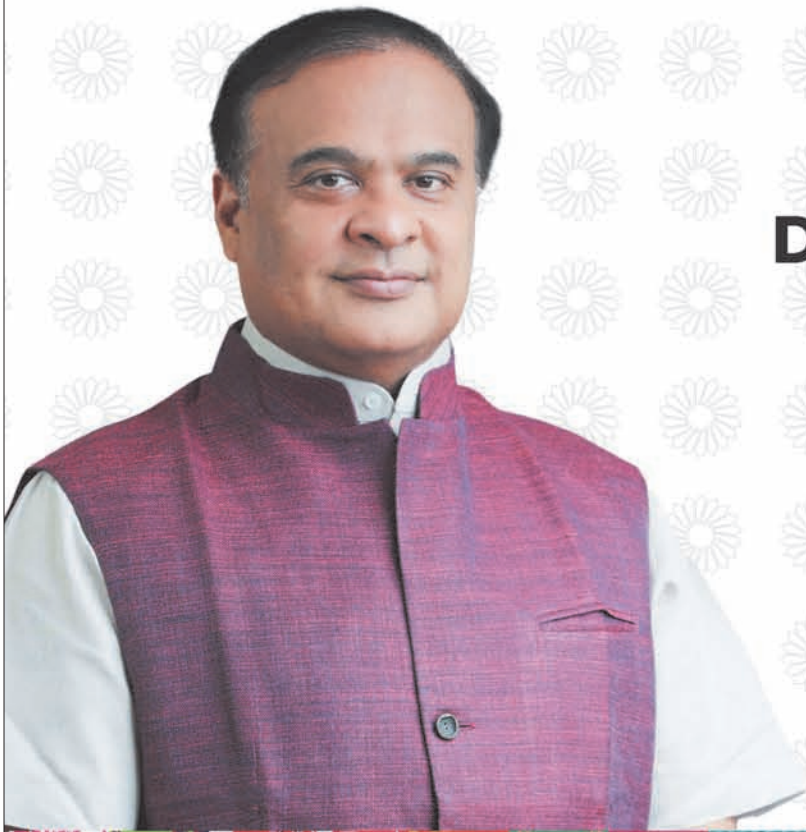




BODOLAND SPEAKS

From Vision to Action

An initiative of
Bodoland Territorial Council



Inaugurated by

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

In august presence of

Shri Pramod Boro
Chief Executive Member, BTC



Date: 6 July 2025 | Time: 03:00 PM
Venue: Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, Guwahati



PROGRAMME



Release of Books

- ◆ **BTR Communication Bridge**
A Practical Resource of 1001 Words and 1001 Sentences in 18 Languages of the Region
- ◆ **Transforming Bodoland**
A Journey of Change in BTR
- ◆ **Lookin' Within: My Reflections**
Authored by Shri Pramod Boro
- ◆ **Annual Report of the Bodoland Happiness Mission (2024-25)**

Launch of Initiatives

- ◆ **Bodoland Engaged Ethnography Initiative**
- ◆ **Bodoland Migrant Women Livelihood Support Programme**
- ◆ **Interaction with the Literary Organisations and Community Leaders of BTR**

Award Ceremony

Conferment of the Bodoland Lifetime Achievers Award – Folk Cultures 2025



Bodoland Territorial Region

Issued in public interest by IPRD, BTC

Sebi bans US-based Jane Street from securities mkt; impounds illegal gains of ₹ 4,843 crore

NEW DELHI, July 4: Markets regulator Sebi has barred US-based Jane Street Group from the securities markets and directed the group to disgorge unlawful gains of ₹ 4,843 crore for allegedly manipulating stock indices through positions taken in derivatives segment.

This could be the highest disgorgement amount ever directed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). In its interim order, the regulator has debarred JSI Investments, JSI2 Investments Pvt Ltd, Jane Street Singapore Pte Ltd, and Jane Street Asia Trading -- entities collectively referred to as the Jane Street Group -- from trading until further notice, while continuing its investigation.

Established in 2000, Jane Street Group LLC is a global proprietary trading firm in the financial services industry. It employs more than 2,600 people across five offices in the US, Europe, and Asia, and conducts trading operations in 45 countries. The Jane Street (JS) Group has come under Sebi's scrutiny for allegedly manipulating index levels in the stock market to earn illegal profits, primarily



through the highly liquid Bank Nifty and Nifty index options segments.

An investigation by Sebi revealed that over 21 expiry days between January 2023 and May 2025, the group executed large trades in the underlying cash and futures markets to influence index movements and profit from massive positions in the options market.

Two key strategies were identified -- one involved buying heavily in Bank Nifty stocks and futures in the morning and selling them aggressively in the afternoon to create a softer close, while

the other involved concentrated selling or buying in the last two hours of the expiry day to sway index levels. These actions helped the group earn illegal profits of about ₹ 4,843 crore, even as they incurred smaller losses in cash and futures trades, the regulator said.

Sebi also noted that between January 2023 and March 2025, the JS Group recorded substantial trading activity across various segments of the market. The group made gains of ₹ 44,358 crore from index options trading, which formed the bulk of their profits.

However, these were partially offset by losses of ₹ 7,208 crore in stock futures, ₹ 191 crore in index futures, and ₹ 288 crore in the cash market. After accounting for all gains and losses, the JS Group reported a net total profit of ₹ 36,671 crore during this period, Sebi noted. The case stems from media reports in April 2024, which suggested that Jane Street and its related entities may have used unauthorised proprietary trading strategies in the Indian options market.

Sebi noted that the JS Group continued to carry out suspicious trading activities, mainly near market closing on expiry day, by making large and aggressive trades to unfairly influence the index, even after receiving a warning in February and making promises to the NSE to stop such practices.

"Such egregious behaviour, in clear disregard/ defiance of the explicit advisory issued to them by NSE in February 2025, amply demonstrates that unlike the vast majority of Foreign Portfolio Investors and other market participants, JS Group is not a good faith actor that can be, or deserves to be, trusted.(PTI)

India-US trade pact likely before July 9; certain issues still pending in agri, auto sectors

NEW DELHI, July 4: An Indian team has returned from Washington after holding talks with the US on an interim trade pact, which is likely to be finalised before July 9, but discussions will continue as certain issues in the agri and auto sectors still need to be resolved, an official said.

The Indian team is led by chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal. He is special secretary in the department of commerce.

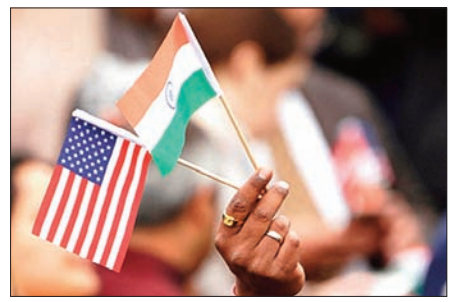
The official said that the talks are in the last phase and its conclusion is expected to be announced before July 9, which marks the end of the 90-day suspension period of the Trump tariffs imposed on dozens of countries including India. "Indian team is back from Washington. Negotiations will continue. There are certain issues which need to be resolved in agriculture and auto sectors," the official said.

India has raised issues over 25 per cent duty in auto sectors. It has taken up the matter in the Safeguards committee of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India has also informed the WTO that it has reserved the right to impose retaliatory duties on select US products in response to American tariffs on steel and aluminium. On March 26, 2025, the US adopted a measure in the form of a tariff increase of 25 per cent ad valorem on imports of passenger vehicles and light trucks, and on certain automobile parts originating in or from India, a communication sent by India to WTO said. The measure on automobile parts applies from May 3, 2025 and for an unlimited duration.

The US imported USD 89 billion worth of auto parts globally last year, with Mexico accounting for USD 36 billion, China for USD 10.1 billion, and India for just USD 2.2 billion. In agriculture sector, the US is seeking duty concessions on products like dairy items, apples, tree nuts, and genetically modified crops.

However, being a politically sensitive sector, it will be difficult and challenging for India to provide any concessions in the agri sector.

India has not opened up the dairy sector for any of its trading partners in free trade pacts the country has signed so far. India has hard-



ened its position on giving duty concessions to American farm and dairy products. The Indian team was in Washington for negotiations on an interim trade agreement with the US from June 26 - July 2. These talks are important as the suspension of Trump's reciprocal tariffs is ending on July 9. The two sides are looking at finalising the talks before that.

On April 2, the US imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place. India is seeking full exemption from the additional 26 per cent tariff. The US also wants duty concessions on certain industrial goods, automobiles, especially electric vehicles, wines, and petrochemical products. On the other hand, India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, grapes, and bananas in the proposed trade pact.

The two countries are also looking to conclude talks for the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) by fall (September-October) this year. The pact is aimed at more than doubling bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion. Before the first tranche, they are trying for an interim trade pact. The US team was here last month for the talks.

India's merchandise exports to the US rose by 21.78 per cent to USD 17.25 billion in April-May this fiscal, while imports rose by 25.8 per cent to USD 8.87 billion. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 3...

Assam-M'laya border row: First

be erected in five of the disputed areas by Independence Day.

On the sixth area of dispute, which was included in the 2022 agreement, they had said that it related to Pilingkata area and there was some "difference of interpretation", which the deputy commissioners of both states would sit and discuss.

Sarma had added that both states decided to take forward discussions on the other six disputed sites, but no timeframe has been fixed for completing them. Assam and Meghalaya have a long-standing dispute in 12 areas along the 884.9-km-long interstate border.

The two states had signed an agreement in March 2022 in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi towards ending the disputes in six areas. Out of 36.79 sq km of disputed areas taken up for settlement in the first phase at six places, Assam got 18.46 sq km and Meghalaya received 18.33 sq km.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and has since then challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, which is recognised by Assam as its border. (PTI)

China used India-Pak conflict

Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) and civil-military fusion. There is a lot to be done as far as this domain is concerned," he said.

"When the DGMO-level talks were on, Pakistan actually was mentioning that we know that your such and such sector is primed and ready for action, and we would request you to perhaps pull it back. So he was getting live inputs from China. That is one place we really need to move fast and take appropriate action," Lt Gen. Singh said.

The Deputy Chief of Army Staff asserted that the "strategic messaging" by the Indian leadership was unambiguous and that there was no scope for "absorbing" the pain the way it was done years ago. The planning and selection of targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was based on a lot of data that was collected using technology and human intelligence, he said. A total of 21 targets were identified, of which nine "we thought would be prudent to engage", Lt Gen. Singh said.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10. New Delhi has been maintaining that India's fierce counter-attack that day forced Pakistan to plead for ending the hostilities. In his remarks, Lt Gen. Singh emphasised the high demand for drones in the armed forces and underlined the need to develop a favourable ecosystem.

"We have been in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and others to come up with a framework and by September or October, we should be out with our drone framework, wherein we are looking at how to incentivise all the production, how to get through the vulnerabilities and how to facilitate testing, which would be the basic theme of this framework," he said.

On the success of and learnings from Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen. Singh urged the industry to focus on investing more on research and development. He stressed the need for "atmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in the defence sector and said no one should hold hostage as far as critical technologies and their supplies are concerned.

"India needs to be prepared for all five generations of warfare. The Indian armed forces must be ready now and future-ready for warfare that utilises numerous technologies and innovations," the Deputy Chief of Army Staff asserted.

The industry must stick to timelines and focus on four "C"s, which include cooperate, collaborate and compete, but not complain, he said. "We have to be ready to fight the war, and it is not the soldiers only who can win a war. It is the soldiers and the industry going together," he added. (PTI)

CM reviews execution of govt

Chatra Sanstha, Sadou Asom Tea Tribes Chatra Sanstha, Sadou Asom Bengali Chatra Sanstha, Asom Sahitya Sabha, and many others. He listened to their suggestions and grievances, assuring them of appropriate government response.

The visit reflects the Assam government's ongoing push to ensure real-time monitoring, participatory governance, and timely delivery of public welfare in every district of the Bodoland Territorial Region.

Air India pays compensation

domestic networks, he said, acknowledging that, besides the customer impact, this temporary curtailment of flights put extra pressure on Air India frontliners in call centres and at airports, and has "disrupted crew rosters".

"The 'pause' was an important and necessary move to accommodate voluntary additional aircraft checks, navigate the volatile international airspace environment and to stabilise our flight schedule to restore faith and trust," Wilson said. Besides providing extra resilience, the extra aircraft ground time is allowing the airline to accelerate its aircraft reliability enhancement programs, he said.

Air India on June 18 had announced a 15 per cent reduction in international flights operated with widebody planes till mid-July as amid operational disruptions due to enhanced safety inspections and geopolitical situation, among others.

"Irrespective of any cause, the accident of AI171 and the loss of so many lives will forever stand as one of our darkest days. It must also signal the start of a new era," Air India chief said in the internal post, adding, "we will continue to invest in upgrading aircraft, products, service, systems, capabilities and, most of all, people". (PTI)

Konyak Union warns ULFA (I)

properties just to secure their release," the union said. It reminded that the 2021 Oting massacre, resulting from the negligence of security forces, remains fresh in the collective memory of the Konyak people.

BMW Group India posts record H1 car deliveries in 2025, reports 10% growth

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 4: BMW Group India has reported its highest-ever half-yearly car deliveries, registering a 10% year-on-year growth for the January-June 2025 period.

According to an official statement, the group sold a total of 7,774 cars—including 7,477 BMW and 297 MINI units—alongside 2,569 motorcycles under BMW Motorrad.

Electric vehicles contributed significantly to the surge, with EV sales growing by a staggering 234% to 1,322 units, accounting for 18% of total car sales.

The BMW iX1 Long Wheelbase and BMW i7 emerged as the top-selling electric models in the first half of the year, consolidating BMW's position as the leading luxury EV brand in India for the third consecutive year.

Long wheelbase models also performed exceptionally well, witnessing a 159% growth and comprising 47% of overall car sales. The BMW 5 Series led sedan sales, while the BMW 3 Series maintained its leadership in the premium segment.

In the Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) category, BMW registered a 17% increase in sales, with the X1 and X5 dominating the lineup. The X1 alone contributed over 30% of total car sales.

Meanwhile, BMW's flagship models under the Luxury Class—comprising the 7 Series, i7, X7, and XM—continued to perform robustly, with the X7 crossing the 5,000-delivery mark.

MINI India sold 297 cars in H1 2025, led by strong demand for the MINI Cooper S and the all-electric MINI Countryman E.

MINI Cooper S posted over 60% growth compared to the same period last year.

BMW Motorrad recorded sales of 2,569 units, with the BMW G 310 RR leading the smart-cc category, while the 900 GS/GSA and 1300 GS/GSA were the top choices among adventure models.

The BMW S 1000 RR led the super sports segment. The company attributed its performance to a combination of new model launches, a customer-first approach, and innovative financial offerings under BMW Smart Finance.

The ongoing rollout of the Retail.NEXT initiative, a Rs 365.6-crore investment across 56 facilities in 33 cities, aims to redefine luxury retail experiences through digital transformation and personalised services.

President and CEO of BMW Group India, Vikram Pawah, said the company is charting a high-growth trajectory despite challenges.

Stock markets muscle through intense volatility amid buying rush in heavyweights

MUMBAI, July 4: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Friday in a highly volatile trade amid a buying rush in banking and other bellwether stocks on the back of a rally in the US markets.

After oscillating between highs and lows in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 193.42 points or 0.23 per cent higher at 83,432.89. During the day, it hit a high of 83,477.86 and a low of 83,015.83, gyrating 462.03 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty inched up by 55.70 points or 0.22 per cent to 25,461. From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and Larsen & Toubro were among the major gainers.

However, Trent, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra and Maruti were among the laggards.

"The tone was negative in the first half; however, a decent recovery in heavyweight stocks pared all the losses as the day progressed, helping the index close near the day's high at the 25,461 level.

"With all eyes on the impending US-India trade deal as the tariff

deadline approaches, participants are hopeful for a favourable outcome, which could provide the much-needed trigger for the next leg of the market up move," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE midcap gauge went up by 0.23 per cent and smallcap index climbed marginally by 0.17 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, oil & gas jumped 1.26 per cent, energy (0.90 per cent), realty (0.87 per cent), IT (0.67 per cent), healthcare (0.64 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.65 per cent) and tech (0.52 per cent).

Metal, telecommunication, auto, consumer discretionary and commodities were the laggards. As many as 2,261 stocks advanced while 1,788 declined and 140 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"The Indian market is experiencing a pause as investors adopt a wait-and-watch strategy ahead of the impending US tariff deadline with mixed global cues. Ongoing FII outflows reflect a risk-off approach, while DII inflows are offering partial support.

"Following the recent rally, main indices are hovering near peak valuation levels, limiting further upside, which is highly de-

pendent on Q1 earnings and details of the trade deal," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled higher while South Korea's Kospi and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dropped 1.03 per cent to USD 68.03 a barrel.

Meanwhile, markets regulator Sebi has barred US-based Jane Street Group from the securities markets and directed the group to disgorge unlawful gains of Rs 4,843 crore for allegedly manipulating stock indices through positions taken in derivatives segment.

This could be the highest disgorgement amount ever directed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 1,481.19 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹ 1,333.06 crore. (PTI)

SSI MantraM Surgical Robot Yatra flags off

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 4: SS Innovations has launched the "SSI MantraM Made in India Surgical Robot Yatra," a national roadshow to demonstrate and train medical professionals in the country's first home-grown surgical robotic system.

The initiative was flagged off by the company's Gurugram headquarters by Haryana Industries & Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh, according to an official statement.

The MantraM unit, equipped for mobile training and live surgical demonstrations, is part of an effort to democratise access to advanced robotic surgery across India, including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

The first phase of the yatra began on July 3 in Rajasthan, with stops at SMS Medical College in Jaipur, AIIMS Jodhpur, Mathura Das Mathur Medical College in Jodhpur, and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical Col-

lege in Ajmer. The Rajasthan leg will conclude on July 8. SS Innovations Founder and CEO Sudhir Srivastava said the project aims to decentralise world-class surgical education, making advanced robotic tools accessible even in underserved and remote regions.

The MantraM unit features telecommunication and ongoing R&D for future satellite connectivity to enable real-time telesurgeries.

The roadshow is expected to cover over 1,500 kilometres and train more than 500 doctors during its first leg. The MantraM is designed with an extendable cabin and safe operating zones, offering a mobile platform for live demonstrations, hands-on training, and future-ready surgical innovation.

Minister Rao Narbir Singh described the initiative as a landmark in India's healthcare and technological advancement, crediting SS Innovations for putting India at the forefront of surgical robotics.

H&H Aluminium opens ₹150-cr solar frame plant in Gujarat

NEW DELHI, July 4: H&H Aluminium on Friday launched its ₹ 150-crore solar panel frame manufacturing plant at Rajkot in Gujarat, which will generate jobs for around 300 people.

The facility has a production capacity of 24,000 metric tonnes per annum and can power and support up to 6 GW solar installations in India, the Gujarat-based company said in a statement.

Union Minister C R Patil inaugurated the plant on Friday, it added.

H&H Aluminium has invested around ₹ 150 crore in the 28,000 square metre aluminium solar frame manufacturing facility, H&H Aluminium Director Uttam Patel said.

"This will be India's largest and most advanced solar panel aluminium frame plant at a single location and we were able to install in a record time of just about a year," Patel claimed.

The plant will generate employment opportunities for over 300 people.

Trial production at the plant commenced in June 2025, and commercial production is expected to start within a month. At full capacity, the plant will be able to support sales of ₹700-750 crore per annum, Patel stated. (PTI)

No. KWRD/NT/2025-26/1818

Date 26/06/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender in prescribed form (to be eventually drawn up in A.P.W.D./H-F-2 Form) tender affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs 8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five) only are hereby invited from the registered contractors/firms under the Water Resources Department for the year 2025-26 for the following works. An earnest money of 1%/2% on the value of work for each package of work (1% in case of SC/ST/OBC/MOBC etc.) in the form of Fixed Deposit/Demand Draft from any Indian Nationalized Bank including State Bank of India and its associated Banks duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, Kokrajhar W.R. Division, Kokrajhar is necessary along with the tender. The tender will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 2.00 P.M. of 16.07.2025 & will be opened on the same date, hours & place. In case of opening of the tender happened to be a holiday/bandh for any unforeseen reason, the next working day will be considered as the last date of receipt/opening of the tender.

Detailed notice inviting tender, item of works, specification of package etc. for the schemes may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working day up to 16.07.2025.

Tender paper is to be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs.500.00 (Rupees five hundred) only per copy (Non-refundable) in the form of Bankers cheque/Demand Draft duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, Kokrajhar W.R. Division, Kokrajhar during office hours on all working days from the date of issue of tender notice.

Payment will be made on availability of fund on appropriate head of Account only and no claim of interest will be entertained for delay of payment.

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Approx. Value (Rs.)	Item of Work
1	Pro-Siltation measures under Kokrajhar W.R. Division for 2025-26 (Ph-I).	Rs.19,99,000.00	Clearing light Jungle, Supply, carriage and launching of P.S.CI porcupine of size 3.00m, Carriage of Geo Bags, filling and laying of nonwoven size 2.00 x 1.50m, etc.
2	Pro-Siltation measures under Kokrajhar W.R. Division for 2025-26 (Ph-II).	Rs.19,97,000.00	Clearing light Jungle, Carriage of Geo Bags of size 2.00 x 1.50m, filling and laying of nonwoven Geo-textile bag of dimension 2.00m x 1.50m, Construction of single 'A' type spur with whole Bhaluka bamboo of size 7.5cm to 10cm, Supplying and construction of bamboo cnbs etc.
3	Pro-Siltation measures under Kokrajhar W.R. Division for 2025-26 (Ph-III).	Rs.19,95,000.00	Clearing light Jungles, Supply, Carriage of Geo Bags of size 2.00 x 1.50m, filling and laying of nonwoven Geo-textile bag of dimension 2.00m x 1.50m, E/W in embkt. By Tractor-trailer, Construction of single 'A' type spur with whole Bhaluka bamboo of size 7.5cm to 10cm, etc.
4	Pro-Siltation measures under Kokrajhar W.R. Division for 2025-26 (Ph-IV).	Rs.19,97,000.00	Clearing light Jungles, Medium jungles, Supply, Carriage of Geo Bags of size 2.00 x 1.50m, filling and laying of nonwoven Geo-textile bag of dimension 2.00m x 1.50m, E/W in embkt. By Tractor-trailer, Construction of single 'A' type spur with whole Bhaluka bamboo of size 7.5cm to 10cm, etc.
5	Pro-Siltation measures under Kokrajhar W.R. Division for 2025-26 (Ph-V).	Rs.60,000.00	Construction of whole bamboo single palisading with matured bhaluka bamboo posts 7cm to 10cm Labour charge for filling of empty cement bags, etc.

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/1420

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Voice of the hills people

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2025

THE HILLS TIMES 3

Admins on both sides now have exact clarity on jurisdiction: Himanta Assam-M'laya border row: First pillar erected

GUWAHATI, July 4: In a significant step towards resolving the decades-old border row between Assam and Meghalaya, the first boundary pillar in one of the disputed areas has been erected along the inter-state boundary, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

He said these "pillars of clarity and peace" will bring governance to "once grey areas".

"First boundary pillar erected along Assam-Meghalaya border", a step towards "the on-ground execution of 2022 agreement", Sarma said in a post on X.

The Assam chief minister, however, did not specify the location.

Sarma said when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972, "a significant portion of its boundary with Assam was left ambiguous, often leading to chaos and tension between our states".

"Fifty years later, in 2022 under the leadership of Adarniya @narendramodi Ji and in the presence of Adarniya @AmitShah Ji, our two states signed a historic MoU to begin defining our boundaries," he wrote on X, referring to the agreement the two states had signed in the national capital.

Sarma added that six out of 12 disputed areas



have been resolved and "fruits of that agreement are now flowing in as the first pillars get erected".

"So, how do these pillars improve harmony between us, sister states? People and administration on both sides now have exact clarity on

jurisdiction. Governance can finally shine in these 'once grey areas'," Sarma added, tagging his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma.

The two chief ministers, at a joint press conference here on June 2, had announced that border pillars would (*CONTD. ON PAGE-2*)

China used India-Pak conflict as 'live lab', employed strategy of killing by 'borrowed knife'

NEW DELHI, July 4: China used the four-day India-Pakistan conflict in May like a "live lab" to test various weapon systems and was providing all possible support to Islamabad, in line with its ancient military strategy of killing the adversary with a "borrowed knife", Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen. Rahul R Singh said on Friday.

The senior military officer said while Pakistan was the "front face", with China extending all possible support to its all-weather ally, Turkey was also playing a major role by supplying military hardware to Islamabad, adding that India was actually dealing with at least three adversaries during the May 7-10 conflict.

In an address at a seminar on "New Age Military Technologies" organised by industry chamber FICCI, Lieutenant General Singh suggested that China used its satellites to monitor Indian military deployment as the Pakistani military was getting live inputs on it during the DGMO (Director General of Military Operations)-level phone talks.

The Deputy Chief of Army Staff highlighted China's ancient military strategy of "36 stratagems" and killing the adversary with a "borrowed knife" to buttress the point that Beijing extended all possible support to Pakistan to cause pain to India.

Lt Gen. Singh, who looks after the Indian Army's capability development and sustenance vertical, said Beijing's support to Islamabad was not surprising as 81 per cent of the military hardware used by the Pak-



istani armed forces are from China.

"Pakistan was the front face. We had China providing all possible support. This is no surprise because if you look at statistics, in the last five years, 81 per cent of the military hardware that Pakistan is getting is all Chinese," he said. "He (China) would rather use the neighbour (Pakistan) to cause pain (to India) than getting involved in a mudslinging match on the northern border," Lt Gen. Singh said.

He said Turkey also played an important role in providing support to Pakistan. "We saw numerous drones coming and landing in the face of war, during the war, along with the individuals who are there," Lt Gen. Singh said. The military officer underlined the need for India to learn its lessons from the conflict. "The next important lesson is the importance of C4ISR (Command, (*CONTD. ON PAGE-2*)

Right initiatives can make Assam hub of higher education: Guv



GUWAHATI, July 4: Assam can evolve into a hub of higher education with the right kind of initiatives, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya has said.

He also hailed steps taken by the Education Department in strengthening the academic ecosystem and implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Acharya had a meeting with State Education Minister Ranaj Pegu here on Thursday during which he briefed the governor about the department's current initiatives, projects, policies and future roadmap. The meeting underscored the government's focused approach to usher in a new era of academic transformation rooted in quality, inclusivity and global competitiveness, officials said. "With the right kind of initiatives, the state can evolve into a hub of higher education," Acharya said.

Pegu placed before the governor the detailed roadmap for curriculum restructuring in line with the existing and emerging multidisciplinary learning frameworks, faculty development and digital enablement, the officials said.

The governor also highlighted the need for a robust academic ecosystem, which empowers students, equips educators and becomes helpful in elevating Assam's standing on the national and global education map. (PTI)

Train services to parts of NE restored day after disruptions

GUWAHATI, July 4: Train services to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Assam's Barak Valley were restored on Friday, a day after disruptions due to a landslide in Dima Hasao district, an official statement said. A NFR release said services on the Lumding-Badarpur hill section were successfully restored in the morning.

"Train operations through the section resumed this morning from about 09:42 hours. The first train to pass through the restored section was Train No 12520 (Agartala-Lokmanta Tilak Terminus) Express," the statement said. Services were disrupted between Dihakho and Mupa stations on Thursday evening, as large boulders fell on the tracks following the landslide.

Continuous efforts throughout the night ensured the debris was cleared and the tracks were safely restored, the NFR statement said.

Necessary food items and water were also provided to the stranded passengers, it said. The trains that were rescheduled or regulated at various locations have resumed their scheduled onward journey, it added. (PTI)

CM reviews execution of govt schemes in Tamulpur

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 4: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of key welfare schemes in Tamulpur district, calling for extensive beneficiary outreach to achieve complete saturation.

According to an official statement, the review meeting was held at the conference hall of the District Commissioner's office in Tamulpur, where the Chief Minister assessed the progress of several flagship initiatives launched by the Assam government.

Sarma reviewed the status of schemes such as Orunodoi 3.0, Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhiyan (CMAAA), Mukhya Mantrir Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan, Eti Koli Duti Paat, and ration card distribution for eligible beneficiaries.

He reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive development, financial empowerment, and last-mile delivery of benefits.

Stressing the need for transparency and efficiency in implementation, he directed officials

to ensure that the benefits reach all targeted households without delay.

Referring to the Orunodoi scheme, Sarma stated that the number of beneficiaries in Tamulpur, which stood at 20,833 under the first two phases, would now be increased to 59,000 in the third phase.

He noted that similar expansions would be made under other welfare schemes to bring meaningful change to at least 1.5 lakh families in the district.

He asked the District Commissioner, Pankaj Chakraborty, to coordinate with the District Level Monitoring Committee and finalise the beneficiary lists to enable scheme rollouts by August.

On the Mukhya Mantrir Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan, the chief minister emphasised the importance of fostering women's entrepreneurship through phased financial assistance.

Similarly, the Atmanirbhar Asom initiative aims to create economic opportunities for youth by providing financial support and training.

The Eti Koli Duti Paat scheme, launched to

coincide with 200 years of the Assam Tea industry, will benefit Class III and IV workers of tea gardens through one-time financial assistance.

During the review, Sarma urged the district administration to ensure seamless and inclusive delivery of benefits, improve awareness about available schemes, and actively involve local communities to maximise the impact of the programmes.

Guardian Minister of Tamulpur Jayanta Malabarua, BTC Chief Executive Member Promod Boro, MP Dilip Saikia, MLA Jolen Basumatary, along with several Executive Members and MCLAs of the BTC, attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister also interacted with beneficiaries and local officials to gather on-ground feedback. As part of his day-long visit, Sarma met with representatives of a wide array of social and student organisations, including the Sadou Asom Rabha Chatra Sanstha, Sadou Asom Gorkha Chatra Sanstha, Sadou Asom Koch Rajbongshi (*CONTD. ON PAGE-2*)

Air India pays compensation to 2/3rds of June 12 crash victims



MUMBAI, July 4: Air India on Friday said it has paid the compensation to families of nearly two-thirds of the victims who died in the June 12 plane crash in Ahmedabad.

An Air India Dreamliner from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed moments after takeoff on June 12, killing 260 people onboard and on the ground.

"Our teams have been helping families receive interim compensation. Every affected family is being directly assisted by an Air India representative, with nearly two-thirds having already received payment or are in the final stages," Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson told the airline employees in an internal post.

Tata Sons is in the process of establishing the apparatus to provide longer-term assistance to the families and survivors, the Tata Group-owned airline said.

In an internal post to airline employees, Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson also said the carrier will continue to "invest in upgrading aircraft, products, service, systems, capabilities and, most of all, people".

The crash, one of the worst air disasters in India in decades, involved a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner operating as Air India flight AI171.

Of the 242 people onboard, 241 were killed, while the total death toll stood at 260, including casualties on the ground.

Soon after the crash, Air India parent Tata Sons announced that it will provide ₹ 1 crore each to the families of each person who died in the crash.

And on June 14, Air India announced that it will provide an interim compensation of ₹ 25 lakh, or approximately GBP 21,500, to the families of each of the deceased and survivors of the Ahmedabad plane crash to help address immediate financial needs.

Air India's on-ground presence in Ahmedabad to see this process to completion, he said, will continue for as long as required.

The Air India Chief also said "the process of reuniting next of kin with their loved ones, and repatriating them to their final destinations, is now complete".

"As we transition from the immediate aftermath to mapping the journey ahead, many efforts are underway. Among them, Tata Sons is in the process of establishing the apparatus to provide longer-term assistance to the families and survivors, and will share more when the time is right," Wilson noted.

Air India continues to observe its "Safety Pause", the deliberate temporary scale-back of its international and (*CONTD. ON PAGE-2*)

Konyak Union warns ULFA (I) to cease its activities in Mon dist

HT Correspondent
DIMAPUR, July 4: The Konyak Union has once again warned the ULFA (I) to immediately cease its activities within the Konyak jurisdiction in Mon district of Nagaland, bordering Myanmar.

The union, in a statement, said despite the public appeal and strong cautionary note issued on April 27 regarding the group's involvement in abduction and extortion activities in Assam, using Mon district as safe haven or strategic hideout, the ULFA (I) operatives continue to remain active in the area.

The union said this blatant disregard for its earlier appeal is unacceptable, adding it will no longer remain a mute spectator.

The union further cautioned all factions and individuals engaged in anti-social or disruptive activities

ties to desist from them immediately. It said it will not be held accountable for any consequences that may arise from decisive action taken against such perpetrators.

The union also urged the security forces to exercise utmost restraint and refrain from harassing innocent public and daily wage earners under the mere suspicion of being associated with underground activities without credible evidence.

It further appealed to the security forces or authorities concerned to avoid booking innocent citizens under harsh legal provisions without thorough and proper verification. "It is deeply concerning that in pursuit of bail and legal redress, many individuals are compelled to sell off their ancestral lands, homes, cultivated fields, and other vital (*CONTD. ON PAGE-2*)

State's strengths in investment, tourism and tea highlighted at US-India business roundtable in New York

Assam's investment opportunities, tea trade, tourism potential showcased in NY

GUWAHATI, July 4: Investment opportunities in trade and tourism potential of Assam were presented to industry leaders in New York, with a special B2B Buyer-Seller meet on Assam Tea, officials said.

The Indian Consulate in the American city hosted the two events, it said in its official X handle on Thursday.

"@IndianNewYork hosted a Roundtable on Business & Investment Opportunities in Assam with @USISPFForum," it said.

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is a non-governmental organisation working towards building a strategic partnership between India and the US.

Assam chief secretary Ravi Kota and Consul General Binaya S Pradhan shared their insights with industry leaders in the meet, the X



post said. "The event highlighted Assam's immense potential in trade, tourism, and investment," it added, thanking chief Vikas Khanna for attending the meet and sharing his remarks.

Another B2B Buyer-Seller meet was also held at the Consulate, showcasing the rich legacy and global potential of Assam Tea, another post in the consulate general's account said.

'Vivekananda's teachings still echo in every Indian's heart'

GUWAHATI, July 4: Paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda on his death anniversary, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday that his teachings still resonate in the hearts of every Indian.

"Swamiji's teachings still echo in the hearts of every Bharatiya and his lessons ignite the spirit of a strong nation led by youths with spiritual conscience," Sarma said in a post on X.

"My obeisance to one of the greatest saints of Bharat," the chief minister added. Swami Vivekananda, known in his pre-monastic life as Narendra Nath Datta, was born in an affluent family in Kolkata on 12 January 1863. He died on the night of 4 July 1902. (PTI)



the main accused Dilip Nath is still absconding.

The release of three other accused on bail also led to charges of inadequate investigation by Rajbongshi, leading to him being closed to reserve and subsequently arrested, official sources said.

The son of the main accused is currently in judicial custody, the sources added. The additional SP said the car used by Nath has been recovered from near Rowta in neighbouring Udalguri district on Wednesday morning, while search for the main accused is still on.

"Investigation in the matter is going on and we will share further details in due course," Das added.

Nath claims to be associated with a news portal and is known for filing applications under RTI in various government departments. (PTI)

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"In a series of events for celebration of 200 years of Assam Tea, @IndianNewYork organised a meeting for major producers and suppliers of Assam Tea with prominent Tea buyers of the US," it said.

Kota and the Consul (Trade) attended the event, and provided the details and specialty of Assam tea. Secretary of the Indian Tea Association Arijit Raha provided the historical perspective of India-US tea trade and introduced all the Indian tea companies.

"Tea tasting sessions were also organised where tea experts and tea sommeliers gave the tea experience to the attendees. The event fostered valuable connections between Indian producers and US buyers, strengthening trade ties," the post on X added. (PTI)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

What then is freedom? The power to live as one wishes —Marcus Tullius Cicero

Big Beautiful Bill

July 4, big day for the United States, and President Donald Trump's "signature piece of legislation", his 'Big Beautiful Bill' is on his desk in the 'Oval' for his sprawling signature. 'BBB' was passed on Thursday and includes trillions of dollars in tax and spending cuts. It also ramps up funding for defense and to implement President Trump's immigration agenda. The Congress voted 218 to 214 to approve 'BBB'. Two Republicans joined the Democrats in opposing the bill. 'BBB' was passed in the Senate earlier this week. Reports say President Trump's cohorts believe Trump is beyond and above every other United States President to date. Previous President Joe Biden is unlucky he was born in America at the same time as President Trump. Give President Trump a torch and he will do a lap of the White House perimeter. MAGA supporters are too thrilled at Trump's triumph. It is a different thing that the White House is used to such triumphant times and wouldn't be adding another "Wing" to mark Trump's Triumph! Also, there are those who believe President Trump can't celebrate till as long as there are native Indians to remind him, people like Trump, that they're interlopers, and illegal occupiers. Problem is President Trump doesn't believe in "We Won", he is through and through a "I, Me & Mine" person. But 'BBB' went through the hoop clean as a whistle and President Trump's got reason to gloat at the bloated bill. That Trump will be a rampaging bull in the China Shop from henceforth to Kingdom Come is a certainty. And BBB will be hanging from the Oval Wall for Trump's ego to swamp the globe.

Important thing is, President Trump's got the dough now for implementing all his ideas, no-brainers as well as the 'harebrained'. Trump is a self-admitted wheeler-dealer and likely harbours the wish to turn rubble and ruins to blood and glory. A Riviera out of bombed Gaza. Trump doesn't betray thoughts of the hunger pangs of the man in the queue. Trump never ever thought of removing homelessness and squalor from America's richest cities? Trump will sign 'BBB' at a ceremony at the White House on the July 4 holiday with plumb and aplomb. GOP leaders, even those who opposed 'BBB', are brushing their tuxedos. Internal opposition was laid to rest before BBB's final passage. Republican members who balked will be facing the MAGA people. Does that include the world's richest man Elon Musk? This father of 14 said 'BBB' should be booted out and was willing to go to war with Trump, forget deportation.

The Senate played its part in 'BBB' going through. GOP leaders played their part as the Opposition settled for a final showdown. One Democrat spoke for 8 hours and 44 minutes. For sheer ugly talkativeness and rhetoric, this man made crows eat crow and still managed to lose! 'BBB' would add \$3.4 trillion to federal deficits over the next 10 years. Millions will live and die without health insurance. There will be cuts to Medicaid and to programmes linked to the Affordable Care Act. Funds for immigration enforcement drives will never lag for lack of funds. President Trump's immigration methods will keep "illegal aliens" forever scared and running out of sanctuary-cities.

World's most powerful President Trump and richest person Elon Musk are in an ego battle

By: Sushil Kutty

It's "so tempting to escalate" billionaire Elon Musk posted on his 'X' after President Donald Trump's 'Truth Social' spoke its mind on peace-deals. And "escalating" is such a beautiful word, almost as much as Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill", which is one bill Musk wants Congress to jettison quicker than Trump would throw a tantrum.

President Trump is 'Tantrum Trump'. And he makes his play when escalation is in the air. Just like the words 'spring in the air' makes Americans jump, the word 'escalate' makes President Trump up the ante with tariffs and peace-deals.

But it's not always that a rich dude, nearly 300 times richer than Trump will ever be, talks of temptation dogging him to "escalate" a war of words with POTUS. For good reason, too. Trump is a peacenik, real-estate tycoon with pretensions of being peace negotiator and warmonger, rolled into one.

But it is Trump's bromance with the world's richest 'South African' Elon Musk that has become the talk of New York and Florida, of Gaza! Musk spoke of the "temptation to escalate" even as he praised Trump's negotiating skills. This after the wealthiest man on the planet didn't have anything nice to say about Trump's flagship "One Big, Beautiful Bill".

Point to note is, Musk and Trump are children of the unpredictable. Musk has an inborn dislike for Trump even as Trump reciprocates with childlike innocence laced with boyish praise for his own "negotiating skills". And when Musk praises Trump's negotiating skills, his own negotiating skills go for a toss and a topple.

Musk is impressed that President Trump hammered out yet another peace-deal between Israel and Hamas and whether this one's gonna stand is a thought never passed through Musk's grey matter. "Credit where credit is due. @realDonaldTrump has successfully resolved several serious conflicts around the world," Musk wrote, with a screenshot of Trump's 'Truth Social' announcing the truce deal.

President Trump, on his part, took the praise with a rare uncommon place calmness, otherwise 'Calamity' is President Trump's middle name, Donald 'Calamity' Trump! The US President has made it his life-goal to earn a Nobel Peace Prize and Musk is making sure it doesn't become a fighting chance!

If Trump gets the 'Nobel Peace Prize', Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

will be rewarded, too. And that is a strict 'Na-Na Nada'. Reports say Netanyahu will be in Washington next week and "Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalise the 60-Day CEASE-FIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War," Trump wrote.

Funny thing is, President Trump should be thanking and trumpeting Qatar and Egypt's praise, the "mediators" who are slated to deliver "this final proposal" and for which they should be given the Nobel Peace Prize.

And Musk should do something about the manner in which Trump delivers: "I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better -- IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE."

What the heck is that, "it will only get worse"? Peacenik and peacemakers! If one is against wars, the other is also a fa-



mous piece of firearm, don't know whether it is a pistol or a revolver, though? What must have made Elon happy must be Trump saying he would be "very firm" with Netanyahu when they meet on July 7.

The end of Israel's 12-day war with Iran provided a "window of opportunity" for a deal and Trump is a collector of peace-deals just like Musk is a collector of children and billions of dollars on the barrel. If Trump was an Indian he would have been living on Dalal Street and if Musk was an Indian, he would be living in a Delhi slum.

Mumbai because Mumbai's Dharavi has gone to Indian billionaire Gautam Adani and is no longer available. And Adani is more adept at negotiating than even Prime Minister Narendra Modi who President Trump said is a superior negotiator than Trump will ever be.

But it is Trump who is forever talking about his "superior negotiation skills", to the extent that he has written a book on the art! Now in his second term, Trump had vowed to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine in the first

"24 hours" of the 47th's presidency. Trump lost that bet and he's taking credit for the thaw in Israel-Hamas, which impressed Elon Musk no end.

Musk is hard to please. The more merrier is Musk's idea of fun while President Trump's is to have fun with New York City mayor hopeful Zohran Mamdani, a "true-blue communist". Trump can't wait to get some fun out of hounding Mamdani and start deportation proceedings.

Trump has threatened Musk, too, with deportation but Musk is salivating at the prospect of "escalating tensions" with President Trump. There is no chance there will be a "peace deal" between Trump and Musk. President Trump has 'Truth Social' and Elon Musk has 'X' and the twain never agree though they're quite okay with mixing metaphors!

Trump's zeal for peace deals and tariff trade-offs have turned White House into an "adda". Trump's duties included "ready to do anything while trying to negotiate trade deals with me". Let no Indian forget Trump's claim that he threatened to strangle trade talks with India and if it didn't agree to a "ceasefire" with Pakistan.

And Trump wouldn't stop trumpeting this lie, till the other day when India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar let the cat out of the bag, saying "I was in the room when Vice President JD Vance called!"

Trump should get Musk to help him with the telephone calls. Musk has the money! What's \$5 billion against \$350 billion, pittance? But the escalation between Trump and Musk stops short of reaching a point of no return. It is like Trump and Musk are orchestrating the biggest show on Earth!

Could that be true? A charade and a make-believe that will keep both megalomaniacs in humour and the world a better place. Trump's cryptocurrency capers and Elon Musk's peculiar family preferences, especially the "children part", with 14 and counting. Trump found time to indulge while for Musk it's still a work in progress!

Add to that Musk's names for his children! Trump can't beat Musk in name-calling. There's no fight between Barron and Musk's son, 'X AE-XII'. Musk's children add up to a dozen plus two. There were 13 Musk and then there was another, the final frontier but definitely not the final kid to tow! President Trump can try but it will be Musk who will live longer and longer! (IPA Service)

AAP's by-election resurgence: Kejriwal's unfinished political chapter



The political landscape in India is often a shifting terrain where victories and defeats unfold with unpredictable speed and intensity. Few understand this better than Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Having endured a humiliating electoral defeat in Delhi in February 2025, which ended a decade-long rule and saw some of its tallest leaders—including Kejriwal himself—unseated and politically cornered, the AAP was widely dismissed as a declining force. Yet, in an unexpected twist, the party has clawed its way back into relevance with recent by-election victories in Punjab and Gujarat, rekindling speculation about its future trajectory in Indian politics.

For a party that once seemed confined within the boundaries of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, these wins signal something larger than just isolated electoral successes. They suggest the possibility of AAP reemerging as a serious political contender, capable of disrupting the established national narrative dominated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress.

The victories in Ludhiana West in Punjab and Visavadar in Gujarat are significant for multiple reasons. Punjab remains one of AAP's core strongholds after the party's historic sweep in the 2022 Assembly elections. Retaining Ludhiana West, with Sanjeev Arora defeating Congress's Bharat Bhushan Ashu by a margin of 10,637 votes, reinforces AAP's hold over the state and reasserts its claim as a stable governing force amidst the rising Congress challenge. Meanwhile, the win in Visavadar, Gujarat, where Gopal Italia defeated BJP's Kirit Patel by an impressive 17,554 votes, is nothing short of symbolic. Gujarat has long been the ideological and electoral fortress of the BJP. For AAP to not just make inroads but to double its previous vote margin within three years reflects growing public receptivity to Kejriwal's alternative governance model.

What makes these victories more consequential is their timing. Just a few months ago, AAP suffered one of its worst electoral humiliations in Delhi. The February 2025 Assembly polls saw the BJP wrest control of the Delhi government, securing 48 out of 70 seats. This abrupt fall, after ruling Delhi for ten consecutive years, devastated the party's rank and file. Kejriwal, who once enjoyed rockstar-like popularity among Delhiites, was among those defeated. Atishi, his close confidant and the interim Chief Minister during Kejriwal's legal troubles, also couldn't withstand the BJP surge.

Kejriwal's personal setbacks were compounded by an unfolding legal nightmare. Corruption charges saw him and several senior ministers behind bars, seriously denting the AAP's clean politics image that had once captivated the nation. The middle-class base, which had lionized Kejriwal during the anti-corruption movement and the party's early Delhi years, began drifting away. Their disillusionment grew as AAP's welfare-heavy governance started being viewed as excessively targeted towards slum dwellers, daily-wage earners, and migrant workers, while the salaried middle class felt systematically ignored and overburdened.

This class alienation, along with governance fatigue and corruption allegations, sealed AAP's February defeat. Yet, Kejriwal's political instincts have always been underestimated, and the recent by-poll victories have proven that his chapter in Indian politics is far from closed.

Atishi's public statement following the by-poll results underscores this sentiment: "The victories in Ludhiana West and Visavadar show that people want effective governance. Underestimating Arvind Kejriwal's approach is a mistake—he plans to implement his model nationwide." This carefully worded message hints at Kejriwal's larger ambitions of extending the so-called "Delhi Model"—a mix of subsidized public services, education and health sector reforms, and governance populism—into a national template.

The wins are also a critical morale booster for AAP workers and supporters. Having endured months of political demoralization and public skepticism, these results reaffirm the party's organizational resilience and grassroots strength. The significance is magnified by the fact that both victories came with increased margins compared to the

2022 Assembly polls—demonstrating not just retention of voter trust but its expansion.

With the 2027 Assembly polls looming, AAP's by-election comeback offers a fresh canvas for political recalibration. Kejriwal has already hinted at revisiting the party's national strategy, moving away from coalition politics under the INDIA alliance. The alliance, primarily aimed at countering the BJP during the 2024 general elections, yielded limited benefits for AAP. Both the Congress and AAP, despite being partners, found their vote shares eroded by each other in key states.

Learning from this, Kejriwal has indicated a shift towards contesting independently in future elections. This is a logical recalibration. AAP's core identity has always been that of a disruptor—whether it was challenging Congress hegemony in Delhi during the early 2010s or confronting BJP dominance over the past decade. Tethering itself to the INDIA bloc risked diluting this unique appeal. The post-by-poll mood within the party now leans towards reclaiming its outsider, challenger image—an image that first propelled it to power.

Another emerging subplot from the by-election resurgence is speculation around Kejriwal's possible entry into the Rajya Sabha. Although he has consistently ruled out such a move, insiders suggest that the AAP is almost certain to win at least one seat in the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls. Given Kejriwal's unpredictability—historically known for taking U-turns on public positions—political circles are abuzz with speculation. Should he choose to enter the Upper House, it would not only signal a tactical reinvention but would also give him a na-

tional platform from which to challenge the BJP government directly.

The electoral victories also provide Kejriwal with crucial bargaining power within opposition circles. With Congress weakened after its poor by-election performance, AAP's fresh mandate positions it as a more significant voice in any future opposition realignment. Whether Kejriwal uses this leverage to force seat-sharing negotiations or to push for leadership roles within opposition coalitions remains to be seen.

However, it's important to note that challenges remain. The middle-class disillusionment that contributed to AAP's Delhi downfall still persists. The party's welfare-centric approach, though popular with lower-income groups, will need recalibration to avoid further alienating middle-income voters. Kejriwal's image, tarnished by corruption allegations, will require a sustained campaign of damage control and positive narrative building.

Moreover, the BJP remains an overwhelmingly dominant force at the national level. AAP's challenge will not just be about winning more seats but about sustaining its organizational capacity, narrative consistency, and public trust across diverse states with varying socio-political dynamics.

Gujarat, where AAP won Visavadar, poses a different electoral challenge from Punjab or Delhi. Voters in Gujarat have traditionally aligned with the BJP's development narrative, and AAP's long-term success there will depend on consistent grassroots engagement and the ability to project itself as a viable governance alternative beyond urban pockets.

Nevertheless, the political message sent by these by-election wins is clear: AAP cannot be written off. Kejriwal, the master of political comebacks, has injected fresh energy into a party that was recently battling obituaries.

As India inches towards the next round of state and national elections, all eyes will remain on Kejriwal's next moves. Will he consolidate AAP's position as a regional power with national ambitions? Will he reframe his governance model to appeal beyond the welfare-dependent demographic? And most crucially, will the AAP finally evolve from being a Delhi-centric experiment into a sustainable third force in Indian politics?

For now, what's certain is that Arvind Kejriwal, despite setbacks, controversies, and electoral defeats, is not ready to fade from India's political theatre. The recent by-election resurgence signals that his political story—much like the Aam Aadmi Party's own—is still being written. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmigpltd@gmail.com)

Centre's employment linked incentive scheme set to start from August 1, 2025

By Dr. Gyan Pathak

With the approval of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, though after loss of the entire financial year 2024-25 and three months into the current financial year 2025-26, the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 on July 23, 2024, is ultimately set to start from August 1, 2025. It was supposed to be launched on August 1, 2024.

The ELI Scheme was announced as part of PM's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget of ₹ 2 Lakh crore. Union Budget 2024-25 had allocated ₹ 10,000 crore for the ELI Scheme for the year 2024-25. Though the scheme was non-starter, until the presentation of the Union Budget 2025-26 on February 1, 2025, Centre had made a provision of ₹ 20,000 crore under this scheme for the year 2025-26. Union Minister of Labour and Employment Dr Mansukh Mandaviya had then claimed that the government's focus was firmly on the newly announced ELI Scheme, which was a lie.

Union Budget 2025-26 showed a likely expenditure of ₹ 6799.43 crore in 2024-25 in the revised estimate for the yet to be started ELI Scheme. Nevertheless, the financial year 2024-25 closed on March 31, 2025, without even the scheme getting approval of the Union Cabinet, and no details of the schemes were available.

ELI Scheme is heavily depended on Employment Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the private sector companies. On the one hand EPFO was not ready with its online system, and on the other private companies were hesitant in joining the scheme.

Even by December 2024, Union Ministry of Labour and Employment was not ready with the details of the scheme, though EPFO was being revamped to implement the ELI scheme. The ministry had held about two dozen meetings with EPFO officials and India Inc, since the last week of September 2024.

EPFO was ordered to ensure that employers complete the first stage of the process of Universal Account Number (UAN) activation through

Aadhaar-based OTP by November 30, 2024, starting with the latest joined employees in the current financial year 2024-25. Government had also said that in the second stage of the process, going forward, UAN activation was to be included in the state-of-the-art facility of Biometric authentication, through Face-recognition Technology. After that the employers will be required to complete the process for all employees working with them.

Nevertheless, EPFO and the India Inc just failed to complete the first stage of UAN activation by November 30. EPFO then extended the deadline many times, the last one being June 30, 2025. Many employers have still opted out of the scheme, since details of the schemes were not available to them, and even the scheme was not approved by the government.

Now, when the details of the scheme are available, and the scheme has got the Union Cabinet's approval, India Inc still seems to be hesitant in joining the scheme on account of its being unattractive for them. Government has still a tough task of getting employers on board.

There have been many roadblocks in implementation of the Scheme. The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment had cited eligibility conditions before the department related parliamentary panel as major roadblocks to successful implementation of the scheme in the stipulated timeframe in the financial year 2024-25 ending on March 31, 2025.

The Parliamentary panel was also informed by the ministry that the total budgetary allocation for this scheme in the next six-and-a-half years would be ₹ 1.07 trillion. The ministry had also informed the panel that 93 lakh workers would get benefit from the scheme in 2024-25. However, all the assurances failed.

Union Budget 2024-25 has said that the programme would generate 8 million decent jobs, apart from skilling 10 million youth over the next five years. ELI Scheme has three schemes A, B, and C, under which employers are to be given incentives for hiring of additional workers.

Under the ELI Scheme approved on July 1, 2025, the government has said, "With an outlay of ₹ 99,446 Crore, the ELI Scheme aims to incen-

tivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years. Out of these, 1.92 Crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the Scheme would be applicable to jobs created between 01st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027."

The 1st instalment under Part A of the scheme will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd instalment will be payable after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee. To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument of deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date. It will benefit around 1.92 crore first time employees, the government has said.

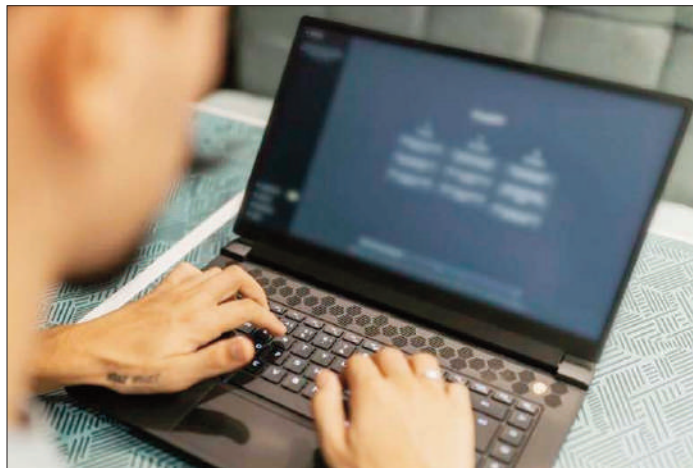
Under Part B of the scheme, the Government will incentivize employers, up to ₹ 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.

Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months.

Government has also prepared the incentive structure, which has three EPF Wage Slabs of additional employees. In first wage slab up to ₹ 10000 per month salary would get upto ₹ 1000 or proportionate basis. The second wage slab is ₹ 10000 - ₹ 20000, for which incentive will be ₹ 2000. The third wage slab is ₹ 20000 - ₹ 1 lakh per month, for which incentive will be ₹ 3000.

The part B is expected to incentivize employers for the creation of additional employment of nearly 2.60 crore persons, the government said.

All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS). Payments to the Employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts. (IPA Service)



By: Pradeep Pramanik

If you are in the final year of college, your top priority, apart from clearing your backlog, would be to secure a well-paying job. Your parents would be proud and happy -- not to mention stress-free -- if you found your dream job through campus placement.

With cut-throat competition and

limited vacancies in an ever-evolving job market, aspiring professionals would need to put in serious effort, beyond academic proficiency, to clinch the right opportunity.

To ensure success in a campus interview, here are some useful tips for you:

1. Never take the campus placement drive lightly

10 tips to get a job before you graduate

Before you appear for the interview, take time out to brush up your knowledge and core skills thoroughly. Make notes of important questions and answers.

For example, students appearing for core engineering roles may face questions from topics that you learned in the second year, so revisiting and revising those chapters can be helpful.

2. Form a practice group for mock interviews

Form a group of three to five students with whom you can practise mock interviews. Doing this will expose your weak areas while helping you answer important questions with more confidence. It will also improve your fluency and tone.

3. Group discussion skills are important

Group discussions help enable recruiters to explore your analytical

skills. Preparing in advance also allows you to improve your communication skills, work on your body language and research for content.

For example, you can start with simple topics like 'Impact of social media' or 'Is AI a threat to the future?'

4. Choose from the best

In most cases, you will receive interview calls and requests from multiple organisations. Remember to be selective about your options. You do not need to sit in all your interviews, especially if you are not convinced by the initial inputs received from your placement cell.

For example, if you're passionate about coding, choose and respond to software product companies instead of applying to mass recruiters from unrelated fields.

5. Do your homework diligently

Many times, students appear for interviews without reading about the company enough. When the recruiter asks you basic questions about the organisation, you need to be prepared to answer them. This will give you an edge over the other applicants.

Before signing up for an interview, students must also ask: Does the company's policy and required skill sets match your requirements?

6. Expand your knowledge spectrum

Apart from being an expert in your core subject/s, you must be updated about the current affairs and important events that impact all of us. In any campus interview, the panel usually has two sets of questions.

These could be: a. To test your theoretical knowledge, and b. Sit-

uation-based questions to test your analytical and critical thinking skills

7. Speak to the point and speak assertively

In the first job interview, students often commit mistakes by speaking more than required, thus losing a golden job opportunity.

For example, if you are explaining a project you completed in college, use simple language and summarise your thoughts. Avoid unnecessary technical jargon. Be clear, crisp and confident.

8. Listen carefully before jumping to reply

There is a reason why smart people speak less and listen more. Listening and speaking slowly helps maintain the gravity in their approach and communication.

As a fresher, you are not expected to answer all the questions.

So don't hesitate to say 'No' if you are not sure about the answer. Recruiters will value you more for your honesty than for your attempt at guesswork.

9. Respect the interviewer/s

Once you have decided to appear for the campus interview, you must respect the people on the panel irrespective of their views and arguments.

You may express your views respectfully without contradicting the panel or speaking rudely.

10. Dress well, look smart

Your appearance makes a huge difference in cracking an interview. Having a pleasing personality pays well too.

Wearing a well-ironed shirt with clean shoes, groomed hair and a confident posture can make a strong first impression, even before you speak. (Courtesy: Rediff.com)

Prasar Bharati Recruitment 2025 – 63 Vacancy @ North East Zone

Last Date: 09/07/2025

Prasar Bharati has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 63 Technical Intern posts on a full-time contractual basis at Akashvani & Door-darshan Kendras under its North East Zone. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Technical Intern

No of posts: 63 (Tentative)

Place of work: Akashvani & DD Kendras, North East Zone, Prasar Bharati

Duration of engagement: 1 Year

Age Limit: Not exceeding 30 years as on the last date of submission of application.

Consolidated Stipend: ₹ 25,000 per month

Essential Qualification:

a. Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Engineering in relevant streams such as Electronics, Telecommunication, Electrical, Civil, IT or Computer Science from a Government-recognized university/institution (approved by AICTE/UGC) with a minimum of 65% marks in relevant stream.

b. Fresh graduates/ Post Graduates or those who have completed their degree in the academic year (2024-25) are eligible. Candidates awaiting final results may apply with a certificate from the Head of the Institution, subject to fulfillment of the minimum marks criteria upon declaration of results.

Important Dates of Prasar Bharati Vacancy 2025

Starting date of submission of online application: 16th June 2025

Last date of submission of online application: 9th July 2025

Dibrugarh University Recruitment 2025 – 2 Assistant Registrar Posts

Last Date: 14/07/2025

Dibrugarh University has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 2 Assistant Registrar Posts in Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

Name of post: Assistant Registrar (Administration)

No of posts: 02 posts (UR)

Scale of Pay: Level 10 with Rationalised Pay of ₹ (56,100 – 1,77,500)

Eligibility Criteria: Master's Degree with at least 55% of the marks or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.

Desirable:

Hands on Experience or in Supervisory capacity in field of HR/ Finance/Procurement/Tech Management/ Service and Establishment Matters in reputed organizations.

Expertise in Computer Applications.

Ph.D degree.

How to Apply for Dibrugarh University Recruitment ?

Interested and eligible candidates may apply in the prescribed form of the University along with a Bank Draft of Rs. 2,000/- (Two thousand) in favour of the Registrar, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Branch (Branch Code-994000) or through SBI Collect (Fee payment receipt to be submitted along with the application form) and should reach the following address on or before 14.7.2025 .

The Registrar,
Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh,
Assam.

IBPS PO/ MT Recruitment 2025 – 5208 Probationary Officer Posts

Last Date: 21/07/2025

Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 5208 Probationary Officer/ Management Trainee vacancy against IBPS CRP PO/ MT-XV. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Probationary Officer/ Management Trainee

No of posts: 5208 posts

Bank-wise vacancy:	No. of vacancy
Participating Bank	1000
Bank of Baroda	700
Bank of India	1000
Bank of Maharashtra	1000
Canara Bank	500
Central Bank of India	450
Indian Overseas Bank	200
Punjab National Bank	358
Punjab & Sind Bank	5208
Total	

Pay scale: ₹ 48480-2000/7-62480-2340/2-67160-2680/7-85920

Eligibility Criteria of IBPS PO/ MT Recruitment

Age Limit: Candidates age should be between 20 years to 30 years as on 1st July 2025. Candidate should be born between 2nd July 1995 to 1st July 2005 (both dates inclusive).

Age Relaxation: Category-wise age relaxation is as follows

SC/ ST: 5 years
OBC-NCL: 3 years
PwBD: 10 years

Educational Qualification: A Degree (Graduation) in any discipline from a University recognised by the Govt. Of India or any equivalent qualification recognized as such by the Central Government. The candidate must possess valid Mark-sheet / Degree Certificate that he/ she is a graduate on the day he / she registers and indicate the percentage of marks obtained in Graduation while registering online.

Application Fee:

SC/ST/PwBD: ₹ 175

Others: ₹ 850

Payment Mode: Debit Cards (RuPay/Visa/MasterCard/Maestro), Credit Cards, Internet Banking, IMPS, Cash Cards/ Mobile Wallets by providing information as asked on the screen.

Important Dates of IBPS PO Recruitment 2025

Starting date of submission of online application: 1st July 2025

Last date of submission of online application: 21st July 2025

Date for Download Call Letter or Prelims Exam: August, 2025

Date for Prelims Exam: August, 2025

Date for Declaration of Prelims Result: September, 2025

Date for Download Call Letter or Mains Exam: September/October, 2025

Date for Mains Exam: October, 2025

DPS Jorhat Recruitment 2025 – PGT, PRT & Other Posts

Last Date: 31/07/2025

Delhi Public School, Jorhat has released an employment notification for the recruitment of PGT, PRT & Other Posts under Delhi Public School, Jorhat. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Special Educator

No of posts: 1

Educational Qualification: Candidate should be diploma or degree in Special Education (like D.Ed. or B.Ed. in Special Education)

2. PRT - Hindi

No of posts: 1



Educational Qualification: Candidates should be Graduate /Postgraduate in the relevant teaching subject for PRT, TGT & PGT. B. Ed/ D.El.Ed is compulsory. Experience: Minimum 3 years of teaching experience.

3. PGT

No of posts: 4, (Biology, Political Science, Geography, Informatics Practices)

Educational Qualification: Candidates should be Graduate /Postgraduate in the relevant teaching subject for PRT, TGT & PGT. B. Ed/D.El.Ed is compulsory for all above mentioned teaching posts.

Experience: Minimum 3 years of teaching experience.

4. Co-Scholastic

No of posts: 1, Music (Vocal & Instrumental)

Educational Qualification: Master's degree in music with a specialization in Vocal Music from a recognized university. Minimum of 3-5 years of teaching experience at the secondary or senior secondary level.

5. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

No of posts: 1

Educational Qualification: Candidates should be B.Tech/ M.Tech. Experience in robotics and AI.

How to Apply for DPS Jorhat Recruitment ?

Interested and eligible candidates may send detailed CV with a recent photograph to the following email id: career@dpsjorhat.in.

Last date of submission of application: 31/07/2025.

Note: The Management reserves the right not to fill up the post if suitable candidates are not found.

About DPS Jorhat

One of the finest schools emerging in the service of community, with an ambience unparalleled till now, better than the other day schools in Jorhat and neighbourhood with an extensive fifteen acres of premises, stands a very elegantly designed DPS Jorhat. Endowed with Smart Classroom learning technology, modern maths, science, language, computers, robotics, STEM labs, a well stocked library, international standards of outdoor playing courts, a multipurpose performing area, the state-of-art Junior Play School where fun way of learning will take precedence over all school activities, flowing green integrated spaces brought into interaction; a composite knowledge park; all compositely will enhance capabilities of sound health and education.



Gauhati High Court Recruitment 2025 – 367 JAA Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 31/07/2025

Gauhati High Court has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 367 Junior Administrative Assistant (JAA) Posts in the district courts of Assam. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Junior Administrative Assistant

No of posts: 367 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

UR: 191
SC: 30
STP: 42
STH: 20
PwBD: 5
OBC/ MOBC: 79

District-wise vacancy:

Bajali: 09
Baksa: 02
Barpeta: 08
Biswanath: 12
Bongaigaon: 4
Cachar: 09
Charaideo: 25
Chirang: 05
Darrang: 16
Dhemaji: 06
Dhubri: 13
Dibrugarh: 08
Dima Hasao: 11
Goalpara: 04
Golaghat: 13
Hailakandi: 09
Hojai: 13
Jorhat: 15
Kamrup: 10
Kamrup Metro: 22
Karbi Anglong: 12
Kokrajhar: 09
Lakhimpur: 08
Majuli: 06
Marigaon: 14
Nagaon: 11
Nalbari: 10
Sivasagar: 03
Sonitpur: 16
South Salmara: 26
Sribhumi: 12
Tinsukia: 15
Udalguri: 05
West Karbi Anglong: 06

Pay: Scale of pay ₹ 14,000-70,000 with Grade pay of ₹ 6,200 and other allowances admissible as per Rules.

Eligibility Criteria of Gauhati High Court Recruitment

Citizenship: Candidates must be a citizen of India as defined under Article 5 and 6 of the Constitution of India.

Age Limit: Candidate's age must be maximum 40 years as on last date of application.

Age Relaxation: Category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

OBC: 3 years
SC: 5 years
STP/ STH: 5 years
PwBD: 10 years

Employment Exchange Registration: Must possess a valid Registration number of Employment Exchange for the State of Assam.

Educational Qualification: Candidate must be a Graduate in any stream from a UGC recognized University as on the last date of submission of application.

Computer Knowledge: Candidates must possess a certificate of Computer knowledge of minimum 3 (three) months duration.

Official Language Proficiency: The candidate should have knowledge of the Official Language of the State of Assam (Assamese).

Application Fee of Gauhati High Court Recruitment

Candidates have to pay the application as mentioned below according to their caste:

Category	Application Fee
SC/ST (P)/ ST (H)	₹ 250
PwBD	Nil
Others	₹ 500

Important Dates of Gauhati High Court Recruitment 2025

Starting date for submission of online application: 15th July 2025

Last date for submission of online application: 31st July 2025 till 5 PM

Event to highlight BTR's shift from conflict to collaboration, launch new cultural and livelihood initiatives

CM to inaugurate 'Bodoland Speaks' in Guwahati tomorrow

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 4: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will inaugurate Bodoland Speaks: From Vision to Action, a flagship event being organised by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) to showcase the region's transformative journey, achievements, and aspirations.

The event is scheduled to take place on July 6, 2025, at the Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium in Guwahati.

According to an official statement, the programme will be held in the presence of BTR Chief Executive Member (CEM) Pramod Boro and other dignitaries.

It is aimed at presenting the evolution of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) — from a history of conflict to one of collaboration, and from isolation to inclusion — through narratives of culture, language, governance, and grassroots participation.

One of the key highlights of the event will be the ceremonial release of several publications that



reflect on the region's recent progress.

These include Transforming Bodoland — A Journey of Change in BTR, Lookin' Within: My Reflections, authored by CEM Pramod Boro, and the Annual Report of the Bodoland Happiness

Mission (2024-25).

In addition, the event will witness the release of BTR Communication Bridge, a 600-page multilingual resource featuring 1,001 essential words and 1,001 daily-use sentences translated into 18 regional languages spoken

across BTR.

These include Bodo, Assamese, Rabha, Kurukh, Sadhri, Nepali, Deshi, and others, reflecting the rich linguistic diversity of the region's 26 communities.

The programme will also mark the launch of two key initiatives — the Bodoland Engaged Ethnography Initiative and the Bodoland Migrant Women Livelihood Support Programme — both aimed at fostering inclusive development and cultural documentation.

Further, the Bodoland Lifetime Achievers Award — Folk Cultures 2025 will be conferred during the event, honouring individuals who have contributed to preserving and promoting the region's folk traditions.

The event will also feature interactions with literary organisations and community leaders.

Described as a day-long celebration of knowledge, heritage, and collective progress, Bodoland Speaks seeks to position BTR as a model for inclusive growth and cultural revival in the region.

NFR felicitates track maintainer for averting disaster in Lumding-Badarpur hill section



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 4: The North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) has recognised the alertness and dedication of Akshay Raj, a Track Maintainer-IV under the Senior Section Engineer (P Way) at New Harangajao, for detecting a potential landslide in time and initiating immediate preventive action along the Lumding-Badarpur hill section.

According to an official statement issued by the NFR, the incident occurred on the morning of June 23, 2025, when Akshay Raj was deployed as a stationary watchman at Kilometre 108/6-7. During his routine monitoring,

he noticed muck and boulders beginning to slip down the hillside, spilling over the left retaining wall and into the side drain near KM 108/7-8.

Sensing the imminent risk to train movement on the busy hill section, Akshay Raj responded with prompt action.

He immediately informed the Junior Engineer (P Way) at Jatinga Lampur and notified gang mates of Gang Nos. 23 and 24.

Simultaneously, he secured the affected track section using a banner flag, following standard railway safety protocols.

This swift response enabled the railway authorities to take timely

preventive measures and avert what could have been a serious mishap.

In recognition of his presence of mind and dedication to duty, NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava felicitated Akshay Raj, lauding his action as an example of frontline vigilance that ensures the continued safety and reliability of train operations.

"Such acts of responsibility and swift thinking are at the heart of railway safety," the General Manager said during the felicitation. "Track maintainers like Akshay Raj represent the true spirit of service that keeps the railways running smoothly, especially in challenging terrain like the Lumding-Badarpur section."

The General Manager also called on all railway personnel to remain vigilant and proactive in their duties, stressing that the safety of passengers and smooth functioning of railway services depends greatly on the alertness of ground-level staff.

The Lumding-Badarpur hill section, known for its difficult terrain and vulnerability to landslides during the monsoon, is closely monitored by the railway authorities. Incidents like this, the NFR noted, reinforce the importance of field-level vigilance in maintaining the integrity of the network.

Young Karbi doctor and YouTuber electrocuted at home

HT Bureau

DIPHU, July 4: Dr Ruplin Rongpi, a 26-year-old physician and popular YouTuber from West Karbi Anglong, died on Thursday evening after suffering an electric shock at her residence near Dongkamukam High School under Baithalangso Police Station.

According to reports, the incident occurred around 7 pm on July 3, during heavy rainfall accompanied by lightning in the area. Dr Rongpi was reportedly electrocuted while attempting to unplug an inverter connection at her home.

She was rushed to the Dongkamukam Primary Health Centre, where she was declared brought dead.

Dr Rongpi was serving as a Community Health Officer (CHO) at Kro Kengdang Primary Health Centre in Lower Amri.

She was also widely known for her YouTube channel Ruplin Diary — Sarpi Kehai, which had earned her a large following for content rooted in local culture and community issues.

Condolences poured in following her sudden demise.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a message shared on social media, wrote, "I am very saddened to hear that Dr Rupalin Rongpi, a promising doctor, died in a tragic accident in Dongkamukam, West Karbi Anglong. I share my grief and condolences with the bereaved family members in this difficult time. The Karbi community will always remember the contribution made by Dr. Rupalin Rongpi." Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, also expressed his grief.

"My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and loved ones of Dr. Ruplin Rongpi of Dongkamukam, whose untimely passing is a great loss to our community. As a doctor, she served with dedication, and as a well-known YouTuber of Ruplin Diary — Sarpi Kehai, she touched many lives through her online presence," he said.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the local community, which mourns the loss of a young life committed to public service and cultural expression.

Gauhati University sets benchmark in swift result declaration, reinforces student-centric governance

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 4: Gauhati University has achieved a significant milestone in academic governance by declaring undergraduate and postgraduate examination results at an unprecedented pace, marking a new benchmark in timely evaluation and student service.

According to an official statement, the move is part of the university's broader commitment to enhancing students' ease of living through administrative reforms and digital transformation.

Vice Chancellor Prof Nani Gopal Mahanta, who has been leading the initiative, said the swift result declarations underscore the institution's student-first approach.

"Our mission is to place students at the heart of every decision. Timely and transparent result declarations empower them to move forward confidently. This achievement reflects our commitment to their success, and we will continue to invest in technology and process improvements to serve them better," he said.

Prof Mahanta also expressed gratitude to the faculty of affiliated colleges and university departments, administrative staff, and the wider academic community for their coordinated efforts in achieving this milestone.

According to the Controller of Examinations, Prof Kandarpa Kumar Sarma, the implementation of robust digital systems has significantly streamlined the result processing pipeline.

He noted that results have been declared well within expected timelines due to the collective dedication of faculty, examiners, and administrative personnel.

The university's adoption of the Samarth portal, which includes a three-level verification mechanism involving evaluators, scrutinisers, and Heads of Departments, has ensured accuracy and integrity in the evaluation process.

Statistical data from the university shows that the B.Com sixth semester recorded a pass percentage of 91.16%, followed by B.A. at 90.54% and B.Sc. at 87.25%.

The results were declared within 24, 32, and 25 days respectively, which the university said reflects both academic rigour and administrative efficiency.

On the postgraduate front, fourth semester results for 35 departments and second semester results for 32 departments were released in under two weeks. Over 30 results were declared within just the last two days, the statement added.

To ensure transparency and address student concerns, Gauhati University has also launched an automated revaluation system.

Students can apply for revaluation within 15 days of the result announcement through an online portal, which automatically deactivates after the deadline to maintain a tamper-proof process.

Additionally, a dedicated grievance redressal cell has been established at the GUCCDOE building, operating from 2 PM to 5 PM daily to assist students with examination-related issues.

In a further development, the university has confirmed that results for law programmes will be declared within two months, ensuring that all departments benefit from the streamlined systems.

As Gauhati University continues to modernise its academic governance, the administration reiterated its resolve to deliver timely services and enhance the student experience.

BTC government holds beneficiary, awareness programmes in Salakati and Saraibil

Thousands attend outreach drives as BTC steps up focus on grassroots welfare, development

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, July 4: The United People's Party Liberal (UPPL)-led government of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) on Friday organised Beneficiary and Socio-Economic Awareness Programmes at Bhumki Part II in the Salakati BTC constituency and Habrubil in the Saraibil BTC constituency, with the aim of connecting grassroots beneficiaries to ongoing welfare initiatives.

According to officials, tens of thousands of people participated in the events, which sought to raise awareness about welfare schemes and the socio-economic development of the region's citizens.

Pramod Boro, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), attended the programmes as chief guest.

In his address, Boro highlighted the positive impact of various welfare schemes launched by the Centre, the Assam government, and the BTR administration. He said these



schemes had contributed to significant socio-economic progress across the region.

"Building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) is our shared goal. Over the past 4.5 years, Gossaigaon and the entire Bodoland region have witnessed a visible transformation. It's heartening to see government benefits reaching the most underprivileged sections of society," Boro said.

The events were also attended by Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Rajya Sabha MP Rwngrwa

Narzary, UPPL general secretaries Raju Kumar and Madhab Chetry, along with local leaders and administrative officials.

Community members participated actively in the programmes, with several sharing testimonials about the benefits received under key welfare schemes.

The initiative focused on improving communication between the public and policymakers, promoting transparency, and encouraging community involvement in the region's developmental efforts.

Martyrs' Memorial in Margherita lies in neglect

HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, July 4: The Martyrs' Memorial, erected in 1956 at Margherita Bazaar to honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters, now lies in a state of disrepair and neglect, with rampant encroachment and unsanitary conditions overshadowing its historic significance.

According to an official statement issued by the Margherita Bazaar Committee, the memorial—once a revered site of patriotic pride—has gradually transformed into a symbol of civic apathy. Local traders and shopkeepers have allegedly encroached upon the land surrounding the memorial, using it as an extension of their commercial premises and, in some cases, as a dumping ground.

Gaurav Gogoi faces protests during Karbi Anglong visit

HT Correspondent

KHERONI, July 4: Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president and Lok Sabha Deputy Leader of Opposition Gaurav Gogoi faced protests during a two-day visit to Karbi Anglong district, even as Congress workers welcomed him at various party units. According to reports, Gogoi was received warmly by party workers at the Deithor Mandal Congress Committee and Bokajan Block Congress Committee offices.

However, in Santipur under Borpathar Police Station, a section of locals staged demonstrations against him, holding placards with slogans such as "Gaurav Gogoi Go Back," "Pakistani Agent Gaurav Gogoi Go Back," and "Congress Party Murdabad."

The protests came in the backdrop of recent allegations by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over Gogoi's alleged links with Pakistan, which have triggered political tensions across the state.

Gogoi's visit was aimed at engaging with grassroots



party workers and strengthening the Congress's organisational presence in the region. His meetings focused on addressing local concerns and preparing for the upcoming 2026 assembly elections.

The visit also comes shortly after the Congress faced setbacks in the panchayat elections, including in Jorhat, Gogoi's home constituency.

The protests in Santipur underscore the polarised political atmosphere in the state as parties gear up for future polls.

Workshop on tourism and hospitality promotion held in Hojai

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, July 4: A workshop on the promotion and development of the tourism and hospitality sector was held at the conference hall of the Jugijan Development Block in Hojai on July 1.

The event was organised by Hojai Unnayan Manch (HUM), a local NGO, in collaboration with the District Industries and Commerce Centre (DICC), Hojai.

The programme was sponsored and implemented by the Assam Small Industries Development Corporation (ASIDC) Ltd under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme—a World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

The workshop focused on highlighting the significance of tourism, hygiene, and soft skills such as etiquette, behavioural traits, and communication.

It also aimed to spread awareness about various government schemes related to the sector.

Over 40 participants from the local resort and hospitality industry of Hojai district took part in the event.

The programme was inaugurated by Rupanjit Bhattacharya, General Manager (in-charge) of DICC, Hojai. Secretary of HUM, Sujay Kumar Dutta, welcomed the attendees, while Yasmin



Laskar of ASIDC spoke on the potential of rural tourism in the region.

Khagen Saikia and Hemanta Baishya from the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, participated as key resource persons and delivered detailed sessions on the scope and

prospects of the tourism and hospitality sector.

Local agro-resort entrepreneur Oryza Eco Farm also encouraged participants and visitors to explore the tourism potential of Hojai.

The attendees expressed satisfaction with the workshop and extended their appreciation to the organisers.

District-level meeting held in Diphu to curb rising child marriage cases

HT Bureau

DIPHU, July 4: Acting on the directive of the Chief Minister, a district-level coordination meeting was convened on Friday at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Diphu to review and strengthen efforts to combat child marriage in Karbi Anglong district.

The meeting was chaired by Karbi Anglong Deputy Commissioner Nirola Phangchopi, ACS, and attended by senior officials including the Superintendent of Police, SDO (Civil) Bokajan, Project Director of DRDA, Joint Director of Health Services, District Social Welfare Officer, District Child Protection Officer, Inspector of Schools, Labour Officer, and other departmental heads.

During the meeting, the Superintendent of Police reported a continued rise in child marriage cases across the district and highlighted the urgency of holding village-level awareness meetings.

He called for the active involvement of Gaonburas, villagers, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi workers to build grassroots vigilance and public awareness.

The Deputy Commissioner underlined the importance of adopting a "Whole of the Government" approach, with interdepartmental coordination among the Education, Health, Social Welfare, Panchayat & Rural Development, and Police departments.

All concerned departments have been directed to draft action plans focusing on field-level monitoring and the rehabilitation of children affected by child marriage.

As part of the initiative, awareness campaigns will be conducted across the three Legislative Assembly Constituencies—Diphu, Bokajan, and Howraghat—to sensitise the public and discourage underage marriages.

Deputy CM Chowna Mein chairs key development meet in Namsai

Tai Khamti language rollout, river festival, green drive and anti-drug action among key outcomes of Namsai meeting



HT Bureau

NAMSAL, July 4: In a significant push toward cultural preservation and sustainable development, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein chaired a comprehensive district-level development meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall in the Mini Secretariat, Namsai.

The meeting, which included key officials and community leaders, focused on language preservation, environmental conservation, and social reform measures.

According to an official statement, a major outcome of the meeting was the finalisation of an action plan for the introduction of the Tai Khamti language as a third language across all government and private schools, as well as Buddha Viharas in the district.

The language will be taught from the primary to secondary level, beginning August 16, 2025.

Emphasising the cultural importance of the move, Mein said, "The loss of a language often leads to the erosion of rituals, traditions, and cultural identity.

Preserving the Tai Khamti language is essential to maintaining the community's rich heritage."

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure the seamless implementation of the policy across private educational institutions.

The Tai Khamti Heritage & Literary Society (TKHLS) has been entrusted with the responsibility of printing primers for primary school students and conducting training sessions for teachers in the local language.

Furthering the state's environmental agenda, the meeting resolved to observe Nadi Utsav on July 8.

As part of the observance, fish fingerlings will be released into rivers and streams to restore aquatic ecosystems and replenish local fish populations.

Another initiative, titled Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, will be launched to encourage widespread tree plantation in government offices, public spaces, village areas, and roadsides.

The campaign aims to instill environmental consciousness while contributing to ecological restoration.

To reinforce cleanliness and public hygiene, the administration will adopt one village per constituency under the Cleanest Village model programme.

This initiative will promote sanitation best practices, waste management systems, and community-driven efforts in creating healthier living environments.

Addressing concerns over the rise in drug-related issues, Mein directed authorities to initiate strict preventive and corrective actions in collaboration with community-based organisations (CBOs).

The district administration also announced plans to deploy flying squads to monitor and curb illegal hunting and fishing activities, particularly during night hours, to safeguard biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

The meeting also took stock of the progress of the ongoing Borbeel Lake Restoration Project.

Mein emphasised the need for timely execution and sustainable planning to ensure long-term ecological stability in the region.

The meeting was attended by Namsai MLA Chau Zingnu Namchoom, Deputy Commissioner C.R. Khampa, ZPC Urmila Mancheekun, ZPM Chongkham, ADCs of Chongkham and Wakro, heads of departments, community leaders, Buddhist monks from Namsai, Kherem, and the Golden Pagoda, and members of various organisations including the Tai Khamti Development Society (TKDS), Tai Khamti Singpho Council (TKSC), Tai Khamti Heritage & Literary Society (TKHLS), and the All Tai Khamti Singpho Students' Union (ATKSSU).

The initiatives reflect a coordinated strategy toward cultural revival, grassroots development, and ecological resilience, aligning with the government's broader goals of inclusive growth and heritage conservation in Arunachal Pradesh.

Fresh vegetables from Arunachal to feed ITBP personnel

ITANAGAR, July 4: A consignment of fresh vegetables was sent to the 59th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) stationed at Nafru in Bichom district of Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen both local agriculture and the welfare of security personnel, officials said. The first consignment was officially flagged off on Thursday by Bichom District Deputy Commissioner Bopai Puroik, they said. Launched under the banner of "Mission Arun Himveer", the initiative marks the beginning of a sustained collaboration aimed at linking farmers of the state with the country's border security forces.

Mission Arun Himveer is an initiative between the Agriculture Marketing Board and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. As part of the initiative, the state government will supply fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry to the ITBP. These products will be procured from local farmers, self-help groups (SHGs), farmer producer organisations and farmer co-operatives, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said earlier.

Thursday's consignment was the first step in fulfilling the objectives of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently signed between the ITBP and the Arunachal Pradesh Agricultural Marketing Board (APAMB).

"This is a proud moment for our district. Mission Arun Himveer will serve as a bridge between our hardworking farmers and the brave personnel safeguarding our borders," Puroik said. The project has been designed to ensure a consistent and high-quality supply of locally grown vegetables to ITBP personnel deployed in remote and high-altitude posts, where fresh produce is often difficult to access. (PTI)

NEC disburses ₹ 5.7 crore for key projects in Arunachal



ITANAGAR, July 4: The North Eastern Council (NEC) has released a total amount of over ₹ 5.70 crore during June this year to Arunachal Pradesh, under its scheme, aimed at supporting a range of development initiatives across the northeastern state.

The funding covers diverse sectors including health, education, tourism, agriculture, and cultural preservation, an official statement said here on Friday.

Among the key projects funded are the development of fisheries in Aalo East Assembly constituency in West Siang, the construction of a Signature View Point at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district, along the Potin-Pangin Road, and the development of the Tissa View Point Camp in Tirap district.

Funds have also been allocated for the promotion and literary development of state's indigenous mother languages, the construction of a 60-bed nursing hostel at the Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIIMS), and the construction of a Government Higher Secondary School at Dirang, in West Kameng district.

In addition to these allocations, the NEC also released funding under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) during the same month.

This includes ₹ 5.38 crore for the construction of a road from Riaga to Sango Village and ₹ 3 crore for the

Likwa Gyadi-Gyapewpurang road project in East Kameng district. These road projects are expected to significantly improve rural connectivity in the state, the statement said. Meanwhile, two major road connectivity projects in Tawang district, funded by the NEC, were completed and officially closed in June.

The road projects include the 15-kilometre road from Babrang (Murga) Bridge Point to Rho village and the upgraded stretch from NH-13 to the Ugyen Tsangpo Helipad.

The first project, sanctioned in March 2019 at a cost of ₹ 26.50 crore, is of strategic importance. It not only provides vital access to remote tourist destinations such as Chumi-Geyser, Gongkhar-La Pass, and Gori-Chen Peak but also enhances connectivity to defence locations near the China border.

Beyond strategic and tourism value, the road has addressed long-standing demands of local tribal communities by easing the transport of agricultural, horticultural, and livestock produce to Jang market. This development is expected to improve local livelihoods and boost the rural economy.

The NEC reiterated its commitment to the timely disbursement of funds and efficient implementation of infrastructure projects that drive inclusive growth and connectivity in Arunachal Pradesh, the statement added. (PTI)

From hunters to protectors: Arunachal's air gun surrender scheme transforms conservation efforts

ITANAGAR, July 4: More than 2,400 air guns have been voluntarily surrendered by citizens across Arunachal Pradesh under the state's 'Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan,' officials said on Friday.

The initiative, launched to curb indiscriminate hunting of birds and wildlife, has emerged as a nationally acclaimed model, earning praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and global recognition at a UNESCO platform.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has described the movement as a proud moment for Arunachal, calling it a shining example of people-driven environmental action.

"It reflects the strong ecological values of our people and our shared responsibility to protect biodiversity," he said in a recent social media post, adding that the campaign aligns with the state government's mission of reform and sustainable development under the 'PEMA 3.0 - Year of Reforms & Growth Framework'.

The campaign was launched in March 2021 at Lumdung village in East Kameng district, where 46 air guns were surrendered during the inaugural event.



Since then, the movement has gained momentum, supported by the Environment and Forest Department and led by former minister Mama Natung, who actively mobilised communities across the state.

Over time, the campaign grew into a mass movement, with thousands of people giving up their air guns, licensed guns and power chainsaw machines used for illegal logging.

The impact of the campaign is already visible, with reports of increased bird sightings and revival of local wildlife populations in many districts, officials claimed.

The initiative stood out for its community-oriented approach, combining traditional values with modern conservation goals.

Regular awareness camps, rallies, and district-level outreach programmes were conducted in collaboration with local leaders, NGOs, student unions, and forest officials.

The emphasis was on voluntary action and long-term behavioural change, not coercion.

The campaign's success was also acknowledged nationally when Prime Minister Modi featured it in his Mann Ki Baat radio programme in December 2021, calling it an inspiring example of citizen-led environmentalism.

Internationally, it was showcased at the UNESCO International Conference on Biosphere Reserves in 2021 as one of India's most promising and replicable conservation models.

Arunachal Pradesh, with its rich but vulnerable biodiversity, is home to several endangered bird species.

The Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan has not only brought these conservation concerns into public consciousness but has also united communities in a shared effort to protect their natural heritage.

The Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan, once a simple appeal, is now a beacon of environmental responsibility, both for the state and for the nation. (PTI)

Drug peddler held with heroin in Pasighat under Operation Dawn 2.0

HT Correspondent

PASIGHAT, July 4: In a continuing crackdown on narcotics under Operation Dawn 2.0, the East Siang Police on Friday apprehended a drug peddler in Pasighat and seized a quantity of suspected heroin along with cash and a mobile phone.

According to an official statement issued by the district police, the operation was launched based on credible intelligence inputs regarding the activities of a known drug peddler.

The accused, identified as Obang Modi, 60, son of Kyalop Modi and a resident of the GTC area in Pasighat, was caught red-handed by the Anti-Drugs Squad (ADS) of East Siang Police.

The operation was led by DSP Ayup Boko, in charge of the ADS, and included SI K Tangha, ASI R Lowang, Constables R Rukbo, B Tamut, and R Lego.

The team apprehended Modi and recovered approximately 2.46 grams of suspected heroin during a body search.

The search was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and in the presence of an Executive Magistrate.

In addition to the suspected narcotics, the police seized ₹ 3,000 in cash and a smartphone from the accused.

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No. 43 PSC/DR-56/1/2024-25

Assam Public Service Commission invites application from Indian Citizens as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India for the under-mentioned posts under Assam Government in the scale of pay as indicated below and carrying usual allowances as admissible under Rules of the Govt. of Assam.

(1) Name of the Post

: Soil Conservation Ranger under Soil Conservation Department

(2) No of posts

: 16 (Sixteen) nos.

(3) Reservation of posts

:

Name of the Service/Post	Open Category		Reserved for OBC/ MOBC		Reserved for SC		Reserved for STP		Reserved for STH		Grand Total		Post reserved for PwBD & Type of Disability	Post reserved for Ex-Servicemen
	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW		
Soil Conservation Ranger	09	03	01	00	03	01	02	01	01	00	16	05	HI = 01	00

* PwBD — Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW — Reserved for Women.

* Reservation as per draft advertisement received from Government against total numbers of posts in the cadre.

NB: The Ex-Servicemen must upload Ex-Servicemen Identity Card issued by Zila Sainik Welfare Office of the state of Assam and Discharge Book while applying for the reserved post.

4. Scale of Pay: Pay scale + Grade Pay + Other allowances as admissible to the Assam State Government employees from time to time (per month).

Pay scale	Grade Pay	Pay Band
Rs. 22,000/- to Rs. 97,000/-	Rs. 9,700/-	Pay Band - 3

BEFORE FILLING UP THE APPLICATION FORM, CANDIDATES MUST NOTE THAT THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATES RELATING TO AGE, CASTE AND MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION WILL BE FETCHED FROM THE OTR PROFILE. CANDIDATES ARE TO UPDATE THE OTR PROFILE IF ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE UPLOADED IN SUPPORT OF THE ADVERTISED POST.

5. Eligibility Criteria:

The candidate must be an Indian Citizen as defined in Article 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India and must be a permanent resident of Assam. As a domicile proof of the candidate, he/she must upload a copy of the valid Permanent Resident Certificate issued in Assam for educational purpose/Employment Exchange Registration Certificate will be treated as proof of residency.

(Upload necessary documents)

6. Education Qualification: The candidate must possess Bachelor's Degree in Science from any Govt. recognized University with at least Physics/Chemistry/Botany/Geology/Forestry/Environmental Science as one of the subjects. OR Bachelor Degree in Agriculture/Agriculture Engineering/Civil Engineering from any Govt. recognized university. (Upload relevant all semester/year mark sheet/certificate reflecting the subjects)

7. Scheme of the Examination: The scheme of Examination is given below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Duration, marks etc.	Type	Negative Marking	Standard of syllabus
i.	Paper-I General Knowledge	2 (two) hours 100 marks	OMR based Multiple Choice Objective Type	@ .25 against each wrong answer	Graduate Level
ii.	Paper-II General English	3 (three) hours 100 marks	Conventional (Essay, Précis writing and Grammar etc.)		Graduate Level
iii.	Paper-III Optional Subjects-I	2 (two) hours 200 marks	OMR based Multiple Choice Objective Type	@ .25 against each wrong answer	Graduate Level
iv.	Paper-IV Optional Subjects-II	2 (two) hours 200 marks	OMR based Multiple Choice Objective Type	@ .25 against each wrong answer	Graduate Level

Optional Subjects (Any two):

a) Agriculture or Agriculture Engineering or Horticulture

b) Botany

c) Chemistry

d) Physics

e) Geology

f) Forestry

g) Environmental Science and

h) Civil Engineering.

Note: No Candidate shall be allowed to take more than one subject from Group-(a) (i.e. Agriculture or Agriculture Engineering or Horticulture).

8. Physical Fitness: A candidate for direct recruitment shall be:

(i) Of sound physical and mental health and free from any infirmity which may interfere in the discharge of duties.

(ii) Required to undergo Medical Examination before his appointment to the service.

(iii) Candidate must submit a certificate of physical test issued by the Competent Authority.

(iv) Candidate must possess the following physical standard:

Gender	Height (cm)	Chest Firth (cm) Expansion	Normal
Male	155	84	+05
Female	145	79	+05

(v) Candidates shall qualify a physical test of:

a) 25 km walk for male in 4 hours and

b) 16 km walk for female in 4 hours.

(vi) A candidate for direct recruitment shall produce to the Commission, certificates of good character from the following:

a) The Principal/Academic officer of the University or the College or such Educational Institutions in which he studies last and

b) Two respectable persons who are well acquainted with (but not related to) the candidates.

9. Age:

The candidate should not be less than 21 years of age and not more than 38 years of age as on 01-01-2025. The upper age limit is relaxable:

(i) By 5 years for SC/ST candidates, i.e. upto 43 years.

(ii) By 3 years for OBC/MOBC/Tea Tribes & Adivasi Community candidates i.e. upto 41 years as per Govt. Notification No. ABP. 6/2016/9 dated Dispur the 25th April 2018.

(iii) For Ex-Servicemen, the maximum age shall be 50 years as on 01-01-2025 for Unreserved category, relaxable further by 3 (Three) years for OBC/MOBC candidates and 5 (Five) years for SC/ST candidates.

(iv) Persons with benchmark disability (PwBD) 10 years irrespective of SC/ST/OBC and UR Category of candidates as per Govt. Memorandum No. ABP 144/95/121 dated Dispur the 28th October, 2015.

The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Class-XI/Class-XII Examination Admit Card/Pass Certificate/Marksheet issued by a recognized Central/State Board/Council where Age/Date of Birth (DOB) is clearly reflected.

No other document shall be accepted in lieu of the above mentioned documents for age proof.

(Upload relevant documents)

10. For PwBD Category Candidate:

To be eligible for consideration under PwBD category, a candidate must possess Benchmark Disability and must produce necessary certificate issued by the competent authority. (Upload relevant documents)

11. For Government Employees of the state of Assam:

Candidates, already in regular Government service, whether in permanent or temporary capacity other than casual/ad-hoc/daily wages/hourly paid/contract basis, in order to prove their employment, must upload a certificate against the applied post, issued by the competent authority under which he/she is working. However, candidates, seeking pay protection, continuation in service etc., must upload 'NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC)' against the applied post, issued by the competent authority under which he/she is working.

(Upload relevant documents)

12. The Small Family Norms:

As per Govt. notification No. ABP/69/2019/17, dated Dispur, the 6th November/2019, candidates have to submit a declaration regarding "The Small Family Norms" in Form - A at the time of applying for the post.

(Upload necessary documents)

The advertisement has been issued as per draft advertisement furnished by the Government.

(i) STARTING DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION : 09-07-2025

(ii) CLOSING DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION: 09-08-2025

(iii) LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF APPLICATION FEE: 11-08-2025

NB: For detail advertisement please visit APSC's official website www.apscrecruitment.in (Recruitment Advertisement link).

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Deputy Secretary

Assam Public Service Commission

Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

National Herald case ED case very strange, Sonia argues in court

NEW DELHI, July 4: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Friday argued that Enforcement Directorate's (ED) National Herald case was "truly a strange" one.

Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the senior Congress leader, began his rebuttal after additional solicitor general S V Raju for ED on July 3 concluded his arguments on the point of cognisance of the chargesheet filed in the case. "This is truly a strange case. More than strange. Unprecedented. This is an alleged case of money laundering, without any property, without use or projection of property. There was not an inch of property moved from Associated Journals Limited (AJL) to Young Indian. No Congress leader gets any property or money. Yet this is called money laundering," Singhvi argued.

The ED has accused Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes aside from Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda and the private company Young Indian of conspiracy and money laundering over the fraudulent takeover of properties valued over ₹2,000 crore belonging to the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), which published National Herald newspaper.

ED alleges Gandhis held the majority 76 per cent shares in Young Indian, which fraudulently usurped assets of AJL, in exchange for a ₹90 crore loan.



Singhvi, however, submitted that the exercise was undertaken to make AJL debt free.

"Every company is entitled under law and does, every day, make their companies get free by a variety of instruments. So you take away the debt and assign it to another entity. So this company becomes debt free," Singhvi said.

He said that Young Indian was a not-for-profit company.

"Means it cannot give dividends, it cannot give perks, it cannot give salaries, it cannot give those bonuses. It can give nothing," the senior lawyer argued.

He said that Young Indian after investing money in the shares of AJL only had the right over the dividend and no interest was created on AJL's properties.

"How can Gandhis and Young Indian be treated as alter egos of

AJL?" he asked.

Singhvi said the ED did not do anything for several years and instead picked up a private complaint. "They are, obviously people associated with the Congress. To have the National Herald in a body not associated with the Congress would be worse than having Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark," he said.

Singhvi argued that ED sought "criminal cognisance of a draconian act" against Sonia.

"There is an 11-year gap between restructuring of AJL in 2010 and the registration of Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in 2021. There cannot be a greater hiatus. There is also an eight year gap in the private complaint (filed by Subramanian Swamy) and the ECIR," he said.

He continued, "The ED has

never done this in years. Picking up a private complaint years later and requesting the court to take cognisance." The judge then posed a question whether the Congress party had the right to write off the loan.

"There is no general inhibition in law which prevents a person from recovering debt. The law encourages non-performing assets (NPAs) to be eliminated by taking over the debt. Suppose the AJL debt was taken by Tatas or Birlas, then are Tatas and Birlas accused of money laundering?"

"The entire concept will collapse like this. They must be struck by madness to do money laundering with a not for profit company. This is what happens when politics has become uppermost and law becomes last," Singhvi argued.

The proceedings would continue on July 5 with rebuttal on behalf of Rahul Gandhi.

On July 3, Raju argued on the point of chargesheet's cognisance, saying the Gandhis were the "beneficial owners" of Young Indian and acquired its total control after the death of other shareholders.

The ED filed its chargesheet against the Gandhis and others under Sections 3 (money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The chargesheet also names Dudgey, Pitroda, Sunil Bhandari, Young Indian, and Dotex Merchandise Private Limited. (PTI)

Congress often takes position that benefits China instead of India: BJP

NEW DELHI, July 4: The BJP on Friday hit out at the Congress, alleging that the party has time and again taken positions that benefit China instead of India.

This came after the Congress earlier said the Narendra Modi government must agree to a discussion on India-China relations in Parliament so that a consensus can be built for a collective response to the geopolitical and economic challenges that the neighbouring country poses to India, directly and through Pakistan.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh, said Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Capability Development and Sustenance) Lieutenant General Rahul R Singh has publicly confirmed what has been talked about ever since Operation Sindoor was halted abruptly at US President Donald Trump's intervention.

"Lt Gen Singh has revealed some details of the extraordinary ways by which China helped the Pakistan Air Force. This is the same China, which completely destroyed the status quo in Ladakh five years ago but to which Prime Minister Modi gave a public clean chit on June 19, 2020," Ramesh said in a post on X.

Reacting sharply to Ramesh's remarks, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said if China is using Pakistan to destabilise India, the Congress has only made that job easier by weakening the nation's internal unity and international credibility.

"If China is arming Pakistan and using it as a testing ground for its military hardware, it raises a serious question. Why has the Congress party consistently promoted narratives that weaken India's position against China?" he said in a post on X.

India needs leadership that prioritises national interest, protects sovereignty and remains uncompromised in its loyalty to the country, the BJP leader said.

Malviya alleged the Congress has time and again taken positions that benefit China instead of India.

"Whether in public statements, foreign interactions or institutional decisions, their approach has been weak, ambiguous and compromised," he charged.

Malviya alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the Indian government after the clash in Galwan instead of backing the Indian Army and repeated



China's false claims. "His statement that 'China has taken our land' was used by the Chinese state media to justify their aggression," he said.

The BJP leader alleged that during a "tense standoff" at Doklam in 2017, Gandhi "quietly" met with the Chinese officials at the Chinese Embassy in Delhi and no "justification or explanation" was ever given to the people of India.

"When the government took firm action to ban Chinese apps like TikTok and PUBG, the Congress leaders opposed the decision. They called it emotional and reactionary despite clear evidence that these platforms were used to collect the Indian data and strengthen China's digital reach," Malviya said. "When the Chinese companies were exposed for funding proxies and engaging in surveillance, the Congress party chose to remain silent. Their close links with these interests raise serious concerns," he added.

Malviya alleged that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress signed a "secret" memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing in 2018. The contents of this agreement have never been disclosed to the people of India, he said, asking the Congress, "What was agreed upon and why the secrecy?"

The BJP leader alleged that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, "controlled by the Gandhi family", received donations from the Chinese government and its embassy. "This is a direct conflict of interest and poses a threat to India's national security," he said. (PTI)

BJP secular, Cong communal: Rijiju slams Oppn for attacking EC's electoral rolls revision in Bihar

NEW DELHI, July 4: Calling the BJP "secular" and the Congress "most communal", Union minister Kiren Rijiju lashed out at opposition parties on Friday for questioning the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar and accused them of playing politics in the name of minorities.

The minority affairs minister said there is no country in the world that gives as much facilities to minorities as India does and asserted that all citizens are treated equally here.

Asked about claims made by certain leaders that the Elections Commission's (EC) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar is aimed against minorities, Rijiju said, "I only want to say that there are six minority communities in the country. Repeatedly, the Congress and some other parties try to instill fear among minorities. They should not try to mislead the minorities."

Minority communities in India comprise Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Jains and Buddhists, he said, adding that all of them get the same facilities that the majority Hindus get.

"Minorities are also given additional protection and facilities. There is no country in this world that gives so much facilities to minorities. The politics being played in the name of minorities to take political advantage is not right," Rijiju said.

The way the Congress and some parties have treated Muslims like a vote bank for the last 75 years, that should stop, the parliamentary affairs minister said.

"This is harmful for Muslims while the Congress benefits. The

Congress scores political benefits by using Muslims as a vote bank. The Congress ensured that Muslims remain poor, now they should not shout 'Muslim, Muslim' and insult them," he said.

"We (the BJP) are secular, we do not do politics on the basis of religion or cast. The Congress and these people are the most communal. They keep doing 'Muslim, Muslim' and take political advantage while keeping them poor," Rijiju said in response to a question on All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi's attack on the SIR of the electoral rolls in Bihar.

"We see everyone as equal, (Prime Minister Narendra) Modiji talks about 'sabka path, sabka vikas', which means everyone is equal. Muslims are as safe in the country as Hindus. The freedom that is there in India is not there in other countries," he said.

Slamming opposition parties, Rijiju said they first scared Muslims in the name of citizenship and now doing the same with the special revision of electoral rolls. "The Election Commission is doing a great job. The attempt to attack a constitutional institution by the Congress should stop," he said.

Leaders of several INDIA bloc parties met the EC over the SIR issue on Wednesday and raised concerns over its timing, alleging that more than two crore voters of Bihar may be disenfranchised due to this mammoth exercise being carried out just ahead of the Assembly polls in the state.

The EC said on Thursday that it has decoded the entire exercise to a group of opposition parties to assuage their fears. (PTI)

Voter roll revision most important issue in upcoming polls, expect protests: CPI(ML) gen sec

NEW DELHI, July 4: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, termed as 'vote-bandi' by opposition parties, is likely to become the most important issue in the upcoming assembly polls, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said on Friday, adding that large-scale agitations can be expected if the decision is not rolled back.

In an interview with PTI, Bhattacharya also said protests against the SIR exercise will be held as a part of the July 9 strike against the labour code and other issues. More protests are expected in the days to come, he added.

The SIR exercise, which has started in Bihar, involves the preparation of a fresh voter list. According to the Election Commission's (EC's) announcement, those born before July 1, 1987 will have to provide a document for themselves; those born between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004 will have to furnish documents for themselves and one parent; while individuals born after December 2, 2004 will have to submit documents for themselves and both parents. Bhattacharya said during the Lok Sabha polls held in 2024, the narrative of the Constitution being under threat was a key issue. He said the EC's move has "brought the narrative home".

According to the CPI(ML) general secretary, SIR will probably be the greatest agenda of the election. The Constitution was the main theme in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, he said. "This whole narrative of the Constitution being in danger, the Election Commission has now brought it home. Everybody understands now why the Constitution is so important and why we are saying that the Constitution is today threatened. So, probably this will energise the voters," Bhattacharya said. "The voters will come and express their anger through their vote. I mean, provided their names are still there on the voting list, of course," he said. The CPI(ML) leader said the move over SIR, made without holding consultation with political parties, was like a "surgical strike". People in Bihar are agitated about it, he added.

"Wherever people have come to know about it (SIR), they are agitating. They are very apprehensive that this means disenfranchisement. We are going to amplify their voice, organise them," Bhattacharya said.

He is of the view that voting right is going to be a key issue during the strike on July 9. The strike was originally against the labour codes but now voting right is going to affect the migrant workers and the non-organised workers of Bihar. (PTI)

With PM Modi in Trinidad & Tobago, Cong recalls Indira Gandhi's 1968 visit

NEW DELHI, July 4: With Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Trinidad and Tobago, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday recalled Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 1968 visit to the twin-island republic which was the first by an Indian PM. Ramesh also shared on X the link to a video film on Gandhi's visit that the hosts had produced.

In the video, Gandhi is seen being welcomed at the airport by then Trinidad and Tobago prime minister Eric Williams, being given a guard of honour and people lining up on the streets to greet her. Ramesh also shared facts about cricketing links and Indian legacy in Trinidad and Tobago. "The Super Premium Frequent Flyer PM will be in Trinidad & Tobago today. Trinidad and Tobago is a small twin-island republic that has produced a number of world figures. We in India know it as one of the places to which the British took thousands of indentured labour in the 19th century," Ramesh said in his post.

"Some of their descendants have distinguished themselves in politics, like



Basdeo Pandey who was the PM during 1995-2001, and the present PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar; in literature like V.S. Naipaul, who won the Nobel Prize in 2001, and his brother Shiva Naipaul; and in cricket like the spinner Sonny Ramadhin, immortalised in the fabulous Victory Calypso composed after the West Indies had defeated England at Lords for the first time in June 1950," he said.

But there is much more to the gloriously multi-racial Trinidad and Tobago than just the connection to India, he said.

Williams, the first prime minister and the pre-eminent leader of the freedom movement there, was a brilliant historian whose book 'Capitalism and Slavery', first published in 1944, has remained a

classic, he said.

Indira Gandhi had a longish conversation with him on this subject when they had met in Port of Spain in October 1968, Ramesh said and added that the hosts produced a lovely film on her visit.

Ramesh further said CLR James was an extraordinary Marxist scholar and activist whose path-breaking works on history, politics, sociology, as well as on cricket, are still read and analysed.

"More than anybody else, he was responsible for the West Indies to have its first black captain in 1960 in the hugely inspirational and still revered Frank Worrell," Ramesh said. George Padmore was an indefatigable campaigner and organiser against British colonialism and he and VK Krishna Menon were comrades in London in the late 1930s especially, the Congress leader pointed out. "Trinidad and Tobago has produced some of the greatest cricketers of all times like Learie Constantine and Brian Lara. One of India's finest leg-spinners Subhash Gupte settled down there in the early sixties and raised a family," he noted. (PTI)

Puducherry's shift to 100 pc rapid molecular test improves TB diagnosis

PUDUCHERRY, July 4: A complete shift from traditional microscopy testing to rapid molecular testing over the past five years has enabled early detection of tuberculosis cases, improving the diagnosis of microbiologically confirmed TB cases by around 30 per cent in Puducherry, officials said.

If these patients had gone undetected, they would have transmitted the disease in the community, Dr C Venkatesh, State TB Officer of Puducherry, said.

One untreated TB individual can infect a minimum of 10-15 persons per year.

In 2018, only 13 per cent of patients could undergo molecular/NAAT test as an initial diagnostic test. However, with the concerted efforts of the Puducherry State TB Cell, 100 per cent of TB suspects are now being tested using Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT), Dr Venkatesh said. This means patients are now receiving quicker and more accurate tests and signifies the precious treatment time that is saved by the health department in saving lives, he said.

Under the Presumptive TB Examination Rate (PTEBR) framework, Puducherry has aggressively implemented programmatic reforms aimed at early detection, efficient diagnostics, community engagement, and nutritional support.

"A key pillar has been the shift to 100 per cent upfront NAAT for all presum-



ptive TB cases, thanks to the 100 days campaign- Nikshay Shivir initiative where this could be more widely advocated for and helped sustained in practice within the UT, respectively," Dr Venkatesh said.

This has led to a 30 per cent increase in microbiologically confirmed TB cases and faster treatment initiation, especially in drug-resistant cases, he said.

Complementing this is the performance of the Intermediate Reference Laboratory (IRL) at the Government Chest Hospital, which ranked first nationally in 2024.

It processes over 1.2 lakh samples annually and caters to both Puducherry and seven districts of Tamil Nadu compounding to around two crore population, District Magistrate, Puducherry A Kulothungan said. As a result, the UT saw testing rates increase from 2,233/lakh in 2015 to 5,268/lakh in first quarter of 2025, a 136 per cent improvement.

"TB incidence has dropped by 59 per cent since 2015, earning Puducherry a silver medal in India's Sub-National TB Certification in 2022," Kulothungan said.

The shift to NAAT testing has improved two aspects-- firstly in microscopy testing heavy bacterial load (10000 bacteria per ml) in a given sample is needed, whereas in the genetic molecular testing (NAAT test) even less than thousand bacteria in a given sample can be detected, explained Dr S Govindarajan, Mission Director of National Health Mission (NHM), Puducherry.

Secondly, through the microscopic testing we can confirm the presence of TB bacteria alone, Dr Govindarajan explained. In the NAAT test, apart from diagnosis of TB bacteria simultaneously the resistance pattern of the key TB drug-- Rifampicin--can be detected, he stated.

Puducherry was recognised by the Union Minister of Health for its sustained efforts during the 100-day campaign which ended on March 17.

During the 100-day campaign, over 3.8 lakh vulnerable individuals were screened using door-to-door Active Case Finding (ACF) and AI-based hand held X-ray devices, Dr Govindarajan said.

Modern tools like AI-enabled chest X-rays and NAAT are deployed at scale, supporting even distant places such as Mahe, Yanam and Karaikal. (PTI)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CUM COUNCIL HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT IRRIGATION KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL: DIPHU					
CORRIGENDUM Dated: 04.07-2025					
No. ACEI-CHD/E/Recruitment/1/2024-25/21: In reference to the earlier notification vide No ACEI-CHD/E Recruitment /1/2024-25/18. Dated 27-06-2025 and No. ACEI-CHD/E/Recruitment/1/2024-25/19 please be informed that the Viva Voce originally scheduled for the under mentioned posts has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. It is now rescheduled for 14/07/2025. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. We regret any inconvenience caused.					
Sl. No.	Name of post	Date of interview	Time & Venue	Reporting time	Remarks
1.	Junior Assistant	14.07.2025	10:00 AM O/o Addl. Chief Engineer cum CHD, Irrigation, KAAC, Diphu	09:30 AM	
2.	Section Assistant	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-	
3.	Assistant Mechanic	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-	
4.	Assistant Fitter	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-	
5.	Power Pump Operator	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-	
6.	Electric Pump Mechanic	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-	
7.	Tracer	—	—	—	Date of Viva Voce for the post of Tracer will be notified latter.

Sd/-
Addl. Chief Engineer & CHD
Cum

Member Secretary, Selection Committee
Initiation Department

Memo No ACEI-CHD/E/Recruitment 1.2024-25/21(A)

Dated Diphu, the 04th July' 2025

Plans to shut relief camps by Dec, resettlement of displaced in 3 phases: Manipur chief secy

IMPHAL, July 4: Manipur Chief Secretary PK Singh on Friday said the state government is planning to shut down all relief camps by December, with the resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to be carried out in three phases.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, Singh said coordinated discussions had taken place with the Centre and the Ministry of Home Affairs, resulting in a phased plan for the return and rehabilitation of displaced persons.

"We've had a good round of discussions with the central government and MHA. The first phase involves those who can go back immediately — by July, and that process has already begun. The number of displaced has come down from 62,000 to 57,000," Singh said.

He added that Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts have already been assessed, and the second phase of returns is scheduled for October, followed by the third and final round by December.

To support the displaced in re-



building their lives, Singh announced financial assistance of Rs 3.03 lakh for those whose homes have been destroyed.

"We also have around 7,000 people whose homes were not damaged but have become dilapidated after two years of neglect. Some form of monetary assistance will be provided to them as well,"

he said.

He acknowledged that even after December, 8,000-10,000 people may not be able to return to their original homes — particularly those displaced from areas like Moreh, Churachandpur, and Kangpokpi.

"These people will be accommodated in pre-fabricated houses.

An additional 1,000 units are being constructed for this purpose," Singh stated.

Addressing questions about the restoration of free movement across communities, Singh said progress is being made.

"Movement is likely to resume very soon. The central and state governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), and community leaders are all working together," he said.

Singh also cited positive developments on the ground.

"Farming activities are happening, even on both sides of the divide. People are working within eye-ball distance, even sharing water. It's a good sign. One or two incidents might still occur—mischievous elements are everywhere—but overall things are improving."

He added that several major infrastructure projects are ready for inauguration, including the new Civil Secretariat in Imphal and Manipur Bhavans in Delhi and Kolkata, which could be jointly inaugurated when the opportunity arises. (PTI)

Over 200 weapons, 30 IEDs recovered in Manipur hill districts

IMPHAL, July 4: Security forces recovered over 200 weapons, including firearms, and war-like stores in operations lasting only a few hours in four hill districts of Manipur, a senior police officer said on Friday.

INSAS rifles, self-loading rifles (SLRs) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were among those found in joint operations between Thursday midnight and Friday morning.

"Acting on specific intelligence regarding the presence of a large cache of arms, ammunition and other warlike materials concealed in various locations, coordinated operations were launched simultaneously at multiple sites in the interior and suspected areas of Tengenoual, Kangpokpi, Chandel, and Churachandpur districts," ADGP Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo said.

The operations were launched by joint teams comprising Manipur Police, Assam Rifles, Army and Central Armed Police Forces, the police officer told a press conference.

These operations resulted in the recovery of a large number of arms, ammunition, explosives and other warlike stores, Lhatoo added.

The recovered weapons included 21 INSAS rifles, 11 AK series, 26 SLR, two snipers, three carbines,



17 .303 rifles, two MA assault rifles, three M 79 grenade launchers, 11 single-barrel bolt action, nine pistols, 18 single-shot breech loaded rifles and 38 Pumpis. The Pumpi is an umbrella term used for various improvised light weapons.

Besides, the forces found 109 ammunitions of different types, 30 IEDs, 10 grenades, nine Pumpi shells and two lathode grenades, the officer said.

"The Manipur Police reiterates its commitment to fostering a peaceful and secure Manipur. The public is urged to cooperate with the police and security forces, and to promptly report any suspicious activity or information related to illegal arms to the nearest police station or the Central Control Room," he said.

Earlier in the day, the police said in an X post that security forces recovered at least 11 firearms and war-like stores in Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts. One person was also arrested for possessing an illegal handgun in Imphal East district. "Security forces continue to conduct search operations and area domination in the fringe and vulnerable areas across districts," the post read.

Manipur, which witnessed the killing of at least 260 people in ethnic violence since May 2023, is currently under President's rule. The strife between the Meitei and Kuki communities also rendered thousands of people homeless, forcing them to stay in relief camps. (PTI)

Indus Towers, NEAID provide flood relief in Assam, Manipur, Tripura

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 4: Indus Towers Limited, one of the world's largest telecom infrastructure companies, has partnered with the Northeast Centre for Equity Action on Integrated Development (NEAID) to extend relief to communities affected by the recent floods in Assam, Manipur and Tripura. According to an official statement, the company distributed 1,030 dry ration kits under its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Pragati, to families in some of the worst-hit regions, including Cachar in Assam, Imphal in Manipur, and remote locations in Tripura. Indus Towers employees were present on the ground, assisting with distribution and offering support to affected families, the statement said. The initiative, it added, was part of the company's effort to support communities during crises and promote resilience.

"We at Indus Towers are deeply committed to supporting families affected by the floods with timely and meaningful assistance," said Rajender Singh Gurung, Circle CEO of Indus Towers Limited.

Sikkim CM inspects site for upcoming peacock park project in Soreng district

Eco-tourism and conservation at core of ₹15-crore Peacock Park in Baiguney, says CM Tamang

GANGTOK, July 4: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Friday conducted a site inspection of the upcoming Peacock Park project in Soreng district. The project, coming up at Baiguney, is being built at an estimated cost of 15 crore.

Taking to social media, the CM said he reviewed the proposed layout plans and examined the progress of ongoing groundwork.

Officials briefed him on the current status of the project, including key timelines, design features, and the development scope aimed at transforming the area into a premier nature-based destination.

Highlighting the significance of the project, Tamang said, "The project holds great promise for promoting eco-tourism and preserving the natural habitat of the region." Tamang said he emphasised the importance of integrating sustainable design elements that reflect the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

He stressed that the park should



serve not only as a recreational space but also as a symbol of environmental preservation and local culture.

The inspection included interactions with officials, engineers, and

stakeholders, during which the CM shared valuable suggestions to ensure the project advances efficiently and sustainably.

The park project is expected to

Nagaland MP Supongmeren Jamir calls for greater transparency in CSS implementation

KOHEMA, July 4: Nagaland Lok Sabha MP S Supongmeren Jamir on Friday announced a fresh initiative to enhance monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) through the District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA).

Making the announcement during a press conference at Congress Bhavan here, Jamir, who is also Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) president, revealed that a series of DISHA meetings will begin from July 9, starting with Peren district and gradually cover seven districts across the state.

He emphasised that the DISHA committees are tasked with coordinating and monitoring CSS implementation, ensuring no fund diversion, and addressing grievances from grassroots beneficiaries.

"This committee is not just for supervision but for coordination. It will act as a bridge between the Union government and the state for proper implementation of centrally funded projects," he said.

Jamir noted that four members have been nominated to each district-level committee from their side, and village council chairpersons will be included on a rotational basis, in consultation with district commissioners.

He said that the DISHA committees are empowered to review scheme implementation and check fund diversions and also address project delays or misallocations. The committee can also summon departments for project-related queries and has to submit quarterly and emergency reports to the Ministry while ensuring timely grievance redressal and grassroots feedback incorporation, he said.

Jamir emphasised that quarterly reviews will be conducted, and departments found lacking will be given 30 days to resolve issues.

The MP called on Village Development Boards (VDBs) and village council leaders to report irregularities in schemes like MGNREGA before funds are misappropriated.

The lone MP of the state also highlighted efforts to push for inclusion of local languages and dialects as third languages for Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) recruit-



ment under India Post.

"We have appealed to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary to ensure this is implemented, so local youth get better opportunities," he said.

He pointed out that local aspirants often miss out on jobs due to national-level competition despite high merit, and that the inclusion of local dialect as the third language would provide a fair playing field.

Addressing questions on Article 371A of the Constitution, Jamir reiterated that the special constitutional provision protects Naga traditions, land, and religious practices from unilateral central laws. However, he urged the state government to proactively use the powers granted under Article 371A for development by engaging landowners and the community.

"The article should not just be a shield but a tool for progress," he said, adding that fears over it being abrogated like Article 370 are unfounded, as the provision is deeply rooted in Nagaland's history and identity.

On a broader political note, Jamir urged voters to see their vote as a responsibility rather than just a right.

While acknowledging that the current government was elected through public mandate, he said that citizens must remain engaged, alert, and ready to vote for better leadership if governance fails.

"We give the mandate once every five years. But until then, it is our role to guide, question, and ensure the government delivers," Jamir added. (PTI)

Mizo groups meet NHIDCL executive director, raises concern about dilapidated highway

AIZAWL, July 4: Four organisations have met National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) executive director Virendra Kumar Jakhar and expressed concerns about the dilapidated condition of a portion of NH-6/306.

NH-306 is the lifeline of Mizoram linking the state with Assam. A portion of the highway is called NH-6. All supplies that come from other states reach Mizoram through this highway.

Functionaries of the Mizoram Transformation Movement (MTM), Centre for Environment and Social Justice (CESJ), Mizoram First (MF), and the Citizens Alliance for Truth and Social Justice (CATASJ) met Jakhar here on Thursday.

CESJ working chairman Vam-ranchhuangi said the delegation



expressed deep concern regarding the hazardous state of the Sairang-Kawnpui sector of the highway, which has led to frequent accidents and traffic snarls, severely affecting movement and normal life in the northeastern state.

She claimed that Jakhar acknowledged the severity of the situation and informed the delegation about ongoing and planned corrective measures.

Jakhar informed the delegation that Khamrang-Kawnpui and Bilkhawthlir-Kolasib sectors on

the Sairang-Vairengte route are currently under Mizoram PWD and the process of handing them over to the NHIDCL is on.

One of the key hurdles was the delay in tree felling, which is a necessary step before construction could begin, he said.

Although the long-pending forest clearance has already been obtained, the responsibility for tree felling lies with the state forest department and NHIDCL is awaiting action from the department, Jakhar told the delegation.

The Sairang-Kawnpui sector has been badly damaged by rains making trucks and other heavy vehicles unable to ply.

Recently, a trucker association repaired the Sairang-Kawnpui stretch preventing oil tankers and trucks laden with essential items from plying on that portion. (PTI)

No. e. DME/UG/2025/663652/4

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE

Admission into 1st year MBBS/BDS courses in the Government Medical & Dental Colleges of Assam for the session 2025

This is for information of all concerned that the Assam State Provisional Merit list of NEET-UG-2025 is hereby published in the official website of this Directorate www.dme.assam.gov.in

All the admission into MBBS/BDS courses in the Government Medical and Dental Colleges of Assam will be as per "The Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges of Assam (Regulation of Admission into 1st year MBBS/BDS courses) Rules 2017 (Amended upto 2025) and all the candidates who are eligible as per "The Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges of Assam (Regulation of Admission into 1st year MBBS/BDS courses) Rules 2017 (Amended upto 2025) are directed to keep ready for counselling all their concerned Annexures which are available in the Admission Rule, 2017 (Amended upto 2025).

The date for online counselling for admission into MBBS/BDS courses in the Government Medical and Dental Colleges of Assam, session 2025, will be as per schedule published by MCC, Government of India and will be available in the official website of this Directorate www.dme.assam.gov.in in due course of time.

(1) Candidates who want to change their category, can now apply in a prescribed format (which will be available in the official website of this Directorate www.dme.assam.gov.in from 5th July, 2025 along with the supporting documents to the office of the undersigned (2nd floor, Room No. 5) on or before 11th July, 2025, during office hours by hand. No further application will be considered by this office after the last date of submission (i.e. 11th July, 2025). Applications sent via Post/ E-mail shall not be accepted. Candidates are also requested to collect their receipt of acknowledgement at the time of submission of their application.

(2) Candidates who appeared in NEET-UG-2025 and belong to the state of Assam having PRC of Assam and who studied classes VII-XII from outside the state of Assam and who are otherwise eligible as per clause 3(1)(c) of "The Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges of Assam (Regulation of Admission into 1st year MBBS/BDS courses) Rules 2017 (Amended upto 2025), can now apply to this Directorate in plain paper with valid documents to the office of the undersigned (2nd floor, Room No. 5) on or before 11th July, 2025, during office hours for inclusion of their names in the Assam State Merit List. No further application will be considered by this office after the last date of submission (i.e. 11th July, 2025). Applications sent via Post/Email shall not be accepted. Candidates are also requested to collect their receipt of acknowledgement at the time of submission of their application.

(3) Notice for Special Quota claim (Freedom fighters/Martyrs of Assam Movement/Extremist violence/Ex-servicemen & Serving Defence Personnel/Sports Quota) has already been published in the website vide No. e.DME/UG/2025/663865/1 dated 01/07/2025.

The Final Merit List shall be published after incorporating all valid claims in due course of time in the official website.

Candidates are directed to visit the official website of this Directorate, www.dme.assam.gov.in regularly for updates.

e-signed

Director of Medical Education, Assam

DIPR /D/HLT/56/5-Jul-25

I'M NASCENT IN MY WORK IN THE WEST, EXCITED TO SEE WHAT UNFOLDS: PRIYANKA CHOPRA

LONDON, July 4: Success is constant evolution, says actor Priyanka Chopra, a popular Hindi cinema star who is now firmly focused on expanding her filmography in the West.

In her latest Hollywood project "Heads of State", Priyanka plays Noel Bisset, an MI6 agent with a past with the British Prime Minister Sam Clarke (Idris Elba).

When Sam and the newly elected US President Will Deringer (John Cena) are attacked ahead of a NATO conference, Bisset is tasked with safeguarding them.

The former Miss World, who emerged as one of the top actors in Hindi cinema after her debut with "The Hero: Love Story of a Spy", said she has had a great run in India and is looking for something similar in her work in Hollywood.

"It is constant evolution for sure. I would've never imagined where I am today when in 2002, I started my first movie. But I feel like I'm really nascent in my work in the West so far. I have a major filmography in my Indian work. I've been able to work in various genres, work with the most incredible actors and filmmakers. "So I want to be able to build on that portfolio in my English language work as well. I feel like there's a lot more to do, a lot more to explore and I'm excited to see what will unfold," Priyanka told PTI in an interview here.

The actor has played central roles in shows and movies such as "Quantico", "Baywatch", "Citadel", "The Matrix Resurrections" and "Love Again".

Priyanka said "Heads of State", which is now streaming on Prime Video, was a fun film to do and she is proud of what she achieved through her character.

"I want to be proud of the work that I take on. I try to take on characters that have agency and are strong and have something to do in the movies versus being ornamental," she added.

Both Priyanka and Cena, who has a massive fan following in India for being a WWE wrestler before turning to acting, started their professional journeys around the same time in the early 2000s but they first met each other in the Ilya Naishuller-directed movie.

"I knew of John from his WWE days in India. He's so well known in the country. It's hard to not know him, especially when he made his transition into movies. I thought that was very interesting and his choice of parts were great. So I was very excited to do this movie with him," she said.

Priyanka said her co-star Cena, who has created a niche for himself with his work in the physical comedy space, is "funny in real life" too. "And that helps... When you have good comedic timing in real life, you can improvise on set with that kind of ease," she added. Whether it is hand to hand combat,



gun battles or fighting bad guys alongside Elba and Cena, Priyanka gets to do some cool action sequences in "Heads of State". The actor credited her stunt team and the director for making her look good on the screen. "Actors are just as good as the teams that surround us, especially in the movies. I think that we had an incredible stunt team and a really visionary director who knew exactly what he wanted. He had a storyboard of almost every shot. He knew exactly how large the explosion needed to be or how high the helicopter needed to be. "I think over the years, having worked in the genre, whether it's in India or in America, the one common theme is having a great technical stunt team because you are just as confident and you just feel as good as the people around you."

"Heads of State" also stars Paddy Considine, Stephen Root, Carla Gugino, Jack Quaid and Sarah Niles. The movie is produced by Peter Safran and John Rickard. (PTI)

Aamir Khan's first look from Rajinikanth's 'Coolie' unveiled



NEW DELHI, July 4: The makers of cinema icon Rajinikanth's new film "Coolie" have released the first look of superstar Aamir Khan from the upcoming action thriller.

Filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj, known for "Kaithi", "Master", "Vikram" and "Leo", has directed the film, which is backed by production house Sun Pictures.

Aamir, who is currently basking in the success of his latest release "Sitaare Zameen Par", will make a cameo appearance in "Coolie".

Sun Pictures shared the 60-year-old actor's first look and introduced his character of Dahaa. "Introducing #AamirKhan as Dahaa, from the world of #Coolie. #Coolie is all set to dominate IMAX screens worldwide from August 14th," the production house posted on its social

media handles.

The film will be Rajinikanth's 171st film and will also feature Nagarjuna, Shruti Hassan and Satyaraj in pivotal roles. Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music for the film, which concluded shooting in March this year.

Besides "Coolie", Aamir recently announced that he will be collaborating with Kanagaraj for a yet-untitled superhero movie.

"Lokesh and I are working on a film. It is a superhero film. It is a big-scale action film and it will start next year, second half," he told PTI.

Aamir's "Sitaare Zameen Par" released in theatres last month and received rave reviews from the critics. The film is an official remake of the Spanish movie of the same name. (PTI)

Aparshakti Khurana to make Tamil debut with 'ROOT- Running Out of Time'



NEW DELHI, July 4: Actor Aparshakti Khurana is set to foray into Tamil cinema with the upcoming high concept crime thriller "ROOT- Running Out of Time".

Khurana, known for starring in "Stree" films and "Jubilee" series, will feature alongside actor Gautham Karthik in the Tamil movie.

"Root - Running Out of Time", which is currently being shot in Chennai, is being directed by Sooriyaparthap S. The movie is backed by Verus Productions.

According to the makers, the film is a "fresh attempt at blending emotional depth with science fiction and crime thriller narrative".

"I am absolutely thrilled to be making my debut in Tamil cinema with 'ROOT - Running Out of Time'. It's a challenging and unique script, and I'm excited to explore this new territory. The opportunity to work with such a talented team and to connect with a new audience is something I'm truly looking forward to," Khurana said in a statement.

Khurana will next star alongside actors Vaani Kapoor and Paresh Rawal in "Badtameez Gill", a comedy drama from Navjot Gulati. (PTI)

Parag Tyagi pays tribute to Shefali Zariwala, remembers her as 'love in its most selfless form'



MUMBAI, July 4: Actor Parag Tyagi has penned a heartfelt tribute to his wife, Shefali Zariwala, remembering her not just as the iconic "Kaanta Laga" girl, but as a woman of deep strength, grace, and boundless love. Jariwala, who shot to fame with her breakthrough appearance in the remix track "Kaanta Laga", passed away on June 27 at the age of 42.

In a post on Instagram on Thursday evening, Tyagi shared a photo of Zariwala and called her "fire wrapped in grace".

"Shefali, Meri Pari — the eternal Kaanta Laga — was so much more than what met the eye. She was fire wrapped in grace — sharp, focused, and fiercely driven. A woman who lived with intention, nurturing her career, her mind, her body, and her soul with quiet strength and unwavering determination," he wrote.

"But beyond all her titles and achievements, Shefali was love in its most selfless form," he added. He said Shefali stood by her loved ones with compassion.

"In the chaos of grief, it's easy to be swept away by noise and speculation. But Shefali deserves to be remembered by her light — By the way she made people feel. By the joy she sparked. By the lives she lifted," Tyagi posted.

Jariwala and Tyagi, known for appearing in daily soaps like "Pavitra Rishita" and "Jodha Akbar", met in 2010 and dated for four years before tying the knot in 2014. They had appeared together on the popular reality show "Nach Baliye".

The actor urged people to remember Shefali for the light she brought into the world.

"I'm starting this thread with a simple prayer: May this space be filled only with love. With memories that bring healing. With stories that keep her spirit alive. Let that be her legacy — a soul so radiant, she will never, ever be forgotten," he concluded the post.

An accidental death report has been registered by the Mumbai Police in connection with Zariwala's death and her post mortem report is still awaited. (PTI)

I'M ON THE JOURNEY OF FIGURING OUT WHO I AM: 'WE WERE LIARS' STAR ESTHER MCGREGOR

NEW DELHI, July 4: Actor and model Esther McGregor, who is the daughter of Scottish actor Ewan McGregor, says she is still in the process of discovering who she wants to become as a person.

The 23-year-old actor, best known for her roles in "High School" and "Babygirl", currently stars in Prime Video show "We Were Liars". She plays the role of Mirren Sinclair Sheffield in the drama series, which focuses on the theme of consequences of one's actions.

One year after a mysterious accident left her with amnesia, 17-year-old Cadence returns to Beechwood, an island off Martha's Vineyard, seeking answers. As three generations of the distinguished Sinclair family gather at their private summer utopia, no one will talk about the accident — neither her childhood friends Johnny and Mirren nor her first love Gat, forcing her to uncover the truth herself.

McGregor said like her character of Mirren, she too is figuring things out.

"I definitely struggle with the idea

of perfection, and I'm still on the journey of figuring out who I want to be as a human," she told PTI in an interview.

In the series, she stars alongside Emily Alyn Lind, Shubham Maheshwari, and Joseph Zada in the series.

Created by Julie Plec and Carina Adly MacKenzie, "We Were Liars" is an adaptation of the 2014 young adult novel by E Lockhart.

It was an instant "yes" for McGregor when the project was proposed to her. "It was a yes. I think the character in the project is a whole. It was an easy yes," she said.

The actor added that she tries not to lose herself in the characters.

"I think it's effortless (getting into different characters), when you are playing a character, you are just being."

"That's the most important connection, it is to be yourself, too. So I would say try not to lose myself too much in like the idea of the character, because I can trust that when I'm there, I will be. So being would be the best way for me to do it. And then I write down all of my fears and the



stuff that scares me," she said. Zada, who plays Johnny Sinclair Dennis, one of the four friends

dubbed as "Liars", also said that he writes down things that are similar to him and the parts that are different.

"And that's kind of how I go about it," said the actor, who made his debut with "Bilched". The film was directed by his father Jeremy Cumpston. He is also known for starring in "Total Control" and "Invisible Boys".

Zada said being an actor allows him to learn about different cultures.

"I think you get to meet some really cool people. I made some really good friends. And you spend so much time with the people that you're around... You learn a lot about different cultures. And, you meet people from different corners of the world. It's very exciting," he said.

Asked about his preparation for "We Were Liars", where he portrayed the role of Johnny Sinclair Dennis, Zada said he played tennis extensively as his character would do so in the series.

"I played a lot of tennis. Just because my character is supposed to be good at tennis. And besides just reading the scripts over and over again, just lots of tennis," he said. (PTI)

AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers: India face uphill task against Thailand in must-win clash



CHIANG MAI (THAILAND), July 4: India will have to play out of their skin when they take on higher-ranked Thailand for a place in next year's AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia here on Saturday.

India have never defeated Thailand and have never reached the AFC Women's Asian Cup through the qualifiers route.

The Blue Tigresses last featured in the continent's premier tournament in 2003 when there were no

qualifiers. They did participate in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 as hosts but had to withdraw due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the squad.

After more than two months of continuous toil and three wins in the group so far, India will look to grab the opportunity to stay on course for the bigger dream of a first-ever qualification to the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027.

"Qualification right now would be a huge boost for Indian football

overall," said coach Crispin Chettri.

"We're going through a challenging phase at the moment, and the women's team qualifying would really provide a ray of hope. It would also help the women's game grow in India. More young players would be inspired to take up football professionally.

"For those already in the national team, it would be an opportunity to face the best teams in

Asia, and possibly the world. So in every way, I believe it would be a big step forward for football in India."

Thailand are ranked 46th, 24 places above India, and both teams have won three matches each in the qualifiers so far.

The Blue Tigresses defeated Mongolia 13-0, Timor Leste 4-0 and Iraq 5-0, while the Chabakaew have also played in two FIFA Women's World Cups, in 2015 and 2019. (PTI)

That leaves both sides with a goal difference of +22, setting up a knockout clash in every sense. Only a victory will do, and if there is no separating them after 90 minutes, the ticket to Australia will be decided via penalties.

"I think we need to maintain the same mindset we've had throughout the tournament, from the Mongolia game to now. We haven't taken any team lightly, and we've worked hard in training for every match. The same applies to Thailand," Chettri said.

"Yes, they are a stronger side than the others and deserve full respect, and for us, it's about executing what we've been preparing for the last two months.

"For us, the mindset is clear. We want to finish the game in 90 minutes. We're not approaching it thinking about penalties. We're preparing to win in regulation time and will play with that intent from the start. Being overly defensive or waiting for penalties is not how we want to approach this match.

"Sometimes, to qualify or to become champions, keeping clean sheets is just as important as scoring goals. I know we have the ability to score, but if we maintain our defensive discipline against Thailand, I believe we can win the match within the 90 minutes."

Coached by Japanese Futoshi Ikeda, Thailand are targeting their 10th successive qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup. The Chabakaew have also played in two FIFA Women's World Cups, in 2015 and 2019. (PTI)

Aslam Sher Khan unhappy as revival of Obaidullah Cup hits roadblock



NEW DELHI, July 4: Former hockey player Aslam Sher Khan is baffled why the Obaidullah Cup tournament is not been given the kind of treatment it deserves since it was a "part of Bhopal's heritage."

Khan, hero of India's World Cup win in 1975, alleged that apathy of Madhya Pradesh government officials is affecting the revival of the tournament.

He informed that a committee formed under his chairmanship of Aslam sent e-mails to the state sports director and Bhopal's commissioner but did not receive any response.

"This is not just a hockey tournament but a part of Bhopal's heritage. We formed the organising committee after taking permission from Hockey India to revive it this year and it was to be held in May but despite repeated contacts, there was no response from the state government," Khan told PTI Bhasha. He said that the tournament was earlier scheduled to be held from April 14 but due to the repair of the Aishbagh stadium, it was decided to hold it on May 22.

"We had invited 12 teams which had confirmed their participation, including Army XI, Railway Sports Promotion Board, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Uttar Pradesh, Hockey Jharkhand."

The Obaidullah Cup, which shaped the careers of several international players like Ehsan Muhammad, Latifur Rehman, Akhtar Hussain, Inam-ur-Rehman, Syed Jalaluddin Rizvi and Sameer Dad, began in 1931 under the patronage of the

Nawab of Bhopal State. Khan, a former Congress MP from Betul, said that this tournament has suffered due to the internal disputes between Madhya Pradesh Hockey and Bhopal Hockey Association.

"By implementing the Indian Olympic Association's one state, one unit formula, the recognition of Bhopal Hockey Association along with other organisations was revoked, although it was a founding member of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) since 1925. The headquarters of MP Hockey shifted to Jabalpur, which had no interest in the Obaidullah Cup," he alleged.

Hockey India sources said that permission was indeed given to organise the tournament, but the responsibility of organizing it lies with the All India Obaidullah Khan Cup Hockey Tournament Committee.

Meanwhile, officials of the Sports Department of the Madhya Pradesh government refused comment on the issue, although a source said that this tournament is not a part of the calendar of the state sports department.

"We have no information about this and neither is this tournament a part of the state's sports calendar. It is possible that the government may have organized it in the past but at present there is no such plan," said the source.

The tournament was last organised in March 2022 after six years in which the Railway Sports Promotion Board won the title by defeating Army XI. The 2016 edition was won by BPCL. (PTI)

I'm not enjoying playing chess: Carlsen after defeat to Gukesh

ZAGREB, July 4: World number one Magnus Carlsen says he is struggling to enjoy chess after suffering a second consecutive defeat to reigning world champion D Gukesh, who the Norwegian has described as a "weak" player multiple times.

The 19-year-old Indian Grandmaster once again outplayed the former world champion maverick, this time in the rapid format at the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz tournament on Thursday.

The win comes less than a month after Gukesh stunned Carlsen in the classical format at

the Norway Chess tournament, a match that ended with latter visibly frustrated, famously banging the table.

"Honestly, I am not enjoying playing chess at all right now. I just, I don't feel any flow at all when I'm playing. I'm constantly hesitating and it's just really poor right now," Carlsen told "Take Take Take" after the loss.

The win against Carlsen marked Gukesh's fifth consecutive triumph in the tournament as he grabbed the sole lead after six rounds. "He's doing incredibly well now (in the format). It's a

long way to go in the tournament but winning five games in a row is no mean feat," said Carlsen.

Carlsen has rarely missed an opportunity to voice his doubts over Gukesh's prowess in the faster formats.

But he now has struggles of his own to worry about as he has managed just one win so far in the ongoing tournament. He conceded that his overall performance in the has been sub-par.

"I have played kind of poorly the whole tournament and this time I got soundly punished," he said.



He credited Gukesh for capitalising on his chances while admitting that he found himself "hopelessly lost" at one point during the game. Playing with white pieces, Carlsen was forced to resign after 49 moves.

Why India can't deny Pakistan entry to multi-lateral events on its soil

NEW DELHI, July 4: With an audacious bid to host the Olympic Games at stake, the Indian government could not have blocked Pakistan from multilateral sporting events here despite the prevailing public anger against the archrivals, as it could have resulted in the nation being barred from hosting future big events.

The government on Thursday gave its approval for Pakistani participation in hockey's Asia Cup (August) and the Junior World Cup (November-December), the junior shooting World Cup (September) and the World Para-Athletics Championship (October).

The reason being that any move to block Pakistan, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 tourists, would have been a violation of the Olympic charter, which is like a constitution for the Olympic Movement.

The charter's Rule 44 specifically prohibits National Olympic Committees from excluding athletes based on "racial, religious or political reasons".

Failure to grant visas can lead to "international isolation and loss of hosting rights for future events." India has borne the brunt of this just six years ago when Pakistani shooters were denied visas to compete in the ISSF shooting World Cup, which was also an Olympic qualifying event.

An irate IOC didn't just halt

discussions with India on hosting rights of all future events, it also revoked the Olympic qualifying status of the 25m rapid fire pistol competition in which the Pakistani shooters were to compete.

India's actions were driven by the outrage against the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed by a Pakistan-based terrorist group.

The talks on future events resumed only after India gave specific written guarantees that no such discrimination would take place going forward.

The IOC had recommended international federations

"neither award or hold sports events in India until guarantees are obtained".

A year before that, India had denied visas to boxers from Kosovo in the World Boxing Championship for women.

Given that the country is pushing ahead aggressively with its plans to have the 2036 Olympics in Ahmedabad, any move to stop Pakistani athletes in multilateral events would have severely harmed its prospects.

"It is not a simple situation. If you want to present yourself as a nation capable of hosting global events, you can't stop athletes from any country from coming. But bilaterals are different and we can always avoid Pakistan in any such engagement," a ministry source had said on Thursday while explaining the reasons behind government's decision. (PTI)

AIFF opens application process for new men's head coach position after Marquez's exit

NEW DELHI, July 4: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Friday began the process to find a new head coach for its under-fire men's national team, setting July 13 as the last date for interested applicants, who must have at least 10 years of experience and "cultural sensitivity" among other qualifications.

The process has been necessitated by the departure of Spaniard Manolo Marquez from the position. The 56-year-old parted ways on mutually agreeable terms with the AIFF after a string of poor results by the team. He had taken over just last year and had an entire year left on his contract.

"The Head Coach - Senior Men's National Team" will report to the AIFF Secretary General and is accountable for the performance of the team in all matches and competitions it participates in during the term of the coach's contract," the AIFF stated on its website and added that the duration and remuneration for the new appointee will be decided later.

"The Head Coach will work closely with the National Team Department, the National Team Director and the Technical Director, to strengthen the position and performances of the Men's Senior National Team," it added.

Minimum of 10 to 15 years of coaching experience at the elite youth and senior level football has been listed as a basic requirement.

"Experience as the first team coach (head coach) of the senior national team will be preferred with experience of coaching in the World Cup and continental championship qualifiers being an advantage," the AIFF added.

Minimum of AFC/UEFA Pro license or equivalent along with experience as a football player (not necessarily at the highest national level) would also be assessed.

Aside from usual requirements of being flexible, efficient and resourceful, the AIFF also wants the next coach to have "sound experience in the management of relationships; understanding needs, cultural sensitivity, and working with AIFF partners including media and sponsors."

The "primary objective" of the new coach would be "to ensure that the National Team wins the maximum number of matches and competitions it participates in."

The appointee will report regularly to the AIFF Secretary General and the Technical Committee, and work in close cooperation with the National Team Department, the National Team

Director and the Technical Director.

Maintaining "positive working relationship" with AIFF President, Secretary General, Technical Director, Media, and other relevant administrative staff" is also listed as one of the responsibilities for the new coach.

Marquez's predecessor Igor Stimac had a particularly bitter equation with current AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and the Croat had even accused him of being vain.

"Duration (the coach's tenure) and Remuneration can be decided during the interview period," the AIFF said.

The shortlisted candidates will be called, and "may be asked to make a presentation and/or attend an interview..." (PTI)

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Want to see tennis stars like Carlos Alcaraz at Wimbledon's Centre Court for \$20? Here's how

LONDON, July 4: It might just be the best deal in all of major professional sports: Tennis fans can get a chance to watch stars such as Carlos Alcaraz compete on Centre Court at Wimbledon by forking over just 15 pounds — about USD 20 at the current exchange rate.

That's instead of Friday's price of nearly \$220 for the best seats at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament's biggest stadium. Face value there rises as the event goes on, hitting nearly \$370 by the end of Week 2, then going up again for the singles finals. The secret to saving so much cash? The official resale service. It allows anyone already on-site with a ticket to sign up via the Wimbledon app for a daily lottery to get into one of the top three courts at a cut rate, including about \$13 each for No. 1 Court or No. 2 Court.

Those spots are offered up to the All England Club by spectators who leave before play ends. Wimbledon offers cheap tickets to its biggest courts when fans leave early. "It's an elite tournament in terms of the players, but it's not elite to get in, which is part of the appeal," said Ed Hogan, a retired 69-year-old from Reading, which is a little more than an hour west of Wimbledon. "The concept of resale is great. It's recycling at its best — sharing the joy."

The All England Club wouldn't say how many tickets get resold. "We're selling the same ticket twice," said the club's operations manager, Michelle Dite, "and the primary reason is to make tennis as accessible to as many people as possible."

All England Club ticket resales raised about \$300,000 for charity in 2024.

Money from resales goes to charities via the Wimbledon Foundation. Nearly \$80,000

was raised through the first three days of this year's tournament; last year's total was about \$300,000.

Wimbledon has done resales since 1954, but until last year, folks hoping to take advantage of the deal needed to stand in a line once they were on-site, hope they were there soon enough — and hope enough tickets were returned.

Now, though, that "line" is virtual.

Here's how it works:

After opting in on the app and getting their phone scanned by 2:30 p.m. at kiosks on-site or near the Wimbledon Queue, where thousands of people camp out at a local park for up to 24 hours in hopes of getting full-price tickets for main courts or grounds passes for smaller ones, fans then wait for a text message giving the good news that they were one of the lucky ones chosen for the resale,

which runs from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

They have 10 minutes to confirm they still want a used ticket for the rest of the day, and another 20 minutes to get themselves to the green-and-brown ticket resale booth behind No. 1 Court to show the QR code that lets them pay for the cheap tickets.

Spending \$13 instead of \$115 to see Ben Shelton at Wimbledon

"You're not stuck in one place forever," said Henry Thompson, 38, a high school math teacher from Missouri. "This is much more efficient. Took 30 seconds. Much better."

Thompson, who was wearing a blue hat with the Wimbledon logo, really wanted to see 10th-seeded American Ben Shelton, so he entered the resale lottery and was able to get a seat for No. 2 Court for \$13 instead of \$115.

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"It's beneficial to the sport to give people access to those courts for a reasonable price," said Marcos Giron, a 45th-ranked American who won first-round matches in singles and doubles this week. "It's a wonderful thing."

Chen Pinjun, who just finished medical school in Taiwan, waited in the queue for six hours, paid 30 pounds (\$40) there for a grounds pass, then also got herself into No. 1 Court via a resale for an additional \$13 — instead of the \$150 it could have cost to see 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina win there Thursday.

"If everybody knew how that works, I'm sure everybody would apply," said Rafael Garcia, who was with his girlfriend, Diana Meneses, and her brother, Gustavo Meneses. "We saw that (resale) office last year, but we didn't know how to do it. Now we will." (AP)

This is the beginning of a new chapter in Indian athletics: Neeraj Chopra

BENGALURU, July 4: Double Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra is living a dream of competing in a javelin event that bears his name and believes that it is start of something significant in Indian athletics which now needs multiple world class events.

The Neeraj Chopra Classic, which will feature top-class athletes, is set to take place at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

Chopra said he will try to upscale the event in the coming years.

"I feel like I'm in a dream. Medals are a different thing. But I've given something like this to India and to Indian athletes. I'm very happy about that. This is the beginning of a new chapter in our athletics," Chopra said in a pre-event press meet here Friday.

"The support I'm getting from everyone. From the government, from KOA (Karnataka Olympic Association), from World Athletics, from the sponsors." I feel like we can make this event even better."

Chopra said he wanted to make the athletics competitions in India comparable to the events which are held regularly in the traditional powerhouses like the USA or European nations.

"This is the beginning of international competitions in India. As we see, there are so many international competitions in Germany and such nations - A category, B, C etc and every week, there's a competition.

"So, this is what I want in India, as there should be at least 4, 5, 6 competitions which are world class. The athletes should get a chance and people should see them play. That will be very good for our sport," he ex-



plained. While he is very much involved in the conduct of the event, the star athlete said he has not diverted his focus from acing an elite field here on Saturday, and keeping his preparation on track for the upcoming World Championships.

"The athlete in me is always up (for the competition). That's why I'm trying to manage everything. My team is also handling so many things. But the athlete in me is always up. I'm training hard," he said.

"After doing everything, I train. I did throw sessions, too. So, yes. I have a mindset for that ahead of tomorrow's competition."

While winning the event that has been named after him remains his immediate pri-

ority, Chopra is aware that he has a bigger challenge coming his way in the World Championships in Tokyo in September.

The ace Indian javelin thrower said he has his eyes firmly set on the blue riband event.

"Of course, tomorrow's competition is very important and after that we will start preparing for the World Championships. I'm very happy to be here with the coach (Jan Zelezny). Yesterday, I was training in the gym with the coach. This is the kind of competition that will be the target ahead of the World Championship," he noted.

Beyond the personal glory moment, Chopra was also excited to see a world class event taking place in India.

"I'm very happy that this is finally happening. I was at the gym yesterday and I saw other athletes throwing and that has been my dream. I will say it again that I never thought there would be an event like this.

"I never thought I would represent India and win a medal. All that has happened. Now, there's peace in my mind that something like this is happening."

Regarding his quest for technical improvement, Chopra said it has been a work in progress.

"Training started a bit late (this season), but we worked on my technique, which I am able to follow well in training. There are a few things I have to improve in my training, and I am working on that," said Chopra who started working with coach Zelezny only in February.

"It's tough to work on technique, run-up, throwing it straight, and working on blocking legs. These are some details I am working on and will look to follow in competition as well."

After his win in the Paris Diamond League last month, Chopra had said that he would need to work harder on his core muscles to make his body stronger and fine tune his technique to consistently log 90-plus distances in international competitions.

"I need some more control when I throw, there are things we have to change and I need some, maybe, strong core and stronger body for throwing.

"I go left quickly and it was not good. I need to throw to the front like with the chest and go up with the javelin. We are working on it," he said. (PTI)

Jadeja arrives early for extra batting practice, gets the job done



BIRMINGHAM, July 4: Ravindra Jadeja arrived at Edgbaston on day two of the second Test a lot earlier than his India teammates for some extra batting practice and that clearly worked in his favour as the all-rounder put his team in a strong position alongside double centurion Shubman Gill.

Jadeja reinforced his value to the team at number seven with a 203-run stand with Gill that allowed India to post 587 on day two of the second Test against England.

The pacers used the short ball against him early on but Jadeja was up to the task, using the pull shot effectively.

Though Indian players are supposed to travel in a team bus, it can be assumed that Jadeja took special permission to arrive early at the ground.

"Somewhere I felt that I should go and bat extra because the ball was still new. I felt if I can see the new ball off, it would become easy for the rest of the innings. Luckily I could (almost) bat till lunch, and then Washi (Washington Sundar) also batted well with Shubman."

"The more you bat in England, the better it is because you never feel you are set in England. At any time a ball can swing and take your edge or bowl you," he said after stumps on day two.

Does it also help his bowling

when he scores runs?

When you contribute with the bat for the team, it feels great, when you are playing outside India, and the team needs you more, it feels good," Jadeja said.

"From 210 for 5 to putting together a big partnership to take the team forward, it is a challenge. I took it as a challenge. If you can stick around with the captain and put together a big partnership, it gives you confidence as a cricketer and a batter that in the coming matches also you can contribute.

"When we were batting together, we were only talking about partnership. That we will keep talking to each other. That was the conversation between the two of us," said the senior most member of the team.

In the first session, Ben Stokes was not happy with Jadeja running into the danger areas of the pitch and he constantly conveyed that to the umpire. However, the Indian said he had no intention to create rough for the England batters.

"He felt I was making rough for myself. The fast bowlers were doing it anyway. I don't need to do that. He was repeatedly telling the umpire that I am running on the wicket. I had no such intention. It might have happened once or twice by mistake, but I didn't mean to," he added. (PTI)

Gill, Pant, Jaiswal can take India forward like Virat did alone: Michael Vaughan

BIRMINGHAM, July 4: It would take the combined might of new Test captain Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant to take the Indian Test team forward in the absence of Virat Kohli, who did the job "single-handedly" in his prime, feels former England captain Michael Vaughan.

The Indian batting line-up seems to have moved on rather smoothly from Kohli and Rohit Sharma going by the performances so far in the Test series against England but Vaughan, in an interview to PTI, said a good start does not mean that the task has been accomplished.

"They (Gill, Jaiswal and Pant) now have to drag this Indian Test team forward like Virat did single-handedly. There's a group of them that I see that play the game the right way," said the cricketer-turned-commentator.

"They've got a great chance of leaving a legacy in a few years' time of doing what Virat Kohli did to the Indian Test team. If they can be anywhere near as close as what he brought to the Test match team, the energy and the number-one status for such a long period of time, they'll have done a decent job," he added.

Kohli and Rohit announced Test retirements ahead of the England tour and Vaughan said while India will always have abundant talent but aura of a player like Kohli is not easy to find.

"You can't move on so suddenly after two legends have retired or moved out of the team. Shubman's made an incredible start as a captain and as a player. He's a wonderful player. In terms of batting, I don't think the team will struggle too much," said Vaughan.

"It's that competitive energy that Virat brought to the Test team. He just brought that buzz and that intensity that you require. Tactically, he was very good as well. That'll be something that Shubman can get better at over the years as captain," he added. Considering the depth of talent and resources, Vaughan expects India to dominate Test cricket which they have not been able to do despite reaching two WTC (World Test Championship) finals in three cycles.

"I wouldn't be worried about a Test team if I was India. You're always going to produce a very competitive team...I'd want my Test team to be more consistent if I was India. With the talent that you have in India, I'd want it to be more competitive across all the different areas where they play," he said.

Like many experts, Vaughan has been left perplexed by the exclusion of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah from the second Test along with spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who is yet



to play in the series.

"I didn't agree with that. Seven days off and you don't play your best bowling. No Kuldeep, I don't understand that as well. I didn't quite get that India were going to bowl first as well here.

"I just don't quite understand why you wouldn't want Kuldeep in the Test team. It's a Test game that's over five days and over five days a leg-spinner should have a say. His record against England is exceptional. I'd certainly be looking to use Kuldeep Yadav a bit more if that was an Indian Test team.

"When you play two spinners surely the way for beating them, you get runs on the board and hope the pitch deteriorates. I wouldn't look at Headingley at anything other than that. If they'd have

caught the chances, India would have won," said Vaughan, who has predicted that England will win the series as they have not lost a five-match series at home since 2001.

Vaughan has developed a strong connect with India post retirement, so much so that he keeps "promoting" the country to his friends as a top holiday destination. Vaughan only played two out of his 82 Tests in India but over the past decade, his media commitments have allowed him to explore the country much better, especially Mumbai.

"I love coming to India. I love coming to Mumbai. The IPL is just an incredible juggernaut of success and glamour and so much drama, which is always great to cover, but I generally just love going to Mumbai for a few weeks a year. (PTI)

Tried to bat like I used to in my childhood: Gill after masterful double ton

BIRMINGHAM, July 4: Basking in the glory of a majestic double hundred, India Test captain Shubman Gill has revealed that he drew inspiration from his younger self and focussed on his movement ahead of the England tour to rediscover both rhythm and joy in his batting.

Gill struck 269 off 387 balls to become the first Indian and Asian captain to score a double hundred in a Test match in England as India posted a massive 587 on day two of the second Test here on Thursday. He had scored a hundred in the series-opener in Leeds.

Asked if he worked on his technique ahead of the series, Gill told the host broadcaster: "I think at the end of the IPL and before this series, I worked a lot on this."

"I mainly worked on my initial movement and my setup. Before this, I felt my batting was going well. I was scoring 30-35-40 runs consistently in Test matches. But at some point, I was missing that peak concentration time. A lot of people say that when you focus too much, you sometimes miss your peak time."

"So, in this series, I tried to go back to my basics. I tried to bat like I used to in my childhood. I didn't think about having reached 35-40 runs or about playing long innings. I just wanted to enjoy my batting."

With his brilliant knock, Gill went past the legendary Sunil Gavaskar's 221 at The Oval in 1979 to post the highest individual score by an Indian batter on English soil.

Gill's return to form comes after a

lukewarm Test tour of Australia earlier this year, where he managed a highest score of just 31 across three Tests.

"Sometimes, when you aren't scoring runs fluently, you stop enjoying your batting. You focus too much on the need to score runs. I felt I had lost that in my batting. I was so focused that I wasn't enjoying my batting as much."

Gill's knock is also the highest by an Indian captain in Tests, surpassing Virat Kohli's unbeaten 254 against South Africa in Pune in 2019.

"When I went in to bat before lunch on the first day, at tea I was on around 35-40 runs off about 100 balls. I came out and spoke to GG (Gautam Gambhir) Bhai. I told him, 'I'm not getting runs freely, even though I have a lot of shots in my armoury.' I also felt the ball was a bit soft," the Punjab cricketer said.

"In the last match, I was scoring more fluently, but here it wasn't coming as easily. Still, my mindset was that if the wicket is good and I am set, no matter how long I bat, I shouldn't leave the match halfway."

"I learnt that no matter how long you've been batting, under these conditions, there can be a collapse in the lower order at any time. So I tried to stay out there as long as I could. I wanted the bowler to get me out with a good ball and I shouldn't make mistakes," he said.

Gill, who captained Gujarat Titans to the playoffs, was seen preparing for the England Test series by practising with the red ball during the IPL. Gill admitted that it is tough to switch from one

format to another.

"It is very difficult. Especially with the way T20 is played nowadays, in the last 4-5 years, there has been a huge difference in technique, setup, and mindset."

"It's easy to go from T20 to T20, but coming back from T20 to Tests is a bit difficult because you have been practising one way with your team and your instincts are tuned to that."

"Controlling that and repeatedly telling your mind and body to adapt is challenging. That's why I started training for Tests during the IPL itself. That's when I began preparing my mind and body."

Gill's father, Lakhwinder Singh, was understandably proud of his son's feat and said it reminded him of his early days in age-group cricket.

"Shubman beta, well played. Watching your batting today was a lot of fun and gave me immense satisfaction," Singh said in a video posted by BCCI TV.

"Your innings reminded me of the way you used to play as a child—like during your U16 and U19 days. I felt very proud."

The message meant the world to the Indian skipper, who dedicated much of his crickering journey to his father.

"Growing up, I played almost all my cricket for my dad. It was because of him that I even started playing cricket. For me, the only two people I truly care about and listen to when it comes to my game are my dad and my best friend. So, it really meant a lot coming from him," he added with a smile. (PTI)

Sonitpur District Inter-School Football & Hockey Tournaments conclude

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, July 4: The Sonitpur District Inter School Football and Hockey Tournaments 2025-26, organised by the Office of the District Sports Officer, Sonitpur, concluded successfully on Friday. The tournaments featured exciting competitions across various categories, including Under-15 and Under-17 Football for Boys and Girls, as well as Under-17 Hockey for both Boys and Girls.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from schools across the district, showcasing promising young talent and a strong spirit of sportsmanship. However, the football Tournament Results Under-17 Boys Champion Dhekiajuli HS School, Runner-up, Don Bosco HS School, Under-15 Boys- Champion-Dhekiajuli TE Model School, Runner-up- Nevil HS School, Under-17 Girls- Champion- Dhekiajuli Model TE High School, Runner-up-Hatinga TE Model School. In the Hockey Tournament (Under-17 Girls), Hem Baruah HS School became Champion while under -17 boy's category Tezpur Academy HS School became Champion.

Pranjal Dehingia, District Sports Officer, Sonitpur, extending his heartfelt congratulations to all participating teams and best wishes to the champion teams for their upcoming state-level competitions said that the champion football teams would represent Sonitpur district in the upcoming State-Level Inter District School Football Tournaments namely Pilik Choudhury Memorial Inter District School Football Tournament (U-15 Boys), Dewkon Memorial Inter District School Football Tournament (U-17 Boys) and Nripendra Narayan Singha Memorial Inter District School Football Tournament (U-17 Girls).

Varun eyes senior team return through Europe tour with India 'A'

BENGALURU, July 4: Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist defender Varun Kumar is eyeing a comeback to the Indian men's hockey team with some good performances with the India 'A' squad in the upcoming tour of Europe.

Varun, a potent defender, failed to make the Paris Olympics squad, and has been out of the senior side for over a year. He was last seen in India colours during the friendly match against Germany in New Delhi in June last year. The dragflicker has set his sights on next month's Asia Cup to be held in Rajgir to make his comeback, and is aware that a good outing in the Europe tour will help his case.

"Certainly, my personal goal is to return to the senior team. But more important for me right now is to improve my game. Not having played a proper tour in over one-and-a-half years, it is a long time and the game is constantly changing. The structure has changed and it has also become much faster. The way I am looking at it, is to start fresh," said Varun. (PTI)



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