

## NOTICE

There will be no edition of The Hills Times on August 16, 2025, as office will remain closed on August 15 on account of 79<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

Wish you all a very happy Independence Day

-PUBLISHER

# THE HILLS TIMES

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## Op Sindoor a historic chapter in fight against terror: Prez

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday lauded the nation's decisive response to Pahalgham terrorist attack in Kashmir, highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor and emphasising the country's unity and growing self-reliance in the defence sector.

In her address to the nation on the eve of 79th Independence Day, the President condemned the "cowardly and utterly inhuman" killing of innocent citizens on holiday, asserting that the armed forces had demonstrated "strategic clarity and technical capability" by destroying terrorist infrastructure across the border.

She described Operation Sindoor as a landmark event in the global fight against terrorism, noting that India's armed forces "destroyed terrorist hubs across the border" with "steely resolve".

"I believe Operation Sindoor will go down in history as an example in humanity's fight against terrorism," she said. The President stressed that the nation's unity was the most "befitting response" to those who sought to divide it.

She pointed to the multi-party delegations of MPs that reached out to various nations to explain India's position on cross-border terrorism, a move that showcased the country's collective resolve.

"...the world has taken note of India's stance, that we will not be the aggressor, but we will not hesitate to retaliate in defence of our citizens," she said.

The President also held up Operation Sindoor as a testament to the success of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) mission in the defence sector. "The outcome has proved that we are on the right path. Our (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

## Portal for arms licence application for indigenous people launched

### Licences to be issued after proper scrutiny: CM

**GUWAHATI, Aug 14:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday launched a digital portal, through which indigenous people living in "sensitive areas" can apply for arms licences.

Sarma said the aim of the initiative is to enable responsible citizens to aid and assist the government in maintaining peace, and law and order situation in the state.

He said the licences will be granted after proper scrutiny and a multi-layered process.

The CM said the licences will be granted to those individuals who do not have any criminal antecedents and are mentally stable.

They will also need to take arms training and have to prove why they are vulnerable, he added.

"This is a religious and politically neutral scheme. Licences will



be given to people of all communities who are indigenous or original inhabitants, and whose three generations have lived in that area," he said.

Sarma, however, said, "We are concerned about the demographic invasion and security of people who were once a majority but have

now been reduced to a minority".

He claimed there are certain areas where demography is changing rapidly, as people of a certain religion "first come as guests and then start buying land from the original inhabitants by force, leaving them with no choice but to leave their homes".

## CEM clears air on illegal stone quarries allegations

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Aug 14:** On Thursday the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang clarified that as per high court order all the 33 stone quarries operating on the fringes of Kaziranga National Park in Karbi Anglong district has been close down. The allegations brought by Karbi Anglong District Congress Committee (KADCC) president Raton Engti are baseless.

Speaking at a mass joining programme held at Sertalin Audito-

rium, Taralungso, the CEM said that all 33 stone quarries in Langkhang area, located on the fringes of the KNP in Karbi Anglong district, had been shut down in compliance with a high court order, as the area falls under an eco-sensitive zone.

"The allegation brought by Engti is baseless. They have just wasted their time and energy venturing into the jungles," he stated, adding that the matter could have been clarified by inquiring with the KAAC before visiting the area. The event, (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

## 40 years on, Assam Accord execution remains incomplete, claim student leaders, pol parties

**GUWAHATI, Aug 14:** Four

decades after the historic Assam Accord was signed to end a six-year-long violent anti-foreigner agitation, its central objective of making the state free of illegal immigrants remains unfulfilled, student leaders and political parties claimed.

The issue of illegal immigration is one of the most contentious topics in Assam's political and social spheres. Several elections have been fought over this single issue of Bangladeshi infiltrators, who were initially marked as D-voters if their

names were found in the electoral rolls.

The Assam Accord was signed on August 15, 1985 after a violent anti-foreigner movement, which claimed the lives of thousands.

Among other clauses, the pact stated that names of all foreigners coming to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, would be detected and deleted from electoral rolls with steps taken to deport them.

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU), All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) and the central

government were the three signatories of the accord.

"Successive governments at the Centre and state have failed to implement the pact for 40 years. Illegal foreigners were not detected, deported and their names not deleted from the voter lists," AASU president Utpal Sarma and general secretary Samiran Phukan said in a joint statement.

Even the paths through which infiltration took place have not been sealed, and it is an "unpardonable sin" committed (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

## Ethnic groups in Upper Assam gives ultimatum to illegal settlers

**DIBRUGARH, Aug 14:** Supporting Assam government's steps to evict alleged encroachments from various forests, several ethnic organisations have started 'Miya Kheda Andolan' (movement to drive out Miyas) in many districts of the state.

The 'Miya Kheda Andolan' has gained momentum in Upper Assam districts in recent times with local groups accusing the 'Miya' settlers of encroaching on their ancestral lands and forests.

The movement's leadership comprises local politicians, student leaders and community activists who articulate their demands through a lens of indigenous rights and demographic preservation.

They argue that the continued presence of 'Miya' Muslims threatens the very essence of Assamese identity and undermines the political and economic rights of the indigenous population.

'Miya' is originally a pejorative term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam and the non-Bengali speaking people generally identify them as Bangladeshi immigrants. In recent years, activists from the community have started adopting this term as a gesture of defiance.

"Illegal Bangladeshi Muslims must be deported from Assam. Therefore, the Government of Assam should take strong action against them. The Miya Muslims are starting to change the demography of Upper Assam as they have already done to Lower Assam," All Tai Ahom Students' Union (ATASU) president Milan Buragohain told PTI.

Claiming that people of Lower Assam are in an identity crisis nowadays, he opined that indigenous people will be found only in 'zoos' after a few days if this trend of (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

## State cabinet approves procurement of 500 MW from coal ministry

**GUWAHATI, Aug 14:** The Assam

Cabinet has accorded post-facto approval for procurement of 500 MW of power from the Union coal ministry, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Power will be procured at the rate of Rs 5.79 per unit to provide affordable power to the people, the chief minister posted on X after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday evening.

The cabinet has also approved a 1,500 MW of pumped storage project in Karbi (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)



সংসদ গণতন্ত্র

অসম চৰকাৰ

**হৰ মৰ ত্ৰিষংগা**

২ আগষ্ট-১৫ আগষ্ট, ২০২৫

অধিক তথ্যৰ বাবে স্কেন কৰক





# স্বাধীনতা

# দিবস

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“দেশত্রেই পাওঁ জন্ম-জীবন,  
লালন-পালন, ডাষণ-ডুষণ,  
প্ৰশ্ন, কৰ্ম-চিন্তা সাধন,-  
দেশ গৰি মোৰ একো নাই,-”

-অম্বিকাগিৰী ৰায়চৌধুৰী

দেশৰ ৭৯সংখ্যক স্বাধীনতা দিবস উপলক্ষে মহান স্বাধীনতা  
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## No pause on Russian oil imports, India continues imports based on economic rationale

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** India has not halted oil purchases from Russia in response to the US President's tariff threat and continues to buy based solely on economic considerations, said AS Sahney, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the country's largest oil firm.

Purchase volumes may fluctuate monthly based on the discounts offered on Russian crude grades like Urals. While discounts had previously reached as high as USD 40 per barrel, they have narrowed to just USD 1.5 late last month, resulting in reduced offtake. Discounts have since widened to about USD 2.70.

However, India's intent to continue buying Russian oil remains unchanged.

India became the largest customer of Russian oil from 2022, after western countries shunned Russian oil and imposed sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

Sahney said refiners like IOC buy crude oil from Russia purely on economic consideration and have not been asked to cut or boost purchase in response to US tariffs, he said. "There is no pause," he said. Russian oil has continued to flow to Indian refiners in July as well as this month.



"We continue to buy, purely based on economic considerations, that is to say if the pricing and characteristics of the crude make sense in our scheme of processing, we buy," he told reporters here.

"No special effort is being made to either increase or decrease (the import volumes). We are buying crude as per economic considerations," he said.

Imports from Russia made up for 22-23 per cent of all the crude oil that IOC refineries processed in the April-June period.

US President Donald Trump last week announced an additional 25 per cent tariff on US imports from India -- raising the overall duty to 50 per cent -- as a penalty for the country's continued imports of

Russian oil. Since the steep tariffs are likely to hit the USD 40 billion of non-exempt exports that India does to the US, there has been chatter around stopping or curtailing oil imports from Russia.

"There are no sanctions on Russian crude," he said. "India has not done anything that violates any sanctions".

Separately, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta on an investor call said the discounts have narrowed to USD 1.5 per barrel, and led to lower imports last month.

In the first quarter, Russian oil made up 34 per cent of BPCL's crude intake and the company hopes to return to a 30-35 per cent

ratio as long as there are no sanctions, he said.

Before February 2022, Russian crude oil accounted for less than 1 per cent of India's total oil imports. However, after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, western nations shunned Russian energy, leading to Russian crude being available at discounted rates compared to global benchmarks.

Seizing the economic opportunity, India ramped up its purchases, significantly increasing its reliance on Russian oil to meet domestic energy needs.

Russian crude oil now meets 30 per cent of the requirement.

Sahney said at no time was import of crude oil from Russia sanctioned and so India continued to purchase keeping in mind economic considerations.

"Such purchases will continue unless sanctions are imposed," he said. "We have not got any instruction (from the government) to either increase or decrease purchase. We are doing business as usual."

About talk of refiners being asked to increase purchases from the US in a bid to placate Trump, IOC Chairman said, "Neither are we being told to buy more nor are we told to buy less from US or any other destination. Economic considerations dictate our actions." (PTI)

## Airtel Payments Bank crosses ₹3,000 crore annualised revenue mark

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Aug 14:** Airtel Payments Bank has recorded another quarter of robust growth, with its annualised revenue crossing ₹3,000 crore, placing it among the fastest-growing digital banks in India, according to an official statement issued by the Bank.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2025, the Bank posted revenue of ₹777.4 crore, marking a 27.5 per cent year-on-year increase.

Net profit for the quarter rose 44.4 per cent to ₹10.4 crore, while EBITDA stood at ₹81.8 crore, reflecting a 30 per cent jump driven by strong operating performance and rapid customer adoption.

The Bank reported a 27.2 per cent year-on-year growth in customer deposits, which stood at ₹3,743 crore, while its annualised gross merchandise value (GMV) reached ₹4,260 billion. Airtel Payments Bank has strengthened its position as the third-largest mobile bank in the country by user base, with deeper penetration across urban and rural segments.

Anubrata Biswas, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Payments Bank, said the performance reflects consistent growth across all key metrics and the success of its business model.

He said that crossing the ₹3,000 crore annualised revenue milestone underscores the trust customers place in the Bank.

Biswas highlighted the growing adoption of the Bank's Safe Second Account — a no-minimum-balance digital account designed for secure, everyday payments — which is supported by safety features such as account sleep mode, user-defined transaction limits, fraud alerts, and AI-powered protection models.

The Bank is also the leading issuer of RuPay On-The-Go NCMC cards, with more than 3.3 million users utilising them for seamless transit payments across major metro networks.

## Stock markets end flat after volatile session as investors await outcome of US-Russia talks

**MUMBAI, Aug 14:** Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty ended flat in a highly volatile trade on Thursday as investors turned cautious ahead of the US-Russia talks on August 15.

Extending gains to the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 57.75 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 80,597.66. During the day, it rallied 211.27 points or 0.26 per cent to 80,751.18.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 11.95 points or 0.05 per cent to 24,631.30. Among Sensex firms, Eternal, Infosys, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were the major gainers.

However, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards.

The Trump-Putin meeting could have significant implications for energy markets, potentially leading to an easing of sanctions against Moscow.

"After a volatile weekly expiry-day session, Indian equities ended flat as investors traded cautiously ahead of the US-Russia summit. IT and pharma stocks advanced on the back of a softer US inflation data and dovish outlook. Banking and consumer durables also gained on hopes of a consumption-led recovery," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said. The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.59 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.18 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, consumer durables climbed 0.82 per cent, while BSE Focused IT (0.45 per cent), tech (0.39 per cent), IT (0.38 per cent), financial services (0.26 per cent), bankex (0.23 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.13 per cent) also advanced. Metal dropped the most by 1.40 per cent, fol-

lowed by oil & gas (1.18 per cent), commodities (0.73 per cent), FMCG (0.57 per cent), power (0.55 per cent) and industrials (0.53 per cent).

On a weekly basis, Sensex climbed 739.87 points or 0.92 per cent and Nifty edged higher by 268 points or 1.10 per cent, snapping their six-week losing streak.

Meanwhile, S&P upgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' with a stable outlook after a gap of nearly 19 years, citing robust economic growth, political commitment for fiscal consolidation and 'conducive' monetary policy to check inflation.

"India remains among the best performing economies in the world...The quality of government spending has improved in the past five to six years," S&P Global Ratings said.

The impact of US tariffs on the Indian economy will be "manageable", S&P said, adding that a 50 per cent tariff on US exports (if imposed) will not pose a "material drag" on growth. "India is relatively less reliant on trade and about 60% of its economic growth stems from domestic consumption," it said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi settled in positive territory while Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading mostly higher.

The US markets ended higher on Wednesday. Wholesale price inflation declined to a 2-year low of (-) 0.58 per cent in July, as deflation in food and fuel kept WPI in the negative zone for the second consecutive month, government data released on Thursday showed. (PTI)

## WD red-powered NAS offers scalable data solutions for india's growing creator economy

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Aug 14:** With India's creator economy witnessing rapid growth, the demand for smarter and more scalable storage solutions is becoming increasingly urgent, according to an official statement from Western Digital.

The company noted that India now has an estimated 2 to 2.5 million active digital creators, and with global data creation projected to soar from 0.425 zettabytes in 2005 to 394 zettabytes by 2028, creators are facing mounting challenges in managing their ever-expanding content. Western Digital said its WD Red®

hard drives, designed for Network Attached Storage (NAS), offer creators a reliable, always-on, and centralised platform for storing, accessing, and managing large volumes of data. The solution is aimed at content creators, freelancers, and remote workers who deal with high-resolution videos, complex design files, and collaborative workflows.

A recent survey conducted by the company found that while 87% of Indians regularly back up their data, many still face persistent problems such as device failures, fragmented file access, and inefficient workflows. NAS powered by

WD Red drives, the company stated, addresses these challenges by consolidating data from multiple devices and cloud accounts into a secure, network-accessible hub.

Owais Mohammed, Director of Sales for MEA and India at Western Digital, said today's creators operate in high-pressure environments with larger file sizes, shorter deadlines, and dispersed teams.

He explained that WD Red-powered NAS enables faster access, smoother collaboration, and assured data security, whether creators are working from their studio or on the move.

## Status of US team visiting India for trade talks to be known closer to scheduled date: Commerce Secy

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** The status of a US delegation visiting India for the next round of bilateral trade talks will be known closer to the scheduled date of August 25, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Thursday.

He also said that the two countries are fully engaged in the trade negotiations.

When asked about the next round of talks (from August 25), he said, "closer to the date, which is the end of last week of August, you will be able to know how that round will be progressing. We will apprise you". So far, five rounds of talks have been completed for the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA). A US team is scheduled to visit India from August 25 for the sixth round of talks.

These remarks are important as after imposing a staggering 50 per cent duty on Indian goods, US President Donald Trump has also ruled out any trade talks between the two countries until the tariff issue is resolved.

The US is pressing for greater market access in politically sensitive areas such as agri and dairy sectors, which India cannot accept as it affects the livelihood of small and marginal farmers. The commerce secretary, however, said that "BTA talks are going on. We are engaged".

These discussions are happening at three levels - negotiating teams, ministers and at diplomatic levels.

"So this negotiation is happening across var-



ious channels. We are engaged, US is a very important trading partner for us," Barthwal said.

The US and India have announced plans to conclude the first phase of BTA by fall (September-October) of 2025. The two countries are aiming at more than doubling the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the present USD 191 billion.

So far there are no formal communications from the US on the August 25 visit for the next round of trade talks. When asked about the impact of US tariffs on Indian exports, an official said the commerce ministry is in touch with stakeholders on the issue.

While the 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering the US has come into effect from August 7, an additional 25 per cent, announced on India as penalty for buying crude oil and military equipment from Russia, will be imposed from August 27.

Exporters from labour-intensive sectors such as leather and footwear, textiles, shrimp, chemicals, machinery, and gems and jewellery have expressed serious concerns over the 50 per cent duty announced by the US.

The official said that Indian firms which are exporting to the US are looking at diversifying their export destinations.

"The companies are also involved in strategising their exports. They may face some challenges," the official said, adding states are also looking at ways to support the exporting community.

Another official said that the situation is "very fluid" at the global trade front.

The imposition of a 50 per cent US tariff on Indian goods will impact exports of nine product categories, including shrimp, organic chemicals, apparel, and jewellery by 50-70 per cent, think tank GTRI has said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

## Licences to be issued

themselves from any covert and overt design of aggression on them", the CM said. Sarma said the state government "will not give arms but only give licences under the Indian Arms Act".

He said the scheme will be implemented by the district commissioners and senior superintendents of police who will exercise their power responsibly. "If it is misused, officers will be held responsible, and so they are bound to exercise their statutory powers with complete neutrality and objectivity," he said. "The licences will be given to individuals living in those areas where the response time to any incident by police takes at least two hours. The licence holders will act as the first responder (in case of any incident)," he added.

People living in places like Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar will not get licences under this scheme as police can respond within minutes in these areas, he added. Sarma said under this scheme, applicants residing in vulnerable and remote areas will be eligible to apply, subject to rigorous field-level security assessments, police verification, and the recommendation of the Senior Superintendent of Police.

Licences will be issued only after careful vetting and with full compliance to all legal provisions under the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016, he said. The home and political department may call for periodic reports from the district magistrates and SSPs on the implementation of this special scheme.

The CM also appealed to the public to make responsible use of this facility. Sarma said the scheme was not brought for sensationalism but to secure the lives and properties of people living in remote and vulnerable areas. "It is a precautionary measure and a defence mechanism until reinforcements reach the area," he said. "The arms will also act as a deterrent as people tend to fear those who have arms in their homes," he said.

The CM said all individuals who apply for arms licences will be given training in their respective districts by accredited trainers, who are either retired police or army officials.

The Assam cabinet had taken a decision on May 28, 2025 in this matter and subsequently the government notified a special scheme for grant of arms licenses to original inhabitants and indigenous Indian citizens living in vulnerable areas under the Arms Act 1959 and the Arms Rules 2016.

After the cabinet decision on arms licence, the CM had said some of the districts in "vulnerable and remote areas" were Dhubri, Morigaon, Barpeta, Nagaon and South Salmara-Mankachar, and named some other localities like Rupahi, Dhing and Jania which are all minority-dominated places.

All applications will be individually scrutinized from the perspective of threat perception, personal security requirements, and the necessity of possessing the licensed arms based on field level inputs and assessments by designated police and intelligence authorities. (PTI)

## Ethnic groups in Upper Assam

demography change continues unabated. "They are planning to make the whole of Assam a Muslim state by illegally settling in rural areas of different parts and doing business. Therefore, the ATASU has ordered Miya people to leave Upper Assam immediately," Buragohain said. Stating that there are many organisations in Assam that have started the Miya expulsion movement, he urged the people of Upper Assam to support this movement. "We also warned all parties and companies not to hire Miya people in various business establishments, brick kilns and other units as employees and daily labourers," Buragohain said. A few days ago, ATASU had organised a rally in Dibrugarh asking 'Miya' people to leave Upper Assam. In the last 15 days, the Assam government has cumulatively cleared almost 600 encroachments more than 11,500 bighas (over 1,500 hectares) of land from Rengma Reserve Forest, Nambor South Reserve Forest and Doyang Reserve Forest in Golaghat district, and Village Grazing Reserve in Lakhimpur. These drives have displaced more than 2,200 families, mostly from the Bengali-speaking Muslim community.

Bir Lachit Sena, another Upper Assam-based group, took out several marches in the last few days, primarily in Sivasagar, Jorhat and Tinsukia districts, and asked the "doubtful" citizens to leave those areas immediately.

"This is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. This is a fight to protect indigenous identity. We take a pledge to continue the agitation until illegal migrants are expelled and action is taken against those supporting them," Bir Lachit Sena president Srinhal Chaliha said. All Assam Motok Yuva Chatra Samilhan (AAMYCS) general secretary Swaroop Gohain welcomed the eviction drives by the state government, and demanded to make the historic places and the tribe's monuments free from encroachments by illegal occupants. "We also strongly oppose the recent Assam Cabinet decision to withdraw the cases and give citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Persis and Buddhists religious foreigners, who came to Assam before December 31, 2014 through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act," he added. Hindu Kranti Dal (HKD), a smaller religion-based group, alleged that most of the politicians have never paid attention to this issue of illegal foreigners with due seriousness, leading to gradual change in the demography of Assam. "It's good that people have become aware of this Miya aggression and various local organisations like Bir Lachit Sena, Chilarai Sena, All Koch-Rajbongshi Students' Union (AKRSU), AAMYCS, ATASU and others have taken the lead in this regard," HKD working president (Assam) Siddharth Sharma said. All Assam Students' Union (AASU) too has extended its full support to the government action of evicting the alleged encroachers from forests and different Upper Assam districts. "As per Clause 10 of the Assam Accord, all encroachments should be evicted. The government should first determine whether the encroached persons are genuine Indian citizens or not, and take action accordingly," AASU president Utpal Sarma said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has lent his support to this 'Miya Kheda Andolan' and advised the agitating organisations not to break law in the process. "Eviction is not in minority-dominated areas. Eviction drives are for Miya-Muslims, who have encroached on forest land, or VGR, PGR land," he said on Monday.

Sarma also stressed that Miya Muslims are already living in hundreds of char areas (riverine vegetative islands), where no eviction is planned even though most of them are without any land papers. "We have given them so much land in chars. We haven't gone to the chars... Half of Assam's land is there for them in the chars. From the chars, they want to go to Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat. How can that happen? Where will Assamese people stay?" the chief minister asked. (PTI)

## State cabinet approves

Anglong to boost clean energy goals. The council of ministers, in a bid to ensure quality healthcare for all, has approved financial sanction of the remaining Rs 325 crore for implementation of 'Mukhya Mantri Ayushman Asom Yojana' in 2025-26 to ensure continuation of cashless medical treatment to beneficiaries, Sarma said.

The cabinet has approved the Amendment of Assam Unified Building Construction (Regulation) Byelaws, 2022 to facilitate development of industries and encourage the construction of green buildings for enabling the ease of doing business. The amendment will facilitate smaller plots to avail the benefits of 'transit-oriented development' (TOD) policy of urban planning and facilitate housing for economically weaker sections of society, he said.

The cabinet has approved the reclassification of 8 proposals for regulation of reclassification and transfer for non-agricultural purposes under the third edition of Mission Basundhara scheme in Dhubri and Biswanath districts, Sarma added. (PTI)

## 40 years on, Assam

by the governments, they added. Unchecked infiltration from Bangladesh threatens the very identity, language, culture and identity of Assamese people, the duo said.

They also reiterated demands for the implementation of the Justice (Retd.) Biplab Kumar Sharma Committee's report on Clause 6 of the Accord, which promises constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards to protect the Assamese people's identity. The AASU also demanded implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) after due corrections and exclusion of Assam from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis entering India on or before December 31, 2014 from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after five years of residence here. On the implementation of the accord, Minister Atul Borja in a post on X said the state government was doing everything possible to implement it.

"We have taken some historic steps to implement the 52 recommendations of Justice (Retd.) Biplab Kumar Sharma Committee. In this way, the process is on to execute all clauses of the Accord," he claimed. The Supreme Court on October 17 last year had upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants who came to Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971.

Section 6A was inserted into the Citizenship Act in 1985 as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord. A five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by then Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, had said the Assam Accord was a political solution to the problem of illegal migration. It had held that the cut-off date of March 25, 1971, for entry into Assam and granting citizenship is correct. As an outcome of the Assam Accord, the concept of 'D' voters was introduced in the state in 1997 by the EC and prepared a list by including those people who allegedly could not provide evidence in favour of their Indian nationality. It does not exist anywhere in India. (PTI)

## CEM clears air

jointly organised by the BJP East Karbi Anglong District Committee and West Karbi Anglong District Committee, saw large-scale defections from the All Party Hills Leaders Conference (APHLC) and Congress to the BJP. Those joining were welcomed by the CEM, Member of Parliament Amarsing Thuo, BJP-EKADC president Roland Killing, MLAs Darsong Ronghang and Bidyasing Englang, and several Executive Members (EMs) and Members of Autonomous Council (MACs). As part of the ceremony, the new members were presented with BJP caps and scarves.

Ronghang said that leaders and supporters from Borjan, Mahamaya, Duarbagori, Nomati and Korkhanti MAC constituencies in Karbi Anglong district, as well as Hamren MAC constituency in West Karbi Anglong, had joined the BJP. "From Duarbagori MAC constituency alone, 151 Congress leaders have joined our party. A total of 2,000 members and workers from the opposition parties have joined the BJP today," he added.

On Wednesday, KADC president Raton Engti and his team had visited a stone quarry in Langkhang, reportedly owned by one RS Gandhi, and alleged it was operating illegally, thereby depriving KAAC of revenue. Engti claimed that a syndicate was involved in the quarry's operations. Responding to the political developments, the CEM accused the Congress and APHLC of misleading the public. "They always tell people whatever comes to their mind to make them believe. Realising how the Congress and APHLC have fooled the people, the opposition leaders themselves are coming forward to join the BJP. People no longer trust them," he said.

## Op Sindoor a historic

indigenous manufacturing has achieved the critical level that makes us self-sufficient in meeting many of our security requirements. These are landmark achievements in India's defence history since Independence," she said.

The President also spoke about the importance of sustained good governance and a "zero tolerance for corruption". She invoked Mahatma Gandhi, quoting his statement "corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy" and urged all citizens to "pledge to realise Gandhiji's ideal and weed out corruption" from the nation. The President, while referring to the 'National Handloom Day' celebration last week, said the day commemorates the 'Swadeshi Movement' of 1905, which was later championed by Mahatma Gandhi to promote products made by Indian artisans.

She said the spirit of Swadeshi continues to inspire national initiatives such as the 'Make-in-India' campaign and the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. "Let us resolve to buy and use Indian products," she urged the citizens to support the nation's artisans and furthering the country's self-reliance.

President Murmu also highlighted the nation's focus on technological innovation, specifically mentioning artificial intelligence and pointed to the India-AI mission launched by the government to bolster the country's AI capabilities and create models tailored to India's unique needs. (PTI)

## Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan to be launched in Karbi Anglong in September

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Aug 14:** The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, a national mission aimed at transforming grassroots governance in tribal areas, will be launched in Karbi Anglong district in the last week of September 2025, according to an official statement.

The announcement was made during a press briefing at the District Commissioner's Conference Hall this evening, addressed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Gopal Sharma, Deputy Secretary of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Angtang Tisso, and ACS officer Udipta Bora.

The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, spearheaded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, seeks to reimagine governance in tribal-dominated areas by fostering a responsive grassroots cadre.

It is designed to ensure that essential services reach tribal citizens directly and efficiently, while also promoting sustainable development and community leadership.



Nationally, the programme targets the creation of 20 lakh committed change leaders across 1 lakh tribal villages in 30 states.

In Karbi Anglong, the initiative will cover 346 tribal villages. Each village team will comprise 5-10 trained tribal youth, who will work to bridge the gap between the government and the community by spreading awareness about govern-

ment schemes and facilitating their implementation.

As part of the campaign, State-Level Master Trainers and District-Level Trainers—along with officials from departments such as Panchayat and Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, Social Welfare, and Forestry—will undergo specialised training.

This training will focus on con-

vergence strategies, tribal context, digital tools, and leadership skills.

The trained personnel will subsequently hold district-level sessions to prepare teams for village-level engagement. District-Level Trainers, drawn from local change agents, will be supported by Block-Level Master Trainers in all seven blocks of the district.

These trainers will serve as the frontline of the programme, ensuring on-ground implementation, mentoring teams, collecting and analysing field data, and relaying feedback for responsive governance.

Officials said the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan in Karbi Anglong aims to strengthen participatory governance, encourage local leadership, and adapt government initiatives to local needs.

By aligning policy implementation with tribal ethos and priorities, the mission is expected to build a lasting framework for inclusive and effective governance in the region.

## BTC to honour 6,387 citizens for contribution to peace, culture and development

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, Aug 14:** The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) will felicitate 6,387 individuals from across the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) for their contributions to peace, cultural preservation and community development on the occasion of the 79th Independence Day.

According to an official statement, the event, described as the first of its kind in BTR's history, will be held on August 15 at the Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar, under the leadership of BTC Chief Pramod Boro.

Among those to be honoured are Bima Sibinai Bithangkhi — mothers of martyrs of the Bodoland Movement — for the sacrifices of their sons, the Douris of All Bathou Mahasabha for their role in preserving indigenous traditions, and the Gudi Bathou Ojah as custodians of sacred rites.

Roman Script Martyrs, who lost their lives during the Roman Script Movement to protect linguistic iden-

tity, will also be recognised.

The felicitation will include radio and television artists for their efforts in preserving Bodo songs, cinema and cultural heritage, as well as the Bodoland Movement Ex-Workers Association for safeguarding people, land and resources during the movement.

Individuals who made sacrifices in the pursuit of justice and rights will also be acknowledged under the Bodoland Happiness Mission.

Former woodcutters of Sikhna Jhwla National Park and Raimona National Park, who adopted alternative livelihoods in support of environmental conservation, will be recognised alongside officials and conservationists for their work in protecting natural resources. Start-up entrepreneurs from BTR will also be honoured for their role in promoting innovation and community upliftment.

Senior BTC dignitaries will preside over the ceremony, which the statement described as a moment of gratitude, pride and unity for the people of BTR.

## Rabindranath Thakur Viswavidyalaya holds e-pledge for drug-free campus

**HT Correspondent**

**HOJAI, Aug 14:** The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Rabindranath Thakur Viswavidyalaya, Srimanta Sankardeva Campus, Hojai, organised a mass e-pledge under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan on Wednesday to raise awareness and mobilise collective action against substance abuse.

Students, faculty members and staff participated enthusiastically, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free society.

According to a press release issued by Dr NI Barbhuyan, Secretary of the Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya Teachers' Association, the programme was convened by Dr PS Prasad, Head of the Department of Political Science and NSS Programme Officer.

Guest speakers included Dr Sujit Ranjan Acharjee, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Dr Satya-jeet Kumar, Dean of Student Welfare, and Prof Rezina Ahmed, Dean of Sciences, who delivered lectures on the detrimental effects of drug abuse and the urgent need for prevention.



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The event began with an introductory address outlining the objectives of the campaign, followed by talks on the physical, psychological and social consequences of substance use.

The anti-drug pledge was read out by Dr Dijamani Sarmah, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and taken solemnly by all

participants.

The organisers emphasised that sustained awareness and community participation are vital to eradicating substance abuse.

The campaign reinforced Rabindranath Thakur Viswavidyalaya's commitment to nurturing a safe, healthy and inspiring educational environment.

## Blood donation camp held in Mangaldai

**HT Correspondent**

**MANGALDAI, Aug 14:** Crystal Vision, a local NGO, organised its 13th annual voluntary blood donation camp here on Thursday to honour the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters.

The event was held with technical support from the Mangaldai Blood Centre and sponsored by North East Nutrients Pvt Ltd (NENPL), Ramhari.

The day-long camp took place at two locations — Mangaldai town and Ramhari village — using the specially equipped blood collection mobile van of Mangaldai Civil Hospital.

A total of 30 donors, including NGO members, NENPL staff, government officials, elected representatives and young women, participated in the initiative.

The camp at the Mangaldai Blood Centre was inaugurated by Dr Ramesh Chandra Goswami, Sub-Divisional Medical and Health Officer, Darrang, in the presence of Mangaldai Municipal Board Chairperson Nirmali Devi Sarma, Executive Officer Kallol Deka, Medical Officer Dr Atova Goswami, elected member Subrata Das and other dignitaries.

## Deteriorating Diphu-Hamren Road at Kheroni Charali draws public outcry

**HT correspondent**

**KHERONI, Aug 14:** The Diphu-Hamren main road at Kheroni Charali, about 3 km from the Assistant Executive Engineer (PWD) Kheroni Sub-Division office in West Karbi Anglong district, has fallen into disrepair, disrupting travel for residents, students, farmers, petty traders and government employees.

The road connects Donkamokam — home of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Chief Executive Member Tuliram Ronghang, who is in charge of PWD, KAAC — and Hamren, the district headquarters, to the rest of the district.

Despite its strategic importance, no major repairs have been carried out.

The stretch, which lies between the Amreng and Kapili MAC constituencies represented by Pawan Kumar and Executive Member Rina Terangpi respectively, is reported to have been in poor condition for months, with potholes, uneven surfaces and inadequate maintenance making travel hazardous, especially in adverse weather.

Concerns escalated recently when an oil tanker capsized at Kheroni Charali, highlighting the dangers posed by the road's condition.

The incident has worsened commuting chal-



lenges, with students struggling to reach schools, farmers facing difficulties transporting produce and government employees experiencing delays.

Residents have criticised both the authorities and elected representatives for failing to act despite the road's proximity to the PWD office.

"This road is a daily nightmare," said a local trader who depends on the route for transporting goods. "Students, farmers and workers are suffering, yet no one seems to care."

Locals have demanded urgent repairs from the KAAC, PWD and elected representatives, warning that without immediate action, the worsening condition of the road will continue to endanger commuters and disrupt daily life in West Karbi Anglong.

# Heartfelt greetings to all fellow citizens on 79<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY



"If today the world thinks Bharat is ready to take a big leap, it has a powerful launchpad of 11 years behind it."

- Narendra Modi

CBC 22201/13/0012/2526

Live telecast of the Independence Day celebrations from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Doordarshan network from 6:30 AM onwards.

# Independence Day and the Meaning of True Sovereignty

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

Independence Day is a sacred moment that evokes a profound sense of pride, struggle, and aspiration in the hearts of the nation's people. The day of August 15, 1947, not only reminds us of liberation from foreign rule but also reflects the importance of freedom and sovereignty in every sphere of the people's lives. The significance of this day is not confined to the celebration of political independence alone. It encompasses the right of the people to determine their own destiny, to have full control over their culture, values, and way of life. The concept of true sovereignty is intrinsically linked to this freedom. Sovereignty does not merely mean liberation from external rule; it signifies the people's ability to think freely, make decisions, and work for the nation's welfare through the preservation of its resources and culture. This essay will comprehensively analyze the profound significance of India's Independence Day and the meaning of true sovereignty, elucidating the relationship between these two concepts and their impact on the lives of the people.

Independence Day is an emotional and philosophical milestone for the people of India. This day not only marks the historic moment of liberation from foreign rule but also recalls the pain, sacrifices, and resilience of that prolonged struggle. The people endured immense hardships and sacrificed their dreams and aspirations on the path to freedom. This saga of struggle deepens the value of independence. Through the celebration of

Independence Day, we keep the memory of these sacrifices alive and remind ourselves of our responsibilities. Freedom is not merely a right; it is a commitment—a commitment to work for the nation's welfare, justice, and equality. This day compels us to question how free we truly are. Our thoughts, actions, and lifestyles—how freely can we determine them? This philosophical dimension of freedom urges us to reflect not only on liberation from external rule but also on the importance of internal liberation. Internal liberation means freedom from the shackles of fear, ignorance, and prejudice in the minds of the people. The true significance of Independence Day is realized only when we achieve a balance between external and internal liberation. This day reminds us that freedom is not a static state but a continuous process that must be sustained through daily actions and thoughts.

The meaning of sovereignty extends beyond merely having an independent governance system; it encompasses the ability to make decisions freely in every aspect of the people's lives. In the context of India, this sovereignty is multifaceted. Politically, it means the nation is governed by its Constitution, which reflects the will and rights of the people. The Constitution empowers the people to choose their representatives, build their governance system, and establish a society based on justice. Economically, sovereignty implies full control over the nation's resources and their equitable distribution to improve the quality of life for the people.

**Independence Day is an emotional and philosophical milestone for the people of India. This day not only marks the historic moment of liberation from foreign rule but also recalls the pain, sacrifices, and resilience of that prolonged struggle. The people endured immense hardships and sacrificed their dreams and aspirations on the path to freedom. This saga of struggle deepens the value of independence. Through the celebration of Independence Day, we keep the memory of these sacrifices alive and remind ourselves of our responsibilities.**



This economic freedom paves the way for ensuring livelihoods and eradicating poverty for every citizen. Socially, sovereignty means guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for every citizen, ensuring no room for discrimination or exploitation. It entails safeguarding the dignity and freedom of every section of society. Culturally, sovereignty signifies the preservation and enrichment of

India's diverse traditions, languages, and lifestyles. This diversity defines India's unique identity, and sovereignty ensures its protection. However, the path to true sovereignty is fraught with challenges. Externally, international pressures, economic dependencies, and geopolitical complexities can impact sovereignty. Internally, issues such as poverty, illiteracy, social inequality, and injustice limit the true freedom of the people. Independence Day should make us aware of these challenges and inspire us to move toward true sovereignty.

Through the celebration of Independence Day, the people of India reaffirm their unity and the strength of their diversity. This day offers an opportunity to reconnect with our culture, traditions, and history. India is a nation where people of different languages, religions, cultures, and traditions coexist. This diversity is India's strength, but it also brings

certain challenges. Independence Day reminds us to respect this diversity while emphasizing the importance of unity. True sovereignty is possible only when equality and justice are maintained amidst this diversity. Issues such as social inequality, economic disparity, and lack of education hinder the true freedom of the people. This day reminds us of our responsibility—to work for the nation's progress, justice, and equality. The dream of independence was not limited to liberation from foreign rule; it was a vision of building a just, prosperous, and egalitarian society.

Achieving this vision requires true sovereignty. This concept of sovereignty is fulfilled only when every citizen experiences the essence of freedom in their lives—when their fundamental rights are protected, their access to education, healthcare, and livelihood is ensured, and they are free to express their thoughts and beliefs. During the celebration of Independence Day, we must remember that freedom and sovereignty are ongoing processes. Even after achieving them, it is our responsibility to sustain and enrich them.

The significance of Independence Day is fully realized only when we progress toward true sovereignty. Freedom should reflect in every sphere of the lives of India's people. Economic freedom means meeting the basic needs of every citizen. Educational freedom means ensuring every child's right to knowledge. Social freedom means equal respect and opportunities for every individual. Cultural freedom means preserving one's identity and traditions. Together, these elements shape the concept of true sovereignty. Independence Day inspires us to think and act in this direction. It reminds us that freedom is a living concept that must be nurtured through daily actions and efforts. The dream of India's independence is yet to be fully realized. Much remains to be done in the social, economic, and cultural spheres. Independence Day motivates us to take up this responsibility and move toward true sovereignty.

‘From a journey of 79 years to the threshold of world leadership-India’s time is now’

On 79<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, we must resolve to protect democracy, secular values

By: P. Sudhir

Today, as we observe our seventy-ninth Independence Day, it is extremely useful to revisit the proceedings of our Constituent Assembly. The Assembly was comprised primarily of Indian freedom fighters who were deeply in grips with our history, social realities, cultural traditions, and, of course, the broader currents of historical human progress and the contemporary world.

The historical challenge before them was framed by two principal questions: How to build a forward-looking, progressive State for such a vast population with such immense diversity?

They arrived at a unique solution – placing citizenship at the very heart of the entire exercise. They concluded that independent India would have a common and equal citizenship for all, regardless of its multiple and multilayered diversities.

The Preamble of the Constitution then followed, galvanising the conceptual basis:

“WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.”

To translate the vision of the Preamble into reality, it was natural to ensure a democratic system in which every citizen shared a sense of belonging in forming a representative government – one chosen by the people through individual suffrage. The Constituent Assembly debates make it clear that the framers concluded that the appropriate form of government for India would not be a presidential form, but a cabinet system within a Parliamentary form of government.

Accordingly, the Constitution established a Parliamentary form of government that is federal in structure, with certain unitary features. The constitutional head of the Executive of the Union is the President. As per Article 79 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament of the Union consists of the President and two Houses: The Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha).

By adopting the Parliamentary system, the Constitution then set out to flesh out the electoral process, ensuring universal adult suffrage so that no one would be excluded. In this context, Article 326 was incorporated: “The elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.”

Subsequently, the Supreme Court reinforced this universality, specifically affirming that the right to vote is a constitutional right.

Further, the Constitution provided for a strong and independent Election Commis-



sion, insulated from the influence of political parties and the executive. This is essential to ensure elections are, and appear to be, free and fair, with a level playing field for all. Accordingly, Article 324 states: “The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix; and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.

Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine: Provided that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court, and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after appointment: Provided further that any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.”

It is abundantly clear that the constitutional framework underlines universality. Lack of citizenship is the only exception, and the responsibility of determining eligibility does not rest with the Election Commission. From its inception, the Election Commission functioned on two fundamental principles introduced by the first Election Commission: (1) elections must ensure universality, and (2) the onus of being included in the electoral roll should not rest solely on the individual citizen.

Now, however, there is a huge controversy. Its roots lie in the government's new policy initiatives – beginning with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and followed by the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The CAA proved deeply divisive, widely per-

ceived as discriminatory on the basis of religious identity. Although legislated, it has not been notified, and the NRC process has also stalled. At the heart of the opposition to both measures is the concern that they violate the fundamental precept of common and equal citizenship that the Constitution enshrines.

It is necessary to look at the historical context and the role of the RSS. From its very inception, the RSS refused to accept the Constitution and the democratic, secular republic. Rooted in the Hindu nationalist ideology of a Hindu Rashtra, it was the mirror image of the Islamic nationalism that drove the creation of the Islamic State of Pakistan. Both visions of nationhood and State – based on religious identity – were direct products of the British colonial policy of “divide and rule.” British colonial historians promoted a narrative of India's past as one of exclusive conflict between Hindus and Muslims. This distorted history, reinforced by the rise of religious identity-driven nationalisms, ultimately led to Partition. The result was to diminish the significance of India's independence and to leave behind a festering wound.

The framers of the Constitution were duty-bound to reverse this divisive agenda. Yet, 78 years after independence, the RSS continues to pursue its narrow, sectarian, fascistic vision of a Hindu Rashtra as a substitute for the democratic, secular republic. Such is their toxic obsession that a governor aligned with the RSS ideology has insisted on officially observing “Partition Day” on August 14 in Kerala.

Today, the RSS stands at the spearhead of the corporate-communal nexus that drives the present government. This is the fountainhead of neo-fascist tendencies seeking to subvert independent constitutional authorities – overtly and covertly. A case in point is the subterfuge of the Election Commission in attempting to link citizenship question with the right to vote in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Bihar, with plans to replicate it across the country.

Therefore, on this Independence Day, celebrate we must – but in defense of citizenship; in defense of the principle of ‘common and equal citizenship’; in defense of democracy, secularism, federalism, and our ‘unity in diversity’. Let this be our war cry this Independence Day. (IPA Service)

Independence achieved 79 years ago was not just a date or an event, but the victory of millions of dreams. Today India is the world's largest democracy and the fifth largest economy. But now the question is - can we become the world's strongest, most respected and guiding power? For this, economic self-reliance, technological leadership, environmental responsibility, social unity and ethical global role are essential. India's civilizational wisdom and youthful energy together can shape the 21st century. Every wave of the tricolor reminds us - progress is a continuous journey, not a halt

By: Dr Satyawan Saurabh

69 years ago, when the clock struck midnight, history took a turn. A new era was born from the womb of darkness. This country, bound in the shackles of slavery, suddenly bathed in the sunshine of freedom. The tricolour fluttered not only on the ramparts of the Red Fort, but also in the hearts of crores of people. That day was not only the proclamation of political freedom, but also the beginning of the restoration of self-respect, self-reliance and self-confidence. But today, when India has entered the 69th year of its independence, we have to ask this question - have we preserved that freedom only as a memory or have we resolved to turn it into the strongest power in the world?

The value of freedom is measured not only in history books but in everyday life. When a farmer sows seeds in his field believing that he will reap the rewards of his hard work, when a student dreams in school that he can scale new heights in science, literature, art or sports, when a woman fearlessly steps out of her home - only then the true meaning of freedom is realized.

India today is the world's largest democracy, with a population of over 140 million. This number is not a mere statistic but a living energy. This energy, if channelled and given the right vision, can make us the strongest and most respected nation in the world. We are the fifth largest economy, and have unparalleled strengths in science, technology, space research and cultural heritage. Yet, to assume that we have already reached a world-leadership position will be the greatest impediment to our progress.

Today's power does not mean only winning on the battlefield. True power lies with a nation that is economically self-reliant, a leader in technological innovation, an example in environmental protection and gives a new

direction to the world by connecting with its cultural roots. India will have to prove in the coming years that it can not only protect its borders but also become a center of balance and peace for the entire world.

Education should be our top priority. Going beyond mere literacy, we must create a system of knowledge, skills and research that enables our youth to compete in any corner of the world. It is essential to encourage a culture of innovation and research in schools and universities.

Second, we have to redefine self-reliance in both agriculture and industry. ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ should not be just a slogan but a concrete policy that includes rural development, urban technology and environmental balance together. Only when our farmers get modern equipment, scientific farming methods and a guarantee of fair price in the market, the foundation of the country will be strong.

Third, in the defence sector, we must move beyond being an importer of foreign technology to becoming a leader in manufacturing indigenous weapons and systems. This will not only ensure our security, but will also give us recognition as an exporting nation in the defence industry.

Fourth, in the field of energy, we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and become leaders in solar, wind and bioenergy. Leadership in clean energy will not only save our environment but will also give a secure future to the coming generations.

Fifth and most important, we must maintain social unity. Divisions based on religion, language, caste or region can become our biggest weakness. A nation becomes strong only when its citizens live the spirit of unity in diversity not just in books but in their behavior and decisions.

India has a unique civilizational capital—a spirit of tolerance, compassion and cooperation. If we put these values at the centre of our policies

and international relations, we can establish a global leadership that is driven not by force, but by trust and inspiration.

This journey of 79 years teaches us that progress is not a momentary achievement but a continuous effort. The 24 spokes of the Ashoka Chakra remind us that the nation's progress should never stop.

Today's India is touching Mars and the Moon in science, raising its flag on the world stage in sports, and attracting the world towards itself in art and culture. But to make these successes permanent and widespread, we need a long-term vision and unwavering willpower.

On the 79th Independence Day, we should not limit ourselves to merely paying tribute to the sacrifices of our ancestors, but we must make those sacrifices meaningful through our actions and resolve. We must decide that in the remaining years of the 21st century, India will not only remain a part of the world, but will become the power that will decide the direction of this century.

When we hoist the tricolour, its saffron colour gives us the message of courage – courage not only in the battlefield, but also in making the right decisions, implementing tough reforms and standing up against injustice. The white colour reminds us of truth and transparency, which are the soul of democracy. The green colour inspires us to move towards sustainable development, and the Ashoka Chakra gives us the message of being constantly dynamic.

It is time for India to take inspiration from its past, accept the challenges of the present and resolve to shape the future. We must believe that this is not just the development of a nation, but the creation of a new direction for humanity.

In this journey of 79 years, we have reached the threshold of world leadership – now we just have to take that step forward. India's time is now.

# LET IT FLY HIGH—THE TIRANGA!

By: Pramod Boro

On this auspicious day, the 15th of August 2025, we, the people of Bodoland Territorial Region join the rest of India in joyfully celebrating our 79th Independence Day. This day holds deep emotional, political and historical significance, reminding all of us about the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters who dreamed of a sovereign, united Bharat. Just as we salute the Tiranga, today is the time to salute and honour all our martyrs for their supreme sacrifices! India's freedom was not just the end of a colonial rule in 1947, but the birth of the largest democracy in the world! This democratic nation has survived and also thrived: gaining momentum and strength over the years. Today is also the moment to salute all the Prime Ministers of India right from Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru onwards till date. They have led India through the vicissitudes of time, ever enhancing its stature among the global powers of the contemporary world. Today, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India is well on its path to reclaim its position as the 'Vishwa Guru'—a world leader in knowledge, culture and spirituality! The vision Viksit Bharat @2047 is already propelling us further towards achieving its rightful greatness and glory.

Let us grow it deeper and fly it higher still—our national flag—the Tiranga! Let it grow deeper in our hearts and fly higher over our lands! The Tiranga has been a symbol of our sovereignty, national pride, emotions, ideas and values, representing the hopes and aspirations of all Indians. It evolved through India's freedom struggle in the first half of the 20th Century, and was finally adopted by the Constituent Assembly, in its present

form, on the 22nd of July 1947. It has been hoisted from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi since the 15th of August 1947, the day our country became independent from the British. Today, the love for our national flag is symbolized by our resolve to hoist it in every home: the biggest nationwide Jan Bhagidari Andolan - Har Ghar Tiranga!

This version of the Indian flag had taken form and shape, first, after a young Pingali Venkaiah proposed the design to Mahatma Gandhi during the Indian National Congress session held at Vijayawada in 1921. His proposal featured three horizontal bands—red, white and green—symbolizing unity among India's diverse communities, with a spinning wheel at the center to represent national progress. Thereafter, in India's walk towards freedom, this flag epitomized unity—a powerful instrument of resistance against the British politics of divide-and-rule.

The flag came to be associated with the reimagined aspirations of a new nationhood for India. In the face of hatred, communal divide and oppressive excesses perpetrated by the British colonizers, at one and the same time, the Tiranga sparked the spirit of unity, courage and sacrifice among the Indians. A decade later, in 1931, the design of the flag was officially embraced by the leaders of our Freedom Movement. Red gave way to saffron, embodying courage; white stood for peace and truth; and green reflected growth and fertility. The Ashoka Chakra which later replaced the spinning wheel at the center, represented India's age-old universal principles of truth and dharma.

On this day, the 79th Independence Day of India, let us reignite our commitment, faith and belief in the ideals embodying our Tiranga. Just as Martyr

Chandra Shekar Azad's words: "My name is 'Azad' and my father's name is 'Swatantra'" inspired fearless defiance and unflinching loyalty to India's freedom, let us awaken today, to the call to uphold liberty, resist oppression, and honor the sacrifices that shaped our nation's sovereign identity. As India strides confidently into the future, this day inspires us to uphold the values that define our nation: unity in diversity, democratic strength, spiritual depth, historical greatness, and cultural richness. The 79th Independence Day is a moment to reflect, rejoice, and renew our pledge to build an India that honours its glorious past and also embraces a brighter tomorrow for everybody.

It is a delightful feeling of freedom for us, the people of Bodoland Territorial Region, to once again be able to hoist the Tiranga with honour and pride, and without fear of intimidation. Gone are the four-decade-long-dark-days of violence, conflict and bloodshed! The illegal weapons and gun-culture that once characterized our Bodoland region have perished altogether. The fratricidal killings, torture, rape and kidnappings—gone are those days of gloom and doom! For us, the Bodo Peace Accord 2020 marked the onset of a new era: a moment in history, when the historical trajectory of Bodoland region shifted from sang-harshat nirman. This hard-won peace accord brought to us the good fortune to translate our collective vision for peace into tangible actions on the ground. Since December 2020, when our BTR Government took office, we have been rooting for peace, healing, good governance and all-round development of every person, group and community.

Today, we feel it in our hearts—the deeper we sow the seeds of peace in Bodoland, the higher the Tiranga soars



above us! The more we honour the dreams and distinct voices of our communities, the grander our Tiranga unfolds in pride! And once again, it becomes clear—the stronger our unity, the brighter the Tiranga shines across our skies! What a powerful reflection of our shared spirit, vitality and hope!

As we unfurl the Tiranga on the 79th Independence Day of India, we salute it as a living symbol of unity, resilience, and shared purpose in our midst. The people of BTR, shaped by a history of struggle and sacrifice, now stand united in our commitment to peace and progress.

Across all communities there is a growing sense of purpose now: to build a culture of peace and harmony where every voice is heard, every culture respected, and every aspiration cherished. This collective vision is not just about

development, it is about community revitalization, caring, dignity and healing.

Gone are the days when fear and division cast long shadows over Bodoland. The people remember too well the pain of conflict, the silence of lost lives, and the weight of broken trusts. That memory fuels a powerful resolve amongst us to never let those dark days return. Today, our fathers and mothers speak of unity with pride, our brothers and sisters dream of opportunity without fear, our children plant trees for a green future, and our leaders have all pledged to protect the peace that has been so dearly earned. In Bodoland, the Tiranga flies high not just in celebration, but in defiance of hatred, division, and neglect.

I believe that another world is possible: a world full of love, care and honour... but for that we must read the book of humanity which is not avail-

able in the market, it is to be found only in our hearts. Every school built, every road paved, every literature festival held, and every football match played is a step towards a brighter and happier Bodoland: Peaceful, Smart and Green! Our people know that true progress lies in togetherness, unity and shared harmony. They look ahead with courage, determined to keep the Tiranga flying high—as our national flag, and also as a living witness to our collective journey of change and transformation. It is a promise etched in every heart: that Bodoland will never again be torn apart by violence, but will rise as a model of peace, unity and shared destiny. The Tiranga flies in our hearts too! And may we all continue to hoist it forever there, with love, with honour, and with the unshakable belief that peace has been our greatest triumph!

## Glorious Role of Freedom Fighters in Assam

By: Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

On 15 August 1947, as the tricolour was hoisted across Assam, it was not just the end of colonial rule but the culmination of nearly a century of struggle, sacrifice, and bravery. The bravery of Assamese freedom fighters lies not only in their defiance of British rule but in their ability to inspire unity in a culturally diverse land. From tribal communities to tea workers, from students to elderly women, Assam's participation reflected a cross-section of society. Today, their legacy lives on through memorials, educational institutions, and annual commemorations. Streets, parks, and public buildings bear their names, but the true tribute lies in remembering their stories and upholding the values they fought for—justice, equality, and dignity.

The history of Assam's freedom struggle is a testament to the resilience of its people. Maniram Dewan's defiance, Kanaklata Barua's youthful sacrifice, Bhogeswari Phukanani's fearless stand, and Kushal Konwar's dignified martyrdom are but a few examples from a long list of heroes. These stories remind us that freedom was not won in a day, nor by a single act, but through the cumulative bravery of countless individuals across India's vast landscape. Assam's freedom fighters, with their unique blend of courage, cultural pride, and unwavering commitment, carved an indelible place in the annals of India's struggle for independence. Their sacrifices must not be forgotten, for in remembering them, we keep alive the spirit of resistance against any form of injustice—the very essence of the freedom they fought so hard to secure.

The history of India's freedom struggle is incomplete without acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of the Assamese people. While the mainstream narrative often focuses on the events in Bengal, Punjab, and Maharashtra, the northeastern state of Assam nurtured a parallel and equally intense resistance against British colonial rule. From armed uprisings to non-violent movements, from unsung village heroes to internationally known revolutionaries, Assamese freedom fighters demonstrated extraordinary bravery, often paying the ultimate price for the nation's independence. The bravery of these men and women was shaped not only by patriotism but also by Assam's unique socio-political environment. With its fertile valleys, tea gardens, oil fields, and strategic location, Assam was an important economic asset for the British Empire. Resistance here meant striking at the very foundation of colonial exploitation in the East.

Maniram Dewan is one of the early sparks of resistance against the British rulers. He is often called the first martyr of Assam's freedom struggle, was a visionary who opposed British exploitation of Assam's resources. Born in 1806, he initially served as an official under the British but later turned against them when he witnessed the exploitation of Assamese tea gardens and resources. Dewan played a key role in promoting indigenous tea cultivation, challenging the monopoly of British planters. His growing nationalist activities and alleged involvement in organizing a revolt led to his arrest during the 1857 Revolt. On 26 February 1858, Maniram Dewan was hanged in Jorhat, becoming one of the earliest martyrs from Assam. His execution inspired future generations to resist colonial domination. Piyali Phukan the noble rebel was the son of the legendary Gomat Konwar, continued his family's legacy of resisting foreign rule. He was arrested by the British in 1830 on charges of conspiracy

against the colonial administration. Known for his aristocratic lineage and deep sense of justice, Phukan's trial was a symbol of British intolerance towards nationalist sentiment. He was executed in 1830, decades before the larger national movement began, making him a forerunner in Assam's freedom struggle. Then there occurred the uprisings of the nineteenth century. By the late 1800s, Assamese society was awakening politically, thanks to the spread of modern education and the rise of nationalist literature. Newspapers, plays, and poetry began to question British policies. One of the most significant uprisings of this era was the Patharughat Uprising of 1894. The British had imposed high taxes on farmers, causing widespread suffering. When peasants gathered at Patharughat in Darrang district to protest, the British police opened fire without warning, killing nearly 140 people and injuring hundreds. This massacre, often called the Jallianwala Bagh of Assam, became a rallying point for anti-British sentiment in the region. In the Gandhian era freedom fighting had its golden period. When Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920, Assam emerged as a strong participant. Students boycotted British schools, lawyers gave up practice, and people began wearing khadi. The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee was formed, giving the movement an organized structure in the state. In this period Tarun Ram Phukan became the voice of the people. A brilliant orator and political leader, Tarun Ram Phukan was one of the tallest figures in Assam's free-

domitable spirit of Assamese youth. She was the iconic female martyr of the Freedom Movement in Assam. She inspired others like Puspapalata Das, Bhogeswari Phukanani, Puspapalata Das was a prominent leader during the Quit India Movement, known for her organizational skills and courage. Arrested multiple times, she played a key role in mobilizing students and women for protests, picketing, and constructive programmes like spinning khadi. She was also a close associate of Gandhiji and an active member of the All India Congress Committee. At the age of 60, Bhogeswari Phukanani actively joined the Quit India Movement. During a protest in 1942, she attacked a British officer who tried to snatch the national flag from her. She was shot dead, but her defiance at such an advanced age inspired countless others to join the movement. Simultaneously underground activities also began in Assam when the Gandhian non-violence was the dominant mode of protest in Assam. Several Assamese youth took up arms or worked underground to disrupt British administration. We cannot forget the sacrifice of Kushal Konwar, the martyr of Golaghat. Kushal Konwar was a humble village headman and a dedicated Gandhian. However, during the Quit India Movement, he was falsely implicated in a train sabotage case. Despite being innocent, he accepted his fate with remarkable dignity, stating that his death would inspire others. He was hanged by the British on 15 June 1943, becoming a symbol of supreme sacrifice.

Another important factor was added. The freedom fighter served also as social reformer. Though best known for her social reforms, Chandraprabha Saikiani was deeply involved in the freedom movement. She fought for women's education, organized nationalist meetings, and encouraged rural women to join protests. Her activism bridged the gap between social reform and political freedom. Assam was known for tea plantation and it is natural that tea garden labour also joined freedom movement. In fact, a distinctive aspect of Assam's freedom struggle was the role of tea garden labourers. Brought in from central India by the British as bonded labourers, these workers faced inhumane conditions. Inspired by nationalist leaders, many joined strikes and protests, linking their demand for labour rights with the larger independence movement. The participation of the working class gave Assam's struggle a unique socio-economic dimension.

The Quit India Movement of 1942 marked the most intense phase of the freedom struggle in Assam. In various districts, people seized police stations, cut communication lines, and set up parallel governments. In Gohpur, Kanaklata Barua's martyrdom galvanized the masses. In Dhekiajuli British police opened fire on protesters, killing several, including teenage participants. Many went underground, carrying out acts of sabotage against the colonial administration. The British responded with mass arrests, brutal torture, and economic penalties, but the movement had already planted the seed of imminent freedom. As the Second World War ended, the British position weakened. Assamese leaders actively participated in the Constituent Assembly and contributed to shaping independent India's constitution. (The writer of the article, APJ Abdul Kalam Awardee Poet and Writer Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University USA. Email profatanbhattacharjee@gmail.com)



## Meghalaya's Quiet Thunder in India's Freedom Struggle

By: Dipak Kurmi

Meghalaya's role in India's freedom struggle is one of quiet determination and fierce resistance, a story that intertwines tribal valor, cultural pride, and political awakening. Often overshadowed in the grand narrative dominated by events in Calcutta, Delhi, or Bombay, the contribution of Meghalaya's people was nonetheless vital, reflecting a deep-rooted instinct to protect their land, their way of life, and their dignity from the encroaching hands of colonial authority.

The British arrival in the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo Hills during the early 19th century was driven by both strategic and commercial motives. For the East India Company, these hills offered not only a natural buffer against rival powers but also a vital link between Assam and Bengal. The region's abundant natural resources, particularly limestone, coal, and forest produce, and its commanding passes made it a prize worth controlling. But to the people of these hills—organized in traditional chieftainships, deeply connected to their ancestral land—the British presence was nothing short of an existential threat.

One of the earliest and most striking episodes of resistance came from the Khasi Hills under the leadership of U Tirot Sing Syiem, the chief of Nongkhlaw. Initially, Tirot Sing attempted diplomacy, allowing the British to construct a road through Khasi territory in the belief that it would promote mutual benefit. However, when the British began to fortify their presence, annex adjoining lands, and undermine Khasi sovereignty, the chief's patience wore thin. In 1829, tensions erupted into open conflict. What followed was a sustained guerrilla campaign—marked by ambushes, sudden strikes, and the clever use of the hilly terrain—that tied down British forces for nearly four years. Although U Tirot Sing was eventually captured in 1833 and exiled to Dhaka, where he died in captivity in 1835, his defiance became a legend in Khasi folklore, an enduring symbol of resistance against imperial domination.

The Jaintia Hills, too, bore witness to a determined rejection of British authority. The Jaintia kingdom had already faced annexation in 1835 after disputes over control of the plains and resistance to British interference in local customs. When the British imposed harsh measures, including restrictions on religious practices like human sacrifice (which, though controversial, were integral to certain tribal rituals), resentment simmered. This discontent contributed to periodic revolts, reflecting the underlying truth that the people of Meghalaya valued their cultural autonomy as fiercely as their political independence.

In the Garo Hills, British attempts to establish administrative control were met with persistent

opposition. The Garos, whose society revolved around self-governing villages, saw the colonial push as a direct threat to their traditional systems. Sporadic uprisings, particularly in the mid-19th century, kept the British on edge. These localized struggles were not yet tied to the wider Indian nationalist movement but shared with it the core objective of resisting foreign rule.

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the currents of Indian nationalism began to seep into the hills. The spread of education through missionary schools, increased contact with the plains, and the rise of pan-Indian political consciousness created new avenues for resistance. Yet, unlike the urban centers of Bengal or Bombay, Meghalaya's participation often took the form of localized grievances channelled into broader anti-colonial sentiment. Leaders from the hills began engaging with the Indian National Congress, attending sessions, and advocating for tribal rights within the larger nationalist framework.

The early 20th century also saw the emergence of cultural revivalism as a tool of resistance. Traditional dances, oral histories, and folk songs began to incorporate themes of unity and defiance, ensuring that the spirit of opposition to foreign rule remained alive in the collective memory. These cultural forms were subtle but powerful, allowing nationalist ideals to merge seamlessly with tribal identity.

The outbreak of the Second World War brought Meghalaya into the heart of global conflict, with the state's strategic location making it a crucial supply route for Allied forces fighting in Burma. This period also brought the Indian National Army (INA) under Subhas Chandra Bose into indirect contact with the region. While Meghalaya itself did not see major battles like neighbouring Manipur or Nagaland, the presence of the INA in nearby territories and the spread of its message inspired many in the hills. The idea that India's liberation might be achieved through armed struggle found a resonance, particularly among those who remembered the heroics of U Tirot Sing and other local warriors.

The Quit India Movement of 1942, launched by Mahatma Gandhi, reverberated even in these distant hills. While the British clampdown was severe across the country, in Meghalaya, too, there were acts of defiance—boycotts of government institutions, the spreading of nationalist propaganda, and symbolic protests that challenged colonial authority. Local leaders, often working quietly to avoid repression, kept the spirit of the movement alive by linking it with longstanding tribal resistance traditions.

It is important to note that Meghalaya's role in the freedom struggle was not limited to armed conflict or political meetings. The resistance also had an environmental and cultural dimension. The

people's opposition to British exploitation of forests, minerals, and agricultural resources was part of a larger struggle to preserve their relationship with the land—a relationship the colonial economic model sought to disrupt. By decentralizing their ecological heritage, the Khasis, Jaintias, and Garos were also defending their freedom.

When independence finally came in 1947, Meghalaya, as part of the undivided province of Assam, entered the Indian Union with pride and a lingering wariness. The princely and tribal systems that had defined much of the region's governance were now to be integrated into the democratic framework of the Republic. Many of the concerns that had fueled resistance during the colonial period—protection of land, culture, and political autonomy—remained relevant in the post-independence era, influencing the region's demand for separate statehood, which was eventually achieved in 1972.

The legacy of Meghalaya's freedom struggle lies in the resilience of its people and the enduring relevance of its heroes. U Tirot Sing's name is commemorated in schools, streets, and public memory, not merely as a warrior but as a leader who placed the dignity of his people above personal safety. The unnamed warriors of the Jaintia and Garo Hills, who fought in skirmishes and resisted administrative takeovers, are remembered in oral histories that continue to be passed down. The blending of cultural preservation with political resistance ensured that the nationalist movement in Meghalaya was never just an imported ideology—it was rooted in the soil, rivers, and forests of the hills themselves.

Today, when one walks through the bustling markets of Shillong or the serene landscapes of Sohra, it is easy to forget that these were once theatres of resistance against one of the most powerful empires in history. Yet, beneath the calm lies a history of quiet thunder—a people who, through spear and song, council and protest, stood firm against the tide of colonial domination. Meghalaya's contribution to the freedom struggle may not always dominate history textbooks, but it remains an essential chapter in the broader Indian story, reminding us that independence was won not only in the halls of Congress or the streets of Calcutta but also in the misty hills where clouds have long been witnesses to courage.

In remembering Meghalaya's role, we also remember the truth that India's freedom was a mosaic—each piece, no matter how far from the political centers of power, added depth, resilience, and beauty to the whole. The hills of Meghalaya did not merely watch history unfold; they shaped it, their voices echoing through the valleys and across the decades, proclaiming in their own way that liberty was worth every sacrifice. (The writer can be reached at dipakurmipltd@gmail.com)

# Zelensky meets with UK's Starmer as Europe braces for Trump-Putin summit

LONDON, Aug 14: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to London on Thursday, a day before a critical US-Russia summit in Alaska.

The two embraced warmly outside Starmer's offices at 10 Downing Street, without making any comments. Zelensky's trip to the British capital comes a day after he took part in virtual meetings from Berlin with US President Donald Trump and the leaders of several European countries.

Those leaders said Trump had assured them he would make a priority of trying to achieve a ceasefire in Ukraine when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday in Anchorage. Ahead of Thursday's meeting, Starmer said further sanctions could be imposed on Russia should Putin fail to engage. "It is important to remind colleagues that we do stand ready also to increase pressure on Russia, particularly the economy, with sanctions and wider measures as may be necessary," Starmer said.

Both Zelensky and the Europeans have worried the bilateral US-Russia summit would leave them and their interests sidelined, and that any conclusions reached could favour Moscow and leave



Ukraine and Europe's future security in jeopardy with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine now in its fourth year. Yet some of those leaders, like German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron, praised Wednesday's video conference with Trump as constructive. Speaking after the meetings to reporters, Trump warned of "very severe consequences" for Russia if Putin does not agree to stop the war against Ukraine after Friday's meeting.

**Territorial integrity**  
Starmer on Wednesday said the Alaska summit would be "hugely important," and could be a "viable" path to a ceasefire in Ukraine. But he also alluded to European concerns that Trump may

strike a deal that forces Ukraine to cede territory to Russia, and warned that Western allies must be prepared to step up pressure on Russia if necessary.

During a call Wednesday among leaders of countries involved in the "coalition of the willing" — those who are prepared to help police any future peace agreement between Moscow and Kyiv — Starmer stressed that any deal reached on bringing the fighting to an end must protect the "territorial integrity" of Ukraine.

"International borders cannot be, and must not be changed by force," he said. "Any talk about borders, diplomacy, ceasefire has to sit alongside a robust and credible security guarantee to ensure that any peace, if there is peace, is

lasting peace and Ukraine can defend its territorial integrity as part of any deal."

**Macron: Trump willing to share in security guarantees**

Kyiv has long insisted that safeguards against future Russian attacks provided by its Western allies would be a precondition for achieving a durable end to the fighting in Ukraine. Yet many Western governments have been hesitant to commit to engaging their military personnel.

Countries in the "coalition of the willing," which include France and the UK, have been trying for months to secure US security backing should it be required.

Following Wednesday's virtual meetings, Macron said Trump told the assembled leaders that while the NATO military alliance must not be part of future security guarantees, the US leader agreed that "the United States and all the parties involved should take part".

"It's a very important clarification that we have received," Macron said. European Council President Antonio Costa also welcomed "the readiness of the United States to share with Europe the efforts to reinforce security conditions once we obtain a durable and just peace for Ukraine." (AP)

# 5 policemen killed, 8 injured in terror attacks in Pak

PESHAWAR, Aug 14: At least five police personnel were killed and eight others injured in a series of terrorist attacks targeting police stations and check posts across Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said on Thursday. The attacks took place on Wednesday.

A police constable was killed and another injured as security forces repelled attacks on the Hassan Khel police station and two check posts in Peshawar. In Upper Dir, terrorists ambushed a Quick Response Force vehicle, killing three policemen and injuring eight others. The injured were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital for treatment, and a search operation was launched immediately. In Lower Dir, two separate terrorist attacks on police checkpoints in the areas of Maidan, Lajbok and Shadas claimed the life of one police constable. In the Khyber district, heavily-armed militants attacked the joint Frontier Corps-police checkpoint at the Sakhi Pul but were repelled after a robust retaliatory response. Similar attacks in Nasir Bagh and Mattani areas were foiled by police without casualties.

In Bannu, militants targeted the Mazangha check post within Hovid Police Station limits, but no casualties were reported.

In the Charsadda district, unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants threw a hand grenade at the Tarlandi check-post under the Nasta Police Station early Thursday morning. The device failed to cause any casualties or damage.

Security has been further tightened at all police stations and checkpoints across the province, with forces placed on high alert to counter any further threats.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attacks, describing them as "cowardly" acts.

"Such incidents will not dampen the morale of our police," he said.

Over the past few months, several areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — including Bannu, Peshawar, Karak, Lakki Marwat and Bajaur — have seen a series of attacks on police forces. The country has witnessed an uptick in terror activities over the past year, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

The spokesperson of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Thursday said it has successfully dismantled the Daesh Khorasan network in Peshawar. (PTI)

# Pakistan announces creation of new Army Rocket Force Command

ISLAMABAD, Aug 14: Pakistan has announced the creation of a new force - the Army Rocket Force Command - equipped with modern technology and intended to serve as a "milestone" in strengthening its combat capabilities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made the announcement at an event late Wednesday night to mark the 79th Independence Day and commemorate the recent four-day military confrontation with India. "On this occasion, today, I announce the formation of the Army Rocket Force Command," Prime Minister Sharif said at the event attended by President Asif Ali Zardari, the three services chiefs, and national and foreign dignitaries.

"Equipped with modern technology and capable of targeting the enemy from every direction, this force will prove another milestone in further strengthening our conventional war capabilities," he said. He, however, provided no further details about the new force or its responsibilities. Pakistan's new force command is apparently inspired by its all-weather ally China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force, which controls arsenal of land-based ballistic, hypersonic, cruise missiles - both nuclear and conventional. (PTI)

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

### D I P H U

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

- (a) Under the Provision made in the Assam Sale of Forest Produce timber lots by tender system Rule 1977 (Amended upto date) sealed tenders in the prescribed form affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Money receipt worth of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten) only, are inviting for the unclaimed seized timber lots as shown in the prescribed schedule

(b) The tenderers are requested to drop their tender papers in the box which will be kept opened in the Divisional Forest Office, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu during the office working hours from the date of issue of this sale notice on/08/2025 from 10:30 AM (I.S.T.) to 3:30 PM (I.S.T.).

(c) The tender box will be opened on 25/08/2025 in presence of the interested bidders. If the office is closed on the last date of receiving tender for any reason, the next working day will be considered as the last date of tender submission. No tender delivered by post or hand after this date shall be considered under any circumstance.

(d) The successful tenderers shall have to deposit the bid value along with Dragging Cost, GST, etc as shown in the statement order by the undersigned. The settlement is liable to be cancelled and shall be forfeited if the highest bidder fails to deposit the tender value and the tender shall be settled with the second highest bidder subject to fulfillment of terms and condition of the sale value.
  - (a) The tender must be accompanied by earnest money draft, "as call deposit pleased to Division Forest Officer, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu of Rs 250/- for ST and General Class Rs. 500/- for each timber lot. Cash or Money order will not be accepted as Earnest money under any circumstance.

(b) Up to date GST, Caste Certificate, P. Tax and in case of Trading License & I. Tax must be enclosed along with the tender and without these documents no tender will be considered.

(c) The intending tenderer should inspect the timber lots at the place shown in the attached schedule before submitting tender and no claim shall be considered after any circumstances afterwards.

(d) The intending tenderers are requested to contact the office of the undersigned or the office of the concerned range office during office hours on any working days for further details of the sale notice and collect the sale notice and tender form etc. on payment of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One Hundred) only copy.
- Enclosed: Statement

#### Statement of Unclaimed Seized Timber Lots under Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu for the year of 2025-26.

Sl. No	Lots No & Year	Species	No. of logs	Volume	Royalty	D/Cost	Stacking	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	BG/01 of 2025-26	Bogi Poma	28 Pieces	1.27M <sup>3</sup>	7,653.00	2000.00	Bogjan A/C Beat	
2	NWR/24 of 2025-26	M-Sal	6 Pieces	1.007M <sup>3</sup>	4,840.00	805.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
3	NWR/26 of 2025-25	T-Chapa	4 Pieces	0.43M <sup>3</sup>	3,960.00	344.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
4	NWR/27 of 2025	Sidha Poma, M-Sal	9 Pieces	0.901M <sup>3</sup>	4,330.00	721.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
5	NWR/25 of 2025	M-Sal, Sidha	6 Pieces	0.675M <sup>3</sup>	3,244.00	540.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
6	NWR/28 of 2025-26	M-Sal	19 Pieces	0.789M <sup>3</sup>	3,792.00	631.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
7	NWR/29 of 2025-26	Khokon	21 Pieces	0.846M <sup>3</sup>	4,066.00	677.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
8	NWR/27 of 2025-26	Teak	07 Pieces	0.626M <sup>3</sup>	4,135.72	626.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
9	NWR/28 of 2025-26	Teak	04 Pieces	0.529M <sup>3</sup>	5,050.90	529.00	NW/Range Parkup Pahar	
10	NWR/29 of 2025-26	Teak	10 Pieces	0.675M <sup>3</sup>	4,459.45	675.00	Langkhang Sub-Beat under NW/Range, Parkup Pahar	
11	NWR/30 of 2025-26	Teak	09 Pieces	0.631M <sup>3</sup>	4,168.77	631.00	Langkhang Sub-Beat under NW/Range, Parkup Pahar	
12	NWR/31 of 2025-26	Teak	11 Pieces	0.696 M <sup>3</sup>	4,598.20	696.00	Langkhang Sub-Beat under NW/Range, Parkup Pahar	
13	LSB/08 of 2025-26 NWR/32	Bonsum, Jamuk, Hilikha, Khokan	19 Pieces	0.336M <sup>3</sup>	2,699.00	269.00	Langkhang Sub-Beat under NW/Range, Parkup Pahar	
14	LSB/09 of 2025-26 NWR/33		08 Pieces	0.612M <sup>3</sup>	4,375.00	490.00	Langkhang Sub-Beat under NW/Range, Parkup Pahar	
15	LSB/10 of 2025-26 NWR/34	Bonsum, Jamuk, Hilikha, Khokan	08 Pieces	0.478M <sup>3</sup>	3,841.00	382.00	Langkhang Sub-Beat under NW/Range, Parkup Pahar	
16	WR/08 of 2025-26	Bonsum, Jamuk, Hilikha, Khokan	162 Pieces	3.146M <sup>3</sup>	9,453.72	2500.00	Western Range, Dokmoka	
17	WR/09 of 2025-26	Non-Sal (Swan Timber)	95 Pieces	1.23M <sup>3</sup>	9,453.72	2500.00	Western Range, Dokmoka	
18	WR/10 of 2025-26	Non-Sal (Swan Timber)	63 Pieces	1.229M <sup>3</sup>	12,282.00	2500.00	Western Range, Dokmoka	
19	LM/01 of 2025-26 CR/	Non-Sal (Swan Timber)	260 Pieces	9.781M <sup>3</sup>	1,56,401.00	2500.00	Thekarajan under Longnit A/C Beat	
20	LM/02 CR/of 2025-26	Tita Chopra	638 Pieces	18 397M <sup>3</sup>	1,83,883.00	2500.00	Batlok under Longnit A/C Beat	
21	LM/03 of 2025-26 CR/	Gamari	188 Pieces	7.107 M <sup>3</sup>	1,13,642.00	2500.00	Longbirik under Longnit A/C Beat	

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer,  
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu

Dated 13/08/2025

Memo No B/KAE/Unclaimed Seized Timber/2025-26/3637-44

# Arunachal BJP marks Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

BJP state unit pays tribute to Partition victims, recalls sacrifices and lessons from history

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Aug 14:** Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday joined the rest of the nation in solemnly observing Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas 2025 (Partition Horrors Remembrance Day), with the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organising a commemorative programme at its State Office.

The event, according to an official statement, honoured the memory of the millions whose lives were lost, families uprooted, and communities displaced during the Partition of 1947.

The programme was attended by Itanagar MLA Techhi Kaso, BJP State Vice-President and Convener Ashok Sangchoju, State General Secretary Tadar Niglar, State Secretary and Programme In-charge Taring Tiri, SOBs, former MLAs, departmental chairmen and vice-chairmen, morcha heads, and party karyakartas.

Speaking on the occasion, State General Secretary Tadar Niglar extended his best wishes to the students of Dera Natung College, Itanagar, who had completed their internship under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

He expressed confidence that the students would continue to excel in their academic and professional pursuits.



Niglar also delivered a detailed address on the significance of Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas, observed nationwide on August 14.

He described the day as a sombre reminder of the immense sacrifices and unimaginable hardships endured during the Partition, which claimed around 15 lakh lives, saw approximately 75,000 women subjected to sexual violence, and displaced nearly two crore people.

He termed the Partition, carried out in the name of religion, as an "inhuman chapter" in Indian history, attributing it to a "wrong political decision" that tore apart communities and altered the subcontinent's boundaries.

Citing historical events such as the partition of Bengal and the violence of Direct Action Day in Kolkata, Niglar said these developments stemmed from the "Divide India, Destroy India" policy, which culminated in the hurried demarcation by Sir

Cyril Radcliffe—a man unfamiliar with India's ground realities.

He also highlighted the ideal of Akhand Bharat, noting that repeated invasions, centuries of foreign rule, and ultimately the Partition reduced India's territorial expanse.

MLA Techhi Kaso, in his address, commended the state BJP for organising the event to keep alive the memory of the victims of 1947.

Urging karyakartas to serve both the party and the people with dedication, he stressed the need to raise grassroots awareness about government policies and welfare schemes so that citizens could access their benefits.

He also called upon party workers to uphold the mission and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pema Khandu with unity and commitment.

The programme also featured reflections on the NEP 2020 internship initiative.

TP Shongla, guide for the first batch of Dera Natung College interns, said the students had been introduced to the ideology and functioning of the BJP, with a focus on serving the public interest.

He expressed hope that they would apply these learnings to positively influence society.

On behalf of the 11 internship graduates, Golom Alisha and Bengia Mayang thanked BJP leaders for their mentorship, sharing that the programme deepened their understanding of government schemes and the party's role in public welfare.

They pledged to use this knowledge to make a constructive difference in their communities and expressed gratitude to coordinators TP Shongla and Libom Boje for their guidance.

The dignitaries, including Techhi Kaso and Tadar Niglar, distributed certificates to the interns during the event.

Earlier in the day, Techhi Kaso inaugurated an exhibition at the State Office depicting rare and poignant images of the Partition—highlighting the pain, courage, and resilience of those who lived through the tragedy.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Yagam Jomoh Tagru, State General Secretary of the BJP Mahila Morcha, who expressed gratitude to all participants for their contributions in making the commemoration a meaningful tribute to history.

## Governor's citation announced for NIMAS and Army Units

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Aug 14:** On the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, Raj Bhavan, Itanagar, announced the conferment of the Arunachal Pradesh Governor's Citation to the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), Dirang, the 2nd Battalion of the Dogra Regiment, the 16th Battalion of the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, 4 Corps Signal Regiment, 305 Field Hospital, and 667 Army Aviation Squadron.

According to an official statement, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), sanctioned the citations in recognition of the outstanding service of these organisations and units to the state and its people.

They have been credited with uplifting local communities, fostering strong bonds of friendship and trust between the armed forces and indigenous populations, and safeguarding the security and territorial integrity of their respective areas of responsibility.

The announcement reflects the state's gratitude and admiration for their selfless dedication, resilience, and commitment to both national security and the well-being of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

## Tawang observes Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

HT Correspondent

**TAWANG, Aug 14:** In solemn remembrance of the sufferings endured during the Partition of India in 1947, the District Administration Tawang, in collaboration with the Department of Information & Public Relations and the Department of Art & Culture, on Thursday organised a series of programmes aimed at sensitising younger generations about the sacrifices made for India's freedom.

According to an official statement, the observance, held at Secondary School Bomba, began with floral tributes to the unsung heroes of the Indian freedom struggle.

Addressing the gathering, the District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) recalled the events leading to the drawing of the Radcliffe Line, which divided India and Pakistan, and narrated stories of the millions forced to migrate during one of the largest man-made displacements in history.

He highlighted that the partition not only divided a nation but also separated families, shattered dreams, and dismantled communities, causing immense suffering and the loss of over ten lakh lives.

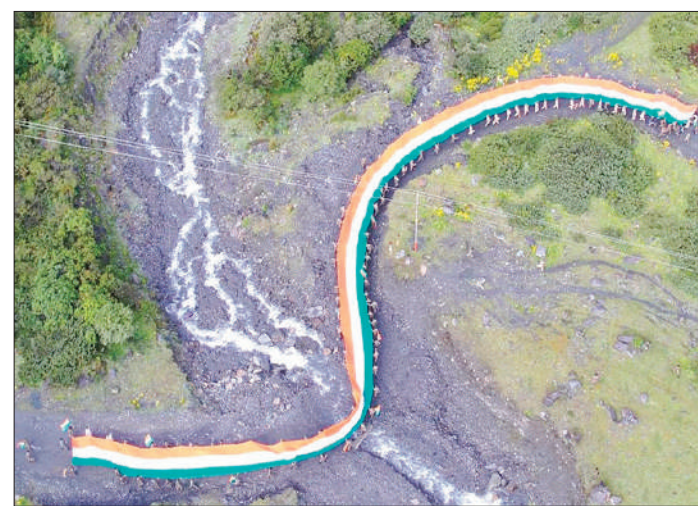
To bring these historical realities to life, a series of photo exhibitions depicting the horrors and human cost of partition were organised at multiple venues, including Secondary School Bomba, the Post Office in Tawang, the General Parade Ground, and the premises of the State Bank branch.

The exhibitions featured rare archival images portraying the displacement, hardships, and resilience of those affected. Senior Post Master Naresh Kumar Sharma attended the programme at Post Office Tawang and paid floral tributes to the martyrs.

Students from various schools across Tawang township actively participated in the observance, engaging attentively with stories of partition survivors and viewing the exhibitions with great interest. Members of the general public also visited the displays in large numbers, reflecting on the shared history of sacrifice and resilience that underpins India's independence.

The programmes concluded with an appeal to the public—especially the youth—to draw inspiration from the lessons of history and work towards preserving unity, peace, and harmony in the nation.

## Tiranga march at 14,000 feet in Chuna forward areas marks 79<sup>th</sup> I-Day



HT Correspondent

**MAGO, Aug 14:** In a stirring tribute to the 79th Independence Day, the Indian Army, under the aegis of the Gajraj Corps, in collaboration

with the civil administration and local communities, organised a patriotic "Tiranga March" at an altitude of 14,000 feet in the forward areas of Chuna. The information

was provided in an official statement.

The march, led by Assistant Commissioner of Thingbu Administrative Circle Thutan Wangchu and supported by the Gorkhas stationed at Chuna, brought together soldiers of the Indian Army, personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and villagers from Mago and Chuna. Participants carried a 100-metre-long National Flag as they walked shoulder-to-shoulder through the pristine greenfields of Chuna. Against the backdrop of the rugged Himalayan landscape, the sight of the tricolour created a vibrant panorama of saffron, white, and green, rekindling the spirit of patriotism, integrity, and unity in the high-altitude border region.

Following the march, participants took part in a cleanliness drive to protect the fragile ecosys-

tem of the area. The initiative aligned with the district administration's campaign to maintain the forward areas as a "No Plastic Zone", aiming to preserve the region's unique biodiversity, flora, and fauna. Volunteers collected plastic waste and other litter, reinforcing the message of environmental responsibility alongside patriotic celebration.

Officials said the event served as a symbol of the deep bond between the Armed Forces and the local population, reflecting a shared commitment to safeguarding the frontiers of the nation while upholding its values. They added that the march not only celebrated India's independence but also showcased the resolve of the border communities to contribute actively to the country's unity, security, and environmental stewardship.

## Itanagar Police recovers 73 stolen vehicles as part of crackdown on interstate car theft racket

**ITANAGAR, Aug 14:** Itanagar Police has so far recovered 73 stolen vehicles as part of an ongoing crackdown on an interstate car theft racket, officials said on Thursday.

In the latest operation, five suspects, including four habitual offenders, have been arrested, which authorities describe as a decisive strike against one of India's most organised luxury car racket, a senior police officer said. In all, 16 cars were seized from their possession, officials added.

The latest recovery follows the July 28 seizure of 57 high-end vehicles worth over ₹ 30.5 crore, the largest single seizure of stolen vehicles by any police station in the country, an officer claimed.

That operation, which began on July 2, led to the recovery of stolen luxury models linked to theft cases across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and other states.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted by Capital Superintendent of Police (SP) Jumar Basar, has been spearheading the probe, Itanagar subdivisional police officer Kengo Dirchi said. (PTI)

## Arunachal observes 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Aug 14:** The fifth anniversary of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) was marked in Arunachal Pradesh with a day-long programme at the State Banquet Hall here on Wednesday.

The event, led by the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Tribal Affairs (SJETA), featured participation from government officials, students, community representatives, and youth icons.

According to an official statement, Kento Jini, Minister for Law & Justice, Youth Affairs and SJETA, underscored the State government's commitment to building a drug-free Arunachal Pradesh.

While highlighting the ill-effects of drugs and other substances, he called for "whole-of-society action that begins at home, is nurtured in schools and colleges, and is sustained through compassionate rehabilitation."

The Minister informed that the Government of India is actively working to combat substance abuse through targeted initiatives, particularly in vulnerable districts.

These include awareness campaigns, counselling services, and rehabilitation support aimed at reducing drug demand and reintegrating affected individuals into society.

Speaking on the challenges in drug demand reduction, Jini noted that stigma and discrimination against drug users, coupled with the need for sustainable funding, remain major hurdles.

He urged students to work hard, avoid addiction, and remember that "there are no shortcuts to success."

Earlier, Abu Tayeng, Secretary of SJETA, outlined the national framework of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, which has been running for five years to promote a drug-free India.

He said the campaign operates through grassroots awareness drives, rehabilitation assistance, and community-led intelligence gathering.

A 31-day campaign has also been launched in the State to reinforce community participation in tackling substance abuse.

Tayang acknowledged the high prevalence of drug abuse in Arunachal Pradesh and stressed that public cooperation is vital in encouraging healthier lifestyles and reducing the menace.

Toko Babu, Deputy Commissioner of Itanagar Capital Region, highlighted the combined efforts of

the district administration and police in controlling drug trafficking and abuse, particularly in urban areas.

Youth icon and Femina Miss Arunachal, Tadu Lunia, drew attention to the scale of the problem, saying, "I think each person I know in my life knows one person who is addicted."

She attributed the rise in drug use to peer pressure, mental health challenges, and lack of guidance, adding that addiction often leads to other serious issues such as HIV.

She criticised drug peddlers for prioritising profit over public well-being and urged strict action against them. Lunia advised students to be role models for change, stating that even small contributions toward awareness can make a difference.

As part of the programme, prizes and certificates were awarded to winners of an essay writing competition from Don Bosco School, Julang, and Mallo Tarin Higher Secondary School.

The event concluded with a collective call to sustain awareness, strengthen prevention measures, and mobilise community action in the fight against drug abuse across Arunachal Pradesh.

## Financial Inclusion Saturation Camp held at Kokila Gram Panchayat

HT Correspondent

**BALIJAN, Aug 14:** A Financial Inclusion Camp was conducted at Kokila Gram Panchayat under Balijan Block in Papumpare district on Thursday as part of the ongoing three-month nationwide saturation campaign aimed at promoting financial empowerment and extending the reach of government-backed banking and social security schemes to every eligible citizen.

According to an official statement, the camp was organised in alignment with the nationwide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign, which is being implemented from July 1 to September 30, 2025, to achieve full coverage across all gram panchayats in Arunachal Pradesh.

The event was attended by General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Itanagar, Abhijit Majumdar; Lead District Manager (LDM) of State Bank of India (SBI); Branch Manager of Canara Bank; officials from various banks; office bearers of Moneywise CRISIL Foundation of Balijan Block; and the Gram Pradhan and members of Kokila Gram Panchayat.

Villagers from Kokila GP and nearby villages also participated in large numbers.

Addressing the gathering, RBI General Manager Abhijit Majumdar underscored the importance of timely re-KYC of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts and other bank accounts, along with wider enrolment in social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

## CESHs, NERIST sign MoU for interdisciplinary research collaboration

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Aug 14:** The Centre for Earth Science and Himalayan Studies (CESHS), Itanagar, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli, to advance interdisciplinary collaboration and foster application-driven research in Arunachal Pradesh.

According to an official statement, the agreement will enable the sharing of research expertise across multiple domains, including agricultural, civil, mechanical, electrical, and computer science engineering, as well as applied sciences such as green energy—particularly geothermal exploration—critical mineral studies, climate change research, and cryosphere studies.

The signing ceremony, held at NERIST, was described by both institutions as a "hands-on, no-sleeping-on-paper" partnership, underlining their commitment to actionable science and tangible results. CESHS Director Tana Tage outlined plans for joint initiatives with various NERIST de-



partments, highlighting the institute's capacity to provide strong field and on-ground

support. The collaboration will focus on hands-on

training for students, joint research integrating fieldwork with advanced modelling techniques, and capacity-building programmes to enhance regional scientific and engineering skills.

Tage reaffirmed CESHS's emphasis on ensuring research benefits communities through practical implementation. NERIST Director Prof Narendranath S stressed the importance of institutional and government collaboration for the growth of the scientific community in the Northeast, assuring full support for the partnership.

Prof Aditi Bhadra, Head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, along with representatives from other departments, welcomed the agreement and pledged active participation in upcoming projects.

The MoU will also facilitate part-time PhD enrolment for students and working professionals, aiming to enhance research capacity and build a workforce equipped with cutting-edge technological skills.

Both institutions described the agreement as a long-term commitment to multidisciplinary, real-world problem-solving.

# Massive cloudburst in J-K's Kishtwar kills at least 46; 167 rescued so far

*'The local administration is conducting relief and rescue operations. NDRF teams have promptly been rushed to the site'*

**JAMMU, Aug 14:** A massive cloudburst led to flashfloods in a remote mountain village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, killing at least 46 people, including two CISF personnel, and trapping many more. As night fell over Chositi village, rescuers worked frantically and pulled out 167 people from under mounds of rubble. Of these, 38 are in a serious condition, officials said. The death toll went up steadily as the day progressed and there were fears it could rise further.

Disaster struck Chositi, the last motorable village on the way to Machail Mata temple, between 12 noon and 1 pm. A large number of people had gathered there for the annual Machail Mata yatra that began on July 25 and is scheduled to end on September 5. The 8.5 kilometre trek to the 9,500-foot shrine begins from Chositi.

Chositi is about 90 kilometres from Kishtwar town. A 'langar' (community kitchen) packed with devotees bore the brunt of the cloudburst, which led to flash floods and washed away several structures, including shops and a

security outpost.

Videos showed torrents of muddy water, silt and rubble tearing through the steep slopes, destroying everything in the way. Houses folded over like pack of cards, rocks came tumbling down, blocking roads and rescue paths, the mudslide turning the verdant landscape to a grim brown-grey.

The fragile Himalayan slopes faced disaster just nine days after flashfloods wreaked havoc in Dharali village of Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district. Though only one person is confirmed dead, 68 people are still reported missing in the calamity that struck on August 5. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent their condolences and said the situation was being monitored carefully.

In a post on X, Modi said, "My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the cloudburst and flooding in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir. The situation is being monitored closely. Rescue and relief operations are underway. Every possible assistance will be provided to those in need,"



the prime minister said. "The news of several deaths due to a cloudburst in Kishtwar, Jammu-Kashmir, is extremely tragic. I express my heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and pray for the success of relief and rescue operations," Murmu said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Lt Gov Manoh Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take stock of the situation.

"The local administration is conducting relief and rescue operations. NDRF teams have promptly been rushed to the site," he wrote

on X. Immediately after news came in of the disaster, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and senior officials mobilised rescue teams and headed towards the spot to personally supervise the operations.

A large-scale rescue operation was launched by NDRF, SDRF, police, Army and local volunteers, the authorities have mobilised more rescuers, including two fresh teams of NDRF from Jammu to speed up the rescue efforts, officials said.

Army's White Knight Corps

said efforts are on to safeguard lives and aid the survivors.

"In the aftermath of a cloudburst at Chisoti (Chositi) village, Kishtwar, troops of White Knight Corps swiftly mobilised for rescue and relief ops (operations). Efforts are centred on safeguarding lives and aiding survivors. Search for missing continues. Relief stores, medical teams and rescue gear rushed to site. We Serve, We Protect, the corps said in an X post.

Union minister Jitendra Singh was among the first to indicate the magnitude of the tragedy.

"A massive cloudburst in Chositi area, which could result in substantial casualty. Administration has immediately swung into action, rescue team has left for the site," Union Minister Jitendra Singh said in an X post.

The annual yatra to the Machail Mata shrine was suspended following the tragedy as authorities mobilised all resources for rescue operations at Chositi.

Officials added that the flash floods hit several houses clustered together in the foothills.

Home' tea party and cultural events during Independence Day celebrations on Friday following the loss of lives.

We have also decided not to go ahead with the cultural events during the morning Independence Day celebrations. The formal events - speech, march past etc will go ahead as planned, the chief minister said in a post on X.

Extending his deepest condolences, BJP leader Jehanzaib Sirwal underscored the broader concern -- the unchecked proliferation of power projects in Kishtwar. While development is essential, the ongoing projects, pursued without rigorous mechanisms or proper environmental assessments, pose a grave threat to our fragile ecosystem, Sirwal said, urging the Centre to institute immediate and thorough checks on these initiatives.

If robust measures are not implemented even now, the consequences for Kishtwar and its people could be even more catastrophic in the years ahead, he said. Lt Gov Sinha also expressed his anguish. (PTI)

## NAME CHANGE

I have Changed my name from Kalasand to Kowsor Ahmed by swearing a notarial affidavit at Srimanta Sankardev nagar Hojai(Assam)

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aruna Dekaraja ,legally wedded spouse of No 4380885H LNK Kirtartha Dekaraja resident of Vill:-Niz-Jarabari Gaon,P.O.- Deb-Narikali,Teh:- Jarabari,Dist.-Morigaon,State- Assam ,PIN-782426 have changed my name from Aruna Dekaraja to Aruna Hira Vide Affidavit No.1456/07 Date 23 JUL 25 before Pranjal Kr. Das Notary public Dist:-Morigaon(Assam).

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Smt. Mira Rani Purkayastha, aged about 59 years, D/o late Hrishikesh and W/o late Subrata Roy a permanent resident of Diphu town, near Diphu Club, P.O. & P.S., Diphu, district Karbi Anglong, that in my pension book and bank passbook vide PPO No.S/FP/67766 and account No. 3212000100073300 of Punjab National Bank Lumding Branch, has inadvertently written my name as "Rina Purkayastha Roy" instead of my actual name Mira Rani Purkayastha.

Both the names "Mira Rani Purkayastha" and "Rina Purkayastha Roy" are the same and single person and not a different individual i.e. myself.

I swear this affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, district Karbi Anglong, Assam, declaring from today my name shall be recorded only as Mira "Rani Purkayastha" for all purposes.

## LOST

I have lost my HSLC Admit Card bearing Roll: B10-169 No. 0379 and Class IX Registration Card vide No. 26V/0805/006194/08 on 8th August, 2025. The finder is requested to return the same at the below address.

Sd/-  
Fazlur Rahman  
CO- Jaynal Abdin  
RO+ PO - Chakarabsti  
PS- Dalgaoon, Dist- Darrang (Assam)  
Mobile NO. 7002445215

## Bihar SIR row: SC directs EC to publish by Tue details of 65 lakh voters excluded, allow Aadhaar as ID

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Election Commission to publish by August 19 details of the 65 lakh voters excluded from the draft electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar to enhance "transparency" in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list and allow Aadhaar as an acceptable document for identity proof.

Observing that the EC should put at rest the "narrative being built" against it, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joy-malya Bagchi also ordered that the details should include reasons for their non-inclusion during the ongoing SIR exercise. "Transparency will create voter confidence."

The revision of the voters' list in Bihar—the first since 2003—has sparked a huge political row. The SIR's findings have reduced the total number of 7.9 crore registered voters in Bihar, from before the exercise, to 7.24 crore.

The Congress described the EC directive as a "beacon of hope" and a "massive victory for democracy", and said the top court has upheld the Constitution in a "categorical, convincing, and courageous" manner. The Congress along with the RJD and an NGO Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) are the petitioners in the case.

Reacting to the EC order, Congress general secretary in-charge organisation K C Venugopal said the Court rejecting the EC's decision to not accept Aadhaar is also a major boost since in a state like Bihar it is the most widely held document by the poor and marginalised.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav claimed that the court order exposed the BJP, its allies and their "nefarious design" to disenfranchise people.

The order to publish the list of excluded voters by next Tuesday was passed on pleas challenging the EC decision on June 24 to conduct the SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The bench directed that people whose name has been deleted from the voters' list can stake their claim by approaching the poll officials and furnish Aadhaar card, calling the document a statute approved proof of identity.

Justice Kant told senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who is appearing for the EC, that deletion of voters from the electoral rolls can have civil consequences of depriving a citizen of right to franchise, therefore fair procedure was required to

be followed and Aadhaar should be accepted. Aadhaar was not among the list of 11 acceptable documents for the SIR exercise. According to the EC, Aadhaar and voter cards are not conclusive proof of citizenship for SIR and that it has to be supported by other documents.

The court directed that the list of 65 lakh voters whose names featured in the electoral rolls but dropped from the draft rolls published on August 1 be displayed along with reasons—dead, migrated or shifted to other constituencies—at the notice boards of Panchayat, block development office and district level returning officers office to enable the people approach the poll panel for correction or clarification.

The bench further stressed on giving wide publicity via newspapers including vernacular and English dailies besides television news channels and radio to the public informing the people about the places where the list would be available.

It directed that the soft copies of deleted voters list, which will be uploaded in district electoral officer website or social media handles, should be searchable by Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number. A compliance report should be filed to the court by August 22, the bench ordered.

Dwivedi, who at the outset submitted that the EC appears to be operating in an atmosphere of hostility and its decisions are sharply contested, said at present nobody is deleted from the operative list of 2025 subject to the final electoral rolls to be published on September 30.

"After the final electoral rolls is published on September 30, the older list will get replaced. Today the exercise is of preparation of the final list and nobody has been deleted as of now."

Justice Kant said the public notice and display of the list should be layman friendly, so that aggrieved persons can search the required details.

During the hearing, Dwivedi informed the court that going by the conservative estimate around 6.5 crore people of the 7.24 crore people who figure in the draft rolls were not required to submit any documents for the SIR exercise in Bihar as they or their parents were registered in the 2003 voters' list.

He said the EC is currently caught between the struggle of political parties and if they win, then it is said that the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is good and

if they lose, for them EVM is bad.

On August 1, the reasons cited by the EC for non-inclusion of previously registered voters in the draft rolls included death (22.34 lakh), "permanently shifted/absent" (36.28 lakh) and "already enrolled (at more than one places)" (7.01 lakh).

Stating that it prima facie agreed that the EC has the power for intensive survey of the entire electoral rolls of Bihar, the top court said, "If you bring it in public domain, the narrative disappears."

"You're exercising the power of intensive survey as a preliminary enquiry into every voter identity...These powers are prima facie traceable, so we do not wish to interdict. But, your manner of doing this has to be reasonable. It has to give certain comfort to citizens and should not strain a person to become eligible," Justice Bagchi said.

The top court said it is not being critical of the EC for not doing something, asserting that transparency in publishing the complete details of 65 lakh dropped voters will help in building voter confidence.

"We are not being critical of you not doing something...transparency will help create voter confidence. Why don't you take an additional step of putting it up on a website, clearly identifying persons who are not there, with reasons, so that they can take remedial measures?" Justice Bagchi told Dwivedi.

ECI conducts summary revision of electoral rolls ahead of elections for inclusion and deletion of voters every year whereas intensive revision are conducted for a thorough revision of electoral rolls in a state after a period of time.

The bench told Dwivedi that since there is a serious dispute of dead or alive, there should be some mechanism from which people can know whether their family member has been included or deleted. To this, Dwivedi said political party workers have been associated to ascertain and help the people with their claims.

Justice Kant said, "We don't want a citizen's right to be dependent on workers of political parties. We are not criticising political workers. Of course they will have an ideology. We are saying all people must be able to independently check the same." "If people are happy with omissions being made, that's the end of the chapter as far as they are concerned. At least they will be satisfied, knowing the reason," Justice Bagchi said. (PTI)

## India well on way to becoming self-reliant nation: Prez Murmu

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said India is well on the way to becoming a self-reliant nation and moving ahead with great confidence to be a developed economy by 2047.

In her address to the nation on the eve of the 79th Independence Day, Murmu said the country's economy is in the pink of health with inflation under control, and exports rising.

"After the long years of foreign rule, India was in utter poverty at the time of Independence. But in the 78 years since then, we have made extraordinary progress in all fields. India is well on the way to becoming a self-reliant nation and is moving ahead with great confidence," the President said.

In the economic field, she said India's achievements are more noticeable with GDP growing at 6.5 per cent in the last fiscal, making the country the fastest growing among the major economies in the world.

"Even amid stress in the global economy, demand at home is pacing ahead. Inflation has remained under control. Exports are rising. All key indicators show the economy in the pink of health," Murmu said.

She attributed the achievements to the economic front to the carefully calibrated reforms, sagacious economic management, hard work and dedication of farmers.

"The all-round economic growth complemented by social sector initiatives has placed India well on the path of becoming a developed nation by 2047. With the nation marching ahead during the Amrit Kaal, I see all of us contributing to the best of our ability," she said.

Observing that a large number of people have been pulled out of poverty through good governance, the President said the



government has been running a series of welfare initiatives for the poor and also for those who have risen above the poverty line, but are still vulnerable.

"Income inequality is reducing. Regional disparities are also disappearing," Murmu said, adding that states and regions known for weak economic performance are now showing their true potential and catching up with front-runners.

Stressing that business leaders, small and medium industries and traders have always exhibited a "can-do spirit", she said, "what was needed was removing the bottleneck in the path of wealth creation. This is so visible when it comes to infrastructure development over the past decade".

She highlighted the expansion of the national highway network, and the introduction of new types of trains and coaches by the Indian railways.

In particular, she said the inauguration of the rail link in the Kashmir valley was a major accomplishment which will boost trade and tourism and open new economic policies. This engineering marvel in Kashmir is a historic milestone for India. (PTI)

## Problem of stray dogs due to inaction of local authorities, says SC

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** The Supreme Court on Thursday said the "whole problem" of stray dogs in Delhi-NCR was a result of the "inaction" of local authorities which did "nothing" in implementing the Animal Birth Control Rules on sterilisation and immunisation of canines.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria, which was constituted to hear a suo motu case and some other pleas concerning stray dogs, reserved its verdict on the interim prayer for a stay on the directions issued by the apex court on August 11.

A two-judge bench on August 11, among other directions, ordered the Delhi-NCR authorities to permanently relocate strays from streets to dog shelters.

The bench had acted in the suo motu case initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

"The whole problem is because of inaction of the local authorities. You frame rules in



Parliament. The government acts, rules are framed but no implementation is carried out creating problem which is standing today," the bench said on Thursday.

The top court added, "On the one hand, humans are suffering and on the other hand, the animal lovers want the animals also to be treated with dignity." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Delhi government, referred to data and said in 2024, India reported around 37.15 lakh dog bites cases -- nearly 10 million per day.

Mehta also referred to a

media report and said the World Health Organisation, using government and other authentic sources, reported 305 dog-bite related deaths last year.

The bench observed the Animal Welfare Board of India, local authorities and the government had done nothing.

"NGOs make a lot of noise but they don't know what they should actually be doing. They should have been here earlier for implementation of those rules (Animal Birth Control Rules). Nothing is happening," it added.

Everyone, the court said,

who came before the court and filed intervention would have to own responsibility. On August 11, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan asked authorities in Delhi-NCR to start relocating all stray dogs from streets to shelters and asked the authorities to initially start by creating a shelter to house 5,000 dogs.

It warned of strictest action against those who obstructed the exercise and directed immediate creation of dog shelters or pounds and report about it within eight weeks.

During Thursday's hearing, Mehta said it was an issue to be resolved, not a matter to be contested. "Children are dying," he said, "please bear in mind a vocal minority view as against a silent suffering majority view".

He added, "Nobody is an animal hater. Out of 100 species of snakes, only four are poisonous but we don't keep them in our house. Nobody says dogs are required to be killed. They have to be separated from the humans habitations." (PTI)

## KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M) TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT KAAC::: DIPHU-782460

No.KAAC/TRN/Advertisement/2009-2010/26/1462

Dated 17/07/2025

### NOTICE

Interview (Oral/Viva-voice) & Driving Test for engagement of 18(Eighteen) Nos of Driver (Contractual) where-8(Eight) Nos. HMV & 10(Ten) Nos. LMV Posts under Transport Department, KAAC, Diphu. The interview is to be held on 26 August, 2025 to 27th August, 2025 from 11:00 AM. till 5:00P.M.

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Date of Interview	Time	Venue
1.	1-100 (LMV)	26-08-2025	11.00 A.M.	Office of the E.E.(M), Transport Deptt. KAAC, Diphu
2.	101-169 (LMV)	27-08-2025	11.00 A.M.	Office of the E.E.(M), Transport Deptt. KAAC, Diphu
3.	1-28 (HMV)	27-08-2025	11.00 A.M.	Office of the E.E.(M), Transport Deptt. KAAC, Diphu

Therefore, all the candidates are hereby requested to collect their Admit Card from the Office of the Executive Engineer (Mechanical), KAAC Transport Deptt. Diphu from 18/08/2025 onwards. No, TA/DA will be provided by the Department in this regard.

In this connection, you are requested to publish the notification through your esteemed daily newspaper on 16/08/2025 or prior to the date of interview.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (M)  
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council  
Diphu

Memo No. KAAC/TRN/Advertisement/2009-2010/26/1407(A)

Dtd.17/07/2025

### ECI issues show-cause notice to INPT, proposes delisting

**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Aug 14:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued a show-cause notice to the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra (INPT), proposing to delist it from the roster of registered political parties under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

According to the ECI, the primary purpose of registering an association as a political party under Section 29A is to participate in elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and in by-elections conducted under the Act. However, official records show that the INPT has not fielded a single candidate in any such election over the past six years, since 2019.

The Commission stated that, given this prolonged inactivity, it is "self-evident" that the party has ceased to function for the purposes envisaged under Section 29A.

Acting under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 29A of the Act, the ECI has proposed delisting the INPT from its registry of political parties.

Before taking final action, the ECI has given the INPT an opportunity to present its case. The party has been asked to submit a written representation, supported by an affidavit from its President or General Secretary along with relevant documents, by the forenoon of August 28, 2025. A hearing has also been scheduled for 3:00 pm on the same day at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura, Agartala.

The Commission has made it clear that the hearing must be attended by the President, General Secretary, or Head of the Party.

"If no reply is received by the aforesaid date, it will be presumed that the party has nothing to say in the matter and appropriate action will be taken without further communication," the ECI warned.

## Nagalim history, territory non-negotiable: Muivah

**HT Correspondent**  
**DIMAPUR, Aug 14:** NSCN (IM) general secretary Th Muivah on Thursday reiterated that Nagalim history, territory, sovereignty, national flag, constitution and integration of Naga contiguous areas are non-negotiable.

In his speech on the "79th Naga Independence Day", Muivah reminded the Naga people of the 23rd year of signing of the Amsterdam Joint Communique on July 11, 2002, and the 10th year of signing of the Framework Agreement on August 3, 2015.

"These agreements speak loud and clear that the Nagas are not lost people," he stressed.

He said the political space and opportunity given by the Indo-Naga political peace process and the signing of these two agreements must be harvested to con-



clude a negotiated political settlement. Muivah added that with the signing of these two agreements in the current political peace process, the Government of India recognised and rectified the contentious issues on Nagalim history and sovereignty.

Expressing regret over the "misunderstanding", he said, the Government of India recognised and

acknowledged the unique history and position of the Nagas. Muivah said it accepted that sovereignty lies with the people and agreed on sharing "sovereign power".

Muivah further said in the Framework Agreement, both parties mutually agreed that an enduring inclusive new relationship of peaceful coexistence of two entities can be realised by the honouring the Amsterdam Joint Communique and the Framework Agreement in letter and spirit.

He thanked all Naga tribes and civil society organisations from different places for standing up firmly to the occasion in times of conflict and peace.

He also thanked the international organisations that acted as the main pillars in the international campaign on Nagalim.

## Meghalaya asks Centre to convince Bangladesh to erect fencing close to international border

**SHILLONG, Aug 14:** The Meghalaya government has asked the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to convince Bangladesh for permission to erect border fencing closer to the international boundary to secure a 40 km unfenced stretch without leaving villages outside the fenced area, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said.

Under international norms, border fencing is built 150 yards inside a country's territory.

But in Meghalaya's case, this would result in several villages falling within "no man's land" or outside the fencing, compromising their safety, he said.

"We have taken up with the MHA, urging it to convince the government of Bangladesh, because of this reality, let us go close to the main pillar of the border so that we can avoid fencing outside the village," Tynsong told PTI.

Tynsong, who is also Home minister, held a meeting with top Home department officials on Wednesday to review international border security after the recent infiltration attempt and the subsequent arrests of Bangladesh nationals.

According to the DyCM, such an arrangement would protect villages without putting them in harm's way.

He said there are several habitations within the 40-km unfenced border that will be left exposed if fencing is constructed strictly as per international norms.

The push for closer fencing follows an incident in Rongdangai village where six members of an armed gang, led by a Bangladesh Police constable, allegedly crossed into Indian territory, assaulted a local shopkeeper and looted cash and valuables.

Tynsong said instructions have been issued to all deputy commissioners and superintendents of police to adopt proactive measures to prevent infiltration along the entire India-Bangla border, from East Jaintia Hills to Dalu in Garo Hills.

As part of the crackdown, joint operations by the Border Security Force, Meghalaya Police and Village Defence Parties (VDPs) have been launched to secure all possible exit routes and flush out any gang members who may still be hiding inside Indian territory.

"We are alert and I am very sure our police force will be able to nab and also to push back those infiltrators," Tynsong said.

The deputy chief minister said the state government has already submitted a report on the arrests to the MHA.

"As per the police report, it is a case related to criminal activities and nothing beyond that. Their intention is very clear to rob," he said.

He added that one of the main accused, who allegedly hurled explosives during the incident, has escaped and crossed back into Bangladesh.

"It seems he has already crossed back to Bangladesh. However, our police and BSF are on the job to arrest and get him to face trial for the criminal activities here," Tynsong said.

On the BSF declaring "operation alert" along the India-Bangla border in the state, Tynsong said the state government has also adopted a similar policy.

"Our police are doing the job as well as the BSF, and I am very sure that with this close coordination we will be able to overcome all these challenges," he added. (PTI)

## Security tightened in Nagaland ahead of Independence Day celebrations

**KOHIMA, Aug 14:** Security has been tightened across Nagaland ahead of Friday's Independence Day celebrations following a boycott call by two groups, officials said. All commandants of Nagaland Armed Police (NAP) units and Indian Reserve Battalions have been directed to maintain constant vigil, with special focus on the disputed areas along the Assam-Nagalim boundary and the international border with Myanmar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Renchamo P. Kikon told PTI here.

"All security measures are in place and the law and order situation under control," he said, adding that while there is call for boycott by a section of insurgent groups, "we are hopeful no untoward incident will happen and the celebrations across the state will pass off peacefully".

The NSCN/GPRN (Yung Aung) along with the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) has jointly urged people across the region to abstain from participating in the celebrations.

Adding to the concerns, the 5-Tribes Committee on Review of Reservation Policy (CoRRP) has also declared its "non-participation" in the celebrations.

The CoRRP, representing the Angami, Ao, Lotha,

Rengma, and Sumi apex tribal bodies, said the move is "a step further" in its agitation against what it calls the state government's unresponsiveness to their demands on job reservation policy review.

It appealed to the public — particularly youths and students — to express their resentment "through peaceful non-participation" and urged the government to refrain from coercing civil society leaders or the public.

Following the directives, student bodies under the five tribes have circulated notices barring educational institutions and students in at least six districts — Kohima, Dimapur, Mokokchung, Chümoukedima, Nuland, and Wokha — from participating in the celebrations.

The Nagaland government, however, has issued strict orders mandating compulsory attendance of all government officers and staff at Independence Day functions across the state.

"We are firm on our stand of non-participation in the Independence Day celebration tomorrow as there has been no response from the state government to our demands," CoRRP member secretary G P Zhimomi told PTI here. (PTI)

## Nine including seven militants arrested in Manipur

**IMPHAL, Aug 14:** Security forces arrested nine people, including seven militants belonging to different proscribed outfits from Imphal East, Kakching, Kangpokpi, and Tengnoupal districts, police said on Thursday.

A joint team of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles arrested one active member of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) involved in extortion activity from Nugaipokpi Maning Leikai area in Imphal East district on Wednesday, the police said.

Three militants, including two women of the same outfit, also involved in extortion activities, were arrested from Wabagai Lamkhai area in Kakching district on Tuesday.

One active cadre of KCP (MFL) was arrested from Pangaltabi Makha in Imphal East district on Wednesday.

Police arrested two extortionists from Keithelmanbi Vengpi area in Kangpokpi district. (PTI)

## Prepare robust ground for Naga solution: GPRN/NSCN

**HT Correspondent**  
**DIMAPUR, Aug 14:** GPRN/NSCN (Unification) at kilonser (prime minister) N Kitovi Zhimomi on Thursday called for preparing a robust ground for an acceptable and honourable solution to the Indo-Naga political problem.

In his address on the "79th Naga Independence Day" at GPRN/NSCN council headquarters at Camp Khehoi under Nuland district as the chief guest, Zhimomi, who is also the convener of the working committee of the Naga National Political

groups (NNPGs), said, "We must rise above our differences, threats, fear, and intimidations."

Calling August 14 an immortal date in the history of the Naga people, he said on this day in 1947, the Naga people chose to live undisturbed and unchained as a people and nation, free from conquerors and tyrants.

Lamenting that too many Naga political groups have emerged under various factors and circumstances, Zhimomi said only time will tell whether they succumb to the policies of various agencies and anti-solution elements in Na-

galand for fame and wealth or genuinely seek a solution to the Naga problem.

He added that despite all personal differences, all the political groups, except for a few, are coordinating to secure an acceptable and honourable political solution on the basis of the Agreed Position signed between the Government of India and the working committee of the NNPGs on November 17, 2017.

He said all negotiating parties successfully completed political negotiations with the Government of India on October 31, 2019.

Therefore, Zhimomi said, philosophical theories at this hour are not really appropriate for the Naga people and the impending political solution.

Zhimomi affirmed that securing political solution for the future Naga generations is their goal, which has been clearly conveyed to the Government of India.

He also slammed the NSCN (IM) for opposing any alliance with the NNPGs to hammer out a final solution to the Naga issue, calling the Th Muvah-led group "dangerous" and "harmful" for the Naga people.

## Sikkim govt to give ₹ 1 lakh award to 199 people

**GANGTOK, Aug 14:** The Sikkim government has selected 199 people of the state to provide them with ₹ 1 lakh each as the Shraavan Kumar award, an honour for taking care of elderly parents, an official said on Thursday.

All 199 beneficiaries will get the award at the Independence Day functions in various districts on Friday, he said.

The Prem Singh Tamang government has launched the Shraavan Kumar Award to honour sons and daughters who show exceptional care and devotion towards their elderly parents. The award was named after

the mythical character Shraavan Kumar, who took care of his blind parents. The initiative is aimed at promoting strong family values, encouraging respect for elders, and preserving Sikkim's cultural tradition of caring for parents in their old age, the official said.

"While the chief minister himself will honour 22 individuals from Gangtok district at Paljor Stadium, the venue of state level Independence Day celebrations tomorrow, the awardees for Pakyong, Soreng, Namchi, Geyzing and Mangan will be honoured in their respective districts," he said. (PTI)

## We must learn from partition to avoid division: Tripura CM

**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Aug 14:** Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working to protect the country's integrity and everyone must unite to protect the nation from division.

Dr. Saha said this while addressing the State Level Observance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2025 at Rabindra Hall, MBB College, Agartala.

Saha said that during discussions in this program, people and students will reflect on which direction the country will go, which path we will follow, and who will lead the country in the coming days.

"We always think about ourselves, but everyone must also think about their own state and country. Today, we know about the world due to the internet, but I don't know how much today's generation is aware of history. No one can erase history. If we read history, we will

learn about the present and the past. This is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in 2021," he said.

Saha said that during the partition and the freedom struggle, many people were killed, many women were raped, and many children went missing.

Many people had to leave and relocate. This day is to remember such times and such incidents.

"We must be aware of how the country suffered. We must remember everything so that history does not repeat itself. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is very important, and every year on 14th August we observe it. If every year we can hold the program in various locations, then people will be aware of the incidents of partition horrors. Even now, there are some people who work to create unrest or riots to divide the people. We must learn from the partition so that we do not move towards di-

vision," said Saha.

He said that in 1881, riots started and were happening in many places, creating a division between Hindus and Muslims, and the British worked for this under their divide-and-rule policy.

"Such riots did not occur for religious purposes but for political benefits and to become Prime Minister as soon as possible. In Kashmir, the Hindu Pandits faced many problems at the hands of terrorists. Due to the ideals and thinking of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Hindu Bengalis got a place. Many people from East and West Pakistan came here, leaving their properties, and from India, Muslims went there. Due to division, people faced many problems. PM Modi has been working to protect the country's integrity, and we must stay united; if not, there will be problems. This is why PM Modi announced Partition Horrors Remembrance Day," he added.

No. SEKI/INT/12/4/2024-25/387 Date 14/08/2025

**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tender in prescribed format Eventually to be drawn in APWD "F2" Form affixing non refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only for each group separately are here by invited from the eligible registered contractors of Irrigation Department of Assam for the following works under Gossaigaon Kokrajhar West Division (Irrigation) Gossaigaon and will be received upto 1.00 PM on 21/08/2025 in the office of the undersigned which will be opened on the same date and place at 2.00 PM in presence of the intending tenderers or their authorized agents which may like to be present.

However in the event of closure of opening / receiving of tender due to some unavoidable reason the next office working day will be considered for the purpose. The name of works of the schemes and the tender value are shown in the group list as mentioned below.

Group No.	Name of Schemes	Tender Amount (Rs. In Lakh)
1	Repairing of Pumps and Accessories of Kamandanga E.L.S. under M&R for the Year 2025-26	14.00 L
2	Repairing of Canal of Koraitola E.L.S. under M&R for the Year 2025-26	15.00 L
3	Repairing of Pumps and Accessories of Bhumka E.L.S. under M&R for the Year 2025-26	15.00 L
4	Bank Protection Works at Garoktra ELIS under M&R for the Year 2025-26	14.56 L

Time of Completion :- 45 days from the date of issue of work order  
Earnest money : 2% of tendered value ( 1% in case of ST/SC/OBC/UGE)

Detail tender papers with terms and conditions may be obtained in request from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs.100.00 (Rupees one hundred) only for each group in the form of IPO/ Demand draft duly pledged to the Superintending Engineer Kokrajhar Circle (Irrigation), Kokrajhar from 12-00 noon on 14/08/2025

N.B.:- 1 :- In view of the Drought-like Situation in Assam, Govt. has approved the relaxation of Bid submission time period to 7 (Seven) days, in accordance with Section 10 of the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020 vide Govt. Letter E-271932/127 Dtd. 28-07-2025.

2 :- The Schemes are not sanctioned till date by the competent authority. In the event of Non Sanctioned of the schemes the tender may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the tenderers.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer  
Kokrajhar Circle (Irrigation),  
Kokrajhar, BTC

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/2599

**RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF OFFICE BUILDING AND GODOWN**

E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/59 of 2025; Dated: 12-08-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **SN. 1. Brief Description of Item:** Renovation and Improvement of Office Building and Godown for SSE/P/Way/Digarau at Digarau under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/Lumding. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,55,40,202.87. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,27,700.00. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 08-09-2025 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 09-09-2025. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 08-09-2025 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

DRM/Works, Lumding  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers with a smile

**THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION**

E-Tender Notice No.: LMG/Engg./55 of 2025 Dated: 11-08-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Through Sleeper Renewal (TSR) at km 20/9-22/1(1.2km) DN, 26/3-28/0(1.7km) DN, KM 31/5-36/3 (4.8km) DN, 37/8-50/2 (12.4km), 50/9-55/3 (4.4km) DN, 55/4-56/7(1.3km) DN, 56/7-59/8(3.1km) DN, 62/6-66/6 (4km) DN, 78/4-83/1(4.7km) DN, 86/9-93/1(6.2km) DN, 94/5-100/3(5.8km), KM 22/0-23/2(1.2km) UP, KM 28/1-28/9 (0.8km) UP, KM 30/6-31/4(0.8km) UP (Total = 52.4km) with wider PSC sleepers in Guwahati-Chaparmukh Jn. section and Through Sleeper Renewal (TSR) at km 102/0-102/7(0.7km) DN, 103/0-109/9(6.9km) DN, KM 110/6-128/6 (18km) DN, KM 131/0-136/7(5.7km), KM 140/6-145/2 (4.6km) DN, 147/1-152/5 (5.4km) DN, KM 154/2-159/8 (5.6km)DN, KM 62/6-66/6 (4km)DN, KM 161/6-165/3 (3.7km) DN, KM 167/0-170/3(3km) DN, 171/0-173/6 (2.6km) DN, KM 184/6-185/8(1.2km) DN, KM 137/4-138/7(1.3km)UP (Total=58.7km) with wider PSC sleepers in Chaparmukh Jn.-Lumding section under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/II/Lumding (Two Packet system). **Tender Value:** ₹ 22,28,33,169.97/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 12,64,200/- **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 04-09-2025. **Date & Time of opening of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 05-09-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 04-09-2025 in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

DRM (W), Lumding  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
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No. TECH/U&BDTD/BLDGA/FB/2025-26/2304 Dated:- 12/08/2025

**PRESSNOTICE INVITING FOR BID**

The Executive Engineer, PWD (B&NH), Udalguri district and Baksa district Territorial Building Division, Udalguri on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Public Works Department (Buildings), Assam/Contractors registered with Bodoland Territorial Council in the category of Class-I (A, B&C), Class-II & Class-III for 01 (One) nos. of works for bids amounting to Rs.14,10,594.00 (approx) (Rupees Twenty-One Lakhs Sixty-Three Thousand Twenty-Seven) only.

Details may be seen at in the office of the undersigned during office hours.  
Sd/-Executive Engineer PWD. (B&NH),  
Udalguri and Baksa District Territorial Building Division, Udalguri

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/2594

No. TECH/U&BDTD/BLDGA/FB/2025-26/2303 Dated:- 12/08/2025

**PRESSNOTICE INVITING FOR BID**

The Executive Engineer, PWD (B&NH) Udalguri & Baksa District Territorial Building Division, Udalguri on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Public Works Department (Buildings), Assam/Contractors registered with Bodoland Territorial Council in the category of Class-I (A, B&C), Class-II, Class-III for 01 (One) nos. of work for bids amounting to Rs.24,98,683.00(approx) (Rupees Twenty-Four Lakhs Ninety-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Three) only.

Details may be seen at in the office of the undersigned during office hours and PWD portal [assamtenders.gov.in](http://assamtenders.gov.in)

Sd/-Executive Engineer PWD. (B&NH),  
Udalguri and Baksa District Territorial Building Division, Udalguri

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/2592

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM LEADING CGHS EMANELLED SPECIALITY/MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITALS**

No. EOI/CMS/TSK/01 OF 2025-26 Dated:-12/08/2025

Chief Medical Superintendent, N.F. Railway, Tinsukia on behalf of President of India invites expression of Interest from leading CGHS emanelled Speciality/Multi-Speciality Hospitals preferably in following Jurisdiction for empanelment to provide emergency treatment to Railway beneficiaries at the prevailing CGHS-Rates of CGHS Guwahati rates- 2014 Updated on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (or as revised by CGHS from time to time).

SN	Name of Hospital/Health Unit	EOI for specialty Hospital/ Multispecialty OPD & IPD Services	EOI for Hospital Superspecialty OPD & IPD services
1	Divisional Railway Hospital, Dibrugarh	Super Specialty	OPD Services
2	Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, New Tinsukia	Super Specialty	IPD & OPD
3	Ledo Health, Tinsukia District	0	Specialty
4	Furkating Health Unit, Golaghat District	0	Specialty
5	Simaluguri Health Unit, Sivsagar District	0	Specialty
6	Mariani Health Unit, Jorhat District	0	Specialty
7	North Lakhimpur Health Unit, Lakhimpur District	0	Specialty
8	Dhemaji Health Unit, Dhemaji District	0	Specialty

For more details visit-<http://www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in> (News & Updates - News and announcements)

Chief Medical Superintendent, Tinsukia

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# SHOLAY@50: FROM SAMBHA TO KALIA, SUPPORTING PARTS THAT BECAME POP CULTURE MAINSTAY



**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** Any mention of "Sholay" instantly evokes the image of the unforgettable pair of Jai-Veeru and the many main characters that populate its runtime of over three hours, including the revenge-seeking Thakur, the menacing Gabbar, Basanti and Radha. But the enduring charm of Ramesh Sippy's 1975 cult classic also lies in its array of supporting characters, some in the background forever and some who pop up in the frame to utter just one sentence. Despite their limited screen time, these characters have earned a permanent spot for themselves in the collective memory of cinephiles.

"Sholay", penned by screenwriting legends Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar, gives audiences a choice to pick their favourite character from a vast bouquet -- from Viju Khote's Kaalia, Mac-mohan's Sambha to Jagdeep's Soorma Bhopali. From Asrani's Jailer, A K Hangal's Rahim chacha to Leela Mishra's mausi. These people were meant to propel the plot, infuse humour or evoke paths. Over the past five decades, they have become as memorable as the film's leading artists. And in the process, these brief appear-

ances have become the defining roles of their careers.

Kaalia, brought to life by actor Viju Khote, is a prime example. Khote had only two scenes in the film. He first appears when Kaalia and two other dacoits visit Ramgarh to collect foodgrain for Gabbar's gang.

In the second scene, Kaalia and his colleagues are standing in front of their master, empty-handed and trembling with fear, prompting Gabbar to mouth the famous dialogue: "Tera kya hoga Kaalia?"

Kaalia stutters and says, "Sardar, maine aapka namak khaya hai," to which the dacoit leader laughs and responds: "Ab goli khaa." Gabbar is not done. He first plays a game of Russian roulette with them and when they are almost relieved to be alive, he kills all three swiftly.

Khote, who died in 2019 at 77, essayed many roles in his lifetime, including his comic turn as Robert in "Andaaz Apna Apna" and in the sitcom "Zabaan Sambhalke", but no character of his could come close to Kaalia in terms of popularity. "For many years after the film's release, people on the road would recognise me and re-

peat what Amjad had told me: 'Tera kya hoga Kaalia'... It signifies the tremendous popularity of the movie. And that people liked Kaalia as a character," the actor told Times of India in 2015.

Sambha, played by Mac Mohan, is another character that despite his one line has lived on. It takes place when Gabbar asks Sambha, perched on a hilltop, about the bounty placed on him by the police, clearly enjoying his notoriety.

To this, Sambha replies, "Poore pachas hazaar." After "Sholay", Mac Mohan did over 200 films till his demise in 2010, most of them negative. But in public memory, he remained Samba.

In an old interview with Tabassum Talkies, the actor said, "'Sholay' created many records, and I believe this is another -- that an artist became so popular after playing such a small role. I've never heard of or seen anything like it before."

The actor also said he shot many scenes for the movie, which included travelling to Bengaluru, but when he saw the final print, he was heartbroken as he was barely there in the film. "I had to search for myself in the film and I thought I shot for so many days but they kept this only. I went to Ramesh Sippy and asked him why even kept that scene. He told me that if the movie works, then everyone would start calling you 'Sambha'." In the film, characters like Asrani as the jailer and Jagdeep as Soorma Bhopali balanced the heightened violence and vengeance with lighter interludes.

All these years later, the comedy still evokes laughter. Asrani's character was clearly modelled after Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" and carried a post-colonial hangover as he would declare his greatness by repeating the phrase, "Hum angrezo ke zamaane ke jailor hai".

Jagdeep's comic act as Soorma Bhopali emerged out of Javed Akhtar's lived in experiences in Bhopal and the character's exaggerated mannerisms, tall tales and distinct accent has made him a fan favourite. (PTI)

# FANS CELEBRATE RAJINIKANTH'S 50 YEARS IN CINEMA WITH GRAND FESTIVITIES AS 'COOLIE' HITS THEATRES



**CHENNAI, Aug 14:** Firecrackers, drums, sweets, confetti, cake, milk and so on. Rajinikanth fans on Thursday went all out in their celebration of the 50th anniversary of their favourite superstar and the arrival of his new movie "Coolie".

Rajinikanth debuted with K Balachander's Tamil movie "Apoorva Raagangal", which released on August 15, 1975. The film also starred Kamal Haasan, Sundararajan, Srividya and Jayasudha.

Crowds, mostly ardent fans of the star, swelled across cinema theatres to catch the first glimpse of Rajinikanth in his new avatar of a coolie who takes on bad guys in his quintessential style in the Lokesh Kanagraj directorial. The crowd outside Chennai's Rohini theatres erupted in joy as they welcomed the new movie, showering the venue with colourful confetti and breaking into energetic dances to the rhythmic beats of the dhol, turning the atmosphere into a festival.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin reportedly watched a special screening of the movie, produced by Sun Pictures on Wednesday.

"Honourable Chief Minister @CMOTamilNadu sir, thank you so much for your wishes and love for #Coolie sir," Kanagaraj said in a social media message.

Actors Dhanush and Sivakarthekeyan were among the Tamil stars to watch the film on its release day here.

After catching the first-day-first-show of the movie, a fan said, "If Thalaivar comes on screen, it is enough... Lokesh Kanagaraj has directed well. Nagarajuna has performed tremendously."

Another die-hard fan said, "The movie was great, especially the climax scenes. There is no lag in the film. The music and songs were also nice, Anirudh as usual has given his best." In Thanjavur, large crowds gathered outside Vijaya Theatre and eight other cinemas. Fans also took out a procession, chanting "Long live Rajinikanth."

Fans performed rituals to honour the superstar's cutout -- pouring milk over it, lighting lamps, breaking coconuts, and setting off firecrackers. A cake was also cut to mark Rajinikanth's 50 years in cinema.

Men and women alike joined in the festivities, which included offering prayers to the towering cutout of the

superstar and distributing sweets.

Similar scenes unfolded in Karnataka, where in the state capital Bengaluru, fans greeted Rajinikanth's new movie by rallying outside Mukunda Theatre for the first-day, first-show.

From the early hours, the atmosphere was electric -- Thalaivar banners fluttered, paper showers filled the morning sky, band sets played loud and proud, and jubilant crowds hailed him as their one and only superstar.

A fan said, "This is like the most awaited movie. More than Tamil Nadu, Rajini fans in Bengaluru are excited on just another level. This movie will have a blockbuster opening of all time."

"I've been a Thalaivar fan for 30 years, since I was in school. I went to all the theatres to put up banners, and now I'm here to watch the show," said a cinegoer.

One fan said, "I'm a hardcore Rajini fan. My age is 50, the same as Thalaivar's experience. I live for Thalaivar Rajini, he's my role model. He's the only superstar, and for someone to surpass him, another superstar would have to be born."

Filmmaker Karthik Subbaraj, who worked with Rajinikanth for his 2019 hit "Petta", was among those who watched "Coolie" in the morning. "It is always a pleasure to watch Rajini sir on screen," he told PTI.

"Coolie" marks Rajinikanth's first collaboration with Kanagaraj, the eccentric director behind hits such as Karthi's "Kaithi", Vijay's "Master" and "Leo", and Kamal Haasan's "Vikram". It features Rajinikanth in the titular role of a coolie who stands up to a corrupt syndicate that exploits and abuses his former colleagues in a port town.

The star-studded cast also includes Soubin Shahir, Upendra, Shruti Haasan, Sathyaraj with Nagarajuna as antagonist and Bollywood star Aamir Khan in a special appearance. "Coolie" is Rajinikanth's 171st film as a lead actor and releases 50 years after "Apoorva Raagangal".

In the 1975 film, which released on Independence Day on August 15, Rajinikanth had a minor appearance alongside Kamal Haasan, Sundararajan, Srividya and Jayasudha.

Born as Shivaji Rao Gaikwad on December 12, 1950, in Bengaluru, Rajinikanth worked as a bus conductor before pursuing a course in acting at the Madras Film Institute. (PTI)

## DocuBay's film 'Operation Maa' to release on August 27

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** On the eve of India's 78th Independence Day, DocuBay released the trailer of its upcoming documentary, set to release on August 27.

The documentary follows an initiative in Jammu and Kashmir which encourages militants to give up arms and return to their families, according to a press release.

The trailer gives a glimpse into the unbreakable bond between a mother and child and focuses on the real life accounts of those rebuilding their lives. Aditya Pittie, Managing Director of IN10 Media Network, said, "Stories like 'Operation Maa' remind us that freedom goes beyond political boundaries and it's also about emotional liberation and second chances... this documentary truly reflects the values of unity, compassion, and hope that lie at the heart of our Independence."

"The trailer offers just a glimpse into the emotional depth of 'Operation Maa'," Samar Khan, Chief Content Officer of DocuBayWe said in a release.

"We are proud to have documented a story so deeply connected to the people of the Valley and, indeed, to the conscience of the nation," he added. Retired Lieutenant general K.J.S. Dhillon, whose work inspired the documentary, said, "The Valley is an inseparable part of India, and every son of the soil deserves the chance to come home. I hope this story inspires more such reconciliations." "Operation Maa" will premiere exclusively on DocuBay. (PTI)

## John Abraham-starrer Tehran's projection illuminates Mumbai's Sea Link

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** A day before the country's Independence Day, and on its release date, the poster of John Abraham starrer "Tehran" lit up at the Bandra Worli Sea Link in Mumbai.

Abraham, was also present at the event and called it a "proud, unforgettable moment", adding that being a part of "Tehran" has been a phenomenal journey.

"Going by my film choices over the years, it's obvious that I have an ongoing love affair with the country -- a connection that finds its way into almost everything I do on screen. My fasci-

ination with geo-politics made this story an instant draw for me."

"Interacting with the brilliant minds at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service was both inspiring and humbling and watching the film's poster light up the Bandra Worli Sea Link was a proud, unforgettable moment," the 52-year-old added.

Streaming on ZEE5, "Tehran" is a geo-political thriller about the global tension between Israel and Iran and India's entanglement in the conflict as collateral damage.

Produced by Maddock Films and directed by Arun Gopalan, the film also stars Manushi Chhillar, Neeru Bajwa and Madhurima Tuli in key roles. (PTI)



# Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal, Mammooty and others extend wishes to Rajinikanth on 50 years in film

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** Fifty years ago, Tamil film "Apoorva Raagangal" gave birth to Rajinikanth, the superstar. As the actor celebrates his five decades in cinema with a new release in "Coolie", heartfelt wishes poured in from colleagues and cinestars for the actor.

Directed by K Balachander, "Apoorva Raagangal" released on August 15, 1975 and featured Rajinikanth in a small role. Kamal Haasan, who happens to be the 74-year-old's first co-star, celebrated the occasion with a sweet post, which read, "Marking half a century of cinematic brilliance, my dear friend @rajinikanth celebrates 50 glorious years in cinema today. I celebrate our Super Star

with affection and admiration, and wish #Coolie resounding global success befitting this golden jubilee."

Mohanlal, who also made a cameo in Rajinikanth's "Jailer", also extended his wishes: "Fifty years of unmatched charisma, dedication, and magic on screen! Congratulations to the one and only @rajinikanth sir on this monumental milestone. Here's to #Coolie and many more iconic moments ahead."

Mammooty, who worked with the star in the 1991 film "Thalapathi", tweeted, "Heartfelt congratulations to dear @rajinikanth on completing 50 glorious years in cinema. It was truly an honour to share the screen with you. Wish-

ing you the very best for #Coolie. Keep inspiring and shining always."

"Coolie" director Lokesh Kanagaraj also put out a special tweet for the "Thalaivaa" which called their collaboration a "special film in my journey".

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you for continuously inspiring all of us and hearty congratulations on completing 50 glorious years of making us love you, learn from you, and grow with you!" Hrithik Roshan, whose "War 2" released alongside "Coolie", also celebrated Rajinikanth with a post on X. Roshan, who appeared as a child actor alongside Rajinikanth in the 1986 film "Bhagwaan Dada",

called the legend his "teacher". "Took my first steps as an actor at your side. You were one of my first teachers, @rajinikanth sir, and continue to be an inspiration and a standard. Congratulations on completing 50 years of on-screen magic!" Roshan said.

Actor Sivakarthekeyan, who attended the screening of "Coolie" along with actors Dhanush and Priyanka Mohan, also expressed his admiration of the superstar in a tweet. "Thalaivaaa, I grew up watching you, mimicked you, and walked in your footsteps- to be in the same field as you is my greatest fortune. Thank you for inspiring me, and congratulations on your 50 years of magnificent legacy," his tweet read. (PTI)



# PSG BEATS TOTTENHAM IN PENALTY SHOOTOUT TO WIN UEFA SUPER CUP AFTER LATE RALLY

*Schauffele is trying to avoid missing the Tour C'ship for the first time*

**PARIS, Aug 14:** Paris Saint-Germain produced a dramatic late rally before beating Tottenham in a penalty shootout to win the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday, securing a fifth trophy of 2025 for the French club.

Nuno Mendes converted the clinching spot kick in the shootout to complete a PSG comeback that looked unlikely when Tottenham held a 2-0 lead in the 85th minute of regulation in the annual match between the most recent winners of the Champions League and Europa League.

Lee Kang-in gave PSG hope by reducing the deficit with a fierce shot into the bottom corner and fellow substitute Gonçalo Ramos grabbed an equalizer in the fourth minute of stoppage time to make it 2-2 at Stadio Friuli in Udine.

Even then, Tottenham moved into position to pull off an upset by taking a 2-0 lead in the shootout after Vitorino's first-up miss for PSG. However, Mick



van de Ven and Mathys Tel failed from the spot for Spurs and PSG scored four penalties in a row, the last of which was slammed home by Mendes.

"Sometimes football is unfair," PSG coach Luis Enrique said. "I have to say we were very lucky in the last 10 minutes that we could score two goals."

PSG won the Champions League-Ligue 1-Coupe de France treble last season, along with the Trophée des Champions in January. The only blip came in last month's defeat to Chelsea in the final of the Club World Cup, a competition which extended PSG's 2024-25 season into mid-July. Luis Enrique said PSG's players had only been back in training for six days and took time to get into their stride.

"My players had faith until the last minute, like our supporters," he said.

It was quite the debut for Lucas Chevalier, a goalkeeper who has

just joined from Lille and taken over as first choice at PSG from Gianluigi Donnarumma — regarded by many as the world's best goalie.

Chevalier was unlucky in conceding Tottenham's opening goal in the 39th, tipping Joao Palhinha's shot onto the crossbar only for Van de Ven to show quick reactions and prod home.

He was to blame, though, for the second after failing to keep out a header from newly appointed Tottenham captain Cristian Romero in the 48th.

finished the evening by saving a penalty by Van de Ven in the shootout, a match tiebreaker in which Donnarumma often thrives. The Italian might have been watching from home, having not traveled to Italy on Tuesday before announcing he'd be leaving PSG. "I'm very happy for him because he showed a lot of personality," Luis Enrique said of Chevalier. (AP)

## Olympic bronze-winning hockey player Dr Vece Paes passes away



**KOLKATA, Aug 14:** Dr Vece Paes, a member of the 1972 Munich Olympic Games bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team and father of legendary tennis player Leander Paes, died here on Thursday morning owing to age-related ailments. He was 80.

Paes, who was also suffering from Parkinson's disease, was admitted to the Woodlands Hospital here on Tuesday morning.

His last rites will be performed either on Monday or Tuesday, as the family will wait for the arrival of his two daughters, who are both settled abroad.

He was married to Jennifer, a former India basketball team captain.

Paes, who donned multiple hats in his long association with Indian sports, was a mid-fielder in the Indian hockey team.

He also played several other sports such as football, cricket and rugby at the divisional level and served as the president of the Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002.

Born in Goa in April, 1945, Paes was exceptional in both sports and academics and following his successful stint with hockey, he became a sports medicine doctor.

He went on to work as a consultant with several sports bodies including the Asian Cricket Council, the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Indian Davis Cup team. Paes was also a member of the Indian hockey team that won a bronze medal at the 1971 World Cup in Barcelona but the Olympic medal a year after that was the

biggest moment of his career.

The 1972 edition of the Games is tragically also remembered for the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes by a Palestinian militant group which forced a four-day shutdown of the showpiece.

After bidding adieu to his hockey career, Paes served as the team doctor of the Indian Davis Cup team for a decade and was also Leander's manager. Leander's initiation into tennis was on his father's push.

Leander took Indian tennis to great heights, becoming the most successful player in the country's history by winning 18 Grand Slam titles, including eight men's doubles and 10 mixed doubles crowns.

Leander also won the men's singles bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, thus keeping the family tradition alive of winning a medal at the quadrennial showpiece.

He became the first Asian male tennis player to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Hockey India president and former defender Dilip Tirkey said, Paes senior's demise has ended a glorious era of the sport in the country.

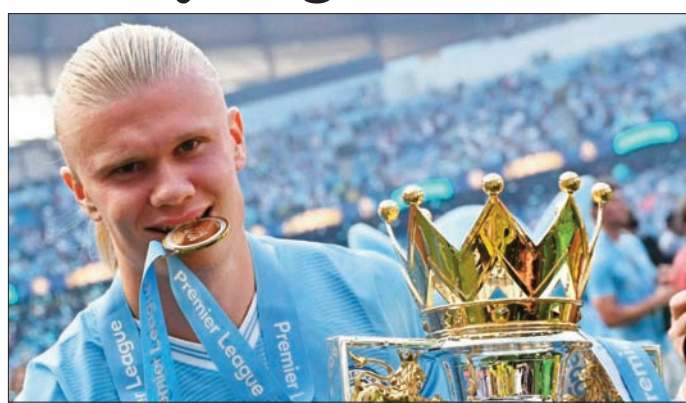
"It is a sad day for us in Hockey India. The passing of Dr Paes draws curtains on a great era of hockey. The Olympic medal in Munich is a testament to their grit and determination."

"I had the good fortune of meeting him a few times and I have always been inspired by his passion for sports in general. He was a great advocate of inculcating sporting culture in the country. (PTI)

**LONDON, Aug 14:** The Premier League's top official called for patience Wednesday while the seismic legal case involving Manchester City drags on into another season. City was charged by the league in February 2023 with more than 100 financial breaches, including providing misleading information about its sources of income. The case was heard by an independent commission between September and December last year but no verdict has been reached.

Punishment could be as extreme as expulsion from the top flight. City has always denied the charges. The issue hangs over the start of another Premier League campaign, with the 2025-26 season starting Friday. But Richard Masters, the competition's chief executive, reiterated the league has no control or say over the timings.

Asked in an interview with British broadcaster Sky Sports News why the league could not



hurry the process along, Masters said: "I can't answer that specific question. All I can tell you about is the system and how it works."

"I mean, it's an independent judiciary, essentially. So once the allegations, the charge, has been put forward, they go before an independent panel, which is independently selected, and they are then in charge of the process and its tim-

ings. They hear the case, they decide the outcome, and we have no influence over that, over it or its timing. That's right from an independence point of view."

Masters said "my frustration is irrelevant." "I just have to wait," he said, "and legal processes rarely take less time than you anticipated, but we have to be patient."

## Champions League winner PSG may find it harder to defend the French title this season

**PARIS, Aug 14:** Paris Saint-Germain dominated Ligue 1 last season, losing only two games as it benefited from a lack of domestic rivalry to also embark on a victorious Champions League campaign.

But things might prove more difficult for coach Luis Enrique and his PSG team this season, because Marseille and Monaco are determined to mount credible title challenges after strong summer signings.

PSG also has a long-awaited local derby against newly-promoted Paris FC to contend with. Get ready for PSG vs. PFC.

But first, the season begins with Marseille at Rennes on Friday. Monaco is at home to Le Havre on Saturday and PSG is at Nantes on Sunday. Intercity rivalry For the first time in 35 years two Paris-based soccer clubs are in Ligue 1.

Paris FC's takeover by France's richest family, the Arnaults of luxury empire LVMH, also saw energy drink giant Red Bull become a mi-

nority stakeholder.

It gives PSG fans a genuine city rivalry against a very close neighbor.

Because Paris FC, also known as PFC, changed stadium following its promotion and will now play at the 20,000-seat Stade Jean-Bouin — which is right across the street from PSG's Parc des Princes.

PFC owner Antoine Arnault, the son of billionaire Bernard Arnault, used to be a PSG season-ticket holder. "I've loved PSG since I was 12," Antoine Arnault said. "You will never hear me say anything negative about PSG."

The teams meet at Parc des Princes on Jan. 4. Paris FC will host PSG on May 16, the season's final round. Marseille offense Coach Roberto De Zerbi has been proactive with his signings but his best move was keeping hold of influential midfielder Adrien Rabiot.

Marseille bolstered its attack by signing highly-rated Brazilian winger Igor Paixão in a deal that

could rise to 35 million euros (\$40.6 million).

Veteran striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who scored 30 goals for Marseille two seasons ago, has returned. Attacking midfielder Angel Gomes joined from Lille and U.S. winger Tim Weah arrived from Juventus. They supplement an attack already featuring Mason Greenwood, who scored 21 league goals last season, and skilful finisher Amine Gouiri.

But the team's heartbeat is Rabiot. He was Marseille's best player last season following a surprise move from Juventus, and the 53-cap France international said he turned down offers to move during the off-season.

"I couldn't see myself leaving when I think the best is ahead of us," Rabiot told Le Provence newspaper. "We've put something into place with the coach and I want to be part of what's ahead."

Monaco's challenge Monaco

started last season strongly but faded badly due to poor defending and erratic goalkeeping.

Coach Adi Hütter is determined to correct that and the Principality club has recruited veteran goalkeeper Lukáš Hrádecký from Bayer Leverkusen.

Paul Pogba has also joined, along with Ansu Fati.

Pogba was once among the world's best midfielders, and now he's trying to re-ignite a career derailed by injuries and a doping ban.

Fati was once considered among the world's best young players in the way Lamine Yamal is now. The tricky winger has joined on a season-long loan from Barcelona, offering the former teen prodigy another chance to resurrect his career. With the prolific Mika Biereth in attack alongside forward Folarin Balogun, and with Eliesse Ben Seghir and Maghnes Aklouches supporting them from midfield, the goals should flow for Monaco. (AP)

## A Good Doc: the multi-faceted Dr Vece Paes, who influenced Indian sports long after calling it quits

**NEW DELHI, Aug 14:** A hockey great whose influence extended well beyond the field, the multi-faceted Dr Vece Paes was a rare combination of sporting and academic excellence that healed and helped athletes across disciplines.

Paes, 80, breathed his last in Kolkata early this morning after battling multiple age-related ailments, including the debilitating Parkinson's disease.

To those who knew him closely Paes was a mild-mannered, and highly intelligent man, who did the country proud on the hockey field with an Olympic medal (bronze in 1972, Munich Games) and later helped hockey, cricket, tennis and even football with his sports medicine expertise.

He was also the father of a very famous son, whose career he shaped with his gentle guidance. Leander Paes never missed a

chance to tell the world how much his father meant to him and his career. Paes senior was his manager too for a long time and served as the Indian Davis Cup team's doctor for a decade. The father-son duo made for one of the most famous sporting combinations in India.

"He was so dedicated to sports medicine that he fully concentrated on it after his hockey career. He had helped a number of Indian athletes in his sports medicine career," recalled former player and Paes' teammate during the 1972 Games Ajit Pal Singh.

Decades later, another India hockey captain Viren Rasquinha found Dr Paes as the team's doctor during the Athens 2004 Olympics. Rasquinha on Thursday mourned the loss of an "incredible human being."

"They do not make them like Doc (Dr. Paes) anymore. So

knowledgeable, so warm, so kind, so humble, so jovial. Always willing to help. Always joking around. I will forever miss you Doc. You were the absolute best," he posted in a heartfelt tribute on X.

Aside from hockey, Paes also dabbled in divisional level football, cricket and rugby, going on to serve as the president of the Indian Rugby Union from 1996 to 2002. He gave back to all these sports too.

Paes was a part of the BCCI's anti-doping programme for several years, besides also working with the Asian Cricket Council and the Indian Davis Cup team.

He also worked with the East Bengal football team and players like former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia on the insistence of then coach Subhas Bhowmick.

Paes, who also served as the president of the Calcutta Cricket

and Football Club, was married to former basketball player Jennifer Paes.

"It is a very sad day for Indian sports, especially hockey. Paes was a highly educated and soft-spoken person. He used to help us with his guidance on sports medicine," Ajit Pal said.

"We both played as centre-half in the 1972 Olympics team and he was terrific. I was one-and-a-half years younger to him and he used to guide me," the legendary former player added.

Paes completed his pre-medical course from Kolkata's reputed Presidency College, in 1964-65. He also attended La Martinière College in Lucknow.

Former captain of Indian men's hockey team, B P Govinda, remembered him as a highly talented and informed person and said if not for politics within the federation,

he could have been a part of the 1968 Olympics.

"He was super talented both in sports and sports medicine. Sports medicine was his passion. We played together in the 1972 Olympics, but I feel he should have been in the 1968 Olympics team as well if not for internal politics."

"...it didn't matter to him as he was a very soft-spoken, and a true gentleman. He never complained about anything. He just wanted to give back to sports which he did in many ways and Leander is a prime example of that," Govinda said.

Another one of his teammates Harbinder Singh had similar memories of the man, whose legacy is truly inspiring.

"He was a true gentleman...a very good distributor and tackler. And he had a good, strong physical too," Harbinder said. (PTI)

## Barcelona to register goalkeeper García after league confirms long-term injury to Ter Stegen

**MADRID, Aug 14:** Barcelona will be able to register newly signed goalkeeper Joan García for the new season after the Spanish league confirmed a long-term injury to Marc-André ter Stegen, the club said Wednesday.

With the ruling, Barcelona is allowed to clear some salary-cap space and more easily register other players without breaching financial fair play rules.

"Barcelona hereby announces that La Liga's Medical Committee has ruled that goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen's injury meets the long-term injury criteria established by current regulations," it said. "The club will proceed tomorrow to immediately formalize the registration of player Joan García."

The length of the injury had sparked a dispute between Barcelona and Ter Stegen, who ini-

tially refused to sign the medical report that the Catalan club had to send to the league.

The 33-year-old goalkeeper said it would take about three months for him to recover from lower back surgery last month. The club, however, said it would take longer and wanted to add him to the long-term injury list. After Ter Stegen refused to sign, the club opened a disciplinary proceeding and stripped him of his captaincy. It reinstated him after he signed the report last week.

Ter Stegen said after signing the report that he never intended to make it difficult for Barcelona to sign new players, and only wanted to be able to return to action as soon as possible. He said "these past few months have been especially difficult for me, both physically and personally." (AP)

For the First Time in the History  
of Bodoland Territorial Region

*Celebrating Courage, Culture & Community*



# 79<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Bestowing Special Honours

On this Independence Day, the Government of Bodoland Territorial Region proudly honours 6387 outstanding citizens of BTR – a monumental recognition of courage, service and cultural stewardship that has strengthened our communities and shaped our shared future.

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Time: 3:00 PM onwards

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar

Come, witness a landmark moment of gratitude, pride, and unity.

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