now delivers a TrueRange™ of up to 130 km, while the 450 Apex boasts an IDC-certified range of 157 km.

These models come equipped with features such as MagicTwist™ regenerative braking and multi-mode traction control, offering Rain, Road, and Rally modes as standard.

The Ather Rizta, aimed at families, features a range of up to 159 km (IDC), 56 litres of under-seat storage, and safety features like SkidControl™, FallSafe™, Emergency Stop Signal (ESS), and theft/tow alerts.

In Assam, the Ather Rizta S starts at ₹1,11,519 and the Ather 450S at ₹1,22,361 (ex-showroom Guwahati). Test ride bookings are currently open on the company's website, [www.atherenergy.com](http://www.atherenergy.com).

## Airtel strengthens India's smart grid push

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** As India accelerates its ambitious smart meter rollout under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Airtel Business has emerged as a key technology partner, providing end-to-end IoT network architecture to support uninterrupted data transmission across the country's evolving energy grid.

According to an official statement, the deployment of 25 crore smart meters under RDSS is a cornerstone of India's transition to a highly digitised and intelligent power distribution system.

Ensuring seamless data flow from these meters is essential for enabling features like dynamic tariffing, remote control, and enhanced energy forecasting.

However, this transformation presents substantial connectivity challenges, particularly across

India's diverse topography—ranging from remote rural areas to congested urban zones.

Airtel's solution addresses these hurdles with a robust network infrastructure specifically designed for smart metering applications.

Airtel's architecture includes secure cellular IoT networks such as NB-IoT, which is optimised for low-throughput smart meter devices. Its proprietary IoT Hub platform offers centralized management for SIMs and devices, along with real-time monitoring and provisioning capabilities.

Additionally, application-layer services—including Head End Systems (HES), Meter Data Management (MDM), and prepaid billing platforms—are natively hosted on Airtel's secure cloud infrastructure. A notable feature of Airtel's NB-IoT service is its automatic fallback capability.

In areas where NB-IoT signals

are weak or unavailable, the system seamlessly switches to 2G or 4G networks, ensuring continuous data transmission without human intervention. Airtel's integrated approach is already driving impact on the ground.

The telecom major is supporting the deployment of over 20 million smart meters for Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) across five Indian states. The Airtel IoT Hub platform plays a central role in this deployment by managing devices, monitoring networks in real-time, and facilitating uninterrupted data transfer from meters to utility control systems.

In another major partnership, Airtel is working with IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd to support an additional 20 million smart meters. The collaboration spans full-stack IoT services, including connectivity, device orchestration, and cloud integration.

## IIBF inaugurates professional development centre in Guwahati

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** The Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) has inaugurated a new Professional Development Centre in Guwahati, marking a major step in expanding its presence and strengthening banking education and training in the North Eastern region.

According to an official statement, the state-of-the-art centre, located in Panbazar, was inaugurated by M V Rao, Managing Director and CEO of Central Bank of India, in the presence of IIBF CEO Biswa Ketan Das.

Senior officials from the Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, other leading banks, and representatives from academia and industry also attended the ceremony.

The Guwahati centre is designed to offer a range of capacity-building programs including executive training, certification courses, workshops, and seminars in banking, finance, and allied fields.

It is equipped with modern infrastructure, digital learning tools, and



experienced faculty, aimed at delivering impactful learning experiences for professionals in the financial services sector.

Addressing the gathering, Rao commended IIBF for its role in developing professional bankers across the country and emphasised the importance of skilled human resources in enhancing customer service and delivering financial services effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, IIBF CEO Biswa Ketan Das said, "This new centre is part of IIBF's vision

to promote continuous professional development and ensure accessibility of high-quality training across India. Guwahati, as a gateway to the North-East, holds strategic importance and offers immense potential for nurturing banking talent in the region."

The centre is expected to cater to the training needs of banking professionals across Assam and other northeastern states, playing a key role in upskilling the workforce and contributing to inclusive economic development in the region.

**ELECTRICAL WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION**

Tender Notice No. : Sr. DEEL/MG/09 of 2025-26, dtd. 03-06-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SN-1; Tender No.: EL/LM/25-26/12; Name of work : 1. Multidisciplinary sports complex at Lumding for basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis, badminton etc. under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IV/Lumding. (Electrical Portion) 2. Development of Indoor sports complex at Lumding for table tennis, billiards, Gym, caroms and snooker under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IV/Lumding. (Electric Portion) 3. Development of railway stadium for cricket and football at Lumding under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IV/Lumding. (Electric Portion). Tender Value: ₹ 1,01,28,767.81/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,00,700/-; SN-2; Tender No.: EL/LM/25-26/13; Name of work : Modernization and upgradation of DRM(W) Engineering section office by providing false ceiling, distemper, Aluminium door windows for provision of AC facility and other ancillary works under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IV/Lumding. (Electrical Portion). Tender Value: ₹ 16,84,969.27/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 33,300/-; Date & time of closing of above all tenders at 11:00 hrs. on 24-06-2025 and opening at 11:30 hrs. on 24-06-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 11:00 hrs. on 24-06-2025 in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

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SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

THE HILLS TIMES 3

## No let up in Assam flood scene, over 5.6 lakh affected

**Himanta visits Barak valley for 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 4 days, assures timely rehab grants to flood-hit**

**GUWAHATI/MORIGAON/SIL CHAR, June 6:** The flood situation in Assam continued to be critical with over 5.6 lakh people reeling under the deluge in 16 districts, an official bulletin said on Friday.

The toll in this year's floods and landslides stands at 21, with two more deaths reported on Thursday. Wildlife has also been affected with nearly 70 per cent of the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district facing inundation, an official said.

The Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati, has forecast thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in 18 districts of the state on Friday.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will be visiting the Barak Valley for the second day this week



to take stock of the situation, with three districts of this southern part of the state among the worst affected. An Assam State Disaster

Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said 57 revenue circles and 1,406 villages in 16 districts are under flood waters, affecting

5,61,644 people.

More than 41,000 displaced people are taking shelter in 175 relief camps, while another 210 relief distribution centres are also operational, it said.

The SDRF has been conducting evacuation operations in Sribhumi district since morning, ASDMA said. The bulletin said 3,348 people in two districts remained affected by "urban flood".

The Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has been severely affected by waters of Brahmaputra and Kopili rivers, the official said.

The floods have forced rhinos and other wildlife to seek higher ground for shelter. The forest department has taken measures to protect the animals, including providing food and ensuring that poachers (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## 'He might settle abroad any day': Himanta's fresh jibe at Gaurav Gogoi

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday took a fresh jibe at Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi, sarcastically remarking that Gogoi might "settle abroad any day."

While assessing the flood situation in the Sribhumi district, Sarma said, "In his [Gaurav Gogoi's] family of four members, three are British citizens. It is a good thing he visited Silchar to see the flood situation recently. This is significant—otherwise, he might settle abroad any day."

The chief minister added with sarcasm, "I cannot imagine the situation at the dining table in the family of the Congress leader, where three members are British citizens and he is the only Indian citizen."

Sarma also suggested that the

Congress party is losing ground in minority-dominated areas and could face a major setback in next year's assembly elections.

"I have received reports from police that during recent programs led by the new state Congress chief, minority communities did not turn up in large numbers. In Laharighat, where 5 lakh minority people reside, only about 5,000 people attended the Congress event," he claimed.

Highlighting differences between his political journey and that of Gogoi, Sarma said, "I was not born with a golden spoon. My father was not the chief minister of Assam. I've reached this stage after a lot of struggle. Moreover, in my family, all members are Indian citizens—unlike someone whose family has at least three British citizens." (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## KAAC signs MoU for Northeast's first biofuel refinery

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, June 6:** In a major step toward green energy and sustainable development, the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Goal Gas Pvt. Ltd. to set up the first-ever biofuel refinery in Northeast India.

The proposed plant will be located in Karbi Anglong, placing the district at the heart of the region's clean energy revolution.

The MoU was signed at the KAAC Secretariat in the presence of KAAC Chief Executive Member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang, other executive members, the Principal Secretary of KAAC, and officials from both KAAC and Goal Gas Pvt. Ltd. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Assamese Cine star Urmila Mahanta clinches top performer title

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** Acclaimed actress Urmila Mahanta has been bestowed with the coveted 'Outstanding Versatile Performer of the Year' award by Times Network, cementing her position as one of Northeast India's most celebrated cinematic talents.

The recognition comes as part of Times Network's grand celebration honoring exceptional individuals and institutions from Northeast India. Mahanta was among 36 distinguished personalities and organisations recognised as 'Gems of Northeast' for their outstanding contributions across diverse fields.

"This award is a testament to hard work and determination. I'm truly honoured and humbled. Thank you, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Family of Assam woman killed in M'laya road mishap demands probe

**GUWAHATI/ SHILLONG, June 6:** Family of a 25-year-old Assam woman, killed in a road accident in Meghalaya's Ri Bhoi district earlier this week, demanded a thorough inquiry into the incident on Friday.

The woman, Namrata Bora, had succumbed to injuries sustained when the car she was travelling in from Shillong to Guwahati was hit by a vehicle while overtaking a stationary truck in the early hours on Wednesday.

Namrata's father, who has been questioning the circumstances sur-

rounding her death, has now demanded an investigation into the accident.

"I am in a very disturbed state of mind. My only plea is that she should get justice and I have full faith in the justice system. I request our chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to conduct a thorough inquiry," he told reporters at his Golaghat residence after performing rituals in memory of Namrata.

He has already filed a complaint at the Dispur police station in Guwahati, demanding a probe into the incident.

Namrata, who worked in Guwahati, had purportedly gone on a drive towards Shillong with her friends in the early hours on Wednesday, but they decided to return midway. Their car met with an accident in Shangbanga area of Ri Bhoi district while trying to overtake a stationary truck.

Namrata succumbed to her injuries at Nongpoh civil hospital, where she was taken, while the other passengers escaped with minor injuries. As per Ri Bhoi police's information on the day of the accident, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## IIT-Guwahati uses clay particles to develop affordable COVID-19 testing method

*'Previous studies have shown that clay particles can bind with viruses and bacteriophages'*

**NEW DELHI, June 6:** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, have found that clay particles interact differently in the presence of SARS-CoV-2 -- the virus that causes COVID-19 -- a finding they used for developing a simple, affordable testing alternative.

The approach developed looks at how quickly particles of clay settle in a salt water solution containing the virus. "Due to changes in inter-particle forces of clay in the presence of the virus, the sedimentation rate of the clay-electrolyte system changed," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Applied Clay Science.

The findings offer a "simple and affordable" alter-



native to the complex, expensive methods currently used for detecting SARS-CoV-2, the team said. "Current methods, such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), are highly sensitive (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## PM inaugurates world's highest rail bridge in J-K

**KATRA, June 6:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab river, which was completed at a cost of ₹ 1,486 crore in more than eight years.

The prime minister then walked on the bridge holding the tricolour.

After the Chenab bridge, Modi inaugurated India's first cable-stayed rail bridge over the river Anji. Before the inauguration, Modi travelled in a rail engine coach to reach the spot.

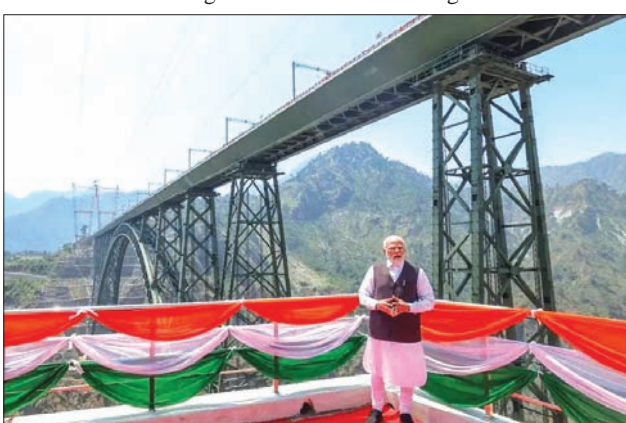
Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and chief minister Omar Abdullah were present on the occasion. The architectural marvel Chenab rail bridge, situated at a height of 359 metres above the river and 35 metres higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, is a 1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions.

The bridge forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, and its construction was approved in 2002, but the work started only in 2017. Before the construction, 26 km of approach roads and a 400-metre-long tunnel were built to reach the site, railway officials said.

The cable crane was commissioned on

August 31, 2013, for the erection of a steel arch, trestle and piers. In 2017, an incremental launch over a 2.74-degree circular and a transition curve of 268 metres length was successfully done for the first time in the Indian Railways.

Joining of the 467-metre-long arch



span was the most critical activity, the officials said, adding precision was to be maintained so that both ends of the arch meet with no error to ensure a perfect fit of the last segment of the arch.

The arch closure ceremony was conducted in April 2021, while the other major milestone was the 'Golden Joint' of the deck. The 785-metre-long deck superstructure was launched from both Kauri and Bakkal ends and was finally joined

over the arch. The Golden Joint ceremony was conducted on August 13, 2022.

The Anji bridge is the second-highest railway bridge after the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab at nearby Kauri.

In October 2016, the railway decided to build a cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad after the plan to build an arch bridge similar to the Chenab bridge was abandoned due to the vulnerability of the structure, primarily due to concerns over the geological stability of the region.

This asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of the Anji river, a tributary of the Chenab river, and is located in the young fold mountains of the Himalayas, having extremely complex, fragile and daunting geological features in the form of faults, folds and thrusts and besides seismic proneness of the region.

According to railway officials, the total length of the bridge is 725 metres. It consists of an ancillary viaduct, an approach bridge and a central embankment.

It has been designed to handle heavy storms, strong winds and even explosions. The total deck width of the bridge is 15 metres. The Anji bridge has a support of 96 cables varying from 82 metres to 295 metres, officials said. (PTI)

## Indo-Pak conflict had very negligible impact on economic activity: RBI Gov

**MUMBAI, June 6:** Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday said the India-Pakistan conflict, following the Pahalgam attack in which 26 civilians were killed, had negligible impact on economic activity.

After the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, in which 26 people were killed, Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor and hit terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

Indian armed forces on May 7 carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke.

In retaliation, Pakistan, too, launched its offensive and bordering districts were affected.

"The conflict... had a very, very limited, negligible impact on economic activity. It did have some impact for those days, especially in northern India, airports being closed, air passenger traffic did certainly decrease, but there was no major supply chain disruption, etc," he said.

So, he said, it does not have any impact on economic activity, growth, inflation.

For few days, he said, "Prices in those regions, those sectors, had gone up, but it has all normalised. It does not have any major impact on the economy."

On the recent rise in Covid-19 cases, he said it is not a matter of concern as of now.

"I think it has become one of the viruses, and hopefully it should stay like that," he added. (PTI)

## We will break barrier of 50 pc cap on quotas: Rahul Gandhi in Bihar

**RAJGIR/GAYA/JI (BIHAR), June 6:** Rejecting outright the 50 per cent cap on caste-based reservations, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday vowed that "the barrier will be broken" in whichever part of the country his party came to power.

The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha made the promise in Bihar, the state which was a hotbed of the Mandal agitation in the 1990s, and where polls to the assembly are likely in a few months.

"I wonder where did this idea of a 50 per cent cap come from? The population of the deprived sections is close to 90 per cent," said the former Congress president at a 'Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan' (symposium for protecting the Constitution) in Rajgir.

Voicing disapproval of the cap that has been placed by the Supreme Court, Gandhi said a caste census would be the first step in doing away with the barrier.

"When we conducted a caste survey in Telangana, which showed among other things that Dalits, tribals and other backward classes hardly got any government contracts, the chief minister of that state ordered that the 50 per cent limit be scrapped. He was left with no choice," said Gandhi, evoking applause.

Telangana is governed by the Congress. "We have broken the barrier in Telangana and Karnataka. And the barrier will be broken wherever else we form a government," he declared.

Gandhi's visit to Rajgir, in Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's home district of Nalanda, was much talked about as the administration had denied permission for it last month, days after he had defied similar orders to interact with students in Darbhanga.

Gandhi also took a swipe at the JD(U)-BJP government in the state, alleging that it had converted Bihar into "the crime capital of the country". "How regrettable it is for a land which was in ancient times associated with the Buddha and the Nalanda University. The heritage is still the driving force behind modern powers like Japan, Korea and China," said the Congress leader.

Gandhi, who had entered politics way back in 2004, admitted to have taken his time for "discovery

of India", recalling the title of the book by "my great grandfather" Jawahar Lal Nehru. He said that his understanding of the Indian realities led him to relentlessly pursue the demand for "caste census", and in due course, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "surrendered".

Repeatedly uttering the word, which has been causing the BJP to fly off the handle, Gandhi claimed: "US President Donald Trump has said, 11 times, that Modi surrendered (in agreeing to halt military operations against Pakistan). This is because what Trump has said is the truth". Talking to reporters later, he said "I am only repeating what Trump has said 11 times. If the US President is lying, Modi should call his bluff".

Gandhi insisted that caste census, combined with all other data that is with the Government of India, will lead to a paradigm shift in the way development is looked at in the country.

He added, waving a copy of the Constitution, "I know this new beginning will be made in Bihar. You have it in your DNA. This book is based on principles of the Buddha". In his speech, Gandhi also said the Modi government would not conduct a genuine caste census as it would go against the politics of the BJP-RSS. The Congress leader also charged the government with "ruining the public sector" to benefit private players, and alleged that a big business house was planning to occupy the land on which Dharavi, the sprawling locality in Mumbai, was situated.

Later, Gandhi interacted with women in Gayagi, where he stressed the commitment of his party to ensuring better participation of women in the country's economic growth.

The former Congress president began his day-long tour of the state by visiting Beldaur, an impoverished village in Gayagi where he met Bhagirath, the son of the late Dasharath Manjhi, also known as the 'mountain man'.

Manjhi had carved a path, 360 feet long and 30 feet wide, through a ridge of hills using only a hammer and a chisel. After 22 years of work, he singlehandedly shortened the distance between his village and Wazirganj, where the nearest hospital is located, from 55 km to 15 km. (PTI)

## Active Covid cases in India cross 5,000-mark

**NEW DELHI, June 6:** India's active Covid case tally crossed the 5,000 mark with Kerala remaining the most affected state followed by Gujarat, West Bengal and Delhi, according to the Union Health Ministry data released on Friday.

In view of the increase in cases, the Centre is conducting mock drills to check facility-level preparedness for COVID-19.

All states have been instructed to ensure availability of oxygen, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential medicines in view of rising cases of Covid.

There are 5,364 active cases in India and four fresh deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours.

Official sources have maintained that most cases are mild and managed under home care.

Since January this year, 55 deaths have been reported in the country. There were a total of 257 active patients in the country on May 22.

A series of technical review meetings were held on June 2 and

3 under chairpersonship of Dr Sunita Sharma, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) with representatives of Disaster Management Cell, Emergency Management Response (EMR) Cell, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and Central Government Hospitals in Delhi and with representatives from all states and UTs to evaluate the current COVID-19 situation and preparedness measures. Official sources on June 4 said that State and District surveillance units under IDSP are closely monitoring Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI).

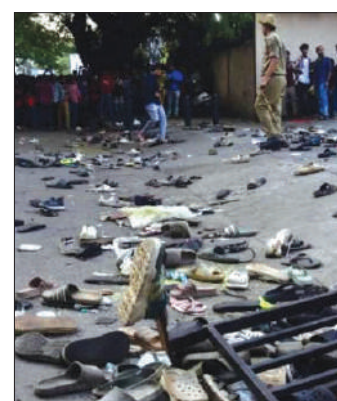
"Testing is recommended for all admitted SARI cases and 5 per cent of ILI cases as per guidelines and positive SARI samples are sent for Whole Genome Sequencing through the ICMR VRDL network," an official source had said. (PTI)

## Bengaluru stampede: Police arrest officials of RCB, event management firm

**BENGALURU, June 6:** Four officials of RCB and event management firm DNA Entertainment Private Limited were arrested on Friday in connection with the stampede outside Chinnaswamy stadium that killed 11 people, police sources said. They were remanded to 14-day judicial custody.

Meanwhile, a complaint was filed by social activist H M Venkatesh against Cricketer Virat Kohli holding him responsible for the stampede during the celebrations of RCB's first ever IPL victory on June 4. However, no FIR has been registered on his complaint yet, police sources said.

Kohli is also in RCB squad. The 41st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate remanded Nikhil Sosale (Head of Marketing and Revenue) of RCB and Sunil Mathew (Vice President, Business Affairs), Kiran Kumar (Senior Event Manager) and Sumanth (Ticketing Operations Lead) from DNA Entertainment Private Limited to 14-day judicial custody.



Speaking to PTI Videos, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed that few arrests have been made over the stampede case.

"Few arrests have been made. Our teams are taking the case very seriously, and ultimately the case has to go to CID. So before going to CID, whatever legal formalities have to be done by our team, they are doing it," he said.

Meanwhile, two more FIRs

were registered against RCB, DNA Entertainment Private Limited and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) based on the complaints of two victims in the stampede incident.

Earlier in the day, Sosale, who was taken into custody from the Kempegowda International Airport, had moved the High Court challenging his arrest. However, he did not get immediate relief and the case was adjourned to June 9.

The stampede occurred on Wednesday evening in front of the stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. The RCB and event management officials were nabbed in a joint operation by the crime branch and Bengaluru Police. After medical examination, they were produced before the court amid tight security.

Police action followed the FIR registered on June 5 against RCB, DNA Entertainment Private Limited and KSCA. (PTI)



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*Hope is the only bee that makes honey without flowers - Robert Green Ingersoll*

## Is US-China bonhomie over?

At the recently concluded Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth urged US allies in Asia to boost defences fast, saying America is shifting its strategy to counter growing threats from China. During his speech at the 22nd Shangri-La Dialogue, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth painted a picture which warned that China is “credibly preparing” to use military force to shift the power balance in Asia, saying that the US remains firmly committed to the Indo-Pacific region. The comments come amid growing tensions between Washington and Beijing over trade, technology, and regional influence. Since assuming office in January, President Trump has launched a trade war with China, restricted access to advanced AI technologies, and strengthened security ties with allies such as the Philippines. Hegseth called China’s actions a “wake-up call”, accusing Beijing of endangering lives with cyber-attacks, harassing neighbours, and “illegally seizing and militarising lands” in the South China Sea. He reiterated that the US is committed to ensuring “China cannot dominate us — or our allies and partners”. At the Singapore security forum, Hegseth emphasised that the Indo-Pacific remains “America’s priority theatre” and reaffirmed Trump’s pledge that “China will not invade (Taiwan) on his watch”.

While Hegseth delivered his address in Singapore, China’s military announced that its navy and air force were conducting routine “combat readiness patrols” near the Scarborough Shoal — a disputed group of reefs and rocks contested with the Philippines. China’s assertiveness in the South China Sea has only increased in recent years,” said Casey Mace, chargé d’affaires at the US embassy in Singapore, speaking to reporters ahead of the summit. “I think that this type of forum is exactly the type of forum where we need to have an exchange on that.” China, which usually sends its defence minister to the Shangri-La forum, this time sent a lower-level delegation led by Major General Hu Gangfeng, the vice president of the People’s Liberation Army’s National Defence University. In response to the “negative” comments by US defence secretary on China, which exaggerated the “China threat” narrative, Zhang Xiaogang, a spokesperson for China’s Ministry of National Defence, stated on Sunday (June 1) that the US is accustomed to creating disputes, inciting confrontation, and pursuing selfish interests at the Shangri-La Dialogue, newspaper Global Times reported. The remarks made by the US defence secretary were filled with deeply ingrained hegemonic logic, bullying behaviour, and Cold War mentality. They seriously provoked China’s sovereignty and interests, distort China’s policy positions, and grossly disregard the joint efforts of regional countries to maintain prosperity and stability.

Now the bigger question is whether Hegseth’s assessment, correct? The Economist in an analysis correctly opines that in fact, a fog of uncertainty hangs over Taiwan. Last year American officials reset 2027 as a target date for the Chinese government, and suggested that the danger of invasion had receded. They cited China’s shortage of amphibious landing craft and repeated anti-corruption purges in the top ranks of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) that suggest Xi Jinping, China’s leader, lacks confidence in his commanders. Western defence officials say there is no intelligence indicating an imminent assault on Taiwan.

## Eid al-Adha: A global celebration of faith and sacrifice

As the Islamic calendar ushers in another year of spiritual significance, Muslims around the world prepare to celebrate Eid al-Adha, a cornerstone of Islamic tradition that embodies sacrifice, faith, and community. In 2025, this revered festival holds a special resonance, coinciding with key moments in the Islamic lunar calendar and uniting over 1.8 billion Muslims in a shared expression of devotion. This article explores the intricacies of Eid al-Adha in 2025, addressing its dates, historical context, global celebrations, and the profound differences that set it apart from its counterpart, Eid al-Fitr, while shedding light on the cyclical nature of Islamic holidays and their deep cultural impact.

Eid al-Adha in 2025 is set to begin on the evening of Friday, June 6, and conclude on the evening of Monday, June 9, depending on the sighting of the crescent moon. This date aligns with the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth and final month of the Islamic lunar calendar, as confirmed by announcements from religious authorities in Saudi Arabia and echoed by posts on X from users like Markazul ilm LiNisaa Wa Banaat and Khaleej Times. The festival traditionally spans three to four days, known as the Tashreeq days, during which celebrations continue with communal prayers, feasts, and acts of charity. The Day of Arafah, a pivotal moment during the Hajj pilgrimage, precedes Eid al-Adha on June 5, marking a day of reflection and supplication for Muslims worldwide.

Reflecting on the previous year, Eid al-Adha was observed on June 16, 2024, a date that indeed differs from this year’s schedule. This shift is a hallmark of the Islamic calendar, which operates on a lunar system rather than the solar-based Gregorian calendar. The lunar calendar, comprising approximately 354 days, is about 10 to 12 days shorter than its solar counterpart, causing Islamic holidays like Eid al-Adha to occur earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar. This fundamental difference, as noted in sources like Time Out Dubai, ensures that the dates of Eid al-Adha and other Islamic observances are not fixed but rather tied to the sighting of the new moon, a practice that varies by region and local religious authorities. For instance, while Saudi Arabia may confirm the start of Dhu al-Hijjah on May 28, 2025, countries like India and Pakistan might sight the moon a day later, potentially celebrating Eid on June 7, as highlighted in Hindustan Times.



The question of why these dates differ annually delves deeper into the mechanics of the Islamic lunar calendar. Unlike the Gregorian calendar, which is based on the Earth’s orbit around the Sun, the Islamic calendar relies on the phases of the moon, a system that has been in place since the time of the Prophet Muhammad. The sighting of the crescent moon on the 29th day of the preceding month, Dhu al-Qadah, determines the start of Dhu al-Hijjah, and subsequently, the date of Eid al-Adha. This lunar dependency, coupled with regional variations in moon sighting practices, means that the exact date of Eid can vary slightly across the globe. In the United States, for example, Muslim communities may celebrate on different days depending on their adherence to local or Saudi moon sightings, as explained by timeanddate.com. This fluidity underscores the communal and spiritual nature of the festival, as Muslims await the moon’s appearance with anticipation and unity.

Eid al-Adha, often referred to as the “Festival of Sacrifice” or the “Greater Eid,” holds profound significance in Islam. It commemorates the unwavering faith of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), who, according to Islamic tradition, was commanded by Allah in a dream to sacrifice his son, believed to be Ismail (Ishmael) in the Islamic narrative. As Ibrahim prepared to fulfill this divine command, Allah intervened, replacing Ismail with a ram, honoring Ibrahim’s obedience and devotion. This story, also known as the Akedah in Judaism, is recounted in the Quran’s 37th surah, As-Saaffat, and serves as a reminder of the virtues of submission, sacrifice, and trust in Allah. Eid al-Adha also marks the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, which sees around 2 million Muslims annually converge on the holy city to perform rituals like the tawaf around the Ka’bah and the stoning of the devil, as detailed by BBC Bitesize and Wikipedia.

The celebration of Eid al-Adha is a vibrant tapestry of rituals and traditions that reflect its deep spiritual roots. Muslims begin the day with a special congregational prayer, Salat al-Eid, performed shortly after sunrise, often in open fields or mosques. This prayer, consisting of two rakats with additional takbirs (declarations of “Allahu Akbar”), is followed by a sermon emphasizing themes of sacrifice and compassion. A central ritual of Eid al-Adha is the qurbani, or animal sacrifice, which commemorates Ibrahim’s act

of sacrifice. Families who can afford to do so slaughter a sheep, goat, cow, or camel, dividing the meat into three portions: one for the family, one for friends and relatives, and one for the poor, ensuring that the less fortunate are included in the festivities. In countries like the UK and the US, where slaughtering at home may be restricted, Muslims often arrange for the sacrifice through licensed abattoirs or donate to charities like Muslim Hands USA to distribute meat globally, as noted by Islamic Relief UK and Orphans in Need.

Beyond the sacrifice, Eid al-Adha is a time of joy and connection. Muslims don their finest clothes, often new garments, and exchange greetings of “Eid Mubarak,” meaning “Blessed Eid.” Families gather for festive meals featuring savory dishes like biryani, kebabs, and haleem, earning Eid al-Adha the nickname “Salty Eid,” in contrast to the “Sweet Eid” of Eid al-Fitr, which focuses on desserts. In the Middle East, traditional sweets like ma’amoul and qatayef are enjoyed, while in Pakistan, children receive Eidi—money or gifts from elders. Cultural practices vary globally: in Afghanistan, women apply henna, and in African nations, friends exchange gifts, as highlighted by Wikipedia. These celebrations foster a sense of community, generosity, and gratitude, aligning with the festival’s core values.

Eid al-Adha is celebrated by Muslims worldwide, encompassing a diverse global community of over 1.8 billion people. From the 3 million Muslims in the US to the millions in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Indonesia, the festival transcends borders, uniting believers in a shared expression of faith. In Muslim-majority countries, it is a public holiday, often lasting several days, while in places like the UK and the US, Muslims may take annual leave to observe the occasion, as noted by timeanddate.com. The festival’s universal appeal lies in its emphasis on universal human values—sacrifice, charity, and family—making it a deeply inclusive celebration. Earlier this year, on March 30, 2025, Muslims celebrated Eid al-

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Earlier this year, on March 30, 2025, Muslims celebrated Eid al-

Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. This earlier Eid, often called the “Smaller Eid,” differs significantly from Eid al-Adha in both purpose and practice. Eid al-Fitr, meaning “Festival of Breaking the Fast,” is a joyous occasion that rewards Muslims for completing a month of dawn-to-dusk fasting, one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It lasts one to three days, depending on the country, and begins with the sighting of the crescent moon marking the start of Shawwal, the tenth Islamic month. Unlike Eid al-Adha, where eating is delayed until after the prayer and sacrifice, Eid al-Fitr encourages Muslims to eat a small sweet meal, often dates, before the prayer, symbolizing the breaking of the fast. Additionally, Eid al-Fitr involves paying Zakat al-Fitr, a form of charity to support the poor, whereas Eid al-Adha focuses on the qurbani, as explained by Islamic Relief UK and Muslim Aid.

The differences between the two Eids extend beyond rituals to their spiritual significance. Eid al-Fitr celebrates personal discipline and gratitude for completing Ramadan, while Eid al-Adha honors Ibrahim’s profound act of obedience and the completion of Hajj, making it the holier of the two festivals in religious terms. While both involve communal prayers, festive meals, and charity, Eid al-Adha’s emphasis on sacrifice and its connection to Hajj give it a distinct gravitas, often referred to as the “Greater Eid.” These distinctions, as noted by ABC News, highlight the complementary nature of the two Eids, each reinforcing different aspects of Islamic faith and practice.

As Eid al-Adha 2025 approaches, its significance resonates deeply in a world seeking unity and compassion. Whether through the shared meat of qurbani, the communal prayers, or the global gatherings during Hajj, the festival serves as a powerful reminder of the values that bind humanity—faith, generosity, and sacrifice. For Muslims worldwide, June 6, 2025, will be a day to reflect on Ibrahim’s legacy, strengthen community ties, and extend kindness to those in need, embodying the timeless spirit of Eid al-Adha. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmigpltd@gmail.com)

## Steel industry in India: A perspective

(... continued from last edition)

By: Diganta Barooah

Some of the major investments in the Indian steel industry are :

✓ India and Japan held the third Steel Dialogue on Feb 4, 2025, in New Delhi, discussing economic trends, steel trade, and industry developments. India highlighted policy initiatives, green steel efforts, and investment opportunities for Japan.

✓ In February 2025, during the Bengal Global Business Summit, about 50% of the ₹ 26,000 cr (US\$ 3,02 bn) investment proposals received by Jharkhand government in Kolkata pertain to the steel sector.

✓ In February 2025, JSW Group announced a ₹ 1,00,000 cr (US\$ 11.60 bn) investment to set up a 25 MT steel plant in Maharashtra’s Gadchiroli district over seven to eight years. The project, expected to be the world’s largest and most eco-friendly, will drive economic growth and job creation in Vidarbha.

✓ In February 2024, The JSW Group is set to build a steel plant in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, with an investment of US\$ 7.8 bn (₹ 65,000 cr). The plant will have a production capacity of 13.2 MT of steel per year and is expected to create 30,000 jobs.

✓ In February 2024, JSW Steel plans to establish a joint venture with Japan’s JFE Steel Corporation in a 50:50 partnership to invest US\$ 661.9 mn (₹ 5,500 cr) in setting up a plant in Karnataka.

✓ In January 2024, according to Lakshmi Mittal, Gujarat will host the world’s largest steel manufacturing site by 2029 at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit.

✓ In November 2023, Steel Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha said that India’s steel capacity has crossed 161 MT, and the industry is poised for continuous growth.

✓ In October 2023, Government e-Marketplace, the national public procurement platform, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Indian Steel Association (ISA). This partnership intends to bring all ISA members onto the GeM platform as sellers, promoting a diverse business environment regardless of their size.

✓ In July 2023, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that Japan is eager to invest ₹ 5 tn (US\$ 36 bn), in various sectors in India, including steel.

✓ As announced in May 2023, INOX Air Products will invest ₹ 1,300 cr (US\$ 157.5 mn) to set up two air separation units having a capacity of 1,800 tonnes a day each at Tata Steel’s plant in Dhenkanal, Odisha.

✓ In May 2023, the industry body Indian Steel Association (ISA) announced signing an agreement with the ASEAN Iron and Steel Council (AISC) to unlock new avenues of growth and sustainability in the steel sector.

✓ Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Union Minister of Steel, and Nishimura Yasutoshi, the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan, held a bilateral meeting on July

20, 2023, in New Delhi to discuss collaboration in the steel sector and issues relating to decarbonisation.

✓ AMNS India is planning to spend US\$ 7.4 bn on expanding capacity and increasing its value-added investments in both its upstream and downstream capacities and enhancing its iron ore capabilities.

✓ In May 2023, JSW Steel and JFE Steel, signed an agreement to set up a JV company to manufacture the entire range of cold rolled grain-oriented electrical steel (CRGO) products at Vijaynagar in Karnataka.

✓ In April 2023, AMNS India, a joint venture between Arcelor Mittal and Nippon Steel, received approval from India’s regulatory body (NCLT) to acquire Indian Steel Corporation.

✓ Tata Steel in April 2023 informed that it has signed an agreement with A&B Global Mining to harness new business development opportunities and deliver mine technical services. The steel major will closely work with ABGM India which will interface with their South African entity to explore business opportunities in India and abroad besides utilising each other’s technical and strategic strengths to deliver projects across the mining and metals, including the steel value chain.

✓ 67 applications from 30 companies have been selected under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel. This will attract committed investment of ₹ 42,500 cr (US\$ 5.19 bn) with a downstream capacity addition of 26 mn tonnes and employment generation potential of 70,000.

✓ In September 2022, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Maharatna PSU, supplied 30,000 tonnes of the entire DMR grade specialty steel for the nation’s first indigenous built Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant.

✓ In August 2022, Tata Steel signed an MoU with Punjab Government to set up a steel scrap based electric arc furnace steel plant.

✓ In May 2022, Tata Steel announced a CAPEX of ₹ 12,000 cr (US\$ 1.50 bn).

Recent Government initiatives in the Steel Sector are :

✓ The Union Ministry of Steel launched PLI Scheme 1.1 on January 6, 2025, with a ₹ 6,322 cr (US\$ 733.40 mn) outlay to boost specialty steel production and attract investments. Covering 5 key product categories, the scheme eases norms to reduce imports, enhance domestic manufacturing, and improve energy efficiency, with applications open until January 2025.

✓ In February 2024, the government has implemented various measures to promote self-reliance in the steel industry.

✓ In October 2021, the government announced guidelines for the approved specialty steel production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

✓ In October 2021, India and Russia signed an MoU to carry out R&D in the steel sector and produce coking coal (used in steel

making).

✓ In July 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel. The scheme is expected to attract investment worth ₹ 400 bn (US\$ 5.37 bn) and expand specialty steel capacity by 25 MT, to 42 MT in FY27, from 18 MT in FY21.

✓ In June 2021, Minister of Steel & Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the webinar on ‘Making Eastern India a manufacturing hub with respect to metallurgical industries’, organised by the Indian Institute of Metals. In 2020, ‘Mission Purvodaya’ was launched to accelerate the development of the eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and the northern part of Andhra Pradesh) through the establishment of an integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal. Eastern India has the potential to add 75% of the country’s incremental steel capacity. It is expected that of the 300 MT capacity by 2030-31, 200 MT can come from this region alone.

✓ In June 2021, JSW Steel, CSIR-National Chemical Lab (NCL), Scottish Development International (SDI) and India H2 Alliance (IH2A) joined forces to commercialise hydrogen in the steel and cement sectors.

✓ Under the Union Budget 2023-24, the government allocated ₹ 70.15 cr (US\$ 8.6 mn) to the Ministry of Steel.

✓ In addition, an investment of ₹ 75,000 cr (US\$ 9.15 bn) (including ₹ 15,000 cr has been allocated for 100 critical transport infrastructure projects for last and first mile connectivity for various sectors such as ports, coal, and steel.

✓ In January 2021, the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan, to boost the steel sector through joint activities under the framework of India-Japan Steel Dialogue.

✓ The Union Cabinet, Government of India approved the National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017, as it intends to create a globally competitive steel industry in India. NSP 2017 envisage 300 MT steel-making capacity and 160 kgs per capita steel consumption by 2030-31.

✓ The Ministry of Steel is facilitating the setting up of an industry driven Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) in association with the public and private sector steel companies to spearhead research and development activities in the iron and steel industry at an initial corpus of ₹ 200 cr (US\$ 30 mn).

✓ The Government of India raised import duty on most steel items twice, each time by 2.5% and imposed measures including anti-dumping and safeguard duties on iron and steel items.

Steel Industry In Assam

The steel industry in Assam is a key sector in the state’s economy, contributing to overall industrial growth and employment. While

Assam doesn’t have major steel production facilities like some other regions in India, it plays a significant role in supporting the steel sector through various activities and related industries. The state’s industry and commerce sector focuses on promoting investment and growth in various sectors, including steel-related industries.

**Supporting Industries:**

Assam has a mix of industries that support the steel sector, including manufacturing, construction, and infrastructure development.

**Bell Metal Industry:**

Assam is known for its traditional bell metal industry, which uses steel scraps and other materials to create various products.

**Investment and Growth:**

The state government is actively promoting investment and growth in the industrial sector, including steel-related industries, through various schemes and policies.

**Infrastructure Support:**

Assam is working on improving infrastructure, including industrial parks, to support the growth of various industries, including those involved in steel.

**MSME Sector:**

The micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in Assam plays a significant role in supporting the steel industry by providing materials, components, and services.

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

Assam faces challenges like insufficient infrastructure and power generation, but also opportunities for growth through border trade and government initiatives like the “Act East Policy”.

The steel industry has emerged as a major focus area given the dependence of a diverse range of sectors on its output as India works to become a manufacturing powerhouse through policy initiatives like Make in India. With the industry accounting for about 2% of the nation’s GDP, India ranks as the world’s second-largest producer of steel and is poised to overtake China as the world’s second-largest consumer of steel. Both the industry and the nation’s export manufacturing capacity have the potential to help India regain its favourable steel trade balance.

The National Steel Policy, 2017 envisage 300 MT of production capacity by 2030-31. The per capita consumption of steel has increased from 57.6 kgs to 74.1 kgs during the last five years. The government has a fixed objective of increasing rural consumption of steel from the current 19.6 kg/per capita to 38 kg/per capita by 2030-31.

Huge scope for growth is offered by India’s comparatively low per capita steel consumption and the expected rise in consumption due to increased infrastructure construction and the thriving automobile and railways sectors. (The author is the Assistant Development Officer, Transformation and Development Department, Government of Assam. He can be reached at 7002699011 or digantaraju@gmail.com and digantabarooah@yahoo.com)

## The ethical significance of Eid ul-Adha today

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

Eid ul-Adha, often called the Festival of Sacrifice, is a celebration that holds profound meaning for Muslims around the world. This annual event commemorates the unwavering faith and obedience of Prophet Ibrahim, known as Abraham in other faiths, who was willing to sacrifice his beloved son as an act of submission to God’s command. The story culminates with God intervening and providing a ram for sacrifice instead, symbolizing mercy and divine provision. While rooted deeply in Islamic tradition, the ethical values embedded in Eid ul-Adha have a universal appeal and relevance, especially in today’s complex world. These values include sacrifice, charity, humility, social responsibility, and compassion, which continue to inspire believers and offer lessons for humanity at large.

The central ritual of Eid ul-Adha is the Qurbani, the act of sacrificing an animal such as a goat, sheep, cow, or camel. The significance of this ritual is much more than the physical act of sacrifice; it embodies the principle of giving up something valuable for a higher purpose. The practice reminds Muslims that faith demands more than belief — it calls for action, commitment, and often personal sacrifice. In the modern world, this message remains potent and challenging. Sacrifice today might not always involve the literal giving up of material goods, but rather the willingness to let go of selfish desires, comfort, or prejudices in order to serve a greater good.

One of the most important ethical dimensions of Eid ul-Adha lies in the distribution of the meat from the sacrificed animal. Tradition mandates that the meat be divided into three parts: one portion for the family, another for friends and relatives, and a significant part for the poor and needy. This act is a powerful reminder of the social responsibilities that come with religious observance. It emphasizes generosity and inclusiveness, ensuring that the celebration is not confined to personal joy but extends to uplifting the vulnerable and marginalized in society. In today’s world, where inequality is rampant and many face food insecurity, the spirit of sharing during Eid ul-Adha serves as a model for social solidarity and compassion.

Beyond charity, Eid ul-Adha teaches humility. The festival is a time for believers to reflect on their blessings and recognize the limits of human control. It is a moment to remember that life’s true value lies not in material wealth or status but in one’s character and deeds. The willingness of Ibrahim to surrender his son’s life epitomizes the highest form of submission and trust in divine wisdom. This humility, however, is not passive resignation; it is an active, conscious choice to align one’s life with ethical and spiritual principles. In a world often driven by greed and arrogance, this message is both timely and necessary.

Eid ul-Adha’s ethical significance also extends to environmental and animal welfare

concerns. Modern discussions often highlight the importance of humane treatment of animals during the sacrificial process. Many Muslim scholars and communities advocate for practices that minimize animal suffering, avoid waste, and emphasize sustainability. This ethical sensitivity reflects a broader Islamic worldview that honors the sanctity of all creation and calls for responsible stewardship of the earth. In an age of climate crisis and ecological degradation, the teachings of Eid ul-Adha encourage believers to consider their impact on the environment and to adopt lifestyles that respect the balance of nature.

The festival’s focus on sacrifice and charity also challenges the growing commercialization of religious holidays. In some societies, Eid ul-Adha has become associated with lavish spending on animals, gifts, and feasts. While celebration is an important part of the festival, the core ethical teachings remind believers that true sacrifice is measured by intention and compassion rather than extravagance. This serves as a critique of consumerism and material excess, urging a return to simplicity, mindfulness, and generosity.

Moreover, Eid ul-Adha fosters social cohesion and inter-community harmony. By encouraging acts of charity that reach beyond one’s immediate circle, it nurtures empathy and breaks down social barriers. The festival also provides opportunities for interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange, as non-Muslims often witness and sometimes participate in the spirit of sharing and goodwill. In pluralistic societies, such exchanges promote mutual respect and understanding, which are essential for peaceful coexistence.

In addition to its ethical and social dimensions, Eid ul-Adha is a profound spiritual experience. It renews the believer’s connection with God through prayer, reflection, and acts of worship. The festival reaffirms the values of faith, patience, and submission that are central to Islamic belief. It reminds individuals that ethical living is inseparable from spiritual commitment. This holistic approach to ethics — combining belief with practice — offers a comprehensive framework for moral conduct that is relevant beyond religious contexts.

In conclusion, the ethical significance of Eid ul-Adha today is far-reaching and deeply relevant. It reminds us of the timeless values of sacrifice, humility, charity, and social responsibility. These principles resonate not only within the Muslim community but also offer universal guidance for addressing the challenges of inequality, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation that characterize the modern world. As we witness the celebrations of Eid ul-Adha across diverse societies, it is crucial to embrace its ethical teachings and allow them to inspire a more compassionate, just, and united humanity. The festival’s call to sacrifice is ultimately a call to love — to place the well-being of others alongside our own, and to live in harmony with the world and with God.



# Top 10 courses for Commerce students after class 12



By: Navagam PP

It's that time of the year when students and parents are grappling with choices -- which

courses will guarantee a good career after class 12?

While students are increasingly preferring the science and arts streams, if one looks at the admis-

sion figures, the number of students who have opted for a BCom degree has remained more or less stable over the years.

In today's dynamic economic landscape, commerce and management education is crucial for a global career. As more industries embrace automation, data analytics and fintech, there is a growing demand for professionals with special skills and a flexible personality.

Here are 10 emerging undergraduate courses that are redefining commerce education in India:

**1. BCom (strategic finance)**  
This programme combines the classical concepts of commerce with sophisticated financial tactics, hence readying students for corporate finance, investment analysis and financial planning positions.

Skills required: Analytical thinking, financial modelling, business acumen, strategic decision-making and quantitative aptitude.

**2. BCom (international accounting)**

This course is for students aspiring for careers worldwide in ac-

counting and finance. It emphasises on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), international auditing techniques and cross-border compliance, making it ideal for careers with multinational companies, Big Four accounting firms and global tax consulting firms.

Skills required: Numerical accuracy, regulatory knowledge, attention to detail, global mindset and fluency in financial laws.

**3. BCom (computer applications)**

With digital transformation sweeping through sectors, this course amalgamates commerce and technology in the most unique way.

Students are trained in accounting software such as Tally, ERP tools, database management and programming basics that are critical for fintech, accounting technology and data-driven business professions.

Skills required: Computer proficiency, software knowledge, data analysis, technology flexibility and problem-solving.

**4. Bachelor of management studies (BMS)**

One of the most popular management programmes for commerce lovers, BMS provides an in-depth study of business operations, entrepreneurship, strategic management and leadership skills.

It typically incorporates internships and industry projects to create real-life exposure. Skills required: Communication, critical thinking, leadership, negotiation and team management.

**5. Bachelor of business administration (BBA) in business analytics**

This course trains students to unlock the power of data to help make business decisions. With lectures on data mining, visualisation, predictive analytics and business intelligence, it's perfect for those looking to pursue data-driven positions across industries.

Skills required: Logical thinking, Excel/SQL skills, interpreting data and visualisation software (Power BI, Tableau).

**6. BBA in international business**

Globalisation has rendered this course more relevant than ever. It prepares students to conduct business in international markets, foreign trade, cross-cultural

management and global supply chains.

Language training and study abroad modules are usually integrated into the course.

Skills required: Global economics, negotiation skills, language skills, cultural sensitivity and adaptability.

**7. Bachelor of financial markets (BFM)**

Ideal for students who are interested in stock markets, investment banking and trading. Modules on equity research, risk management, derivatives and portfolio construction are a part of the course.

Most graduates opt for certifications such as CFA simultaneously.

Skills required: Risk analysis, quantitative skills, financial forecasting, ethical judgment and economic intuition.

**8. Chartered accountancy (CA)**

One of India's and the world's most esteemed professional courses, it educates students and aspiring professionals about taxation, auditing, corporate law and financial reporting.

Though rigorous, it holds incredible career opportunities with handsome rewards and remunera-

tion. Skills required: Discipline, precision, analytical thinking, self-study, commitment.

**9. Cost and management accountancy (CMA)**

Unlike CA, CMA is concerned with internal financial effectiveness like budgeting, cost management and performance measurement.

It's especially preferred in manufacturing, service sectors and corporates who are seeking cost savings and strategic decision-making.

Skills required: Strategic thinking, cost management, budgeting, time discipline and financial acumen.

**10. Company secretary (CS)**

This professional course excels at corporate governance, company law, compliance and secretarial practices. CS professionals have a crucial role in regulatory issues and board-level advisory in all industries.

Skills required: Legal expertise, drafting skills, ethics, corporate law experience and regulatory attention detail. (Courtesy: Rediff.com)

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

Last Date: 09/06/2025

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

- Part-time Sports Instructor**  
No of posts: 19  
Sports-wise vacancy:  
# Athletics (02), # Badminton (01), # Basketball (02), # Cricket (01), # Chess (01), # Football (01), # Hockey (02), # Squash (01), # Swimming (01-Male & 01-Female), # Tennis (02), # Table Tennis (02), # Volleyball (01), # Weightlifting (01)  
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.  
Minimum Qualification: 10+2 passed with participation in state level competitions/Bachelor Degree in Physical Education/Diploma in Coaching/Certificate in Coaching.  
Experience: Candidates having experience of teaching/coaching may be given preference.  
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
- Part-time Water Polo Coach**  
No of posts: 01 post  
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.  
Minimum Qualification: 10+2 passed with participation in state level competition in water polo.  
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
- General Fitness Trainer**  
No of posts: 01 post  
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.  
Minimum Qualification: 10+2 passed with participation in state level competitions/Bachelor Degree in Physical Education/Diploma in Coaching/Certificate in Coaching.  
Experience: Candidates having experience in the field of general fitness training, rehabilitation, recreation etc. will be preferred.  
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month
- Life Guard**  
No of posts: 02 posts  
Duration: For a period of 10 months starting from July 2025 to April 2026.  
Minimum Qualification: Candidate should possess the life guard certificate.  
Remuneration: ₹26000 per month  
Age Limit (for posts 1,2,3 and 4): 45 years (desirable)  
Citizenship: The candidates must be a citizen of India.  
Duty hours: From 05:30 pm to 08:30 pm from Monday to Friday. Additional service may be required on Saturday, Sunday and other Holidays as and when necessary.

How to Apply for IIT Guwahati Recruitment ?

- # Interested candidates may report to Old SAC building, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati at 07:30 AM on 09/06/2025 for verification along with their CV, original documents and a set of photo copy of all relevant documents along with two (02) passport size colour photographs.
- # Date of practical test: 09/06/2025 Reporting time: 07:30 AM (Venue: Old SAC building, IIT Guwahati)
- # Date of interview: 10/06/2025 Reporting time: 09:00 AM (Venue: Interview Room, Administrative Building, IIT Guwahati)
- # The candidates should bring all original documents while appearing for walk in interview.
- # The candidates shortlisted based on practical test will get call to attend interview on 10/06/2025.
- # For any query interesting candidates may contact in rec\_admin@iitg.ac.in.

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

Last Date: 16/06/2025.

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

Name of post: Scientist/Engineer 'SC'  
No of posts: 320 posts

Vacancy details:

- # Electronics: 113
- # Mechanical: 160
- # Computer Science: 44
- # Electronics – Autonomous Body – PRL: 2
- # Computer Science – Autonomous Body – PRL: 1
- Advertisement No. ISRO:ICRB:02(EMC):2025 dated 27.05.2025

Eligibility Criteria of ISRO Recruitment  
Age Limit: 28 years as on 16.06.2025.

Age Relaxation: Serving Central Govt. employees, Ex-Servicemen; Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, are eligible for age relaxation as per Govt. of India orders.

Educational Qualification: BE/ B.Tech or equivalent in respective branch of Engineering with an aggregate minimum of 65% marks or CGPA 6.84/10.

Pay: Selected candidates will be appointed as Scientist/Engineer 'SC' in Level 10 of Pay Matrix and will be paid minimum basic pay of ₹ 56,100/- p.m.

Application Fee: There is a non-refundable Application Fee of ₹250/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty only) for all the posts. However, initially all candidates have to uniformly pay ₹750/- (Rupees Seven Hundred and Fifty only) per application as processing fee. The processing fee will be refunded only to those candidates who appear in the written test as under:

- (i) ₹750/- i.e refund in full for candidates who are exempted from payment of Application Fee (women, SC/ST/ PwBD, Ex-Servicemen).
- (ii) ₹500/- i.e after deducting the Application Fee in respect of all other candidates.

Important Dates of ISRO Recruitment 2025

- # Starting date of submission of online application: 27th May 2025
- # Last date of submission of online application: 16th June 2025

## DC Majuli Recruitment 2025 – 10 Gaon Pradhan Posts

Last Date: 17/06/2025

District Commissioner, Majuli has released an advertisement for the recruitment of 10 Gaon Pradhan Posts under Majuli Revenue Circle and Ujani Majuli Revenue Circle. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

Name of post: Gaon Pradhan  
No of posts: 10 posts  
Name of revenue circles:

# Majuli Revenue and  
# Ujani Majuli

Pay: ₹9,000 per month

Eligibility Criteria of DC Majuli Recruitment

- Age Limit: The candidates must not be less than 30 years and not more than 65 years of age as on 17/06/2025.
- Nationality: Candidate should be a citizen of India and a permanent resident of the area in respect of which he/ she seeks appointment.
- Property: Candidate should have land or immovable property in his/ her name in the area in which he/ she intends to be appointed as Gaon Pradhan.
- Children: Candidate should not have more than 2 (two) living children from a single or multiple partner. Candidate should furnish a self-affidavit that the applicant does not have more than two living children from a single/ multiple partner.
- Government Employee: The candidate should not be a government employee.
- Political Party: The candidate should not be a member of any political party.
- Educational Qualification: The candidate must have passed 10th standard or matriculation from a recognized institution or board.
- Physical Fitness: Candidate should be physically fit and have sound mind.
- Insolvency: Candidate should not have been declared as an insolvent or defaulter in payment of Govt. dues.
- Social Status: Candidate should be a person of high Status and command and have a respectable position in the society.

How To Apply for DC Majuli Recruitment ?

Candidates must submit their application in the Assam Gazette Standard form of application within stipulated date. Candidates need to submit their filled in application at the office of the District Commissioner, Majuli.

The application must be submitted along with the following documents :

- # Voter Id Card/ Aadhaar Card, # 2 passport sized photograph.
- # Permanent Resident-ship Certificate.
- # Copies of all educational certificates, Mark sheets, Admit Card of HSLC/ Age proof certificate, # Govt. dues and Bakijal clearance certificate.
- # Documents relating to land property in his/ her name.
- # The Applicant should furnish an affidavit that he/ she has not more than 2(two) living children from a Single or multiple partners. etc

Important Dates of Majuli Recruitment 2025

- # Starting date of submission of application: 3rd June 2025
- # Last date of submission of application: 17th June 2025 till 4 PM

## UPSC CDS II Examination 2025 – Online Apply for 453 Posts

Last Date: 17/06/2025

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 453 vacancy through Combined Defence Services Examination (II), 2025. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of exam: Combined Defence Services Examination (II), 2025  
No of posts: 453 posts

Training Institute-wise vacancy:

- # Indian Military Academy, Dehradun: 100, # Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala: 26, # Air Force Academy, Hyderabad: 32, # Officers' Training Academy, Chennai (Madras), 124th SSC (Men) (NT): 276, # Officers' Training Academy, Chennai (Madras), 124th SSC Women (NT): 19

Eligibility Criteria of UPSC CDS II Examination

Nationality: Candidate must be unmarried and must either be:

- (i) a Citizen of India, or
- (ii) a subject of Nepal, or
- (iii) a person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka and East African Countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zaire and Ethiopia or Vietnam with the intention of permanently settling in India.

# Provided that a candidate belonging to categories (ii) and (iii) above shall be a person in whose favour a certificate of eligibility has been issued by the Government of India.

# Certificate of eligibility will, however, not be necessary in the case of candidates who are Gorkha subjects of Nepal.

Age Limits, Sex and Marital Status:

# IMA: Unmarried male candidates born not earlier than 2nd July, 2002 and not later than 1st July, 2007 only are eligible.

# Indian Naval Academy: Unmarried male candidates born not earlier than 2nd July, 2002 and not later than 1st July, 2007 only are eligible.

# Air Force Academy: 20 to 24 years as on 1st July, 2026 i.e. born not earlier than 2nd July, 2002 and not later than 1st July, 2006 (Upper age limit for candidates holding valid and current Commercial Pilot Licence issued by DGCA (India) is relaxable upto 26 yrs. i.e. born not earlier than 2nd July, 2000 and not later than 1st July, 2006 only are eligible.

# Officers' Training Academy: (SSC Course for men) Unmarried male candidates born not earlier than 2nd July, 2001 and not later than 1st July, 2007 only are eligible.

# Officers' Training Academy: (SSC Women Non-Technical Course) Unmarried women, issueless widows who have not remarried and issueless divorcees (in possession of divorce documents) who have not remarried are eligible. They should have been born not earlier than 2nd July, 2001 and not later than 1st July, 2007.

Educational Qualification:

# I.M.A. and Officers' Training Academy, Chennai: Degree of a recognised University or equivalent.

# Indian Naval Academy: Degree in Engineering from a recognised University/Institution.

# Air Force Academy: Degree of a recognised University (with Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level) or Bachelor of Engineering.

Application Fee:

# Others: ₹ 200/-, # Female/ SC/ ST: NIL

# Payment mode: Candidates can pay either by depositing the money in any Branch of SBI by cash or by using net banking facility of SBI or by using Visa/Master/Rupay Credit/Debit Card.

Important Dates of UPSC Recruitment 2025

- # Starting date of submission of online application: 28th May 2025
- # Last date of submission of online application: 17th June 2025
- # Release date of Admit Card: To be updated later
- # Date of written exam: 14th September, 2025

## SSC Selection Post Recruitment 2025 – 2423 (Phase XIII) Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 23/06/2025

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 2423 Selection Posts (Phase XIII) 2025 Vacancy. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Selection Post

No of posts: 2423 posts

Category-wise vacancy details:

- # SC: 314, # ST: 148, # OBC: 561, # UR: 1169, # EWS: 231,
- # Detailed post/s details can be viewed in Advertisement Details section.

Helpline Number: 1800 309 3063

Eligibility Criteria of SSC Selection Post Recruitment

Educational Qualification:

# Matric Level Posts: Class 10th or High School pass from any recognised board in India, # Intermediate Level Posts: 10+2 or passed Intermediate Exam from any recognised board in India, # Graduate-level Posts: Bachelor Degree in any field from any recognised University/Institution in India

Age Limit: Age limit for a particular category of post(s) is mentioned in Post-details in Advertisement Details against each category of post. The minimum age limit is 18 years and maximum age limit is 42 years as on 01.08.2025.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below

- # SC/ST: 5 years, # OBC: 3 years, # PWD: 10 years, # PWD (OBC): 13 years
- # PWD (SC/ ST): 15 years, # ESM: 3 years

Application Fee:

# UR/OBC: ₹ 100, # Women/ SC/ ST/ PWD/ Ex Serviceman: Nil

# Payment Mode: Online Through BHIM UPI, Net Banking, by using Visa, MasterCard, Maestro, RuPay Credit or Debit cards or in SBI Branches by generating SBI Challan.

Important Dates of SSC Selection Post Vacancy 2025

- # Starting date of online application submission: 2nd June 2025
- # Last date of online application submission: 23rd June 2025
- # Date of Computer Based Examination: 24th July - 04th August 2025 (Tentative)

Selection Process of SSC Selection Post Recruitment

There will be three separate Computer Based Examinations consisting of Objective Type Multiple Choice questions, for the posts with minimum Educational Qualification of Matriculation, Higher Secondary, and Graduation & above levels. The details of subjects, marks and number of questions subject-wise will be as given below:-

Subject	No. of Questions	Maximum Marks
• General Intelligence	25	50
• General Awareness	25	50
• Quantitative Aptitude (Basic Arithmetic Skill)	25	50
• English Language (Basic Knowledge)	25	50
• Total Duration		60 Minutes

# There will be negative marking of 0.50 marks for each wrong answer.

# Marks scored by candidates in Computer Based Examination will be normalized by using the formula published by the Commission through Notice No: 1-1/2018-P&P-I dated 07-02-2019 and such normalized scores will be used to determine final merit and cut-off marks. # Skill Tests like Typing/ Data Entry/ Computer Proficiency Test, etc., where prescribed in the Essential Qualification, will be conducted, which will be of a qualifying nature.



## Russian missile, drone attack across Ukraine kills 3 in capital Kyiv

KYIV, June 6: Russia targeted six regions of Ukraine with 407 drones and 44 missiles in one of its largest aerial attacks of the three-year war, Ukrainian officials said Friday. The night-time assault killed three emergency responders in the capital Kyiv, according to authorities.

The barrage included ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as a mix of strike drones and decoys, Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat said. Ukrainian forces said they shot down about 30 of the cruise missiles and up to 200 of the drones.

Ukrainian cities have come under regular bombardment since Russia invaded its neighbor in February 2022. The attacks have killed more than 12,000 civilians, according to the United Nations.

"Russia doesn't change its stripes," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Zelenskyy, as well as the Ukrainian Inte-



rior Ministry and the general prosecutor's office, said three emergency workers were killed in Kyiv while responding to the Russian strikes. "They were working under fire to help people," the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko earlier said four people were killed. His office did not immediately respond to a request for clarification.

The war has continued unabated even as a US-led diplomatic push for a settlement has brought two rounds of direct peace talks between delegations from Russia and Ukraine. The negotiations delivered no significant

breakthroughs, however, and the sides remain far apart on their terms for an end to the fighting.

Ukraine has offered an unconditional 30-day ceasefire and a meeting between Zelenskyy and Russian leader Vladimir Putin to break the deadlock. But the Kremlin has effectively rejected a truce and hasn't budged from its demands.

"The Kremlin continues efforts to falsely portray Russia as willing to engage in good-faith negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, despite Russia's repeated refusal to offer any concessions," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said late

Thursday.

Putin said in a phone call with US President Donald Trump earlier this week that he would respond to Ukraine's daring long-range attack on Russian air bases on Sunday.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the attacks demonstrated key differences between Russia and Ukraine.

"The difference ... is that Ukraine hits legitimate military targets—such as aircraft equipped to bomb our children. Russia targets residential areas, civilians, and critical infrastructure," Sybiha wrote on X.

"Putting Ukraine and Russia on equal footing is unacceptable," he said. The latest Russian attack came hours after Trump said it might be better to let Ukraine and Russia "fight for a while" before pulling them apart and pursuing peace. Trump's comments were a remarkable detour from his often-stated appeals to stop the war. (AP)

### India-Sri Lanka defence dialogue discusses enhancing maritime security

COLOMBO, June 6: India and Sri Lanka explored ways to further expand their bilateral defence cooperation, especially in areas of maritime security, the island nation's defence ministry said.

The deliberations took place at the Sri Lanka-India Defence Dialogue held in Colombo on Thursday. It was the first high-level meeting after India and Sri Lanka signed the first ever defence partnership on April 5.

A statement from the Defence Ministry said that the Sri Lankan delegation was led by Defence Secretary Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd), while the visiting Indian Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh led the Indian delegation. "The high-level dialogue focused on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, enhancing maritime security, and exploring new avenues for collaboration in training and strategic engagement," the statement said. Senior officials from both sides participated in the discussions, reaffirming the longstanding defence partnership between Sri Lanka and India, it said. The Indian Defence Secretary also met the Deputy Minister of Defence, Major General Aruna Jayasekara (Retd) and Thuyacontha separately.

On April 5, India and Sri Lanka signed the first-ever defence partnership agreement -- firmed up during talks between visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake -- signalling a major boost to the bilateral defence ties nearly four decades after the Indian Peace Keeping Force's intervention in the island nation strained the relations. (PTI)

### Designation without much practical consequence: Tharoor on Pak helming UNSC anti-terror committees

WASHINGTON, June 6: India is not friendless in the UN Security Council and Pakistan chairing its Taliban Sanctions Committee and being named vice-chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee is a designation without much practical consequence, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has said.

Tharoor is leading a multi-party Parliamentary delegation to the US to brief key interlocutors about the threat of Pakistan-backed terrorism faced by India and India's strong resolve against terrorism. "These committees all work on consensus and it's not really possible for a chairman to single-handedly get something through that the others resist or push a particular line that other countries are not in favour of," Tharoor said during an interaction at the Indian Embassy here on Thursday.

Pakistan, a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 2025-26 term, will chair the Council's Taliban Sanctions Committee for 2025 and will be vice-chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the 15-nation UN organ.

Guyana and Russia will be vice-chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee. Algeria will chair the 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee while France and Russia will be the other vice-chairs.

Pakistan will also be co-chair of the Informal Working Groups on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions

and on the General UNSC Sanctions Issues. India has consistently reminded the international community that Pakistan is host to the world's largest number of UN-proscribed terrorists and entities. Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was hiding in Pakistan's Abbottabad for years and was killed in an operation by the US Navy Seals in May 2011.

During the Parliamentary delegation's interaction at the Embassy with think tankers and young professionals, Tharoor was asked about Pakistan chairing the two UNSC sanctions committees. Noting that there are half a dozen counter-terrorism committees of the UNSC, he said that Council members take turns presiding over such bodies.

"So as long as Pakistan is on the Security Council, this kind of 'privilege' might come their way... We are not exactly friendless on the Security Council, so we're fairly confident that that is going to be a designation without much practical consequence," he said. He underlined that India's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York will monitor this carefully.

On Wednesday, during a press conference at the Embassy, responding to a question by PTI on Pakistan given charge of the two committees, Tharoor said "it's a Taliban Committee these guys have got. I don't know what the feelings of the Afghans are about this, but there you are." (PTI)

## Less spending, high prices, fewer animal sacrifices at this year's Eid al-Adha celebrations



JAKARTA, June 6: Less spending, higher prices and fewer animal sacrifices subdued the usual festive mood as the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha was celebrated in many parts of the world.

In Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, Muslim worshippers were shoulder-to-shoulder in the streets and the Istiqlal Grand Mosque was filled for morning prayers Friday.

Eid al-Adha, known as the "Feast of Sacrifice", coincides with the final rites of the annual Hajj in Saudi Arabia. It's a joyous occasion, for which food is a hallmark with devout Muslims

buying and slaughtering animals and sharing two-thirds of the meat with the poor.

Outside Jakarta, the Jonggol Cattle Market bustled with hundreds of cattle traders hoping to sell to buyers looking for sacrificial animals. While sales increased ahead of Eid, sellers said their businesses have lost customers in recent years due to economic hardship following the COVID-19 pandemic.

A foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2022 to 2023 also significantly dampened the typically booming holiday trade in goats, cows and sheep, though Indonesia's government has

worked to overcome that outbreak.

Rahmat Debleng, one of the sellers in the market, said before the pandemic and the FMD outbreak, he could sell more than 100 cows two weeks ahead of Eid al-Adha. But on the eve of the celebration this year, only 43 of his livestock were sold, and six cows are still left in his stall. "Though the foot-and-mouth outbreak threats remain loom large, but the declining in sales mostly because of economic hardship," Debleng said.

Jakarta city administration data recorded the number of sacrificial animals available this year at 35,133, a decline of 57 per cent compared to the previous year.

The government has made next Monday an additional holiday after Friday's festival to allow people more time with their families. Eid momentum is expected to support economic growth in Indonesia, where household consumption helps drive GDP.

It contributed over 50 per cent to the economy last year, though analysts expect more subdued consumer spending in 2025. (AP)

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PHE) DIPHU RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, DIPHU

### SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO-1 of 2025-26 UNDER SOPD

Sealed tender affixing KAAC receipt worth 10.00 (Rupees ten) only are invited from registered contractors/firms of PHE Department, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district for the below mentioned work of **AAP 2025-26 (SOPD)** duly approved and accorded A/A by the KAAC authority vide No. **KAAC/ FIN-A-454/Budget/2024-25/27 Dt. 07-05-2025** under Diphu Rural Water supply division, Diphu will be received up to **18-06-2025** up to **2.00 P.M.** and tender so received will be opened on the same date at **2:30 PM** in presence of intending tenderer or their authorized representative who likes to be present.

Detail tender papers, specification, terms and condition etc may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days **from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM of 23-06-2025 and up to 12.00 noon of 24-06-2025** on payment of **₹100.00 (Rupees one hundred)** only in demand draft which should be pledge in favour of **"Executive Engineer (PHE), Diphu Rural Water Supply Division, Diphu"**. The undersigned have reserved the right to accept or reject or cancel the same without any reason and claim thereof. In case of any unavoidable circumstances if tender could not be received or open on the predetermined time and date the same shall be received and opened in the next working day at the same time for which no separate communication will be made.

The AA accorded under Head of the Account 2225-02-190-2419-670-32-99 vide order no KAAC/PHE/AAP/2024-25/4889-(A) dated 27/05/2025

The estimates were prepared based on APHE SOR (2015-16) & CPWD, DSR, 2021 and rate analysis based on present market price.

**Name of the work: - As per Annexure -"A"**

#### ANNEXURE-A

Sl No	Name of Work	Gr. No No.	Amount	Earnest Money		Time of Completion
				Gen	ST/SC	
1	Construction of Bacteriological Testing Room at Store yard under Diphu Rural W/S Division. Diphu.	1	₹ 15,00,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
2.	Internal electrification, installing and organizing electrical systems for safe and efficient distribution of power to various parts in the Diphu Rural W/S Divisional Building including district level laboratory.	2	₹ 10,00,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
3	Renovation of Distribution line at Rongklirdap PWSS (Utility Shifting)	3	₹ 4,68,880.00	2%	1%	15 Days
4	Renovation of Distribution line at Hidim Timung PWSS (Utility Shifting)	4	₹ 5,00,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
5	Renovation of Distribution line at Dhansiri PWSS (Utility Shifting)	5	₹ 1,83,720.00	2%	1%	15 Days
6	Renovation of Distribution line at Linepar Dimaidi PWSS (Utility Shifting)	6	₹ 31,350.00	2%	1%	15 Days
7	Extention of HDPE distribution line at Nagachang Amlaiguri PWSS	7	₹ 5,24,500.00	2%	1%	15 Days
8	Dismantling, Repairing, Erection & Painting of over head P.S Tank with staging at Rongklirdap PWSS	8	₹ 4,91,838.00	2%	1%	15 Days
9	Renovation of Grade-IV Qtr.including Sanitary arrangement and internal electrification at Chutianala PWSS	9	₹ 4,74,547.00	2%	1%	15 Days
10	Construction of Boundary wall with MS Gate at Hojaipur PWSS	10	₹ 4,07,156.00	2%	1%	15 Days
11	Renovation of UGR, TP and Pump House including and providing & laying distribution system etc. at Hidisajir PWSS	11	₹ 3,88,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
12	Developing of the DTW by Air Compressor including Lifting and installation of Submersible Pump Set. At Hidisajir PWSS	12	₹ 2,12,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
13	Repairing of distribution network including supplying, fitting, Testing and commissioning of Submersible pump set and Tap connections etc. at Kehai timung PWSS	13	₹ 3,81,129.00	2%	1%	15 Days
14	Development of DTW of Sarmen Hanse PWSS	14	₹ 2,00,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
15	Laying, fitting and fixing of RWPM from Hawarkimi PWSS to Ramsapathar PWSS including supplying of pump set at Ramsapathar PWSS	15	₹ 6,00,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
16	Laying, fitting and fixing of CWPM from Manja West (Dhansiri) PWSS to Manja Dairy PWSS including supplying of pump set at Manjadairy PWSS	16	₹ 6,00,000.00	2%	1%	15 Days
17	Construction of UGR at Rai Bosti PWSS	17	₹ 2,14,000.000	2%	1%	15 Days
18	Cost of APDCL at Sarthe Englung PWSS	18	₹ 4,30,000.000	2%	1%	15 Days
19	Cost of APDCL at Dimalu PWSS	19	₹ 6,04,200.000	2%	1%	15 Days

#### Terms and Condition: -

1. Bidder should quote their rates distinctly both in figures and in words on percentage basis as per below /above / and the estimated rates/departmental approved rates.
2. The Bidder should furnish their full name and address distinctly in the tender papers.
3. Earnest money should invariable be enclosed to the tender papers.
7. Income tax, Professional tax and GST clearance certificate should be enclosed with the tender papers.
5. The work must be completed within stipulated time.
6. The work should be started after signing necessary agreement and in consultation with AEE (PHE) /SO (PHE) i/c.
7. Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.
8. No advance payment will be made for the work.
9. Non-tribal tenderer must produce up to date KAAC trading license along with the tender documents.
10. All other terms and condition will be followed as per APWD-2 form of tender.
11. The undersigned reserved the right to accept / reject any or all tender in part of in full without assigning any reason thereof and he does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender rate.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (PHE)  
Diphu Rural W/S Division, Diphu

Memo NO: PHE-DIP/R/TB/TND/1(12)/2022-23/238-51

Date: 02-06-2025



# 219 ILP violators externed from Arunachal's capital

*ILP is an official travel document issued by the govt for inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period*



ITANAGAR, June 6: More than 200 people without valid Inner Line Permits (ILPs) were externed from the Itanagar Capital Region on Friday, a senior police officer said. The violators were detected during an enforcement drive conducted by Naharlagun police across Papu Hills, Naharlagun, Nirjuli, and Banderdewa, as part of the ongoing initiative to uphold the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation. Naharlagun Superintendent of Police (SP) Mihin Gambo said that all 219 individuals were found without valid ILPs during the operation.

"Each case was verified and processed under non-FIR provisions, and the violators were handed over to the executive magistrate. They were subsequently externed from the Capital Region," Gambo stated.

Highlighting the growing number of ILP violations in the Itanagar Capital Region, particularly at markets, construction sites, and commercial establishments, the SP urged residents and employers not to engage outsiders lacking valid ILPs. He also appealed to the public to report any such violations to the nearest police station.

"Regular ILP enforcement drives will continue in the coming days. All non-Arunachali individuals must carry valid ILP documents at all times and cooperate with the authorities," the SP added.

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the government for inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside Arunachal Pradesh to obtain a permit to enter the protected state. (PTI)

## Flood situation improves marginally in Arunachal



ITANAGAR, June 6: The flood situation in Arunachal Pradesh improved marginally on Friday as most of the rivers were flowing below the danger level, officials said.

At least 12 people have lost their lives due to landslides and floods triggered by monsoon rain this year, while search operations are underway for a missing person, a report from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said.

As many as 215 villages in 24 districts with a total population of 33,200 were affected due to flood and landslides, while most of the major rivers and their tributaries were in spate but now flowing below the danger level, the report said.

Altogether, 512 houses were damaged across the state, and 432 livestock deaths were reported, including 335 poultry and 97 animals so far.

Seven deaths were reported from East Kameng, two from Lower Subansiri and one each from Longding, Lohit, and Anjaw districts.

Nine of the deceased lost their lives due to landslides, one in a flood-related incident, another due to a wall collapse, and a person was killed after a tree fell on him during inclement weather conditions in Longding district, officials said.

Four others were also injured during natural calamities, an official said.

Changlang is the worst-affected district, with six villages inundated and 2,231 people rendered homeless.

A total of 2,292 people have been evacuated so far, and 2,231 of them were from Changlang alone.

Relief and rescue efforts are underway with support from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), state police and volunteers. The authorities have opened three relief camps, provid-

ing shelter to 239 displaced people, out of which 125 people are sheltered in a relief camp in Changlang district alone, officials said.

Flash floods washed away the Makantong bridge on the Trans-Arunachal Highway, cutting off road connectivity between Miao and Bordumsa. The authorities have decided to press ferry services for the people.

Several areas in the Miao sub-division remain submerged, with significant losses reported in livestock and horticultural property, officials said.

The swollen Noa-Dehing river has caused damage to agricultural and horticultural fields in the Dhamapur block under the Namphai circle, they said.

The water supply projects in Changlang town, Namtok extra assistant commissioner headquarters, Yatdam circle, Phinbiro-I and II villages and Rang Hill village in the district, were damaged by landslides, triggering a drinking water crisis.

Additionally, floods and landslides damaged around 17 hectares of farmland and 20 hectares of horticulture plantations.

Three hanging bridges at Phaparbari, Two Hut and Lama Camp were also damaged by flood in Changlang district, the report said.

In Upper Siang district, the Simyuk hydel (2X100 kilowatt) at Jengging was damaged due to severe rainfall.

In the Itanagar Capital Region, landslides damaged pipelines in the Poma water supply project, triggering a drinking water crisis among the capital denizens.

Officials said that the restoration process would take about several days. However, the department would press water tankers to supply water to the people, they said.

Two fish ponds at Nonpu village in Papum Pare district were destroyed due to heavy rainfall in the past couple of days. (PTI)

## Governor extends Id-ul-Zuha greetings

HT Bureau

NAMSAL, June 6: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh KT Parnaik has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of the State, especially to the Muslim community, on the sacred occasion of Id-ul-Zuha.

He expressed his hope that the festival will continue to strengthen our composite society.

In his message, the Governor said that Id-ul-Zuha, also known as Bakrid, is a festival that symbolizes sacrifice, faith, and compassion.

"It reminds us of Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering trust in the Almighty and inspires us to uphold the values of selflessness and devotion. I am sanguine that this significant celebration will continue to strengthen the bonds of our shared humanity, foster mutual respect among all communities, and enrich the spirit of our diverse and inclusive society," he said.

May Id-ul-Zuha bring peace, happiness, and prosperity to every home, and strengthen the social fabric of our great Nation, the Governor wished in his message.

## AITS-RGU and ICMR host workshop to tackle youth suicide risk in Arunachal

HT Bureau

NAMSAL, June 6: The Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS), Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), organized a "Co-development Workshop" with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of RGU as part of an ongoing research project focused on reducing suicide risk and promoting mental well-being among school and college students.

The workshop was chaired by Prof. Jumpyir Basar, Director of AITS, and saw the participation of key stakeholders including Dr Tana Takum, Nodal Officer, Department of Health Services, Government of Arunachal Pradesh; Dr David Pertin, Joint Registrar, RGU; Dr Proshanto Kr Saha, Head of the Department of Psychology; Dr Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Head of the Department of Social Work; and Dr Tarun Mene, Principal Investigator of the project, along with other team members.

In her opening remarks, Prof Basar emphasized the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to address the complex and sensitive issue of suicide prevention among youth.

The workshop commenced with the formal felicitation of TAC members

and government representatives, followed by a contextual briefing by Dr Mene, who laid out the project's agenda.

Dr Kakali Goswami, Co-Principal Investigator, presented an overview of the project's goals, methodologies, and implementation framework. Her session was followed by Dr. Tadu Rimi, Project Research Scientist-II, who shared key findings from the formative and pilot phases. These insights included challenges, expectations, and feedback from school authorities, students, and researchers involved in the field.

The TAC members offered critical recommendations on the draft operating guidelines for co-development and convergence strategies aimed at improving mental health outcomes and suicide risk mitigation in educational settings.

Once finalized, these guidelines are expected to play a vital role in strengthening partnerships between the state government and academic institutions.

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof Basar, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries and participants for their valuable contributions and support towards the initiative.

## DC Itanagar issues monsoon safety advisory, urges public vigilance



HT Bureau

NAMSAL, June 6: As monsoon rains intensify across Arunachal Pradesh, the Deputy Commissioner of Itanagar Capital Complex, Toko Babu, has issued a public advisory urging citizens to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during the season. In a statement to the media, DC Babu cautioned residents against venturing near riversides, flood-prone zones, and landslide-prone areas, citing the heightened risk of flash floods and landslides caused by heavy rainfall. "Public safety is our utmost priority," he said, appealing to the community to avoid unnecessary exposure to hazardous areas. He further advised the public to immediately report any emergencies or untoward incidents to the District Administration, Quick Response Teams, local police, or disaster management authorities. Reports may also be shared through verified media channels to ensure swift action.

The Deputy Commissioner reassured citizens that the District Administration is on high alert, with response teams mobilized and resources in place to tackle any emergency arising during the monsoon.

Highlighting infrastructure concerns, DC Babu stated, "My top priority will be fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted by the government, including ensuring the smooth progress of the under-construction National Highway projects and maintaining essential services like roads and connectivity despite monsoon disruptions."

The advisory is part of the administration's broader strategy to enhance community preparedness and disaster resilience during the monsoon period.

## NECTAR launches organic agriculture project in Arunachal under PM-DevINE scheme

### PM-DevINE Organic Scheme aims to create a robust organic farming ecosystem



HT Bureau

NAMSAL, June 6: In a significant step towards advancing organic agriculture in Arunachal Pradesh, the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has initiated key interventions under the project "Promoting Scientific Organic Agriculture in the North East Region."

Funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) under the PM-DevINE scheme, the project is being imple-

mented in 15 clusters across East Kameng and West Kameng districts.

The PM-DevINE Organic Scheme aims to create a robust organic farming ecosystem throughout the Northeastern states by focusing on farmer training and capacity building, facilitating organic certification, establishing demonstrative farm labs at the cluster level, developing community seed banks, and creating a digital architecture using modern technologies such as UAVs. This digital system will integrate key components such as farmers' details, yield, soil characteristics, and more for data-driven decision-

making. It also emphasizes market linkage of organic produce through e-marketing platforms and dedicated organic outlets.

The scheme envisages the establishment of 250 organic-certified clusters, each guided by a Master Trainer and involving 100 trainee farmers. The overall goal is to train 25,000 farmers across the Northeast, ensuring their produce is certified and connected to viable markets. The state-wise distribution of these clusters is as follows: Assam (75), Meghalaya (55), Tripura (50), Mizoram (20), Nagaland (20), Manipur (15), and Arunachal Pradesh (15).

In Arunachal Pradesh, the project targets 1,500 farmers across 15 clusters. The focus areas include scientific capacity building, land certification under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), and digital monitoring of progress.

To enhance field coordination and digital data management, 15 smartphones were distributed to Master Trainers in East and West Kameng districts. These devices will be used to track farming activities, collect field-level data, and ensure efficient communication among trainers, farmers, and agricultural experts to address on-ground challenges effectively.

Additionally, Master Trainers received training materials to support farmer education sessions within the clusters.

These materials include modules on organic practices, composting techniques, and natural pest management—designed to strengthen grassroots knowledge on sustainable farming practices.

As part of the seed support initiative, buckwheat seeds were distributed in several clusters: four clusters in Shergaon, one in Jigaon, one in Membachur, and four clusters in Rupa and Thongre.

The distribution ceremony was graced by several senior NECTAR officials, including Shri Rakesh Kumar Samah (Chief Coordinator, Technical), Dr. Prabhat Borpuhari (Regional Officer), Shri Pranjal Saikia (MIS Coordinator), Shri Dharmendra Kumar Jha (Senior Analyst), and Shri Bipul Sinha (Junior Analyst).

## PMC Chief Councilor appeals for public support to make Pasighat tidy

HT Bureau

NAMSAL, June 6: Chief Councilor of the Pasighat Municipal Council (PMC), Okiam Moyong Borang, has appealed to the citizens of Pasighat and its adjoining areas to extend their full support and cooperation in transforming the city into a clean, green, and beautiful urban space.

Addressing media persons, Borang emphasized that, much like the Itanagar Municipal Corporation, PMC is committed to civic development and urban management. "Though Pasighat is not officially part of the Smart City project, we are actively involved in discussions and continuously share ideas, suggestions, and feedback with relevant stakeholders. We also work to fulfill public demands and aspirations similar to those addressed under the Smart City initiative," she said.

Borang expressed satisfaction that all eight councillors of PMC, despite earlier political differences, are now united in their mission. "After the elections, we set aside party affiliations and began working collectively as municipal representatives, putting development first," she added.

The Chief Councilor acknowledged the challenges faced in the past, particularly concerning garbage disposal and management, but credited public cooperation for helping the council

achieve notable progress. "Even with limited funds, we've managed waste collection and disposal. Since I assumed office, we've initiated key projects such as improving drainage systems, building public toilets, and ensuring better garbage transportation and sanitation efforts in each ward," she informed.

Borang noted that time constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly elections, and political transitions posed significant delays in project execution. Despite this, PMC managed to complete several works, including the construction of a Multi-Utility Building-cum-PMC Office at Gumin Nagar, and implemented projects under the 14th Finance Commission, while awaiting more funds under the 15th Finance Commission. Highlighting the people's expectations, she said, "Pasighat residents expect both PMC and Smart City-level development. We are working hard as a team to meet these aspirations and ensure that Pasighat becomes a peaceful, progressive, and sustainable city."

Borang, representing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), reiterated her party's commitment to public welfare and regional development. With municipal elections likely in December, she expressed hope that the work done by the current council will be acknowledged and supported by the people.

### Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mahadevpur, Namsai Dist. Ar. Pradesh Engagement of Matrons for female candidates on purely contract basis for the academic session 2025-26

The willing and eligible candidates are invited for walk in interview on 12.6.2025 at 9.00 AM at the Office of the Principal, JNV, Mahadevpur, Namsai Dist. Ar. Pradesh. The tenure of contract engagement shall be only upto the end of current academic session (2025-26)

#### Eligible criteria:

1. Minimum qualification class X however higher Edu. Qualification may be given preference in engement.
2. Minimum age at the time of engement is 35 yrs. and the maximum age for engement is 55 yrs.
3. Married females which include widows or divorces without encumbrances.
4. Minimum wages (for industrial workers employed in building operation sector) for MTS unskilled.
5. Free boarding and lodging facilities and medical facilities as available in the M.I. room of the vidyalaya.
6. The tenure of contract appointment shall be for a period of 10 months in a year.

Sd/-  
Principal  
JNV, Mahadevpur, Namsai Dist. Ar. Pradesh



# Villagers also lament the shortage of fodder for their cattle

## 40 families affected as embankment washed away in recent flood wave in Dibrugarh

**HT Correspondent**  
**DIBRUGARH, June 6:** Over 40 families have been affected after a crucial embankment along the Buri Dehing River was washed away during the recent wave of flooding in Dibrugarh.

Though floodwaters have now receded, residents of Bongamor Block Gaon in the Khowang Legislative Assembly constituency continue to face serious challenges due to the lack of potable drinking water.

Every year, the people of Bongamor Block Gaon suffer during the flood season, with many homes damaged by rising waters.

Resident Binay Kalita said, "Our cropland was damaged due to the recent flood wave. The embankment, built to control flooding, was washed away into the river. We are facing a severe shortage of drinking water. The floodwaters started to recede only



after the weather improved." Kalita added, "Floods come every year, often before the monsoon, damaging our crops. We depend on farming, and continued flooding will cause great problems."

Another villager echoed these

concerns, "The flood has just started, and we don't know what will happen in the coming days. Last year also, a crucial embankment was breached, causing water to enter the village. We face hardships every flood season."

The villagers also lament the

shortage of fodder for their cattle. "Due to the floods, we are struggling to feed our animals and have had to leave them unattended in the village. We urge the authorities to provide fodder," said a resident.

Officials confirmed that relief materials were distributed and camps were set up for flood victims. Fortunately, the water levels have started to subside.

The recent floods have affected seven revenue circles: Dibrugarh East, Dibrugarh West, Chabua, Moran, Tengakhat, Naharkatia, and Tingkhong. A total of 96 villages and approximately 24,432 people were impacted. The highest numbers of affected people were reported from Chabua (8,179), Tengakhat (4,932), and Dibrugarh West (3,362).

With floodwaters receding, many displaced residents are now returning home.

## 'Seed Growers Meet' held at AAU's Zonal Research Station in Nagaon

**HT Correspondent**  
**NAGAON, June 6:** The Zonal Research Station, Shillong, under Assam Agricultural University (AAU), organised a 'Seed Growers Meet' at its office premises in Nagaon on Thursday. The event was held under the All India Co-ordinated Seed (Crops) Research Project and Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan under the Tribal Sub Plan initiative. The programme began with a massive plantation drive around the office campus, emphasizing the need for sustainable and environment-friendly agricultural practices. Madhura Patir, Director of the Assam Seed and Organic Certification Agency, graced the occasion as chief guest. In his address, he underlined the importance of producing and promoting quality seeds for the improvement of crop productivity and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Dr. Hiranya Kr. Borah, Chief Scientist of the Zonal Research Station, set the tone for the event. Dr. Mrinal Saikia, Associate Director of Research (Agriculture), interacted with the attending farmers and highlighted key issues surrounding seed quality, certification, and production challenges.

Other notable attendees included Bhabani Nath, Joint Director of Agriculture, and Nikhil Narayan Baruah, District Agriculture Officer, Nagaon, both of whom shared their perspectives on empowering farmers through access to certified seeds and better training. The event also featured an agri-based exhibition, ceremonially inaugurated by Chief Guest Madhura Patir. Several NGOs and farmers' groups participated, showcasing agricultural products, tools, and innovations. More than 100 seed growers from across the district attended the meet. As part of the programme, seeds and agricultural tools were distributed among the participants by the officials of the research station. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Niranjan Deka, Principal Scientist of the Zonal Research Station, Shillong, who expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their participation and contribution to the cause of sustainable agriculture.

## Sominder Karbi Amei celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

**HT Bureau**  
**DIPHU, June 6:** The Sominder Karbi Amei (SKA), Dima Hasao marked its 20th foundation day with a solemn function at Karbi Club, Umrongso in Dima Hasao district on June 5. Established in 2005 amid ethnic conflicts in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong, SKA aimed to unite Karbi organizations and communities under one apex body. While the organization lost momentum in the twin hill districts, it continues to remain active in Dima Hasao (formerly NC Hills). The day began with the hoisting of the SKA flag by its President, Denis Teron, a former Executive Member of the NC Hills Autonomous Council and a prominent Karbi leader. Speaking to the gathering, Teron highlighted the gradual displacement of Karbis in Dima Hasao, largely due to the community's tendency to sell their land. He warned, "If we dispose of all our land, where will we go? This mindset that 'Karbhis cannot live without selling our land' is wrong." Teron cited several Karbi villages that have vanished or diminished, including Longkoi-Langkolo and Borolangerang, whose inhabitants have relocated to Karbi Anglong. He lamented that even in Hidiso village, where some Karbis remain, most have sold their land and face eviction when the new owners

reclaim possession, often after years. He also pointed to discrimination against Karbis in employment within Dima Hasao, emphasizing that while land could have sustained the community, the ongoing sale of land is forcing displacement. The SKA urges Karbi villagers to refrain from selling land; however, unable to facilitate purchases by Karbis, much land still ends up with non-Karbi owners, exacerbating displacement. Land acquisition for cement clinker plants has also contributed to this issue. The Chief Guest, Professor Bernard Rongphar, stressed the need for SKA to rebuild its strength from the grassroots branches rather than relying solely on the central committee. He remarked that the organization was initially founded to address Karbi issues globally but was hindered by ethnic unrest in the hills. The event featured a Karbi folk dance performance by local youth, welcoming attendees including SKA General Secretary Khorsing Terang, village headman Mojari Rongpi, Umrongso Municipal Board Vice Chairman Robinson Teron, Karbi Club Secretary Augustine Inghi, former NC Hills Autonomous Council Chairman Kur Rongpi, Karbi Students Association President Bidasing Inghi, former SKA president Ramsing Chinthong, and several Karbi village headmen.

## NABARD launches JIVA Project to promote natural farming in Nagaon

**HT Correspondent**  
**NAGAON, June 6:** In a major push towards sustainable agriculture and ecological restoration, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Assam Regional Office launched its flagship JIVA project in the Barbeel tribal cluster under Kathiatoli Development Block of Nagaon district.

The programme was inaugurated on Thursday by Loken Das, Chief General Manager of NABARD, in the presence of a host of dignitaries including Dr PC Bhuyan, Dean of the College of Fisheries, Rahar, Dr Deepak Chamola from GIZ-India; AGM Bhamu Deuri and DDM Rajendar Perna of NABARD; Intiyaz Talukdar, Dairy Development Officer; Akshata Jagannath from Selco Foundation; ADO Nilutal Dutta, SDFDO Lidza Morang, Jyotish Talukdar, and the team from Kalong Kapili.

The launch marks a significant step by NABARD to promote natural and agroecology-based farming practices in the face of growing environmental and climate-related challenges.

Speaking at the event, CGM Loken Das stressed the need to move away from harmful chemical inputs in farming, citing their long-term negative impact on soil health, water quality, and human health. He explained that 'JIVA', an acronym for Jameen (Land), Jal (Water), and Janwar (Animals), reflects an integrated approach to farming. "It is time to leverage our social and natural capital to restore eco-

logical balance," he added.

DDM Rajendar Perna elaborated that 'JIVA', derived from Sanskrit meaning "a living being," aims to build resilience in farming systems by promoting natural inputs, traditional seed banks, integrated aquaculture-livestock-horticulture systems, and setting up Bio-Input Resource Centres in the tribal region.

Dr Deepak Chamola emphasized that JIVA would foster a circular economy by using local resources wisely. He advocated for developing a Centre of Excellence in Natural Farming to empower farmers as grassroots scientists.

Highlighting the importance of fisheries in rural livelihoods, Dr PC Bhuyan recommended including aquaculture as a vital component of the JIVA project to support integrated and sustainable farm models.

Jyotish Talukdar, Director of Kalong Kapili, expressed gratitude to NABARD for backing the initiative. He stated that 40 selected champion farmers would undertake innovative intercropping of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables alongside aquaculture, setting a new benchmark for natural farming in Assam.

The event saw participation from over 150 stakeholders, including farmers, community leaders, and government officials, marking a hopeful beginning for a greener, more sustainable agricultural future in the region.

## Sikhna Jwhwlaio National Park inaugurated in Kokrajhar on World Environment Day

*Ceremony attended by local residents, students, forest officials*



**HT Correspondent**  
**KOKRAJHAR, June 6:** In a major boost to environmental conservation and eco-tourism in Assam, the Sikhna Jwhwlaio National Park (SJNP) was officially inaugurated on Thursday in the Hultagaon Forest Division of Kokrajhar district. The event coincided with the celebration of World Environment Day 2025.

The inauguration ceremony was led by Assam Cabinet Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma in the presence of Pramod Boro, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the

Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). Other dignitaries present included Lok Sabha MP Joyanta Basumatary, MLA Lawrence Isary, BTR Executive Members Ranjit Basumatary and Dhananjay Basumatary, and senior officials from the Forest Department and BTR government.

The ceremony, held at the Dighli Forest Camp Complex, was attended by local residents, students, forest officials, and environmental enthusiasts.

As part of the celebrations, Minister Brahma also inaugurated a Butterfly Mu-

seum-cum-Conservation & Research Centre at Ultapani, near the India-Bhutan border. This centre aims to promote research, education, and conservation of the diverse butterfly species native to the region.

CEM Pramod Boro marked the occasion with a sapling plantation drive within the Dighli forest area and earlier at the Kokrajhar Medical College and Hospital (KMCH), where he was joined by Minister Brahma, BTR Legislative Assembly Speaker Katiram Boro, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, CEM Pramod Boro lauded the launch of Sikhna Jwhwlaio National Park as a significant milestone for the region:

"I'm delighted to attend the inaugural ceremony of Sikhna Jwhwlaio National Park, the newest jewel in BTR's crown. Home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, the park will serve as a vital sanctuary for wildlife, support ecological balance, and foster eco-tourism that benefits local communities," he said.

Boro also highlighted that the BTR has become a key hotspot for nature-based tourism, with over one lakh tourists recorded in the region's national parks.

The addition of Sikhna Jwhwlaio National Park is expected to significantly contribute to conservation, biodiversity protection, and livelihood generation through eco-tourism in Bodoland.

## Jorhat prepares for Rabha Divas

**HT Correspondent**  
**JORHAT, June 6:** The laikhuta (main pillar) of the pandal for the centrally organized Rabha Divas (death anniversary of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha) was ceremonially erected on Friday at the Jorhat District Sports Association (JDSA) Ground. The three-day event, scheduled from June 18 to 20, is being organized by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

Bhaba Goswami, former president of the Jorhat Zila Sahitya Sabha and senior advocate of the Jorhat Bar Association, initiated the laying of the pillar in the presence of a large gathering, which included members of the event's reception committee.

A brief function was held on the occasion, anchored by AASU State Literary Secretary and reception committee general secretary Niharika Saikia. Reception committee president Jogananda Bora delivered the welcome address.

The gathering was also addressed by Bhaba Goswami, Assam Sena chief convenor Bijoy Shankar Bordoloi, Assam Unnati Sabha vice-president Jul Khound, noted singer-musician Jayanta Nath, and Dushyanta Madhab Sharma, retired senior official of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations and former AASU leader.

Later in the day, the temporary office of the reception committee was inaugurated near the proposed Shahid Bhawan by Assam Unnati Sabha vice-president Jul Khound and Dushyanta Madhab Sharma.



Both events were attended by several dignitaries including AASU State Executive Committee member Sankalpa Gogoi, Jorhat District AASU General Secretary Riyaz Hussain, Assam Sena State Executive Committee member Ritul Pathak, and advisors Jitu Neog and Ananta Borthakur. People involved in cultural and literary circles and students from various educational institutions were also present.

The three-day programme will include a variety of competitions such as singing, drawing, poem recitation, debate, and quiz. On June 20, a mass chorus rendition by 4,000 students will take place, followed by an open session where a souvenir and two other books are slated for release. The closing ceremony will feature a cultural evening with performances by several noted artists.

## 5 ill post wild mushroom consumption

**HT Bureau**  
**DIPHU, June 6:** Five members of a family, including four minors, from Jengkhla Cheng-bong village in West Karbi Anglong district fell ill after consuming wild mushrooms on Thursday afternoon. Initially admitted to Kheroni Model Hospital, the patients were later referred to Diphu Medical College & Hospital for advanced treatment. According to reports, the family foraged mushrooms from a nearby sugarcane field and prepared them for lunch. Soon after eating the mushroom curry, all five began experiencing severe and prolonged vomiting along with loose motions. Relatives and villagers promptly took the affected members to Kheroni Model Hospital, from where they were referred to the medical college hospital in Diphu for further care.

The victims have been identified as Basapi Ronghangpi (70), Rumir Timungpi (7), Homsera Englengpi (30), Longbir Timung (8), and Rukasen Timung (5). Wild mushrooms are highly prized delicacies in both rural and urban areas of Karbi Anglong. Various species found growing in the wild are commonly harvested and consumed with enthusiasm. However, misidentification of poisonous mushrooms often leads to poisoning incidents.

No. SSUHS/157/2025/4025

### শৈক্ষিক জাননী

শ্রীমন্ত শংকরদেব স্বাস্থ্য বিজ্ঞান বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দ্বাৰা ইতিপূৰ্বে প্রচাৰিত জাননীমৰ্মে শৈক্ষিক বৰ্ষ ২০২৫ ত কাৰ্যচাৰী পাঠ্যক্ৰমত নামভৰ্তিৰ বাবে প্ৰৱেশিকা পৰীক্ষা অসমৰ গুৱাহাটী, ডিব্ৰুগড়, শিলচৰ, যোৰহাট, বৰপেটা, তেজপুৰ, ডিফু, লখিমপুৰ, নগাঁও, কোকৰাঝাৰ, নলবাৰী, ধুবুৰীৰ পৰীক্ষা কেন্দ্ৰসমূহত অহা ৮ জুন তাৰিখে অনুষ্ঠিত কৰা হ'ব। পৰীক্ষাৰ্থীসকলক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ ৱেবচাইটত ([www.ssuhs.in](http://www.ssuhs.in)) উপলব্ধ পৰীক্ষাৰ প্ৰশ্নে পত্ৰসমূহ সংগ্ৰহ কৰিবলৈ তথা প্ৰৱেশ পত্ৰত উল্লেখিত সময়ত নিৰ্ধাৰিত পৰীক্ষা কেন্দ্ৰত উপস্থিত হ'বলৈ আহ্বান জনোৱা হ'ল।

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ তফস্বৰ পৰা সমূহ পৰীক্ষাৰ্থীক শুভেচ্ছা জ্ঞাপন কৰাৰ লগতে তেওঁলোকৰ সফলতা কামনা কৰা হ'ল।

### পঞ্জীয়ক,

শ্রীমন্ত শংকরদেব স্বাস্থ্য বিজ্ঞান বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

DIPR /D/HLT/28/7-Jun-25

No.FDW.117/SOPD/Building/Forest/2024-25

### PRESS NOTICE

Dated, Kokrajhar, the 05<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests cum CHD, BTC, Kokrajhar, invites bids for the following works under SOPD, BTC for the year 2025-26 from the eligible contractors of Class-I (A, B, C) & class-II category of PWD /WR, Assam and BTC, Kokrajhar to be executed under the Forest Department, BTC, Kokrajhar for which the bid will be opened at 3:30 PM on the last date of bid submission i.e., 20-06-2025.

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Completion Period	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)
1	Forest/008/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing and Renovation of CHD, Forest 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade staff Qtr room 3 Nos under SOPD fund for the FY-2025-26	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
2	Forest/009/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repair and renovation of boundary wall and street light at CHD, Forest Office Compound, Tengapani, W/No. 5, Depot Road, Kokrajhar	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
3	Forest/010/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of CHD, Forest Office Staff Quarters room	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
4	Forest/011/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing conference room of CHD, Forest Office with high quality sound system, speaker, projector and round table with revolving chairs etc.	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
5	Forest/012/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of GCI sheet at parking 2 Nos. IV Grade barrack and running water facilities etc. along with fencing at Boundary Wall and installation of AC at DFO's Room	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
6	Forest/013/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing and renovation of Social Forestry Beat, Kokrajhar under Social Forestry Division, Kokrajhar	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
7	Forest/014/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing and renovation of existing forest camp at Harinaguri under Wildlife Div., Kokrajhar	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-

The details may be seen in the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-

Addl. PCCF cum CHD, BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/651

No.FDW.117/SOPD/Building/Forest/2024-25/967

### PRESS NOTICE

Dated, Kokrajhar, the 05<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests cum CHD, BTC, Kokrajhar, invites bids for the following works under SOPD, BTC for the year 2025-26 from the eligible contractors of Class-I (A, B, C) & class-II category of PWD /WR, Assam and BTC, Kokrajhar to be executed under the Forest Department, BTC, Kokrajhar for which the bid will be opened at 3:30 PM on the last date of bid submission i.e., 20-06-2025.

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Completion Period	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)
1	Forest/001/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of Beat Office and Anti-Poaching Camps under Central Range of Kachugaon Forest Division Gossaigaon.	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
2	Forest/002/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Super Renovation (Repairing) report of staff barrack along with tube well deep boring at Srirampur Forest Check Gate, Range Head Quarter Office, Srirampur under Kachugaon Forest Division, Gossaigaon	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
3	Forest/003/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of Guma Range Office along with repairing of Staff Quarters room at Parbatjhora Forest Division, Suparghat	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
4	Forest/004/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of DFO Office Building and Staff Quarters at Kajalgaon under Chirang Forest Division, Kajalgaon	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
5	Forest/005/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of Staff Quarter & Boundary Wall at Deosri Forest Beat Office under Chirang Forest Division, Kajalgaon	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
6	Forest/006/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of Staff Quarter including Latrine, Bathroom at Bengtol Forest Beat Office under Chirang Forest Division, Kajalgaon	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-
7	Forest/007/SOPD/Kokrajhar/2025-26	Repairing of Bijni Depot Office (Wooden Bungalow) along with repairing of Forester Quarter, Kitchen House, Forest Guard Barrack, Boundary Wall and Store House at Bijni Depot Office under Chirang Forest Division, Kajalgaon	19,66,000.00	45 days	39,320/- for General and 19,660/- for Reserved Category	600/-

The details may be seen in the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-

Addl. PCCF cum CHD, BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/654



Mizoram govt urges people to conserve water

## Pipelines, pumping stations damaged due to heavy rain

**AIZAWL, June 6:** The Mizoram government has urged people to harvest rainwater following extensive damage to pipelines and pumping systems caused by continuous heavy rain and landslides.

The state's Public Health Engineering (PHE) department has said that Aizawl may face water scarcity as water could not be pumped due to high turbidity and flooding of the Tlawng river, the state capital's primary water source.

The gravity pipelines and monoblock systems in the Kolasib district have been severely damaged, leading to disruptions in water supply in five towns. The PHE department said on Thursday.

Residents have been advised to exercise caution in their water usage and make use of most of the available rainwater.



It said that the Tuivawl river, one of the primary water sources in the Khawzawl district, has become heavily contaminated, rendering the treatment plant ineffective in purifying the water.

The department also reported damage to gravity pipelines and urged people to save water.

The flooding of the Tuichang

river in the Hnahthial district has damaged both the raw water pump and control panel, disrupting the power and water supply.

Similar appeals have also been issued in Mamit and Siaha districts, where authorities cited mechanical damage and flooding-related issues as the cause of water supply disruptions.

The data released by the state emergency operation centre of the Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department said that landslides, landslides or mudslides were reported in 769 locations till Thursday.

A total of 452 families have been evacuated so far, of which 338 have been displaced after their homes became vulnerable due to landslides, while 114 families have been evacuated due to floods, it said.

A total of 272 houses have collapsed or have been damaged due to rain and landslides, the date said.

Incidents of landslides, floods, house collapse and other calamities triggered by torrential rain in the past few days in Mizoram have so far killed five people, including three Myanmar refugees, officials said. (PTI)

## CM Neiphiu Rio emphasises need to preserve, promote rich traditions of Naga tribes

**KOHEMA, June 6:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Friday emphasised the need to preserve and promote the rich traditions of Nagaland's 17 tribes and multiple sub-tribes.

Addressing the inaugural function of the new multi-storied Nagaland State Emporium Complex here, Rio called it a long-awaited infrastructure that will serve as both a symbol of cultural identity and a centre for commercial growth.

Describing the emporium as "the pride and image of the state", Rio said it must reflect the unity in diversity of Nagaland. He stressed that the complex should not merely be a showroom for textiles and crafts, but a cultural destination for locals and tourists alike.

Highlighting the uniqueness of tribal motifs, colours, and traditional designs, the chief minister

urged artisans, weavers, and designers to collaborate under approved frameworks to maintain authenticity. He called for all tribal products to be documented, standardised, and vetted by respective tribal bodies to preserve originality and ensure high quality.

"There should be a system—designs must be approved, samples created, and then taken up for mass production. We cannot allow everyone to make whatever they think is good. Without structure, we lose identity and market consistency," Rio said.

The CM also addressed the need to promote Naga cuisine, which he noted was gaining popularity in cities like Delhi and Pune. He lamented the lack of proper documentation of ingredients and recipes and encouraged efforts to standardise and brand traditional Naga food for wider appeal.

Encouraging the use of indigenous materials such as Naga silk, banana fibers, and traditional cotton, Rio said Nagaland must move from being a raw material supplier to a value-added producer.

"Let's finish them here and fetch better prices," he urged.

Referring to the state's participation in the broader Northeastern handicraft and handicraft sector, Rio noted that Nagaland's production still lags behind other states like Assam and Manipur.

He pledged to advocate for better support and coordination at the regional level.

The chief minister further proposed the establishment of a Yarn Bank to support consistent quality in textile production and addressed the need for micro-financing support for weavers and entrepreneurs. (PTI)

## ASPF demands Tura as M'laya's second capital

**SHILLONG, June 6:** The Achik State Peoples' Front (ASPF) has reiterated its demand for Tura as Meghalaya's second capital. It said this during its 13th Winter Capital meeting at Mangsang Bamil Playground in East Garo Hills district recently.

The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Garo Students Union (GSU), Mangsang Regional Unit, and the FKJGP, Mangsang Regional Unit.

Addressing the gathering, the ASPF general secretary emphasized the importance of unity within the community to confront current challenges and reiterated the long-standing demand for the recognition of Tura as Meghalaya's second capital.

She highlighted that this demand is rooted in promises made by the state's founding leaders and must be persistently pursued until fulfilled.

FKJGP president George D Sangma expressed strong support for the movement and committed to organizing another public meeting in the Mangsang area soon. He stated that the aim would be to intensify advocacy and exert greater pressure on the government to take the demand seriously. (NNN)

## 'Tribal Health and Wellbeing in Meghalaya, India' released

**SHILLONG, June 6:** Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU), Shillong, hosted a significant academic event with the official release of the book "Tribal Health and Wellbeing in Meghalaya, India", published by MLCU Press.

The event was graced by the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro Vice Chancellor, the faculty, students, and board members of the university. Notable attendees included Rudi Warjri and Patricia Mukhim, editor of The Shillong Times, who also authored the book's foreword.

The programme began at 1 pm with a welcome address by Larilin Kharpur, Pro Vice Chancellor of MLCU. She emphasized the university's dedication to addressing local health challenges through interdisciplinary research and publication. The book, she informed, is a product of the 2023 project "Creation of a Curriculum on the Health of Indigenous and Tribal Communities: Meghalaya", funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Germany.

Kharpur also highlighted MLCU's pioneering efforts in documenting and supporting tribal healers, advocating for the preservation of indigenous knowledge and culturally relevant health education.

Sandra Albert, Director of the Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong, introduced the book as a comprehensive academic resource. Divided into three sections, it includes 15

chapters on tribal health, wellbeing, and traditional practices; two key Meghalaya government policy documents (the MOTHER Policy and the Mental Health and Social Care Policy); and 11 research articles covering topics like vaccine hesitancy, contraception, health systems, and traditional healing. She noted that while indigenous medicine remains widely practiced and trusted in Meghalaya, the centrally promoted AYUSH systems often lack local relevance.

The official release was conducted by Sampath Kumar, Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya. In his keynote address, he emphasized the need to formally recognize and integrate traditional health systems into mainstream healthcare. Citing maternal death review findings, he pointed out that many deaths occurred where traditional birth attendants (TBAs) had been sidelined, despite their community trust and accessibility.

Kumar praised the book for capturing ground realities and for offering policy recommendations grounded in Meghalaya's cultural context. He shared examples of how traditional healers have supported TB detection and vaccination efforts, stating, "When we engaged with traditional healers, we saw the trust they held and the role they already play in promoting practices like vaccination and safe deliveries. It is time we brought them into the fold." (NNN)

## 44 stranded tourists evacuated from landslide-hit Chaten in north Sikkim

**GANGTOK, June 6:** A total of 44 stranded tourists were evacuated from Chaten in north Sikkim on Friday, bringing to a close the rescue efforts of people stuck in the landslide-hit area for the day, officials said. The rescue efforts resumed in the morning, with helicopters airlifting the stranded tourists from Chaten, they said. "A total of 44 people have been evacuated from Chaten, north Sikkim, today through multiple sorties by helicopters," an official said.

Among those evacuated, 17 are local residents, he said. "With the successful completion of this round, all stranded tourists have now been evacuated from Chaten. Following this, the evacuation operation has officially been called off for the day," the official said. The state government had earlier said that 64 people were awaiting evacuation in Chaten.

All evacuees have been safely brought to Greenfield Airport, Pakyong, from where they will be taken to Gangtok by bus, he said. Arrangements will also be made to bring back local residents who may still be stranded in the area, the official said.

The administration continues to monitor the situation and remains committed to extending all necessary support to the disaster-hit region and its people, he said.

Altogether, 63 stranded people, mostly tourists, were on Thursday evacuated by helicopters from Chaten, which was hit by a landslide earlier this week, the officials said.

The evacuation operation was called off due to inclement weather and challenging terrain on Thursday.

Three army personnel were killed, six soldiers went missing and several others were injured after a landslide hit a military camp at Chaten on the evening of June 1. Efforts are underway to locate the missing soldiers. (PTI)

## Agartala airport to install new lighting system ensuring safe landing during hostile weather

**AGARTALA, June 6:** The authorities of the Agartala airport have decided to install a powerful lighting system at the runway to enable planes to land safely during inclement weather conditions, an officer said.

At present, the runway at the Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport has the Simple Approach Lighting System (SAPL) with an instrumental landing facility at both ends of the threshold.

It sometimes creates problems for aircraft to land, especially during inclement weather.

"In order to improve operating minima (minimum weather conditions required for a plane to safely take off or land) during low visibility, (category-I) approach lighting system for the runway was sought," Airport's Director KC Meena told PTI.

A Category-I (CAT I) approach lighting system guides aircraft during landing, especially in low visibility conditions. It consists of a row of lights along the runway centerline, extending up to 900 metres from the threshold, and includes crossbars.

"However, in view of land restriction due to the nearby Bangladesh border, an abridged category-I approach lighting system up to 720 metres will be installed instead of 900 metres," the airport director said.

The airport in the Tripura capital is located around 1.5 km from the Bangladesh border.

The move to install a new lighting system is seen as important since two flights could not touch the runway due to inclement weather in the northeastern state recently, leaving the passengers in trouble. Handling an average of 4000 passengers daily, the MBB Airport is the second busiest airport in the region after Guwahati. (PTI)

## World Bank team explores prospects in agarwood sector in North Tripura: Official

### Agar oil and chips are exported to West Asian countries

**AGARTALA, June 6:** A three-member World Bank team on Friday visited agarwood factories and interacted with growers in North Tripura's Kadamtala area to take stock of the agar sector and explore its prospects, an official said. The team, headed by World Bank consultant Dan Altrel, held a meeting with senior officials of the forest department to learn about the activities in the agarwood industries, he said.



The three-member group, also comprising consultants Erick Z Soruco and Sushanta Paul, visited the agar market at Kadamtala and interacted with growers to know their views on how the World Bank could extend help to them.

"The World Bank team is in the state in connection with a

project in which non-timber forest products are a component. Since agar-based factories are concentrated at Kadamtala, the team visited the place to know the ground reality. During the visit, the

World Bank team interacted with the agar growers as well as the people engaged in agarwood processing," North Tripura District Forest Officer (DFO) Suman Malla told PTI. Currently, agar oil and chips

are exported to West Asian countries where these products have good demand, the DFO said.

Malla said North Tripura has the highest number of agar trees at 1 crore, and agarwood-based activities are mainly concentrated at Kadamtala in Dharmanagar subdivision.

"The agar-based businesses are going well, with one market already made operational. It has good potential, and as far as value addition is concerned, we have to go a long way," he added.

Around 15 agarwood factories are actively operational at Kadamtala.

The Tripura government declared an Agar Policy in 2021, which aims to transform the state's economy through the sector. (PTI)

### GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE ULUKUNCHI DIVISION, ULUKUNCHI e-mail:- cepheulukunchi@gmail.com

**NIT NO.-01 of 2025-26 Dated. 07-06-2025**

Separate sealed tender affixing non-refundable KAAC cash receipt of worth Rs.10.00 (Rupees ten) only, eventually to be drawn in APWD F-2 Form, are hereby invited by the undersigned up to **2.00 p.m. on 27/06/2025** from the registered contractors/ firms of PHE Department under KAAC area for the works as mentioned below in details of AAP 2025-26. (SOPD) duly approved and accorded administrative approval by KAAC authority vide No. KAAC/PHE/AAP/2024-25/4886 Dated 27/05/2025 under this Ulukunchi (PHE) Division. The tenders received will be opened at the same date & hours in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized agents who like to be present. In case the last date of receiving tenders happens to be a holiday, the tenders will be received and opened at the same hours on the next working day. Tenders must be accompanied with an earnest money of 2% of the estimated cost (1% in case of SC/ST/OBC/MOBC tenderers) deposited in the form of 'NSC' or 'KVP' duly pledge in favour of "**Executive Engineer (PHE), Ulukunchi Division, Ulukunchi.**"

The detail tender papers and other terms & conditions may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days up to 1:00 PM 27/06/2025 on payment of Rs.200.00 (Rupees two hundred) only in cash.

The undersigned have reserved the right to accept or reject the tender as a whole or part without assigning any reasons thereof and will not be bind himself to accept the lowest rate quoted by the tenderer.

#### Name of works against NIT No. 01 of 2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of work	Group No.	Estimated Cost (In Rupees)
1.	For Repairing & Miscellaneous works in Tamulbari PWSS	I	Rs. 1,94,000.00
2.	For Repairing & Miscellaneous works in Putsari PWSS	II	Rs. 4,00,000.00
3.	For Repairing & Miscellaneous works in Beltola PWSS	III	Rs. 2,00,000.00
4.	For Repairing & Miscellaneous works in Marjong Lalung PWSS	IV	Rs. 5,00,000.00
5.	For Repairing & Miscellaneous works in Umlapher PWSS	V	Rs. 2,90,000.00
6.	For Repairing & Miscellaneous works in Umrukhati PWSS	VI	Rs. 2,50,000.00
7.	Construction of Reservoir Tank of 15000 litre capacity for KGV B Ulukunchi	VII	Rs. 2,60,000.00
8.	Supply & Fixing one Electric Open Well Submersible Pump including wiring and distribution pipes with GI pipes at Umlapher for Ulukunchi Sub-Division	VIII	Rs. 2,20,000.00

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

- Tenderer should quote their rates distinctly both in figures & words on percentage basis as per above/below/the Schedule of rates/departamental approved rates /estimated rates as applicable.
- The tenderer should furnish their full name and address distinctly in the tender papers.
- Earnest money to be deposited of 2% for General and 1% for ST, SC, OBC & MOBC.
- GSTIN will be deducted as applicable.
- The work should be completed within the stipulated time.
- Payment will be made subject to the availability of fund released by the authority of KAAC, Diphu.
- The work should be started after signing the necessary agreement in consultation with the AEE (PHE)/SO (PHE) i/c.
- No advance payment will be made for the work.
- Approximate value of the works may vary as necessary.
- Necessary Challans etc. against Forest products utilized in the work will have to be submitted with the Bill.
- Non-tribal tenderer must produce up to date KAAC trading license along with the tender documents.
- All other terms & conditions will be followed as per APWD F-2 form of tender.
- The right of settlement/allotment of any work to the tenderer is reserved by the Authority of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.

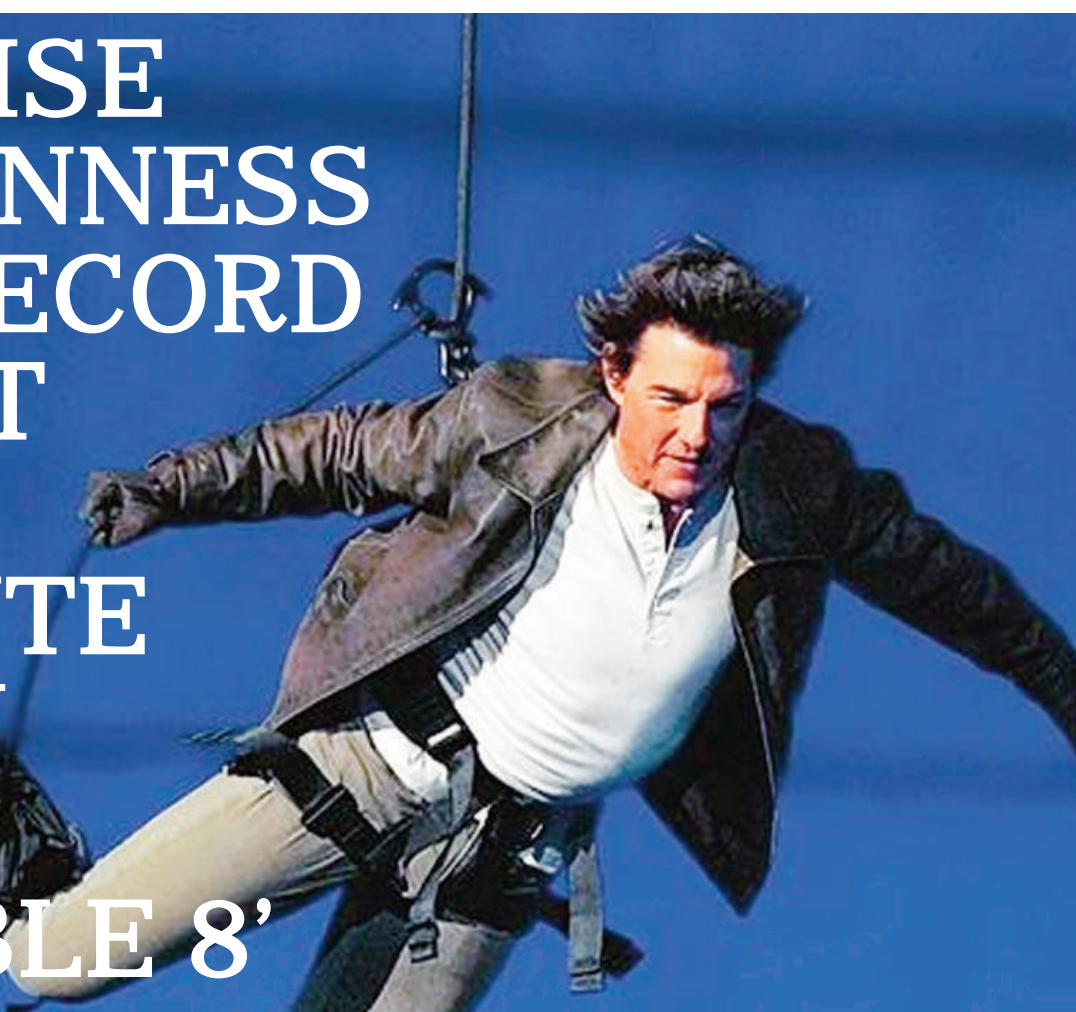
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (PHE)  
Ulukunchi Division. Ulukunchi

Memo No. PHEE/UCHI/TND-01/2025-26/152-162

Dated. 07/06/2025



# TOM CRUISE SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR MOST BURNING PARACHUTE JUMPS IN 'MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 8'



**LOS ANGELES, June 6:** Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise has earned a Guinness World Record for performing the most burning parachute jumps by an individual, executing the feat 16 times during the filming of his latest movie, "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning".

The film, which released in theatres worldwide in June, featured a daring sequence in the final moments where Cruise, a licensed skydiver, leapt from a helicopter while strapped to a parachute soaked in aviation fuel and set ablaze.

He performed the stunt 16 times and after each jump, he cut away the burning parachute and deployed a backup to land safely.

"Tom doesn't just play action heroes – he is an ac-

tion hero," Craig Glenday, Editor-in-Chief of Guinness World Records, said in a statement posted on the official website.

"A large part of his success can be chalked up to his absolute focus on authenticity and pushing the boundaries of what a leading man can do. It's an honour to be able to recognise his utter fearlessness with this new Guinness World Records title." In the scene from "The Final Reckoning", Cruise's character, Ethan Hunt, battled the movie's antagonist Gabriel (Esai Morales) for the control of an AI entity aboard 1940s biplanes above South Africa's Drakensberg mountains. Some takes were filmed with a 50-pound camera rig attached to Cruise for close-up shots during freefall.

The record adds to Cruise's previous accolades, including having the most consecutive USD 100-million-grossing films.

The actor, who debuted as a leading man in "Risky Business" (1983) and has starred in over 30 films since, delivered 11 hits – from "Jack Reacher" (2012) to "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning" (2025). "Tom is no stranger to record breaking. Over his impressively long and consistent career, he's proved himself to be the most powerful actor in Hollywood and the most bankable star, and he's still the actor with the most consecutive USD 100 million movies on their resume and the most successful leading action hero at the worldwide box office," Craig said. (PTI)

# PANKAJ TRIPATHI, ADITI RAO HYDARI TO STAR IN FAMILY ENTERTAINER 'PARIVARIK MANURANJAN'

**MUMBAI, June 6:** Actors Pankaj Tripathi and Aditi Rao Hydari will be featuring together in an upcoming film, titled "Parivarik Manuranjan".

Filled with laughter, love, chaos and music, the family entertainer is about a "perfectly mismatched duo", the makers said in a statement. It is backed by Vinod Bhanushali of Bhanushali Studios Limited and Himanshu Mehra. Filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar serves as the creative producer through his banner AAZ Films.

"Parivarik Manuranjan" will be directed by Varun V Sharma, who served as a writer on Zafar's 2019 movie "Bharat", starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif.

Sharma has penned the script for the new movie in collaboration with acclaimed actor Brijendra Kala. Tripathi said he is thrilled to be teaming up with Aditi for the film.

"There was something so charm-

ingly simple and yet irresistibly funny about the script that I couldn't say no. It's the kind of story that sneaks up on you with its warmth. This is my first time working with Aditi, and I've always admired her craft towards acting," the actor said. Praising Tripathi as a "master", Hydari said she is excited to star alongside the "Mirzapur" star.



"When I read the script, I smiled through it. The situational comedy, the twists and the unexpected turns and more importantly the warmth and simplicity that is the heart of the story."

"Getting to work with Pankaj sir is going to be a treat. He is a master of this genre, and for me this is going to be a big learning experience and a joy," the "Heeramandi" actor said. The film, which marks the beginning of a strategic partnership between Bhanushali Studios Limited and AAZ Films, went on floors on Thursday in Lucknow. (PTI)

# Tom Felton to reprise Draco Malfoy role in Broadway's 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'



**NEW YORK, June 6:** British actor Tom Felton is set to reprise his fan-favourite "Harry Potter" character of Draco Malfoy in the Broadway production of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child". Felton, who will make his Broadway debut with the stage show, will join the cast at New York's Lyric Theatre for a limited 19-week engagement starting November 11, a press release stated.

It marks the first time an original cast member from the film series will perform in the stage adaptation.

Felton, now 37, will portray an adult Draco Malfoy, aligning with the character's age in the play, which is set 19 years after the events of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", the final film of the globally popular movie franchise.

"Being a part of the Harry Potter films has been one of the greatest honours of my life," Felton said, adding that joining the Broadway production of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" would be a "full-circle moment" for him. "When I begin performances in 'Cursed Child' this fall, I'll also be the exact age Draco is in the play. It's surreal to be stepping back into his shoes –

and of course his iconic platinum blond hair – and I am thrilled to be able to see his story through and to share it with the greatest fan community in the world," the actor further said.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" follows the next generation of wizards, focusing on the children of the original characters, including Draco's son, Scorpius Malfoy.

The play has received praise for its exploration of legacy, friendship, and the complexities of parenthood.

Producers Sonia Friedman and Candler said they feel "incredibly fortunate" to have Felton on board the Broadway production.

Tom Felton's performance as a young Draco Malfoy on screen left an indelible impression on Harry Potter fans around the world," they said in a joint statement. "His role as Draco undeniably shaped one of the canon's most nuanced characters. More than just a foil to Harry, Draco was a portrait of parental pressure, internal conflict, and reluctant vulnerability. Over the years, this character arc has become a symbol of how people can grow beyond the choices one was raised to make," they added. (PTI)

# Miss Universe India 2025 announces winners for Delhi, Haryana & Uttarakhand



**NEW DELHI, June 6:** Three young women were crowned winners at the Miss Universe India 2025 state finale for Delhi, Haryana and Uttarakhand.

Smiti Chhabra (Delhi), Amish Kaushik (Haryana) and Radhika Singhal (Uttarakhand) were declared winners in their respective categories at an event, held at The Grand Hotel in Vasant Kunj.

The trio will now advance to compete in the national finale of Miss Universe India 2025, a press release said.

Winners were chosen based on walk, poise, communication, intellect, and stage presence, with organisers emphasising that the platform celebrates more than just physical beauty.

From Delhi, Chhabra was crowned winner, while Avni Gupta and Tavishi Maggon were named first and second runners-up respectively.

In Haryana, Kaushik took the title, with Sanjana Sood and Yashika Goyal as runners-up. Among the Uttarakhand finalists, Singhal emerged victorious, with Himanshi Singh and Aditi Pandey taking the first and second runner-up spots.

The jury included Kartikya Arora, group editor-in-chief of Pristine Magazine; pageant coach Dr Rita Gangwani; designer Samant Chauhan; actor Mannara Chopra; and reigning Miss Universe India 2023, Shweta Sharda. (PTI)

# Varun Grover and Swanand Kirkire: friends, colleagues and inspirations for each other

**NEW DELHI, June 6:** Friends, wordsmiths and masters in multiple aspects of cinema making, it is difficult to slot either Varun Grover or Swanand Kirkire in any one bracket.

Grover is a lyricist, director, stand-up comedian and screenwriter. Kirkire is also a lyricist and screenwriter as well as being an accomplished actor and singer. The two have collaborated often and teamed up again for "KISS", a short film Grover directed and Kirkire acted in.

"We became friends and did a lot of things together. I sang a song in 'Masaan' which he wrote... When you know a person and know his potential, it doesn't mean this talent is concentrated only on one thing," Kirkire told PTI.

"It is like a waterfall which needs different paths to flow through, sometimes as a lyric writer, sometimes as a comedian, poet and sometimes as a scriptwriter and ultimately as a director," he added on a poetic note.

Kirkire said he was introduced to Grover by musician Sneha Khanwalkar and immediately recognised a "strong and flawless" voice when he heard the songs from "Gangs of Wasseypur".

"We became friends and did a lot of

things together. I sang a song in 'Masaan' which he wrote... When you know a person and know his potential, it doesn't mean that this talent is concentrated only on one thing."

Grover returns the compliment, describing Kirkire as a "true inspiration for so many things he does and also for being a lovely friend".

He said Kirkire was the first person in the lyrics writing community to send him a message about the songs in "Gangs of Wasseypur" in 2012. "I was over the moon because this was the biggest award for me."

"It showed me a generous soul, someone who really respected the craft and loved encouraging new talent. That was something that made me emotional that there is this person who I really look up to..." he added.

The celebrated artiste credits cinema for empowering his various creative endeavours. He made his feature directorial debut with 2023's critically acclaimed "All India Rank" but it was "KISS" that marked his beginning as a director. The short film is now streaming on MUBI India.

"I like the ability to reach people in different ways as an artist and cinema gives you that immense power. I have always wanted to become a director,



and this is where that journey began," he said.

Grover said he had already locked the script for "All India Rank" but put it on hold due to the pandemic and instead focused on the short film just to understand whether or not he had the temperament of a director.

"There is always a bit of self-doubt because I have mostly worked in isolation, locked in a room, but on a set, you have to deal with a large crew and many people. It was an incredibly enjoyable experience and gave me a

chance to connect with a new kind of art form," he said.

Starring Adarsh Gourav, Kirkire and Shubhrajyoti Barat, "KISS" tells the story of a young filmmaker who gets in trouble with the censor committee members for a kiss in his movie. They debate on its length during a screening in an old theatre.

Kirkire, who features as Salil Abid, a censor board member in the movie, said Grover approached him for the film during the pandemic and he instantly agreed.

"There is absolutely no question of saying no to such a beautiful script," he told PTI. The movie blends sci-fi elements and drama to explore the worldview of its primary characters, who realise time is moving differently for each of them in the theatre and their childhood has something to do with it.

Grover said he chose not to have a satirical tone for the movie.

"I do a lot of stuff, which is very critical and kind of in the satirical zone. I make fun of things which are regressive, things which are anti the ideas of India we believe in. Making fun of the censor board and its working is really easy."

"I wanted to understand these people... I wanted to understand what drives this idea of censorship, and I thought it has something to do with the lives we all live. That was the origin point of this film."

What connects Kirkire and Grover is not just their profession as lyricists and writers but also their love for cinema that began early.

Kirkire said he doesn't even remember when he fell in love with movies. "I have loved cinema from a very young age... My mother played a big role in this. When I was in Indore,

during my first year of college, I watched every single film that was released that year, literally all of them."

"I had this habit of noting down the names of the actor, director, how much the ticket cost. I even saved the tickets and wrote how much I paid for them. That's how deeply I loved cinema. In Indore, where I studied, there used to be screenings of Indian Panorama cinema, and my mother allowed me to watch that festival," he said.

The movie that inspired him to seek a career in cinema was "Teetee Kasam", which he saw on television.

Grover also traces his love for movies to his childhood and a home where cinema viewing culture was very strong.

"My father was a government servant working in the Military Engineering Service but he had a deep love for books, films, and music. Most of my childhood interactions were with film songs. We had a large collection of audio cassettes at home and played them all the time. There were no visuals, just sound so I had no idea what was happening in the songs, but I began imagining everything on my own," Grover recalled. (PTI)



# Brazil draws 0-0 with Ecuador in World Cup qualifying in Ancelotti's debut as coach



**SAO PAULO, June 6:** Brazil held Ecuador to a 0-0 draw Thursday in a South American World Cup qualifying game that marked Carlo Ancelotti's debut as national team coach. The match in Guayaquil offered few scoring opportunities for either team, and featured once again a Brazilian lineup that struggled to be creative.

Ecuador edged closer to one of the direct World Cup spots by maintaining second place in the round robin competition with 24

points. Brazil is in fourth place with 22 points. The top six teams in South America qualify automatically for the World Cup next year in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

World Cup champion Argentina, which has already secured its place at the 2026 global tournament, beat 10th-place Chile 1-0. Lionel Messi went on as a second-half substitute in his first run for the national team in seven months. Argentina has 34 points, 10 clear of Ecuador.

Paraguay moved into third spot on 24 points after a 2-0 home win over Uruguay, which dropped to fifth. Matías Galarza scored the opener in the 13th minute and Julio Enciso added a second from the spot in the 81st.

Ancelotti's changesAncelotti made a lot of lineup changes compared with his predecessor, Dorival Júnior, who was fired after the team's 4-0 defeat at Argentina. The result was a team that successfully blocked the hosts almost all of the

match but also failed to be creative and aggressive in offense, a flaw also under Ancelotti's predecessors.

The 65-year-old Italian coach gave Vinicius Júnior Brazil's No. 10, brought veteran midfielder Casemiro and striker Richarlison back into the starting lineup, gave a debut to defender Alex and played teenager Estêvão on the left wing as a replacement to suspended Raphinha.

Brazil seemed comfortable de-

fending against Ecuador, which is unbeaten in its last 14 home games. The best chance for Ancelotti's team came in the 22nd minute, when Vinicius shot from close range and was stopped by goalkeeper Gonzalo Valle.

Ancelotti predicted Brazil won't be as defense-minded next week when it hosts Paraguay in Sao Paulo. "We will have more opportunities to control the match, have more mobility and intensity," Ancelotti told a post-match news conference. "This game was more complicated for the three (strikers). We needed more of an offensive game. But Ecuador defended well."

"It was a very good match in the defensive stage — I saw the team doing well with the ball, with a more fluid game," Ancelotti added. "This was a good draw and we leave here satisfied, with confidence for the next match."

The 33-year-old Casemiro, who played his first match for Brazil in more than a year, was happy to return and play under a coach he enjoyed a lot of success with at Real Madrid. "Little by little we will grow," Casemiro said. "We had a strong, solid defensive system tonight." Vinicius said Ancelotti "is yet to show his game plan" for Brazil. "We will manage. The World Cup is right there and we need to be together to do well at the end of South American qualifying and World Cup preparations," the striker said. (AP)

# French Open: No. 2 Coco Gauff faces No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the women's final



**PARIS, June 6:** The biggest difference Coco Gauff sees between the player who lost her first Grand Slam final at the 2022 French Open at age 18, and the one who will play for the trophy again on Saturday at 21, this time against No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka, is the way she views the importance of the occasion.

Three years ago at Roland-Garros, Gauff was making her debut on that sort of stage and with that sort of prize at stake. It felt like the outcome meant absolutely everything, a burden that was a lot at the time and made her nervous.

Now, the No. 2-ranked Gauff says, she understands "how minuscule" the result Saturday is in the scheme of things.

"Everybody is dealing with way bigger things in life than losing a final," the American said after beating 361st-ranked French wildcard entry Lois Boisson 6-1, 6-2 in the semifinals Thursday.

"I'm sure there are hundreds of players that would kill to win or lose a final, so just knowing that (makes) me realize how lucky and privileged I am to be in this position," Gauff said. "At first, I thought it would be the end of the world if I lost, and, you know, the sun still rose the next day. ... Regardless of the result, the sun will still rise."

No. 2 matchup in a French Open women's final since Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova in 2023. Sabalenka beat Gauff in their most recent meeting, which came at the Madrid Open in May on the type of red clay used at Roland-Garros. So Gauff is well aware of Sabalenka's many talents, which were on full display during a 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-0 semifinal victory over three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek.

"She can come up with some big shots and big winners pretty much at all areas of the court," Gauff said about the 27-year-old from Belarus. "She's a fighter, as well. She's going to stay in the match regardless of the scoreline."

After getting pushed to a third set by Swiatek, who had won 26 matches in a row at the French Open, Sabalenka was pretty much perfect down the stretch.

Even Sabalenka called the lopsided nature of that last set "shocking for me."

She didn't make a single unforced error; Swiatek had 12.

"The pace was from her (was) super fast," Swiatek said. "It was just hard to get into any rally."

Sabalenka took over the top ranking from Swiatek last October and has remained there. Sabalenka is 40-6 this season with three titles and, while her three major championships all came on hard courts — at the 2023 and 2024 Australian Opens and the 2024 U.S. Open — the work she's put in to improve on clay is clearly paying off.

"I can go flat. I can (play) with the spin. I can go back and play in defense," Sabalenka said. "That's what works the best on the clay court for me." (AP)

## Time will tell with repercussions but I'm still heavily committed to DC: Mitchell Starc

**LONDON, June 6:** Mitchell Starc is still "heavily committed" to his Indian Premier League team Delhi Capitals but only "time will tell the repercussions" after he decided not to return after the resumption of the tournament unlike some of his other Australian colleagues.

Starc decided against returning to India when IPL resumed on May 17 following a 10-day break after country's armed forces executed Operation Sindoor, a military operation in response to Pakistan-backed terrorists killing 26 civilians in Pahalgalam.

Starc, who was a vital cog in the Capitals' bowling line-up, took 14 wickets in 11 matches, featured in the contest against Punjab Kings in Dharamsala on May 8 when lights abruptly went off in the stadium and the game was abandoned.

Starc's wife and Australia Women's captain Alyssa Healy was also attending the game when the game was stopped and the stadium was urgently evacuated due to Dharamsala's proximity with the international border.

The 35-year-old Starc said he had his doubts heading into that

IPL game between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings given the tensions. "I'm comfortable with my decision and how I felt about the whole situation and how it was handled," Starc was quoted as saying by The Age.

"That's why I made my decision post-match, and my focus changed to red-ball cricket for about a week prior to coming over here (the UK)." "Time will tell with repercussions or how it looks with guys that didn't return. But I've had my questions and concerns leading into that game, and obviously we saw what happened,

which played a part in my decision," he said.

Starc said for the same reasons he had decided not to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy with the Australian team earlier this year. "There was a little bit of that to my decision around the Champions Trophy (in Pakistan) and then once the tournament (IPL) was delayed, you start to think about guys' preparation for the Test match," he said, referring to Australia's World Test Championship final against South Africa to be played at Lord's from June 11.

Starc said things were "handled differently for different players and different teams" in Dharamsala. Both the teams along with broadcast crew had returned to Delhi from Pathankot in a special train.

"Things were handled differently for different players and different teams, the guys up in Dharamsala, the Punjab guys were part of that, and while both teams had similar experiences up there, all those guys returned for Punjab, and Jake (Fraser-McGurk) and I chose not to," he said. (PTI)

## Albania and Serbia face off in a politically charged World Cup qualifier

**TIRANA (ALBANIA), June 6:** The roar of the crowd or the thrill of the game are hallmarks of international soccer. But when Albania and Serbia meet Saturday in a 2026 World Cup qualifier, the energy will be different.

The match in Tirana isn't just about three points as echoes of past confrontations are impossible to ignore. It's a clash deeply rooted in national identities that organizers are fighting hard to put aside. It is one of the most politically charged and emotionally intense rivalries in European football, rooted in deep historical and ethnic tensions, especially relating to the Kosovo conflict and broader Balkan history. Serbia and Albania are in the same European qualifying group — alongside England, Latvia and Andorra. The last time they met on Albanian soil was in 2015, when Serbia won 2-0 even though Serbian fans were banned from the match.

The 2014 Belgrade brawl fresh in memoriesA 2014 game between the teams in Belgrade was abandoned when a drone carrying an Albanian flag sparked a full-scale brawl. Albania was awarded a 3-0 victory after a ruling said the match couldn't be continued due to the hostile environment at the stadium. That clinched Albania's qualification to the 2016 European Championship — a first for the team. That match had already been considered high risk. Kosovo, which has a majority Albanian population, declared independence from Serbia in 2008 — a move Serbia does not recognize. Football, often a mirror of nationalism and politics, reflected this deep divide. As Tirana braces for the latest showdown, memories of that night — and the nationalistic fervor it unleashed — hover just beneath the surface.

Serbia's tense ties with KosovoSerbia and Albania remain at odds over the status of now-independent Kosovo, and fan rivalry is still intense.

Almost half of the Albanian squad is of Albanian origin from Kosovo, North Macedonia or southern Serbia.

For players, this is a contest overshadowed by history, politics, and national pride — a reminder that sometimes sport is anything but just a game.

Albania defender Elseid Hysaj, who was part of the 2014 match, said the chaos "should not be repeated." "We should be calm and be conscious that we are football players," he said. "We are here to please the fans and give our best for the victory."

Organizers remind fans it's a gameArmand Duka, president of the Albanian Football Federation, called on Albanians to see the match as a sports event "where the team gets support and positive energy from the fans to achieve the goal." "We want to give the message: let's live it as a sport festivity," Duka told The Associated Press.

There will be a heavy police presence, road closures, and searches of fans entering the stadium. Serbian fans are barred, which "will contribute to a quieter environment," Duka said.

The sides have taken steps to forge a better relationship. Albania and Serbia will co-host the men's Under-21 European Championship in 2027 in a project that aims to overcome political tensions. "Players do not bear the burden of history or of the political tensions," Duka said.

"They compete on the pitch to win, to give the best for the jersey they represent and, above all, to build the bridge of respect through the game." Nationalists and soccer fans at oddsAlthough political tensions have somewhat subsided in recent years, nationalists and soccer fans on both sides are deeply at odds. Both Albania and Serbia have faced sanctions from European soccer's governing body because of politically-charged incidents involving fans (AP)

## China eliminated from World Cup contention; Uzbekistan and Jordan qualify for the first time

**DOHA, June 6:** China slumped out of World Cup contention before Uzbekistan and Jordan qualified for the first time, taking advantage of Asia getting double the number of guaranteed entries at the first 48-team tournament in North America next year.

Asian soccer power South Korea sealed an 11th straight appearance at the men's World Cup finals with a 2-0 win in Iraq.

In a hectic night Thursday with a lot on the line, Australia scored late to edge already-qualified Japan 1-0 before China lost 1-0 in Indonesia. For Uzbekistan, a 0-0 draw against the United Arab Emirates was enough to take the second automatic qualification spot in Group A behind Iran.

With Asia now having eight guaranteed qualifiers — after just

four for the 2022 edition in Qatar — Uzbekistan was a likely contender to step up. While most of its team plays in the domestic league, it includes a few Europe-based stars like Roma forward Eldor Shomurodov and Manchester City defender Abdulkodir Khusanov. In Group B, South Korea and Jordan secured their places at the 2026 tournament to be staged in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Ali Olwan scored three goals in Jordan's 3-0 win over Oman as the soon-to-be World Cup debutant built on reaching the final at the 2023 Asian Cup, where it lost to host Qatar. Jordan's highest-profile player is winger Mousa Tamari at French club Rennes.

In Group C, a first-half penalty from Ole Romeny in Jakarta was

enough to end China's chances of qualifying for the World Cup for the first time since 2002, when the tournament was staged in Asia for the first time and co-hosts South Korea and Japan didn't have to go through continental qualifying.

China's strugglesIt's a mystery to many how a country of 1.4 billion people with such a pedigree in Olympic sports struggles so much to reach soccer's marquee event. Branko Ivankovic, a Croatian with international experience in Iran and Oman, was hired last year to guide the Chinese men's team and domestic news agency Xinhua said the head coach took some of the responsibility for another failed campaign.

"This team has been fighting for this goal for over 20 years. We

believed that if we could reach the next stage from this tough group, we would have a strong chance of qualifying," Ivankovic said, according to Xinhua. "But we didn't succeed and, as head coach, I definitely bear significant responsibility."

With one game remaining in this round of Asian qualifying, China has won only two of nine games and is bottom of the group that also contains Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Indonesia. "We've brought in a younger generation of players who have injected energy into the team," Ivankovic said. "Based on their performances, I believe this team has a promising future."

World Cup pathwayIn Abu Dhabi, Uzbek fans celebrated together at the end and had goal-

keeper Utkir Yusupov to thank for a number of important saves.

As well as the six automatic qualifiers from Asia — two from each of the three groups in this stage — UAE and Qatar, which defeated the already-qualified Iran 1-0, will finish third and fourth and advance to the next stage in Asian qualifying. Six teams will compete in the next stage for two more places at the 2026 World Cup.

South Korea clinched top spot in its group, helped by Ali Al-Hamadi's first-half red card for a high kick. Kim Jin-gyu put the Koreans ahead just after the hour, and the victory was sealed by Oh Hyeon-gyu eight minutes from the end, the result ensured Jordan could finish no worse than second. (AP)

## Gukesh overcomes Wei Yi challenge, presses hard for Norway Chess title with Carlsen



**STAVANGER (NORWAY), June 6:** Reigning world champion D Gukesh crossed another hurdle, beating China's Wei Yi in the ninth and penultimate round to earn three full points and emerge as a top contender, along with Norwegian star Magnus Carlsen, for the prestigious Norway Chess title here. With one round to go, Gukesh is placed second on 14.5 points, while five-time world champion Carlsen -- who fought back from a losing position to defeat American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana and earn full points -- is just half-a-point ahead in the six-player double round-robin tournament on Thursday.

Gukesh will take on American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, while Carlsen will play Arjun Erigaisi in the deciding 10th round, with both hoping to prove a point in one-upmanship by claiming the title and a USD 69,000 prize purse.

If defending champion Carlsen wins, it will be his seventh Norway

Chess title dating back to 2016, while Gukesh would be hoping for his maiden triumph in two outings here. Another American GM, Hikaru Nakamura on 13 points, has an outside chance, provided the other results go in his favour.

Nakamura left Arjun Erigaisi high and dry, crushing the Indian's challenge in the Armageddon tie-break after steering the game toward a draw, though both had more

than 40 minutes on the clock. Gukesh looked more assured and refreshed after the second rest day on Wednesday and forced his Chinese opponent to resign on the 40th move. A missed Bishop f7 by Wei Yi saw Gukesh, who played with white, pounce on the opportunity and gain the decisive edge.

"I just thought it was quite a pleasant position to play. And then he (Wei Yi) missed this Bishop h7,

which was kind of cute," said Gukesh after his third Classical win in the tournament, with the two previous ones coming against world No 1 Carlsen and country-mate Erigaisi on successive days after the first rest day. "Right now, I'm happy with the game that I played today. Tomorrow (Friday), hopefully, another good game I can play. And whatever the result will be, we'll see later. But yeah, just focusing on playing the game," Gukesh told the tournament broadcaster. The 19-year-old world champion will have a tough job on hand when he takes on Caruana in the final round, given that the American had been leading the points table before Carlsen came back from an unfavourable position to turn the tables on the 2018 Norway Chess champion.

With some funny versions of Carlsen's meltdown following his loss to Gukesh going viral, the teenager said somewhere down the line it was helping the chess grow.

"Yeah, I mean, dad showed me one (of those funny versions of the video). I'm sure there are many more. I mean, it's nice for chess. It's not only about the moves. Some people get attracted to the emotions. All these memes and stuff really helps... I'm glad I could contribute," added Gukesh.

Carlsen, playing white, took advantage of blunder on the 48th move to defeat Caruana after the American had things going his way for a major part of the game. Carlsen was surprised how Fabiano gave away the initiative.

"Honestly, it seemed to me that Fabiano was not in great shape today. There were several of his decisions that I didn't understand. From a kind of nothing position, I managed to get more and more advantage. It was kind of not the most inspiring game, because it felt like pretty much a game that I won, because he (Caruana) was not at his best. But I'll take it, of course," said Carlsen. (PTI)



# Growing up, team meetings would all be about how to dismiss Pujara: Rohit Sharma

**MUMBAI, June 6:** How to dismiss Cheteshwar Pujara? It was the million dollar question Rohit Sharma and his Mumbai teammates discussed the most in a huddle during their junior cricket days, as they knew the Saurashtra batter could ground them to the dust over two or three days of persistent batting.

Rohit reminisced that the wicket of Pujara was often the difference between a victory or defeat for his team in age-group matches, the early signs of the doughty batter who made 7,195 runs at 43.60 with 19 tons and 35 fifties from 103 Tests.

"I still remember, team meetings only revolved around him (on) how to get him out, and if we don't get him out, probably we'd lose the game," Rohit said at the launch of Pujara's wife Puja's book 'The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife' here on Thursday.

The former India skipper quipped that his looks would change so much after playing against Pujara under the sun that even his mother would fret a bit.

"All I remember is that when I used to go to the ground, when I was 14-years-old, and when I came back in the evening, the colour of my face would be completely different," he said.

"Because he used to bat all day and we used to field in the sun for (even) 2-3 days. I still remember that my mother asked me a couple of times that when you go to play from home, you look different and when you come home, after a week or 10 days, you look different.

"I would say, 'mom, what do I do? There's a batsman by the name of Cheteshwar Pujara. He's been batting for three days'... so that is the first impression that we



had of him," Rohit added.

Rohit credited Pujara for playing more than 100 Tests after suffering ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injuries to both his knees right at the start of his career.

"(It was) such a big injury (and) such a bad injury. Both his ACL were gone. For any cricketer, leave alone if you are not an athlete or not playing any sport, for a sportsman it's very, very tough if you lose both your ACL," he said.

"We used to tease him about his running technique and all that but he managed to play more than 100 Test matches for India

after that, a lot of credit goes to him for how he managed it. Great amount of dedication and passion he had to play the sport," Rohit said.

Pujara rated the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at home against Australia in 2016-17 as the toughest series he was involved in his career.

"I can mention one incident, in 2017, when India was bowled out for 200 odd runs against Australia, that was one of the toughest Test series I've been part of," Pujara said.

"This was the second Test match at Bangalore, and the team didn't do well in the first innings, and we were again in a spot of

bother in the second innings, but I spoke to Anil (Kumble) bhai about how to tackle Nathan Lyon, and he came up with a technical suggestion."

On his part, the former India coach Kumble said he was only trying to second-guess the bowler.

"Because I was second guessing the bowler, and I got it right after the 115 (read 132) Test matches, so it was all about guess work," Kumble said.

"I would tell Puji (Pujara) that, look, I can only tell you about how a bowler is thinking and what would put pressure on a bowler when you as a batter would be reacting and that was the only thing," he added.

Both Pujara and Rohit recalled the struggles made by their parents to support their careers.

Pujara said, "I lost my mom and I was 17. But the kind of support my parents gave me when I was young and to relieve those moments, because she (Puja) has described this thing really, really well."

"I still remember from my mother's advice that what you do in your life, and she was very confident that I'll end up playing for the country, she told me that you have to be a good human being first."

Rohit said, "Since the day I was born to now, the support of my mother and father has been immense. I know the sacrifices they've made for me and my brother to do what we needed to do in our lives.

"But when you sit back and think about it, you really appreciate, you know what the parents go through. When you're at that age, you don't realise, but now, when I sit back and think about it, you understand," he said. (PTI)

## Closing this chapter with gratitude: Piyush Chawla announces retirement from all forms of cricket

**NEW DELHI, June 6:** Veteran leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who was part of India's two World Cup-winning campaigns, on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after a career spanning more than two decades to undertake a "new journey" that he did not specify.

The 36-year-old made the announcement via an Instagram post.

"After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game," Chawla wrote.

"Though I step away from the crease, cricket will always live within me. I now look forward to embarking on a new journey, carrying with me the spirit and lessons of this beautiful game," he said.

Chawla was a member of India's T20 and ODI World Cup-winning squads in 2007 and 2011 respectively. He represented India in three Tests, 25 ODIs, and seven T20Is, taking 43 wickets across the three formats of the game.

"From representing India at the highest level to being part of the victorious 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup squads, every moment in this incredible journey has been nothing short of a blessing. These memories will forever remain etched in my heart," Chawla said in the post.

He thanked his coaches, teams and IPL franchises for playing a part in shaping his career, and described his time in the popular T20

league as "a special chapter in my career."

"A heartfelt thank you to the IPL franchises who placed their trust in me - Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, and Mumbai Indians.

"The Indian Premier League has been a truly special chapter in my career, and I have cherished every moment playing in it. I owe my deepest gratitude to my coaches - Shri K.K. Gautam and Late Shri Pankaj Saraswat-for nurturing and shaping me into the cricketer I became," he said.

"Today is a deeply emotional day for me as I officially announce my retirement from all forms of international and domestic cricket," he added.

The leg-spinner was a part of KKR's 2014 IPL-winning team and hit the winning runs for the Gautam Gambhir-led side in the summit clash against the Punjab Kings in Bengaluru.

"A special mention to my late father, whose belief in me lit the path I walked. Without him, this journey would never have been possible," he stated.

Chawla made his competitive cricket debut at 15, and also represented India Under-19 and Uttar Pradesh Under-22 sides.

He burst onto the scene when he bowled Sachin Tendulkar with a googly in the Challenger Series 2005-06, and made his first-class debut at 17. (PTI)

## Lovlina launches boxing academy in Guwahati; Assam CM pledges ₹2 crore support

**GUWAHATI, June 6:** Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has unveiled her boxing academy in Barchandra in north Guwahati and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a grant of ₹2 crore for its development.

Set up on land purchased by Borgohain in 2021, the Lovlina Borgohain Boxing Academy, inaugurated on Wednesday, aims to provide grassroots boxers with professional infrastructure, including a 26x26 boxing ring and a fully equipped gym.

The centre is Guwahati's first of its kind and will cater to youth from across Assam and the northeast.

"This academy is a vital step towards identifying and developing the next generation of champions from Assam," said

Sarma. He also agreed to aid Lovlina in the acquisition of land and costing for the building of hostels for the athletes.

The minister has also promised to help the academy in covering expenses related to the coaching staff and expansion of the academy. Lovlina said she began to work on the project after the 2024 Olympics, using her personal funds to create a basic but functional training centre.

"My dream is to produce quality boxers who can compete at national as well as international level by 2028," said Lovlina.

The academy has an affordable monthly fee of Rs 500 and will train students in three age groups: 8-12, 13-18, and 18 and above. (PTI)

## NE shuttlers set to compete in prestigious Thai Championship

**HT Correspondent**

**DIBRUGARH, June 6:** Two rising badminton talents from the Northeast will represent the region at the international Yonex-Singha-Bat-Bty Championship in Thailand next week.


Priyanshu Sonowal from Guwahati, Assam, and Denny Charu from Nahaarlagan, Arunachal Pradesh, have earned coveted spots in the prestigious tournament scheduled from June 10-15 at the renowned Banthongyard Badminton School.

The championship will attract shuttlers from across the globe, providing both players with invaluable international exposure.

Both athletes have been honing their skills at the Dibrugarh Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall, where they have benefited from expert coaching and world-class training facilities. Their selection for this high-profile tournament marks a significant milestone for Northeast Indian badminton and highlights the region's growing prominence in the sport.

The Yonex-Singha-Bat-Bty Championship is considered one of the premier badminton tournaments in Southeast Asia, known for its competitive field and excellent organisation. The event at Banthongyard Badminton School will provide both players with the opportunity to test their skills against some of the world's most promising young shuttlers.

The Dibrugarh Sports Office has extended its full support to both players, wishing them success in their international outings.



Government of Assam

## Ceremonial Distribution

of Joint Transfer Order

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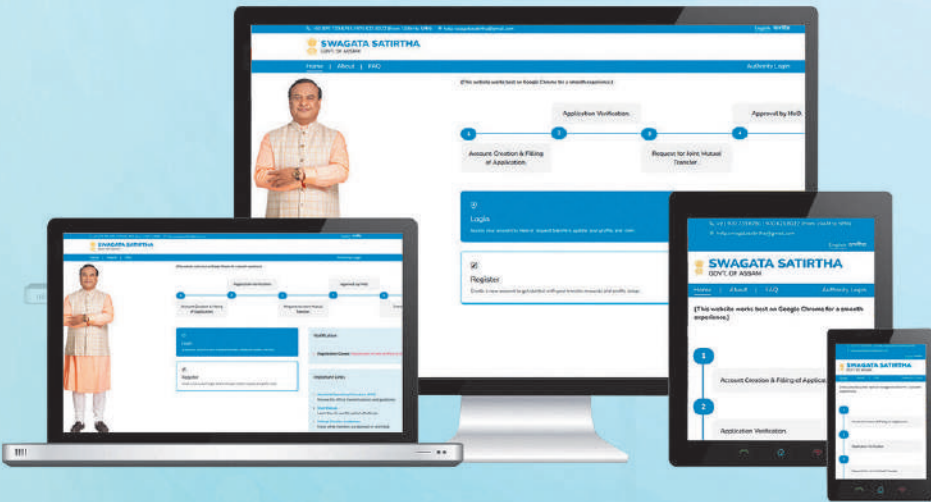
Chief Guest

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



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**7 June 2025 | 4:00 PM**

**Ground Floor, Lok Sewa Bhawan, Dispur**

Published by Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Assam

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DIPR /D/HLT/29/7-Jun-25