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Assembly session: Guv outlines new Assam govt's vision for next 5 years

Oppn stages walkout raising slogans, showing placards

GUWAHATI, May 22: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Friday outlined the new government's vision for the state for the next five years in his first address in the 16th state Assembly amidst an opposition walkout, alleging failure of the dispensation to address core issues of the people.

Barely five minutes into the governor's speech on the second day of the session, Congress and Rajior Dal MLAs trooped into the Well of the House.

They demanded that the government address core issues like inflation rather than dwelling on achievements.

The Congress legislators also displayed placards and raised slogans before staging a walkout.

The two Rajior Dal MLAs, led by their leader Akhil Gogoi, remained in the House initially and continued to speak even as the governor delivered his speech.



After about 30 minutes, the two Rajior Dal MLAs also walked out, after submitting a paper with the points raised by them.

The governor, in his speech, said the return of the BJP-led NDA government for a third successive time was a testimony to people's support for the vision of the ruling dispensation, which secured an un-

precedented 102 out of 126 seats.

"This mandate reflects the people's endorsement of peace, economic stability and inclusive development pursued over the past ten years. The achievements in restoring peace have been substantial and historic," he said.

Mentioning of peace accords and settlement agreements signed

with different insurgent outfits over the last few years, he appealed to the ULFA(I), the only major group outside the peace process, to join the mainstream.

He appealed to the people to exercise restraint in discretionary spending and avoidable expenditure in line with the Prime Minister's appeal for austerity, and added, "Collective responsibility and prudent economic conduct will strengthen the nation during the challenging period."

Acharya welcomed the government's decision to introduce the proposed law regarding the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) during the current session, maintaining that it will strengthen social harmony, justice, gender equality and a modern progressive society.

He said the UCC will be enacted and implemented in a manner that "protects the traditional rights, customary (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Assam to become power surplus state soon: CM

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, May 22: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the state is steadily progressing towards becoming a power surplus state through large-scale investments in energy infrastructure and electricity generation capacity.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said Assam has prepared an energy infrastructure vision worth ₹14,202 crore by 2035 and is currently implementing four major projects valued at ₹6,235 crore across the state.

"Assam is steadily moving towards becoming a power surplus state. With a ₹14,202 cr energy vision and ₹6,235 cr worth of projects already underway, we are strengthening our power infrastructure to support growth and ensure reliable supply for our people," Sarma stated.

According to officials, the state



government has been focusing on expanding electricity generation capacity, upgrading transmission networks and modernising distribution systems to meet rising power demand in both urban and rural areas.

The government is also placing emphasis on renewable energy ini-

tatives, including solar power projects, as part of its long-term strategy for energy security and sustainability.

Hydropower and thermal power projects are also being upgraded to improve efficiency and increase overall supply capacity. Officials said the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

EC announces Rajya Sabha polls for 26 seats on June 18

NEW DELHI, May 22: The NDA is likely to lose one Rajya Sabha seat in the biennial elections for 26 seats in 12 states across the country, while the Congress-led opposition is set to gain three.

The Election Commission on Friday announced elections for 26 Rajya Sabha seats on June 18 following the retirement of incumbents, including former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Digvijaya Singh, besides two Union ministers Ravneet Singh and George Kurian.

In a statement, the EC said the elections for the Rajya Sabha seats will be held in 10 states where 24 incumbents are retiring on different dates beginning June 21 to July 19. Of the total 26 seats where elections are being held, the NDA currently has 18 and the Congress four while one seat is with the JMM and three are with the YSRCP.

The NDA is likely to get 17 seats in these elections, while the Congress will get five, the JMM two and the TVK one. The NDA cur-

rently has 149 MPs in the upper house while the opposition has 78 and non-aligned regional parties have 17 MPs in the 244-member house.

The Rajya Sabha elections will be held in four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, three seats each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two seats in Jharkhand and one seat each in Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Besides, one seat each in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu will also go to the polls on June 18.

The last date for filing of nominations is June 8, according to the EC.

In a separate notification, the EC also announced by-elections to fill the vacancies created by the NCP's Sunetra Pawar in Maharashtra and the AIADMK's C Ve Shanmugam in Tamil Nadu following their resignations after they were elected to the state assemblies.

While the NDA is set to bag Pawar's seat, going by its strength in the state assembly, the TVK is likely to (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

India to create 'smart border' along Pak, B'Desh to stop infiltration, attempts of demographic change: Shah

NEW DELHI, May 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the government will launch a tech-enabled "smart border" project by the next year to make the 6,000-km fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh impenetrable and ensure that the "conspiracy" to change the demography of the country is defeated.

Delivering the annual Rustamji Memorial lecture hosted by the Border Security Force (BSF) here, the minister also reiterated that the government will find each and every infiltrator and send them out of India. K F Rustamji was the founding father and the first director general of the BSF, the world's largest border guarding force with about 2.70 lakh personnel tasked to guard Indian borders with Pakistan on the west and Bangladesh on the east. It was raised in 1965.

"The government of India has decided that not only will we stop infiltration but we will find each and every infiltrator and send them out of the country," Shah said.



He added his government will not allow "artificial change in our demography being attempted from the other side."

"I want to assure BSF troops that we will launch the smart border project within the 60th year of its raising and we will make the Bangladesh and Pakistan borders impenetrable through major technical assistance," Shah said.

The "smart border" will use technology, drones, radars and smart cameras to help create an impenetrable border, he told the gathering.

Calling these two borders "vulnerable" and a "cause of concern" for the country from the security point of view, Shah said these fronts

(about 1,289 km with Pakistan and 4,096 km with Bangladesh) cannot be guarded with "traditional" methods.

The concept of border security should not be seen in isolation but as a "territorial responsibility" involving all agencies and state governments, he said.

He said these borders currently face threats like illegal infiltration, smuggling of drugs, weapons and arms through drones apart from cattle, fake Indian currency notes and organised crime.

"It is most important to identify future dangers, and it is our responsibility to stop the artificial demographic change being attempted from the other side (of the border) through infiltration, and, for this, we have to remain alert and vigilant," he told the officers and jawans in attendance.

Shah said the Modi government brought a "radical" change to the security policy and border protection perspective since it took charge in 2014. (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Govt aims to make June 21 NEET-UG re-test 100 pc error-free: Pradhan

NEW DELHI, May 22: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said the government had to take "tough decisions" after irregularities were detected in the conduct of the NEET-UG, asserting that authorities did not want even a single deserving student to lose their rightful seat because of the "examination mafia".

He also asserted that the government is committed to ensuring that the re-test scheduled to be held on June 21 remains "100 per cent error-free".

Addressing the Jagran Bharat Education Conclave 2026, Pradhan said around 22 lakh students have suffered "mental anguish" due to the controversy surrounding the medical-entrance exam and the government is committed to fixing the system.

"Twenty-two lakh children have gone through immense mental anguish. Understanding that anguish and taking responsibility, I am saying this today, we had to take some tough decisions," he said.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) for admissions in medical courses held on May 3 was cancelled by the National Testing Agency (NTA) recently amid allegations of paper leak. The matter is being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and a re-test is scheduled to be held on June 21.

Pradhan said the government decided to cancel the examination after finding that "some assessments had been compromised".

"We did not want even a single student to be deprived of their rightful seat because of the conspiracy of those involved in irregularities in the education system and the examination mafia," he said.

The minister acknowledged the criticism over the handling of the issue but said the government is prepared to face the challenge.

"We are facing criticism and challenges, and I accept that. But it is our responsibility to set the system right. It is not our duty to shut our (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Rahul was repeatedly rejected by people of this country: Bhupen Borah

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, May 22: BJP leader, former Assam Congress president and newly elected Bihpuria MLA Bhupen Kumar Borah on Friday launched a sharp attack on Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his recent remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that the Congress leader has failed to earn the trust and support of the people of the country.

Speaking to reporters in Guwahati, Borah said Rahul Gandhi had long aspired to become the Prime Minister but the people of India had repeatedly rejected his leadership.

"Rahul Gandhi wanted to become the Prime Minister of the country, (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Decided to bring back to India some persons deported to Bangladesh: Centre to SC

NEW DELHI, May 22: The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that it has decided to bring back some people, who were earlier deported to Bangladesh, to India and would then verify their claim of Indian citizenship.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant that keeping in view the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case and by not treating it as a precedent to be followed in other matters, the government has decided to bring them back.

"The government would bring them back and thereafter examine their status. Depending upon the outcome, we will take steps accordingly," Mehta told the bench, which also comprised Justices Joymalya



Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi.

The top law officer said that it may take 8-10 days to bring these persons back to India.

The bench posted the matter for hearing in July.

The top court was hearing a plea of the Centre challenging a September 26, 2025 order of the Calcutta High Court by which it had set aside the central government's decision to deport (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

217 Indians joined Russian armed forces, 49 lost their lives in conflict: Centre to SC

NEW DELHI, May 22: The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that 217 Indian nationals had reportedly joined the Russian armed forces amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and 49 have lost their lives in the conflict.

In a status report filed before the apex court, the Centre said pursuant to sustained diplomatic engagement undertaken by the government of India with the Russian Federation, 139 Indian nationals have already been released from the contracts they signed to join the Russian Army.

"Further, 49 Indian nationals are reported to have lost their lives in the conflict. Additionally, 6 Indian nationals have been confirmed missing by the Russian side, whereas the status of 23 individuals remains unknown and continues to be under active follow-up by the Embassy of India in Moscow with the Russian authorities," the report said.

The status report was filed in a plea before the top court seeking directions to the Centre to take steps to facilitate the safe repatriation of 26 Indian citizens who have allegedly been detained in Russia and

forced to fight in the ongoing war with Ukraine.

"It is submitted that as per the latest information available with the Ministry of External Affairs, approximately 217 Indian nationals had reportedly joined the Russian armed forces," the status report said.

On Friday, the plea came up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, referred to the status report.

The report said in order to facilitate tracing of missing individuals and identification of mortal remains, DNA reports of the immediate family members of 21 individuals have been collected and transmitted to the Russian authorities with active facilitation by the government of India.

It said all such cases were being dealt with on utmost priority and were under continuous follow-up with the Russian authorities for resolution, while simultaneously keeping affected family informed about the developments. The report (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Union Health Ministry directs states, UTs to bolster surveillance amid Ebola outbreak

NEW DELHI, May 22: The Union Health Ministry has asked all states and Union territories to step up surveillance, hospital preparedness and screening of international travellers following the WHO's declaration of the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

In a letter to chief secretaries and administrators of UTs on May 21, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava said countries bordering DRC and Uganda, including South Sudan, have been assessed to be at high risk of disease transmission.

"While the current assessment indicates that the risk to countries outside the affected African region remains low, the substantial quantum of international trade and travel underscores the importance of maintaining adequate preparedness and response capacities at all levels of the health system," the letter said.

The ministry directed states to strengthen surveillance under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) for unusual clusters of cases showing symptoms suggestive of Ebola disease, particularly among people with recent travel history to affected areas.

The symptoms listed in the advisory include fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain, rash and red eyes.

States have also been asked to identify designated isolation facilities and dedicated ambulances, ensure availability of trained healthcare personnel, personal protective equipment (PPE), logistics, laboratory support and critical care capacities.

The ministry said ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, is fully equipped to test samples from suspected Ebola cases detected either at points of entry or in the community, and additional ICMR network laboratories would be strengthened depending on the evolving situation.

The advisory stressed coordination among airport and port health authorities, state and district surveillance units and other agencies for prompt information sharing and follow-up of travellers requiring public health monitoring.

According to the attached Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), passengers arriving from affected countries will undergo thermal screening and health monitoring, and those with symptoms suggestive of Ebola will be shifted to designated isolation facilities for testing and treatment.

The SOP also provides for 21-day monitoring of travellers from affected regions and lays down detailed protocols for quarantine, infection prevention, laboratory testing, contact tracing and clinical management. "States and UTs are (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

West Asia fallout, Indo-Pacific situation top agenda India to host Quad meet

NEW DELHI, May 22: The foreign ministers of the Quad nations will deliberate on the fallout of the West Asia crisis and the prevailing situation in the Indo-Pacific at an India-hosted meeting on Tuesday.

The New Delhi meeting will be attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will preside over the meeting.

Rubio, Wong and Motegi are also expected to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides holding separate bilateral meetings with Jaishankar.

"In keeping with the Quad vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the ministers will build on discussions held in Washington DC on July 1, 2025," the MEA said.



"They will exchange views on advancing Quad cooperation across priority areas, review progress on ongoing Quad initiatives, and reflect on recent developments in the Indo-Pacific region and other international issues of mutual concern," it said.

The Quad, comprising India, the US, Australia and Japan, has

emerged as a key grouping largely focusing on peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

India is hosting the meeting in its capacity as the current chair of the coalition. There is no official word yet on the planned meeting.

People familiar with the preparations for the meeting said the Quad foreign ministers will deliberate on

the pressing global challenges, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the West Asia, and will take stock of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese assertiveness.

In the last few years, the Quad has rolled out a number of initiatives addressing some of the most pressing needs and challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, including in areas of maritime security, infrastructure and connectivity.

In the last Quad summit held in Wilmington in the US in 2024, top leaders of the grouping unveiled major steps to expand maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

The upcoming meeting is also likely to set the broad agenda of the Quad summit that is likely to take place in India later this year.

"During their visit to New Delhi, the Foreign Ministers of Australia and (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Century Ply Q4FY26 consolidated net up 49 pc to ₹ 79 cr

KOLKATA, May 22: Century Plyboards (India) Limited on Friday reported a 48.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹ 79.4 crore for the quarter ended March of FY25-26, aided by strong growth across plywood, laminates and MDF segments.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹ 53.2 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

Consolidated revenue from operations during the January-March quarter grew 24.5 per cent to ₹ 1,492.2 crore, compared with ₹ 1,198.3 crore in the year-ago period.

For the full financial year 2025-26, consolidated net profit rose 44.2 per cent to ₹ 268.3 crore from ₹ 186.1 crore in FY25, while revenue from operations increased 19.2 per cent to ₹ 5,397.2 crore against ₹ 4,527.8 crore in the previous fiscal, the company informed bourses.

The plywood and allied products segment remained the largest contributor, with quarterly revenue rising to ₹ 791.1 crore from ₹ 670.7 crore a year ago.

The Medium-Density Fiberboard (MDF) segment revenue increased to ₹ 356.3 crore from ₹ 270.9 crore, while laminate and allied products revenue stood at ₹ 198.4 crore against ₹ 170.4 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal.

The laminate business turned profitable during the quarter, posting a segment profit of ₹ 17.4 crore against a loss of ₹ 4.9 crore a year ago, while MDF segment profit rose to ₹ 22.8 crore from ₹ 15.3 crore. The particle board segment, however, continued to remain under pressure.

The company said the group recognised an exceptional expense of ₹ 7.68 crore during FY26 on account of the implementation of the new labour codes.

It also reported sizeable foreign exchange fluctuation-related costs during the year. (PTI)

LOST

I have lost my Grade Card M/S of 5th Semester of TDC (AUS) bearings Roll: 051512 No.01240895BIDUR PATOR9101151938

AFFIDAVIT

I, Shuruba Chauhan son of Kamala Chauhan resident of Lal Mati, PO-Nakhuti Bazar PS- Lumding, Hojai would like to mention that, my actual and correct name is Shuruba Chauhan but in my LIC Policy Vide No. 485003677 where my name wrongly recorded as Ganga Sagar Chauhan instead of my Correct name Shuruba Chauhan. I, want to clarify that, Shuruba Chauhan & Ganga Sagar Chauhan are the name of one the same person.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Borsinot Phango, son of Shri Mohan Phango, (33) presently address, vill.- Mensing Tisso, Mentia, PO & PS Diphu, dist.- Karbi Anglong, Assam, my original name is "Borsinot Tisso" and my biological father's name is "Late Rupsing Tisso", as recorded in my existing documents and records. After the demise of my biological father, my mother Smt. June Mai Teronpi remarried with Shri. Mohan Phango, who has since been looking after me and treating me as his own son and voluntarily adopt the surname and father's name of my stepfather namely "Mohan Phango". Henceforth I shall be known and identified as "Borsinot Phango" instead of "Borsinot Tisso" and my father's name be recorded as "Mohan Phango" instead of "Late Rupsing Tisso" in all my present and future records, documents, identity proofs, certificates, and other official papers. That both names (Old name) "Borsinot Tisso" S/o "Late Rupsing Tisso" and (New name) "Borsinot Phango" S/o "Mohan Phango" refer to one and the same person.

India's near-term outlook somewhat clouded by supply-side pressures: RBI Bulletin



MUMBAI, May 22: India's near-term outlook is somewhat clouded by supply-side pressures, and the spillover impact of the West Asia conflict on domestic inflation needs to be monitored, according to the RBI Bulletin.

While the global economy remained shadowed by uncertainties in West Asia, an article in the Bulletin said domestic economic activity exhibited resilience in April.

"The conflict in West Asia continued to exert pressure on commodity markets, global trade flows and supply chains, contributing to the volatility in financial markets. India has entered this phase from a position of macroeconomic strength," the article on the state of the economy said.

"Domestic demand continues to be the key driver of growth. However, the near-term outlook is somewhat clouded by supply-side

pressures.

"Although headline inflation remains firmly within the tolerance band, the pass-through to domestic prices needs to be monitored," it said. Retail inflation rose to 3.5 per cent in April, driven mainly by food inflation, while core inflation remained steady.

Against the backdrop of the Iran war, the article said constricted shipping routes and trade flows increased supply chain pressures to their highest levels since 2022.

Prices of commodities for which the Strait of Hormuz is a critical transit route remained elevated in April and early May.

The base metal prices, including aluminium, zinc and nickel, rose due to supply disruptions and higher fuel costs.

"The financial conditions, crude oil prices and capital flows continue to pose challenges to the ex-

ternal sector outlook," it said.

The merchandise trade deficit widened in April 2026 over March 2026 primarily on account of crude oil and gold imports.

Nevertheless, robust services exports, positive net FDI flows, foreign exchange reserve buffers and a number of proactive policy measures undertaken by the government and the Reserve Bank are likely to cushion the Indian economy against external headwinds, it said.

India is witnessing a trade re-configuration amidst the emerging geopolitical situation. Its trade through the Strait of Hormuz, which had declined sequentially in March, went up in April 2026.

The article further said that economic activity showed a mixed trend in April, as evidenced by several high-frequency indicators such as fuel consumption, trade, and logistics. E-way bills continued to achieve double-digit growth backed by GST rate rationalisation.

While petrol and diesel consumption continued to grow, overall petroleum consumption declined in April due to a sharp fall in the consumption of naphtha, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and other petroleum products, it said and added higher temperatures led to a sharp increase in electricity demand.

The central bank said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India. (PTI)

RBI announces record ₹ 2.87 lakh cr dividend to govt amid West Asia conflict



MUMBAI, May 22: The Reserve Bank on Friday announced a record dividend of ₹ 2.87 lakh crore to the government for the year-ended March 2026, providing a financial boost for the exchequer amid rising import bills and supply chain disruptions due to the West Asia conflict.

The dividend is 6.7 per cent higher than ₹ 2.69 lakh crore for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

In a statement, the RBI said its net income, before risk provision and transfer to statutory funds, aggregated ₹ 3.96 lakh crore in FY26 as against ₹ 3.13 lakh crore in FY25.

"The balance sheet of the Bank expanded by 20.61 per cent to ₹ 91,97,121.08 crore as on March 31, 2026," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

The RBI's Central Board of Directors, at its meeting, reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook, and also approved the dividend.

According to the statement, the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) provides flexibility to maintain the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) between the range of 4.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent of the size of the balance sheet.

"Taking into consideration the current macroeconomic factors, financial performance of the Bank and maintenance of appropriate

risk buffers, the Central Board decided to transfer ₹ 1,09,379.64 crore towards the CRB for FY 2025-26 as against ₹ 44,861.70 crore in the previous year," it said.

The CRB at 6.5 per cent of the size of the RBI balance sheet, compared to 7.5 per cent for 2024-25.

"The Central Board approved the transfer of surplus of ₹ 2,86,588.46 crore to the Central Government for the accounting year 2025-26," the RBI said.

The 623rd meeting of the central board was held under the Chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

Deputy governors Swaminathan J, Poonam Gupta, Shirish Chandra Murmu, and Rohit Jain attended the meeting.

Other directors of the Central Board, including Nagaraju Maddirala, Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Satish Kashinath Marathe, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Anand Gopal Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan and Pankaj Rambhai Patel, too attended the meeting.

Amid the West Asia crisis, energy prices as well as those of fertilisers and other commodities have shot up, posing financial challenges. The rupee has also depreciated steeply, a scenario that makes imports costlier.

India meets about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements through imports. (PTI)

Gold drops to ₹ 1.64 lakh/10g as Iran talks temper market anxiety

NEW DELHI, May 22: Gold prices retreated by ₹ 600 to ₹ 1.64 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday as tentative progress in US-Iran negotiations reduced precious metals buying, though unresolved tensions around the Strait of Hormuz kept traders cautious.

Snapping a three-day winning streak, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by ₹ 600 to ₹ 1,64,900 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), according to local marketmen.

Gold prices witnessed a slight decline on Friday. The recent fluctuations in the bullion market are largely influenced by ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly concerning US-Iran relations, alongside the volatility of the Indian rupee and movements in crude oil prices, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

However, silver prices remained flat at ₹ 2,71,000 per kilogram in the bullion market.

In the international markets, spot gold fell marginally lower to USD 4,522.32 per ounce, while silver slipped 1 per cent to USD 75.87 per ounce.

"Spot gold trading lower to USD 4522 per ounce on Friday as despite narrowing differences between Iran and the US, nuclear and Hormuz control remain contentious issues," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Meanwhile, Washington has warned that shipping through the Strait of Hormuz should remain toll-free, keeping investors cautious despite signs of diplomatic progress between the US and Iran. Bullion prices pared some losses after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio described the negotiations as showing tentative progress, though he flagged Hormuz control as a major sticking point. (PTI)

Ashiana Housing to invest ₹ 560 cr on new residential project in Jaipur

NEW DELHI, May 22: Realty firm Ashiana Housing will invest nearly ₹ 560 crore to develop a residential project in Jaipur.

In a statement on Friday, Ashiana Housing said it has launched the first phase of its premium 10.35-acre residential project 'Ashiana Oma'. The company will develop 280 units in the first phase and a total of 490 units in the entire project.

This is a joint venture project with a revenue-sharing arrangement between the company and its development partner.

"The total estimated project cost is ₹ 558.60 crore, while the estimated investment for Phase 1 is approximately ₹ 186.78 crore," the statement said.

Ankur Gupta, Joint Managing Director, Ashiana Housing Ltd, said the project has been designed to cater to end-user customers in Jaipur, where demand for spacious premium residences with integrated lifestyle amenities continues to strengthen.

Delhi-based Ashiana Housing is one of the leading real estate developers in the country. It is listed on stock exchanges. The company specialises in developing homes for senior citizens. (PTI)

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Oppn stages walkout

practices and social institutions of tribal and indigenous communities." Lauding the West Bengal government's decision to hand over required land to the Centre for fencing along the Bangladesh border, Acharya said this will expedite sealing the uncovered stretches along the international border.

"Efforts to curb infiltration were constrained for many years due to porous and unfenced stretches along the international border, particularly in parts of West Bengal," he maintained.

"Governments committed to national security are now working in close coordination at the Centre, in Assam and in West Bengal. A strong and integrated approach will now be undertaken to address this long-standing challenge," he said. "Completion of border fencing, including in strategically sensitive areas such as the Siliguri Corridor, will substantially strengthen border management and help deal with infiltration more effectively," the governor added.

He stressed the government's continued commitment towards "rebuilding and strengthening the greater Assamese society founded on harmony, equality and shared civilisational values".

"Protection of tribal belts and blocks, preservation of community land rights and constitutional safeguards for indigenous communities will remain priority areas," he added.

The state's GSDP has grown by an annual compounded growth rate of nearly 16 per cent, and Assam was steadily progressing towards becoming a ₹ 10 lakh crore economy by 2028-29. Per capita income at current prices has more than doubled over the last few years, and capital expenditure has increased from Rs 13,502 crore in 2021-22 to ₹ 26,531 crore in 2025-26.

Despite this substantial increase in investment, the state has maintained its debt-to-GSDP ratio below 25 per cent, well within the permissible limit of 32 per cent, Acharya added.

The governor also mentioned of the government's commitment to create two lakh employment opportunities, make the state a power-surplus one for the first time, effectively tackle the annual floods, build a resilient agricultural economy, and further improve healthcare, education, tourism and other sectors. (PTI)

Assam to become

energy vision is aimed at supporting industrial growth, infrastructure expansion and improving quality of life by ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply across Assam.

The move towards becoming a power surplus state is also expected to strengthen Assam's attractiveness as an investment destination in the Northeast. The state has witnessed a steady increase in electricity demand in recent years due to rapid urbanisation, industrial expansion and wider household electrification.

In response, the government has been implementing projects to strengthen substations, transmission corridors and rural electrification infrastructure. The Chief Minister has repeatedly stressed the importance of a stronger power sector to support Assam's broader economic development plans and future industrial growth.

Officials added that several energy projects are currently under different stages of implementation and are expected to significantly improve the state's power generation and transmission capabilities in the coming years.

Govt aims to

eyes and turn away from the problem," he said. The education minister further said the government is committed to ensuring a smoother conduct of the re-examination scheduled on June 21.

"For the examination scheduled on June 21, it is our responsibility to ensure that it is 100 per cent error-free," he said. (PTI)

India to create 'smart

"We have defeated all three attacks carried out by Pakistan whether it was in Uri (2016), Pulwama (2019), or Pahalgam (2026)...we have given them a befitting response by striking deep inside Pakistan," he said.

Shah asserted that gone were the days when talks used to happen after a terrorist attack and when Naxalites used to undertake massacres without any fear. "We have aligned our security perspective with the spirit of the Constitution to strengthen it... all this, in a way, is a declaration of a new defence doctrine," he said.

He said his government took a "firm" decision to free India from Naxalism and this target was achieved recently. The minister said it was his belief that security agencies and forces should work to "uproot" the cause of the problem and just not "control" it. (PTI)

EC announces Rajya

get the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu going for a bypoll. The tenure of Pawar's seat will be till July 4, 2028 while that for the Tamil Nadu seat will be till June 29, 2028.

In Andhra Pradesh, the TDP will win all the four states for the Council of States and the BJP will bag all four seats in Gujarat. In Jharkhand, the JMM-Congress alliance is likely to win both the seats, but the BJP which has 21 seats of its own may try to bag one seat with the help of cross-voting by four opposition members.

In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the Congress will get one seat each while the BJP will win two seats in each of the states, going by their current numbers.

In Karnataka, the Congress will win three seats and the BJP will get only one seat.

Among those who are retiring from the Rajya Sabha are Gowda, Congress president Kharge (both from Karnataka), Union ministers Ravneet Singh (Rajasthan) and George Kurian (Madhya Pradesh), former chief minister Digvijay Singh, and Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil. Besides Ravneet Singh, the members whose tenure is ending in Rajasthan are Neeraj Dangi of the Congress and Rajendra Gehlot of the BJP.

Rajasthan has a total of 10 Rajya Sabha seats. The BJP and the Congress currently have five members each. Given the present strength of parties in the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly, the BJP is expected to win two of the three seats, while the Congress is likely to secure one.

The BJP has 118 MLAs in the Assembly, while the Congress has 67 members. The BSP has two MLAs, the Bharat Adivasi Party four, the Rashtriya Lok Dal one, and Independents eight. (PTI)

Rahul was repeatedly

He could not become Prime Minister because the people of the country do not want him in that position," Borah said. The BJP MLA asserted that Narendra Modi's return to power for a third consecutive term reflected the confidence and faith people have placed in his leadership and governance.

"Prime Minister Modi became the Prime Minister three times because the people of the country wanted him to lead India," he added.

Criticising the tone and language allegedly used by Rahul Gandhi while targeting the Prime Minister, Borah said such statements were further damaging the Congress leader's public image and political acceptability.

"He is becoming even less acceptable to the people because of the kind of words he uses against our Prime Minister," the BJP leader remarked. Bhupen Kumar Borah's political switch ahead of the recently concluded Assam Assembly elections had drawn considerable attention in the state's political circles. Borah, who earlier served as the president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC), joined the BJP just before the Assembly polls. Following his entry into the saffron party, the BJP fielded him from the Bihpuria Assembly constituency, where he emerged victorious in the elections.

The ruling BJP-led NDA alliance secured a decisive mandate in the Assam Assembly polls, paving the way for the formation of the new government under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Decided to bring

Sunali Khatun and others to Bangladesh and termed it as "illegal".

On December 3 last year, the top court allowed on "humanitarian grounds" the entry of Khatun and her eight-year-old child into India, months after they were pushed into Bangladesh.

It had asked the West Bengal government to take care of the minor and directed the chief medical officer of Birbhum district to provide all possible medical assistance to pregnant Khatun, including free of cost delivery.

On April 24, the apex court granted last opportunity to the Centre and asked its counsel to take instruction and get back to it on the issue.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Sanjay Hegde, appearing for Khatun's father Bhodu Sekh, had said it was a "bit unfair" on the part of the Centre which has not apprised the court about its views in the matter. Earlier, the top court had noted the submission of Mehta that the competent authority had agreed to allow the woman and her child into the country purely on humanitarian grounds without prejudice to rights and contentions, and they would be kept under surveillance.

Sekh alleged that the families, working as daily wage earners in Sector 26 of the Rohini area in Delhi for over two decades, were picked up by police on June 18, last year on suspicion of being Bangladeshis and subsequently pushed across the border on June 27. (PTI)

217 Indians joined

said with respect to the 26 individuals referred to in the plea, as per the present status available with the authorities, 14 cases pertained to reported deaths.

It said 11 of them have been notified by the Russian authorities as "missing in action" or presently not in contact with their families.

It said one case pertained to imprisonment for eight years on molestation charges.

"It is submitted that immediately upon receipt of information regarding any Indian national joining the Russian Army, the Embassy has consistently taken up such matters with the Russian authorities to ensure safety, and secure early release and repatriation of the concerned individuals," the Centre said.

It said the embassy has also facilitated transportation of mortal remains in eight cases with consent of the concerned families and necessary procedures are currently underway in relation to the mortal remains of one individual. "In all such cases, expenditure has been borne from the Indian Community Welfare Fund," it said.

"It appears that certain Indian nationals voluntarily signed up contracts to join Russian Army lured by attractive salary package that amounts to an upfront signing bonus of around USD 5,000 and monthly salary of about USD 2,500, in addition to promise of Russian citizenship, other social benefits, and compensation of about US\$ 1,68,000 in case of death," the report said. (PTI)

Union Health Ministry

requested to undertake an immediate review of existing preparedness plans and ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place for timely detection and response to any potential public health event of concern," the secretary said in the letter. (PTI)

India to host

Japan, and the United States Secretary of State are also expected to hold bilateral meetings with the External Affairs Minister and call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the MEA said. (PTI)

No: NHM/K-Ang/2024-25/IIIS/Instrumentation/427/15832

Date: 20/05/2026

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Karbi Anglong invites sealed quotation affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty-five paise) only of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, cash receipt of Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only from the eligible Suppliers/Firms for supply of Laboratory investigation kits, reagents & consumables etc for various Hospitals in the District as per requirement.

Interested suppliers/firms may collect the detailed quotation documents, terms and conditions, and specification from the office of the DPMU, NHM, Karbi Anglong during office hours.

Last date for submission of quotation: 29/05/2026 up to office hours.

Sd/-

Joint Director of Health Services
Cum Member Secretary,
District Health Society, Karbi Anglong

RO no. IPRD/ KA/ 2026-27/ 17

Demand for immediate government intervention on price of food items, fuel, LPG cylinders, medicines

AASU holds protest rally against price hike of essential commodities

HT Bureau
DIPHU, May 22: In tandem with the statewide agitation launched by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) Central Committee, a massive protest demonstration was staged in Diphu town on Friday against the price rise of essential commodities.

Led by AASU Central Committee vice president Shorjun Hanse, Central Executive Member Arnabiyoti Kakoty, Karbi Anglong District Committee President Subhas Bora and General Secretary Arindam Mahata, protesters gathered outside the main entrance gate of the Diphu Club, raising slogans against the government's economic policies.

Addressing the protesters, AASU Central vice president Shorjun Hanse launched a scathing attack on the ruling dispensation, alleging that the BJP government moved to increase the prices of everyday essential goods immediately after forming the new government.

"The BJP government introduces various welfare schemes for the public on one hand, but it has completely failed to create sustainable income-generating opportunities for poor rural people to make them self-reliant," Hanse stated. "This government works for corporates and the rich, not for



the common citizen. Just days after the elections, prices of essential goods and medicines are being hiked, making life-saving drugs unaffordable for the poor."

Hanse vehemently dismissed the government's justification linking the fuel and commodity price hikes to the ongoing geopolitical conflict in West Asia.

"If the West Asia war is the real reason behind the oil crisis and the subsequent rise in petrol and diesel rates, why didn't the government increase the prices before the elections?" Hanse questioned. "They delib-

erately held back out of fear of losing the assembly elections and rolled out the hikes as soon as the voting concluded."

The student body has strongly demanded that both the Central and State governments take immediate corrective steps to roll back prices and alleviate the financial burden on the public. Hanse warned that if the administration fails to rein in inflation, AASU will launch an intense, multi-phased democratic agitation across the state to compel government action.

Our Jorhat Correspondent adds: In re-

sponse to a call given by the State leadership of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), the Jorhat district unit on Friday took out a rally here to protest against the steep increase in prices of essential commodities like food items, fuel, LPG cylinders and medicines.

Holding banners and the organisation's flags, the protesters took out a rally from the Jorhat Stadium complex and moved across the town.

Shouting slogans against the government's failure to check the sharp hike in prices of essential commodities, they said that common people were hit hard by surging prices.

Demanding that the government take immediate steps to bring down the prices of essentials, they stated that students living in hostels and PGs, as well as small-time food outlets and restaurants, were severely affected by the huge hike in commercial LPG cylinders.

The protesters also criticised the BJP-led Central Government for increasing fuel prices just after the elections were held in five states.

AASU State literary secretary Niharika Saikia, Jorhat district unit president Jyoti Saikia and general secretary Riyaz Hussain took part in the protest.

Darrang DC calls for stronger child protection measures

Directs to intensify action against child labour, trafficking and child marriage



HT Correspondent
MANGALDAI, May 22: Ayushi Jain, District Commissioner of Darrang, has directed all concerned government departments and stakeholders to strengthen the child protection mechanism across the district.

Presiding over a review meeting on Thursday with officials of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), District Women and Child Development Department, Labour Department, Childline, Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and Special Adoption Agencies (SAAs), Jain conducted a detailed assessment of issues affecting children from vulnerable sections of society.

The DC sought specific information on high-risk areas prone to child labour, child marriage, traf-

ficking and missing children cases, along with their root causes, to enable timely intervention.

She instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for conducting awareness campaigns against child marriage, child abuse and child labour, particularly targeting all five tea gardens in the district. Jain also emphasised the need to strengthen intelligence networks regarding child labour and conduct regular surprise drives at brick kilns, factories, garages, shops and other business establishments to curb exploitation.

The meeting also approved foster care proposals for two orphaned children currently under the care of Aai SAA (Crystal Vision) and Kasturi Sishu Griha.

Assam Women's University organises national workshop on Research Methodology

HT Correspondent
JORHAT, May 22: Assam Women's University successfully organised a one-week national-level Research Methodology Workshop from May 18 to May 22, 2026 under the joint initiative of the IQAC and the Department of English. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof Ajanta Borgohain Rajkonwar, Vice-Chancellor of Assam Women's University, who highlighted the importance of using technology in research with due ethical considerations. Dr Surajit Sharma, Dean, Academic Affairs, Jagannath Barooah University and Guest of Honour of the programme, spoke on the immense possibilities of research on local and regional issues. Academic sessions during the workshop were conducted by Prof Bijay K Danta, Former Head of the Department of English, Tezpur University, on the new directions of research in off-metro universities; Prof Nasmeeem Farhin Akhtar, Professor and Head of the Department of English, Dibrugarh University and Director (i/c) of the UGC Centre for Women's Studies, on Feminist Research Methodology; Parthiva Nandan Saikia, Head of the Department of English, Assam Women's University, on imagination in qualitative research and Mampi Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Assam Women's University, on feminism and research. Dr Prashanta Puzari, Director, IQAC, Associate Professor and Dean, School of Language and Literature Studies, Assam Women's University and Coordinator of the workshop, delivered the final session on research and publication ethics.

RTPIC signs MoU with ORYZA Eco Farm to promote rural tourism training

HT Correspondent
HOJAI, May 22: In a significant move to strengthen rural entrepreneurship and youth skill development, the Rural Technology Park & Incubation Centre (RTPIC), Hojai, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ORYZA Eco Farm at Rural Technology Park & Incubation Centre (RTPIC), Hojai on Friday. The three-year collaboration aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry exposure by providing practical, hands-on training in the rapidly growing sectors of rural tourism and homestay management.

Under the agreement, students and trainees associated with RTPIC will receive immersive field-based learning opportunities at ORYZA Eco Farm. The training programme will focus on key areas of hospitality and eco-tourism, including housekeeping, guest relations, hospitality operations and sustainable tourism practices. Officials stated that the initiative is designed to equip local youth with real-world skills and entrepreneurial

Arogya Care Foundation organises free medical camp at Special Jail

HT Correspondent
NAGAON, May 22: A free medical and health check-up camp was successfully conducted on Friday at Special Jail, Nagaon, under the National AYUSH Mission, Assam, organised by Arogya Care Foundation.

During the camp, health check-ups of inmates were carried out, along with free medical counselling. Various general blood tests, including Calcium, TSH, RBS and haemoglobin, were conducted for the inmates in collaboration with Redcliffe Labs. The tests were carried out by lab technician Debashish Debnath.

The initiative played an important role in assessing the health condition of the inmates, facilitating early detection of diseases and promoting overall physical and mental well-being among prisoners.

Assistant Jailor Santanu Bhuyan and Technical Operator Juganta Kashyap were present during the camp.

Yoga instructors Trishal Dey and Payel Debnath assisted in coordinating the programme successfully.

NFR completes major curve realignment in Simaluguri-Moranhat section

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, May 22: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully completed a major curve realignment work in the Simaluguri-Moranhat section under Tinsukia Division in connection with the permanent removal of a Permanent Speed Restriction (PSR). The significant infrastructure improvement involved the conversion of an existing 3-degree curve into a smoother 2-degree curve through cut-and-connection of track along with shifting of Overhead Equipment (OHE) masts and wires. The work was executed successfully with close coordination among the Engineering, Operating and Traction Distribution (TRD) departments during the traffic block period, reflecting the strong teamwork and operational efficiency of the division.

During the execution of the block, the existing 3-degree curve was seamlessly connected with a newly aligned 2-degree curve laid on a fresh formation of approximately 500 metres in length. The project involved a maximum track slew of 7.7 metres and was completed with utmost precision and safety. To ensure smooth and safe train operations, machine tamping using a Duomatic machine was also carried out before the passage of the first train.

With the successful completion of this important infrastructure work, the existing Permanent Speed Restriction (PSR) of 95 kmph over a stretch of 500 metres has been permanently removed and the section is now fit for a Maximum Permissible Speed (MPS) of 110 kmph. This development will significantly enhance train mobility, improve punctuality and provide smoother and more efficient train operations in the section. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to continuous infrastructure modernisation, strengthening safety measures and enhancing operational efficiency to provide safer, faster and more reliable rail services across its network.

Nagaon AASU protests rising prices of essential commodities

HT Correspondent
NAGAON, May 22: The All Assam Students' Union unit in Nagaon today took out a protest rally in Nagaon town, demanding the immediate reduction in the prices of essential food items and life-saving medicines.

Strongly opposing the Assam government's decision to increase prices, the students' body termed the move as "anti-people and arbitrary". In a statement, the union said the government has failed to curb the rising prices of essential commodities. "Instead of providing relief to the public, the decision to hike prices re-

fects the government's indifference towards public welfare," the students' body stated. The AASU unit demanded that the government immediately roll back the price hike.

The protest rally was attended by Mriganika Sekhar Bharali Hazarika, Simanta Bora, Bikram Hazarika and over 100 student representatives.

Speaking at the rally, District President Simanta Bora and Acting General Secretary Bikram Hazarika reiterated that the students' union would continue its agitation until the prices are reduced.

Karbi Anglong district administration felicitates HSLC and HS students

HT Bureau
DIPHU, May 22: In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Karbi Anglong, the District Administration on Friday organised a grand felicitation programme at the Diphu Circuit House to honour meritorious students who excelled in the HSLC (Class 10) and Higher Secondary (Class 12) examinations in 2026.

The initiative celebrated the academic excellence of the top 10 students of HSLC-2026 and the top 10 students of Higher Secondary examinations under the newly integrated Assam State School Education Board (ASSEB). Additionally, the top five students each from the HSLC and HSSLC examinations under CBSE from Karbi Anglong district were also honoured.

Addressing the gathering, District Commissioner Aranyak Saikia congratulated the achievers, stating that their success has brought immense pride and glory to the district. He urged the students to maintain consistency and sharp focus in their future pursuits, emphasising that sustained effort and continuous self-improvement are far more vital than one-time achievements.

The DC advised the youth to cultivate strong habits of reading, critical analysis and disciplined use of social media. He further highlighted the significance of choosing the right peer group, developing strong listening skills, continuous value addition and adopting self-regulated learning for long-term success.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, Inspector of Schools Biren Sing Engti highlighted the academic performance of the district. He informed that Karbi Anglong recorded a commendable 65.18 per cent in the HSLC examination, with 42 schools in the district achieving a 100 per cent success rate. In the Higher Secondary examinations, the district recorded pass percentages of 70.25 per cent in Arts, 94.10 per cent in Science, 82.39 per cent in Commerce and 44 per cent in the Vocational stream.

Expressing gratitude, the students stated that this official recognition would inspire them to work harder in their higher education and encourage their peers to strive for excellence. Parents also highly appreciated the initiative, thanking the District Administration and the Education Department of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council

(KAAC) for actively promoting educational development in the region.

The toppers of the district in HSLC include Alankrita Borkakati (Shankardev Vidya Niketan, Howraghat) - 92.17%; Sayani Nandi (Vidyasagar High School) - 90.67%; Amrit Dey (Pranab Vidyapith) - 90.33%; Partha Protim Borah (Pranab Vidyapith) - 89.50%; Hrishita Saikia (Shankardev Vidya Niketan, Howraghat) - 89.33%; Anjuma Begum (New Hope School, Diphu) - 88.50%; Krishna Dhar (Shankardev Vidya Niketan, Howraghat) - 87.83%; Shrawan Sharma (Green Valley High School) - 86.17%; Nilutpol Sharma (Barpathar High School) - 85.50% and Sampriti Sriyom Baruah (Oxford Model English School) - 85.33%.

The toppers of Karbi Anglong in Higher Secondary (ASSEB) stream-wise are: Arts Stream - Pragma Paramita Bora (Don Bosco H.S. School, Diphu) - 94.40%; Pranjalika Saikia (Pranab Jubilee Senior Secondary School) - 91.60%; Dibyanika Prajapati (Bakalia English Medium H.S. School) - 91.20% and Guaninle Newme (Don Bosco H.S. School, Diphu) - 90.60%.

Apollo specialists lead awareness on advanced cancer care, robotic surgery and liver transplantation

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, May 22: Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata, organised awareness-focused medical discussions in Guwahati highlighting advancements in head and neck cancer treatment, robotic surgery, gastrointestinal oncology and liver transplantation. The sessions were led by Dr Rajeev Sharan, Senior Consultant in Onco Surgery (Head and Neck Surgery), Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata and Dr Ramdip Ray, Head of Liver Transplant and Senior Consultant, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata, who interacted with the media and shared insights on modern treatment approaches and specialised surgical care available for patients across Eastern and Northeastern India. During the discussions, Dr Rajeev Sharan highlighted that head and neck cancer continues to remain one of the most common cancers in India, particularly across the Northeast region. He explained that cancers affecting the oral cavity, tongue, throat, voice box and surrounding structures are witnessing a rising incidence, with many patients often seeking medical attention at advanced stages due to delayed diagnosis and lack of awareness.

swelling and bleeding from the mouth. Speaking about advancements in cancer treatment, the doctors shared how robotic surgery and minimally invasive procedures are transforming patient care by offering greater precision, reduced pain, minimal blood loss, lower risk of infection, faster recovery, shorter hospital stays and smaller scars compared to conventional open surgeries.

Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata, continues to strengthen its position as a leading centre for advanced head and neck cancer care with the routine availability of comprehensive modern treatment modalities, including transoral robotic surgery (TORS) for pharyngeal and oropharyngeal cancers, robotic scarless thyroid and neck surgery, complex ablative head and neck cancer surgery and free microvascular flap reconstruction for restoration of speech, swallowing, function and appearance. The specialists also highlighted the hospital's multidisciplinary approach integrating surgical oncology, radiation oncology, medical oncology, pathology, radiology, rehabilitation, nutrition support and supportive care to improve both survival outcomes and quality of life for patients across Eastern and Northeastern India.

Addressing liver disease and transplantation, Dr Ramdip Ray stated that India is currently among the leading countries globally for liver transplantation, though Eastern and Northeastern India have traditionally seen slower growth in access to such advanced procedures. He shared that Apollo Hospitals, Kolkata has been playing a significant role in strengthening comprehensive liver transplant services in the region and remains one of the few centres regularly performing liver transplantation in Eastern India.

Dr Ray explained that liver transplanta-

tion remains the only curative treatment for patients suffering from liver cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease, with modern transplant programmes now achieving success rates exceeding 90 per cent. He further highlighted that transplantation can be performed through living donor liver transplant, where a family member donates a portion of the liver that naturally regenerates within weeks, or through cadaveric organ donation following brain stem death. The doctors also stressed the importance of organ donation awareness and encouraging people to pledge organs to help save lives.

"Prevention and early diagnosis remain the strongest tools in reducing the burden of head and neck cancer and advanced liver disease. Awareness about tobacco cessation, HPV vaccination, regular screening among high-risk individuals and timely medical intervention can significantly improve treatment outcomes and save lives," said Dr Rajeev Sharan.

Dr Ramdip Ray added, "The expertise developed through liver transplantation has significantly advanced complex gastrointestinal and hepatopancreatobiliary cancer surgeries in Eastern India, enabling patients to access highly specialised treatment closer to home." The discussions aimed to create greater awareness about modern cancer care, robotic-assisted surgery, liver transplantation, organ donation and the importance of timely medical intervention. Through advanced treatment protocols, cutting-edge medical technology and a multidisciplinary approach, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata, continues to provide comprehensive care and improved clinical outcomes for patients dealing with complex oncological and liver-related conditions across NE India.

No. GDB/RD/BTC/15th/FC/174/2020-21/371 Date: 22/05/2026

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender affixing a non refundable court fee stamp of 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only with a validity period of 180days which will subsequently be converted and drawn up in the printed of APWD, F-2 Form from the Govt. registered contractor/Farm of Class III and above category of Assam PWD Department (Roads & buildings) and BTC. According to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the following works under P&RD Department, BTC, Kokrajhar for the year 2024-25 during 2025-26 as stated below. The tender will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 PM on 16/06/2026 and will be opened on the same date & Place at 2.30PM . Payment of non refundable, the tender form's cost is Rs. 500.00(Rupees Five hundred) only and non refundable 0.03% only in cash for each act of tender paper Demand Draft to be drawn in favour of the Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar payable at Kokrajhar.

Tender date	16/06/2026			
Name of Scheme	A.A. Amount (Rs.)	Tender Value of work(Rs.)	Time of Completion of Work	Earnest Money(1% for ST/SC and 2% for Gen /Farm and)
Construction of drain at Bahbari barengabari Village (ID-1083, Activity Code) under Gobardhana Dev Block of Baksa Dist. under the award of 15 th FC (UnTied Grant) for the year 2024-25 during 2025-26.	Rs. 15,00,000.00	Rs. 15,00,000.00	180 days	(1%) Rs. 15,000/- (2%)Rs.30,000/-

The tender /tenders must be submitted with the requisite Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) in the form of deposit at Fixed Deposit /Demand Draft to be drawn in favour of the BDO, Gobardhana Dev. Block payable at Barpeta Road .Tender not accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is liable to be rejected .

Sd/-
Block Dev.Officer cum Chairman
Tender Committee Gobardhana Dev. Block,Barpeta Road.

IPR(BTC)/C/2026-27/307

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Keep your friends rich and your enemies rich, and find out which is which. -Ultron

TN CM's tribute to LTTE founder

History has again put the Congress in the politically very sensitive and emotionally complicated terrain. After the election result in Tamil Nadu, the Congress decided to support the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by Vijay. As chief minister of the state, Vijay on May 18, paid tribute to Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE)'s founder, Velupillai Prabhakaran, who was the chief accused in the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991. The course of history seems to be particularly hard on Rajiv Gandhi's son and the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, his mother Sonia Gandhi who is currently the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, and his sister Priyanka Gandhi. The comment of the BJP on this sensitive and emotional issue is disgusting, that has framed the Congress' alliance with TVK in reference to Vijay's tribute to Prabhakaran as hypocrisy of the party. The BJP's media cell chief Amit Malviya attacked Rahul Gandhi, "Tamil Nadu's new Chief Minister has paid homage to LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, whose outfit assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Of course, Rahul Gandhi would have no problem with it, as long as the Congress gets a slice of power. After all, the DMK too was an LTTE apologist, yet Congress remained perfectly comfortable in alliance with it." The attack is below the belt and devoid of all human sensitivity.

History is in no one's control, though some may imagine they have been controlling, as Leo Tolstoy demonstrates in his monumental work "War and Peace". Today, the history of Tamil Nadu is in the process of churning. DMK has just been defeated out of power, though TVK won only 108 seats, now has only 107 seats after Vijay's quitting from one of the two seats he had won. Congress has won 5 seats, and 8 seats are won by TVK's other allies VCK, CPI, CPI(M) and IUML. The majority mark is 118, and the ruling alliance has 120 seats. Congress, or anyone had not idea, in which way the politics will move. Though an AIADMK group of 25 is ready to join the TVK, they are kept at abeyance by Vijay because of CPI(M)'s objection. Vijay wants to keep the present alliance, which has been asserted by TVK leader Aadhav Arjuna on May 20. Congress has 5 seats, and Vijay is not so unwise that it should willingly hurt the Congress leadership or rank and file.

Nevertheless, the political compulsion for Vijay was to make its own ideological base other than the Dravidian politics of the DMK and AIADMK. Vijay wants to create neo-Dravidian ideological base by adding Tamil Nationalism to it. It is in this effort he referred to 'Mullivaikkal' where Prabhakaran was shot dead by the Sri Lankan army on May 18, 2009.

China-Russia joint declaration from Beijing Summit puts more pressure on Trump

By: Nitva Chakraborty

The joint declaration made by Chinese President Xi Jinping and the visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin after their summit in Beijing on May 20 has major ramifications on the global geopolitics in the context of the present unilateral actions of the U.S. President Donald Trump including the launching of war against Iran which still is m not over.

The main thrust is the decision of Russia and China to set up a joint front against the USA blaming the Trump regime for global return to the law of the jungle. Significantly, this declaration was made by China and Russia after five days of the Xi-Trump summit held in Beijing on May 15. Though there was no joint declaration, both sides expressed happiness at the continuing improvement in the bilateral relations between China and the USA. Though the breakthrough took place only in business and economic discussions, there were much discussions on Iran war and Taiwan also. However, officially, Chinese side gave no details about the outcome.

In May 20 summit, however, President Xi came out more openly on Iran war and said that in Iran, further conflict was inadvisable and a ceasefire was necessary. President Xi said that a comprehensive ceasefire is of utmost urgency, resuming hostilities is even more inadvisable and maintaining negotiations is particularly important. What was more significant that in the joint statement, China and Russia took aim at Trump's plans for a US\$ 175 billion Golden Dome defence system which would create a new missile field in the middle east. Both the leaders also criticized the expiry of the last US-Russia arms control treaty fell to the wayside in February 2026 when the U.S. President did not respond to Moscow's proposal for extension.

The joint declaration of Russia and China is going to have its impact on the present peace making efforts on Iran war. Trump discussed the issue with President Xi on May 15 but it was not fruitful. On May 20, President Xi made his position on Iran war more clearer by saying that negotiations and not war have to be the instrument for ending Iran war. So whatever claims, Trump is now making that he is ready for fiercer attack against Iran if Tehran does not agree immediately to a deal, his options are not working.

Trump also knows that he has to agree to a solution on the basis of three draft proposals, Trump's own peace plan, Tehran's peace plan and China's four point formula. Both Trump and Tehran have to agree to a compromise solution to end the war. The joint declaration of China and Russia is a strong reminder to Trump that he has to resort to negotiations only for ending the Iran war. Among the chief topics of discussion was the energy sector, which Putin called the "driving force of economic cooperation" in Russian-Chinese relations. China asserted itself as a major buyer of Russian oil and trading partner after Western countries largely cut economic ties with Moscow in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

According to Al Zajeera correspondent in Beijing, while the two leaders planned to sign some 40 agreements covering everything from the economy and tourism to education, energy security remained Putin's priority. "Since the war in Ukraine, any gas sales that were previously heading to Europe, that is all dried up, and Russia is in desperate need of revenue to replace that," she said. The talks did not lead to a new consensus on a long-discussed gas pipeline known as Power of Siberia.

However, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russian media that the two sides had reached a "basic understanding" on the pipeline, including its route, but that there was no "clear timeline" for a rollout. All indications suggest that despite keen Russian interest in this gas pipeline, Putin failed to persuade President Xi to agree the implementation of the project on a priority basis. Russia needs it now as its West European customers have dried up, but China has its own considerations, therefore is the delay and no finalization of the much expected deal.

China analysts have observed that President Xi treated President Trump as equal and gave him gala reception as the head of the country with largest economic power. China had lot of expectations from Trump from the summit. But in Putin's case, Russia is a lesser power now compared to Soviet days and also Putin is under economic stress. (IPA Service)

Mental Health and Social Awareness

Proper management of our daily lives requires mental well-being just as much as physical well-being, yet this truth is often neglected by us. Generally, when we speak about health, we only refer to a disease-free physical condition, while the countless storms, despair, and anxieties constantly raging within the mind are hidden away in silence. Just as a healthy body requires nutritious food, rest, and regular exercise, a healthy and strong mind also requires proper care, understanding, and a peaceful environment. But in the present time, human life has become so mechanical, fast-paced, and competitive that nobody seems to have any time left to care for the condition of their own mind. A person who appears completely normal, cheerful, and successful from the outside may internally be fighting a terrifying psychological battle, something that even the people closest to them may never realize.

Our social system is still not mentally prepared to accept mental illness or psychological distress as a normal health-related issue. If someone suffers from fever, headache, or stomach problems, we openly discuss it with family members and immediately consult a doctor. But if someone becomes a victim of depression or hopelessness, they often feel deep hesitation and shame in expressing it before others. The primary reason behind this is society's negative attitude and the severe lack of awareness regarding mental health. Fearing that they may be labeled weak, cowardly, or mentally unstable, many mentally distressed individuals are forced to hide all their suffering within themselves. As a result, with time, these small emotional disturbances gradually take a more dangerous and devastating form, pushing a person slowly toward a dark abyss.

Mental health is not merely a disease of the brain; it is a profound process deeply connected with our emotions, thoughts, decision-making abilities, and behavior toward others. Until we learn to openly embrace this complicated yet extremely essential aspect of human life and initiate honest discussions about it, the dream of building a truly healthy, strong, and compassionate society will remain incomplete. Therefore, removing the age-old neglect and blind misconceptions surrounding mental health and developing a healthier mindset has become one of the most urgent necessities of our time.

The lack of social awareness and the decline of human sensitivity have become major reasons behind the increasing severity of

mental health problems. We live in a society where human emotions are often considered unimportant or temporary, and openly expressing sorrow or crying is viewed as a sign of weakness. Particularly in the case of men, certain unspoken social expectations and restrictions are so rigid that many of them are unable to express their pain or emotional struggles before others, forcing them to live in a condition of emotional suffocation. The long-standing belief that men should never cry or must always remain strong pushes many of them into severe mental stress. On the other hand, in the case of women, the heavy burden of family responsibilities, child-rearing, and social expectations often leaves a deeply harmful impact on their mental health, though such suffering is frequently treated as something normal and therefore ignored.

The way society mocks, suspects, or socially isolates individuals suffering from mental illness is truly unfortunate and shameful from a humanitarian perspective. Even today, many people continue to believe that mental disorders are self-created problems, mere pretenses, or the result of some evil supernatural influence. Due to such blind beliefs and superstitions, instead of seeking proper scientific treatment, people often resort to unscientific practices, which only worsen the condition of the patient. In reality, mental illnesses, like any other physical illness, may arise due to chemical changes in the brain, hereditary factors, traumatic experiences, or the influence of one's surrounding environment. Rather than hiding these issues, proper and long-term solutions can only be found through open discussions and professional counseling.

It has become extremely important to create an atmosphere where mental health can be discussed openly without hesitation at every level of society, whether within homes, educational institutions, or workplaces. When a mentally distressed individual realizes that there is someone willing to listen carefully and understand them without judgment, half of their suffering may already begin to heal through that reassurance alone. Such collective social transformation cannot happen overnight or through magic; every individual must change their outdated mindset and become more compassionate and empathetic toward those silently struggling with mental health problems.

Modern lifestyle and the rapid, unstoppable expansion of technology have undoubtedly brought numerous comforts and



DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

conveniences in our external lives, but their invisible negative impact has created severe and unprecedented threats to our mental peace. Particularly, the excessive and uncontrolled use of digital platforms, social media, and the internet has pushed people farther away from one another, gradually making human relationships artificial. Externally, we proudly claim to remain connected with the entire world twenty-four hours a day, but in reality, we are becoming trapped in an increasingly lonely and self-centered existence.

Through social media, people mostly display only the bright, successful, and carefully decorated aspects of their lives, creating unrealistic competition and deep inferiority complexes among others who observe them. Watching the glamorous portrayals of others' happiness, travels, and achievements, many individuals begin to perceive their own lives as meaningless or unsuccessful, planting the seeds of despair within them. Moreover, the relentless pressure of surviving in a highly competitive and mechanical lifestyle creates constant anxiety and severe mental stress in human minds. Endless workloads, lack of quality time with family, and the inability to spare time for personal happiness are slowly transforming people into emotionless machines.

All these factors together create a profound emptiness within the human mind, an emptiness that cannot easily be filled with material possessions or external success. When this psychological pressure exceeds the limits of a person's endurance, they become victims of chronic insomnia, depression, loneliness, and various severe mental disorders. Today, this silent epidemic can be observed among almost every age group, from young school-going children to elderly individuals approaching the evening of life. Therefore, in order to preserve our identity and mental balance amidst this race of mechanical living and blind imitation, it has become essential for survival itself to spend some time every day away from

the illusionary world of digital media, to connect peacefully with nature, to engage in heartfelt conversations with loved ones, and to involve ourselves in creative activities according to our interests. More than defeating others in the race of life, true success lies in living with a healthy, peaceful, and contented mind.

To prevent the continuous deterioration of mental health and completely eradicate the deep-rooted misconceptions and superstitions surrounding it, a collective, conscious, and organized effort has become absolutely necessary today. The first and strongest step toward this transformation must begin within the four walls of our own homes. If family members maintain an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust, and emotional connection, no individual will have to suffer from emotional loneliness within their own family.

Parents should not burden their children solely with academic pressure, competition, and future career expectations from an early age; rather, they should patiently listen to the child's thoughts, fears, and dreams. Similarly, educational institutions must no longer remain confined only within academic boundaries but should equally prioritize students' mental stability, emotional development, and moral character-building. If teachers are able to create a friendly and safe environment where students can comfortably express their fears and concerns, many tragic incidents in society can easily be prevented.

Likewise, both government and private workplaces should adopt compassionate and empathetic attitudes toward the mental health of employees, because only mentally healthy employees can perform efficiently in their professional responsibilities. Nowadays, many progressive and aware institutions are arranging regular mental health counseling facilities for their employees, which is truly a highly positive and commendable initiative.

Every individual in society must deeply realize that acknowledging one's mental distress and seeking help is neither a defeat nor a matter of shame; rather, it is an act of self-love and self-care. Consulting a professional psychologist or counselor never means that a person has become mentally unstable or insane. Instead, it signifies that the person is sincerely attempting to find healthy solutions to inner conflicts and rebuild life in a more meaningful and beautiful way.

The media, literary communities, and socially conscious citi-

zens can also play an important and historic role in building public awareness regarding this sensitive issue. Through drama, literature, cinema, and other influential forms of mass communication, realistic and frequent discussions about the importance of mental health can gradually transform society's age-old conservative mentality.

In order to build a mentally mature and healthy society, every individual must first abandon the habit of unnecessarily judging and criticizing others. Every human being carries a different life struggle, and it is impossible to determine merely by observing a smiling face what terrible emotional battles a person may be enduring internally. Therefore, if someone displays unusual behavior, anger, or extreme hopelessness, instead of turning them into an object of ridicule, we should approach them with kindness, sincerity, and empathy. A few encouraging words, a supportive gesture, or simply listening attentively to someone's pain may provide a hopeless person standing at the edge of self-destruction with a renewed reason to live.

Social awareness does not merely mean delivering lengthy speeches on public stages or limiting ideas within the pages of books. It is reflected through our daily conduct, conversations, and humane attitudes toward others.

Together, we must firmly resolve to build a compassionate world where no individual is forced to hide their pain, fear, or emotional suffering out of shame; where shedding tears during difficult moments is accepted as a natural human process; and where mentally ill individuals are not feared or isolated but are healed through proper treatment, care, and affection.

Human life is extraordinarily beautiful and diverse, and in order to truly experience this beauty, the mind must remain calm, positive, and peaceful. Alongside physical exercise, meditation, balanced nutrition, and sufficient sleep, regularly cleansing the mind of accumulated negativity, resentment, and harmful thoughts is one of the fundamental keys to good mental health.

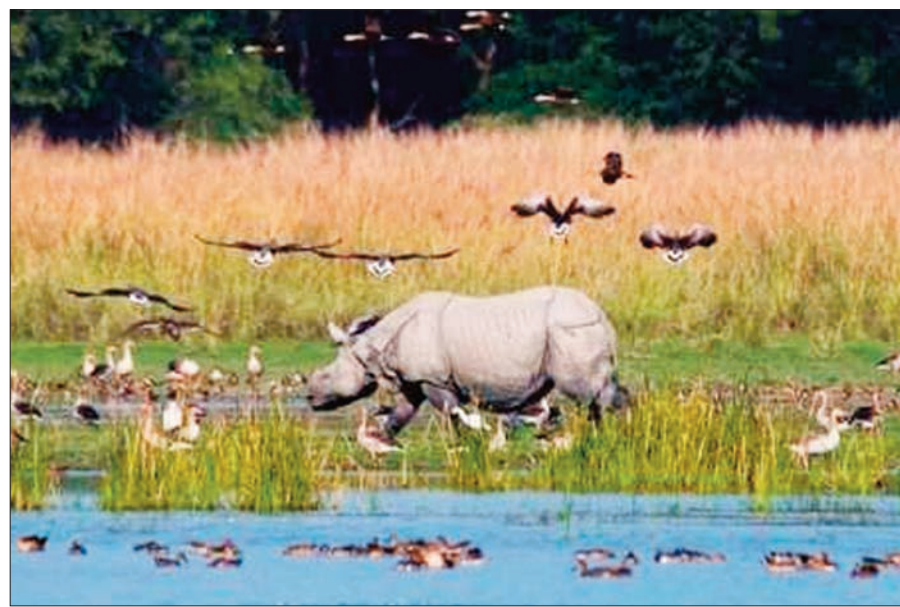
The day our society learns to deeply understand and practically apply all these essential aspects of mental health, that very day will witness the emergence of a truly progressive, compassionate, and humane civilization. The protection and promotion of mental health can never remain the responsibility of an individual alone; it is a shared and sacred duty of society, the nation, and every human being collectively.

The chronicles of Pobitora and the evolution of Assamese ecological consciousness

By: Dipak Kurmi

The historical trajectory of environmental literature in Assam finds a profound and structured manifestation in the annual indices of Pobitora, a seminal publication dedicated to ecological discourse, wildlife conservation, and regional environmental challenges. Spanning nearly a decade of intellectual contributions from 2012 to 2018, these tables of contents delineate a critical transition in how regional scholars, scientists, and literary figures conceptualized the fragile ecosystems of Northeast India. Initially emerging as a localized platform to discuss the immediate surroundings of the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, famed for its dense population of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, the publication quickly matured into a comprehensive compendium addressing global anxieties such as climate change, anthropogenic degradation, and biodiversity loss through a distinctly indigenous lens. By analyzing the thematic distribution of these writings, one can discern the shifting priorities of the Assamese intelligentsia as they grappled with the dual pressures of infrastructural development and ecological preservation.

The foundational discourse captured in the 2012 edition establishes an essential baseline, focusing heavily on the immediate geography of Pobitora and the broader mandate of habitat protection. Early contributions by prominent figures such as Dipanka Hazarika and the legendary cultural icon Dr. Bhupen Hazarika underscore the deep intertwining of Assamese identity with its natural heritage, particularly the symbolic resonance of the rhinoceros and the riverine ecosystems of the Brahmaputra valley. This period of literature was characterized by foundational calls for afforestation, pioneered by national figures like Sunderlal Bahuguna, alongside granular examinations of local wetlands like Deepor Beel and the adjacent areas of Pobitora. The early writings effectively laid the groundwork for a more systemic critique of environmental policy by documenting the rich biodiversity of Assam while simultaneously introducing community responsibilities and



legal frameworks, such as the Indian Forest Act of 1927, to a general readership eager for structured conservation paradigms.

As the publication progressed into 2013 and 2014, the editorial scope expanded significantly beyond localized conservation to incorporate rigorous scientific assessments of global environmental phenomena and their regional ramifications. The discourse during these years began to feature critical appraisals of global warming, climate-induced hydrological shifts, and the specific vulnerabilities of the Brahmaputra's wetlands, often described metaphorically as the kidneys of the landscape by scholars like Banikanta Goswami. This era also witnessed an intellectual bridging between traditional folklore and scientific inquiry, particularly through explorations of Mayong, the traditional land of magic adjacent to Pobitora, where the historical coexistence of human communities and dense forests was analyzed for sustainable insights. Authors like Dr. Pradip Sharma and Dr. Buljit Buragohain contributed pieces that elevated the publication from a celebratory nature magazine to a serious forum for environmental advocacy, dissecting the impact of plastic pollution, the

necessity of energy sustainability, and the critical role of environmental education in mitigating civilian apathy.

The mid-decade volumes of 2015 and 2016 reflect a heightened urgency, marked by an increasing focus on specific ecological crises such as the alarming rise in rhino poaching, habitat fragmentation in the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, and the vulnerability of avian populations across the state. The prose in these editions grew more analytical and urgent, with contributors like Mubina Akhtar and Dr. Dinesh Chandra Goswami examining the profound systemic failures that allow wildlife trafficking to persist despite stringent legal protections. It was during this phase that the publication diversified its linguistic and stylistic presentation, incorporating formal English essays alongside Assamese commentaries to reach a broader academic audience. This period also highlighted the global interconnectedness of local conservation efforts, referencing international frameworks like United Nations declarations, the themes of World Environment Day, and the interventions of global bodies like UNESCO, thereby positioning the conservation of Assam's floodplains within the larger matrix of international biosphere preserva-

tion.

By 2017 and 2018, the compilation exhibited a highly sophisticated understanding of socio-ecological systems, directly confronting the complexities of modern development, urban expansion in Guwahati, and the degradation of rural commons. The articles from these final years, written by an array of specialists including Dr. Sabda Kanto Sarma and Dr. Hrishikesh Baruah, moved past mere problem identification to offer systemic critiques of groundwater depletion, river pollution, and the eco-centric philosophies required for genuine sustainable development. The threat of plastic became a dominant theme during this twilight period of the reviewed collection, with multiple essays exploring the biochemical threats of microplastics and celebrating innovative community-led movements toward a clean neighborhood paradigm. The literature evolved to recognize that wildlife protection cannot occur in isolation from human welfare, thus advocating for sustainable eco-tourism as a tool for economic empowerment and environmental stewardship, while warning against the commercial exploitation of fragile habitats like the Barail range.

Ultimately, the chronological evolution of the Pobitora indices serves as a mirror to the broader environmental movement within Assam, illustrating a transition from romanticized nature appreciation to an adversarial, data-driven critique of ecological neglect. The wealth of data contained within these documents reveals a community of writers, scientists, and citizens who refused to view nature as a passive backdrop to human progress, choosing instead to document its rhythms, its wounds, and its resilience. Through decades of changing climates and shifting political landscapes, these records remain invaluable archives of regional environmental history, demonstrating that the salvation of unique species like the great Indian rhinoceros is irrevocably linked to the preservation of the smallest wetland, the education of the youngest citizen, and the continuous cultivation of a rigorous, ecologically informed public discourse. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

What millennials and gen Z professionals need to know about developing a meaningful career

What is a "meaningful career"? It can be doing purpose-driven work that aligns with your values. It may mean finding a working arrangement that balances the different parts of your life. Or it could be a career that gives you the opportunity to be your authentic self, while contributing to the world or improving others' lives. The answer is different for everyone, and can change over time.

Defining a meaningful career can be difficult enough – but then you need to get there. This is a deeply personal journey that involves identifying your values, passions and interests, and finding environments where you can thrive.

A new survey in the US has found that a sense of purpose at work or in school is the most important driver for gen Zers' happiness. I recently interviewed 28 millennial and generation Z graduates in the UK about what a meaningful career means to them. All of the participants entered the labour market either during the 2008 financial crisis or the COVID pandemic,

making them feel uncertain about their immediate future.

One millennial graduate observed how people in their cohort "took whatever job they could get, then looked around for something else as the market recovered". A gen Z graduate noted: "The graduate market was so poor due to COVID-19 that it was just a case of taking any job that was offered."

In other words, the economic environment they found themselves in meant they didn't always have the flexibility to prioritise meaning in their job search.

Millennials and gen Zers both spoke of valuing a collaborative and inclusive work environment. They wanted employers to prioritise their wellbeing by managing workloads and giving them autonomy to do their work. Access to training and development, a competitive salary package and career progression opportunities all featured prominently in the interviews. Both groups also spoke of the need to feel that their work contributed value to the organisation or broader society.

A young woman sitting outdoors

at the base of a tree on a sunny day, writing in a journal

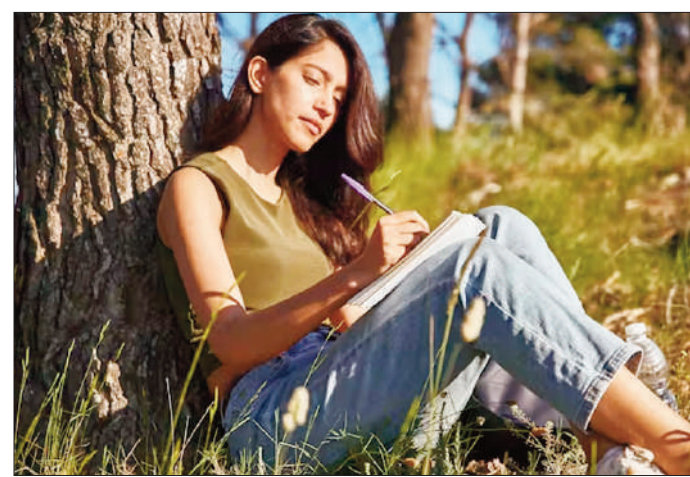
Think about your values and purpose. Pablo Calvog/Shutterstock

I also uncovered differences between millennials and gen Zers about what they want from a meaningful career. However, these had more to do with life stages than generational labels.

Gen Zers felt that because of the pandemic, "there was so much uncertainty" – so they wanted "somewhere that had a bit more job security and stability". They also felt a well-known employer with a good reputation "was safer in terms of job security during the pandemic".

Millennials, now having children and "settling down", placed greater emphasis on wanting a shorter commute and reducing the amount of physical travel for work. They were more likely to call for "family-friendly policies", although women from both age groups discussed this more than men.

People prioritise different things in work depending on their life



stages, and as things like caregiving responsibilities enter the picture. Your definition of a "meaningful" career might change over your lifespan.

Finding a meaningful career

Once you've determined what a meaningful career would look like for you, there are steps you can take to plan for and develop it. Remember, it is an ongoing process to align your career with your values, passions and interests, and it

is perfectly normal for these to evolve over time.

1. Consider your environment
Think about how the physical space of work can help you thrive. For example, I'm a disabled and housebound millennial, so hybrid or in-person simply does not work for me. To do meaningful work, it has to happen at home. In contrast, if you live on your own or in a house-share with no space to work, you may find meaning from in-

person interactions and seek out a role where you can be around other people.
2. Keep learning
Education does not have to begin or end with formal schooling. Commit to lifelong learning by embracing personal development throughout your career. Consider upskilling or reskilling opportunities, and alternative career paths.

I used to work in technology as a project manager. While I learned a lot, the work did not fulfil a sense of purpose and meaning for me. I retrained and pivoted into recruitment – helping graduates find internships and job opportunities gave me meaning, as I could see the outcome it had on people's lives.

3. Build your network
You may not find or build a meaningful career all on your own. Developing an expansive network of contacts can give you insight into other industries, organisations or roles, and may help you access new opportunities in the future. You may want to meet with a career counsellor or find a mentor.

Qualified career counsellors can be a wealth of information and support – as can friends, family and colleagues.

4. Be authentic and flexible
Because meaningful work is so personal, you have to have a strong sense of your own values – and stay true to them. Research shows there are many mental and physical benefits to having a purpose. If you know your values and purpose, you can align your work with your authentic self.

If you are trying to figure out what your values are or are stuck in a role that doesn't align with them, do not panic. It's never too late to make a change. As my own and my participants' experiences show, not every job you take will be perfectly matched with your values. That's OK. You can still learn skills and use this time to refine what a meaningful career means to you.

And if the reality of a situation does not meet your expectations, do not be afraid to try something new, or look for meaning outside of work. (Courtesy-The Conversation)

SSC CGL Recruitment 2026 – Online Apply for 12256 Posts

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has released the official notification of Combined Graduate Level (CGL) Examination 2026 for the recruitment of approximately 12256 Group B and Group C posts in different Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations of Government of India and various Constitutional Bodies/ Statutory Bodies/ Tribunals, etc.

SSC CGL Recruitment Details

Name of examination: Combined Graduate Level Examination, 2026
Name of posts: Various Group B and Group C Posts (Assistant Audit Officer, Assistant Accounts Officer, Assistant Section Officer, Inspector, Sub Inspector, Inspector of Posts, Statistical Investigator, Office Superintendent, Auditor, Accountant, Tax Assistant, Postal Assistant/ Sorting Assistant, etc.)
No of posts: 12,256 posts (approximately)
Pay Scale: Pay Level 4 to Pay Level 8 (Pay Scale of ₹ 25500 to ₹ 81100 till ₹ 47600 to ₹ 151100, as per level of posts)
Helpline No: 1800 309 3063 (Toll Free)

Eligibility Criteria of SSC CGL Recruitment

Age Limit: There are four categories of age ranges: 18 to 27 years, 20 to 30 years, 18 to 30 years and 18 to 30 years.
Age Relaxation: Category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below

SC/ST: 5 years
OBC: 3 years
PwD (Unreserved): 10 years
PwD (OBC): 13 years
PwD (SC/ST): 15 years

Educational Qualification:

Junior Statistical Officer:
Bachelor's Degree in any subject from a recognized University or Institute with at least 60% Marks in Mathematics at 12th standard level;
Or
Bachelor's Degree in any subject with Statistics as one of the subjects at degree level.

Statistical Investigator Grade-II:

Bachelor degree in Statistics or Mathematics or Economics or Demography or Population Studies or Operation Research or Information Technology or Computer Science or Computer Engineering or Computer Technology or Computer Application or Data Science or Artificial Intelligence from a recognized University or recognized Institute.

All Other Posts:

Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University or Institute.

The candidates who have appeared in their final year of their graduation can also apply, however they must possess Essential qualification as on 01.08.2026.

Application Fee of SSC CGL Exam

General/ OBC: Rs. 100/-
SC/ ST/ Women/Ex-Servicemen: Nil
Payment Mode: Through Debit/ Credit Card/SBI Challan/SBI Net Banking

Exam Centres in North Eastern Region (NER)

Here is the list of examination centres in North Eastern Region states:

Itanagar (5001), # Dibrugarh (5102), # Guwahati (Dispur) (5105)
Jorhat (5107), # Silchar (5111), # Tezpur (5112), # Dimapur (5301)
Kohima (5302), # Shillong (5401), # Imphal (5501), # Churachandpur (5502)
Ukhrul (5503), # Agartala (5601), # Aizwal (5701)

How to Apply for SSC Recruitment ?

Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these vacancy by visiting official SSC Recruitment Portal. Candidates may follow below mentioned steps to apply online.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section .

Click on the "Online Application Form" and complete the registration process.
In the next stage, click on "Online Application Form" Link and Login.
Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.
At the end, pay the application fee as per your category and submit the form.
Don't forget to take a print out of the application form .

Important Dates of SSC CGL Recruitment 2026

Starting date of submission of online application: 21st May 2026
Last date of submission of online application: 22nd June 2026
Date of SSC CGL Tier I Examination: August-September, 2026
Dates of Tier-II Examination (CBE): December, 2026

Scheme of SSC CGL Examination

The Computer Based Examination will be conducted in two tiers as indicated below:

Tier-I

Tier-II

Marks scored by candidates in Computer Based Examinations, if conducted in multiple shifts, will be normalized by using the formula published by the Commission. There shall be no provision for re-evaluation/ re-checking of the scores of any stage/ Tier(s) of the examination.

Scheme of Tier-I Examination

The Scheme of Tier-I exam is as mentioned below.

Type of questions: Tier-I will consist of Objective Type, Multiple choice questions. The questions will be set both in English & Hindi except for English Comprehension.

Negative marking: There will be a negative marking of 0.50 for each wrong an-

swer.

Duration of exam: 1 hour (1 hour and 20 minutes for the candidates eligible for scribe as mentioned in the official notification).

Normalization of marks: Marks scored by candidates in Computer Based Examinations, if conducted in multiple shifts, will be normalized by using the formula published by the Commission vide Notice No: 1-1/2018-P&P-I dated 07-02-2019 and such normalized scores will be used to determine final merit and cut-off marks.

Syllabus of CGL Tier-I Exam

Subject	No. of MCQs	Marks
General Intelligence and Reasoning	25	50
General Awareness	25	50
Quantitative Aptitude	25	50
English Comprehension	25	50

Scheme of Tier-II Examination

Tier-II will include conducting of Paper-I & Paper-II in separate shift(s)/ day(s).

Paper-I is compulsory for all the posts.

Paper-II will be for only those candidates who apply for the posts of Junior Statistical Officer (JSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Statistical Investigator Grade-II in the office of Registrar General of India (M/o Home Affairs) and who are shortlisted in Tier-I for these Posts.

For more details about Tier-II Examination, pl check official notification.

Border Roads Organisation Recruitment – 899 Electrician, Draughtsman & Other Posts

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 899 Electrician, Draughtsman & Other Posts in General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) of BRO. Interested and eligible candidates may apply here.

Candidates from North Eastern Regions including Assam can submit their applications till 19th July 2026.

Border Roads Organisation Recruitment Details

Name of post: Electrician, Draughtsman & Other Posts
Name of organisation: General Reserve Engineer Force (BRO)
No of posts: 899 posts

Post/ Trade-wise vacancy:

Draughtsman: 42 posts
Hindi Typist: 10 posts
Store Keeper Technical (SKT): 300 posts
Operator Communication: 261 posts
Operator Excavating Machinery (OEM): 207 posts
Electrician: 79 posts

Eligibility Criteria of Border Roads Organisation Recruitment

Gender: Only male candidates need to apply for these posts.
Age Limit: Age of the candidates must be between 18 years to 27 years as on 1st June 2026.

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

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

Educational Qualification:

Draughtsman:
(i) 10 Plus 2 with Science Subjects from a recognized Board; and
(ii) Having two years Certificate in Architecture or Draughtsmanship from a recognized Institute or equivalent;

or
Possessing two years National Trade Certificate for Draughtsman (Civil) from a recognized Institute and having one year practical experience in the trade.

Hindi Typist:

i) 10+2 from a recognized Board or equivalent;
ii) Typing speed 30 word per minute in Hindi on Computer (30 words per minute correspond to 9000 KDPH on an average of 5 Key depressions for each word).

Store Keeper Technical (SKT):

(i) 10 Plus 2 from a recognized Board or equivalent;
(ii) Having store keeping knowledge relating to vehicles or engineering equipment

Operator Communication:

(i) Matriculation from a recognized Board or equivalent;
(ii) Possessing Wireless Operator or Radio Mechanic Certificate from Industrial Training Institute or equivalent;

or
Defence Trade Certificate from an Army Institute or similar establishment of Defence with knowledge of Radio Technology;

or
having passed Class I Course for Wireless Operator and Key Board as laid down in Defence Service Regulations (Qualification Regulations for Soldiers) from office of Records or Centres or similar establishment of Defence.

Operator Excavating Machinery (OEM):

(i) Matriculation from a recognized Board or equivalent;
(ii) Possessing a heavy Motor vehicle driving license; or
Driving License for Dozer / Excavator and six months experience in driving Dozer / Excavator, or
(iii) Having passed class II Course of Operator Excavating Machinery as laid down in Defence Service Regulations (Qualification Regulations for Soldiers) from Office of Records or Centres or similar establishment of Defence.

Electrician:

Matriculation (10th) and Possessing certificate of Auto Electrician from ITI or equivalent and having one year experience as Electrician.

Candidates who have cleared the Electrician Class 2 Course as established by the

Defence Service Regulations are also eligible.

Application Fee:

UR/ OBC/ EWS: Rs 50/-

SC/ ST: Exempted

PwBD: Exempted

Payment Mode: Online

How to Apply for BRO Recruitment ?

Application form and admit card must be downloaded from the official BRO website (www.bro.gov.in) and filled in English or Hindi only, in capital letters. The application form must be printed on A4 size 75 GSM bond paper (one side only) and admit card printed on both sides of a single paper.

All applications quoting Advertisement No., Date and Trade/ post applied for should be submitted to the Commandant, GREF Centre, Dighi Camp, Pune - 411015 through Postal Service.

Important Dates of BRO Recruitment 2026

Starting date of submission of application: 21st May 2026

Last date of submission of application: 19th July 2026 (For North East states)

Potential Coaching Itanagar Recruitment 2026 – 10 Posts

Potential Coaching and Career Counselling is a well known coaching institute for JEE/ NEET in Itanagar registered under the government of Arunachal Pradesh. Potential Coaching and Career Counselling, Itanagar is looking for eligible candidates for the following vacancy.

Potential Coaching Itanagar Recruitment Details

Name of posts: Driver, Girls Warden, Office Assistant, Campus Security Staff and Multi Tasking Staff (MTS)

No of posts: 2 in each post

Pay: Salary is negotiable. Fooding and accommodation will be provided by the institute.

Age Limit: 40 years

Educational Qualification & Experience:

- Driver – 10th Pass with valid Driving License (DL) and prior driving experience preferred.
- Girls Warden – Graduate in any discipline.
- Office Assistant – Graduate in any discipline with basic office management knowledge preferred.
- Campus Security Staff – 10th Pass.
- Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) – 12th Pass.

How to Apply for Potential Coaching Itanagar Recruitment?

Interested candidates may send their updated CV/resume to pc3.edu@gmail.com with the subject line "Application for [Post Name]".

Email: pc3.edu@gmail.com.

Last date of submission of CV is by 25th May 2026.

Equal Opportunity: PC³ encourages applications from female candidates and is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive work environment.

About Potential Coaching and Career Counselling

Potential Coaching and Career Counselling (PC³), Itanagar, is one of Arunachal Pradesh's leading coaching institutions, providing quality education and guidance for Classes IX to XII, as well as NEET and JEE aspirants. The institute focuses on a holistic approach to learning, integrating conceptual clarity, discipline, and motivation. Our mission is to nurture academic excellence and ethical values among students to help them achieve success in competitive examinations and life beyond.

Gyanmarg Academy Numaligarh Recruitment – PGT Post

Gyanmarg Academy Senior Secondary School, Numaligarh, Golaghat has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 1 PGT post. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here. Last date of submission of application is 26th May 2026.

Gyanmarg Academy Numaligarh Recruitment Details

Name of post: PGT

No of posts: 1 post

Subject: Mathematics

Pay: Salary is not a constraint for deserving and experienced candidates.

Age Limit: Not specified.

Educational Qualification: Post Graduate in concerned subject with minimum 60% marks. Candidates with B.Ed. degree will be preferred.

Experience:

Minimum 2-3 years in a teaching institute preferred.

Strong communication skills.

Fresher with excellent academic records may also apply.

Application fee if any: N/A.

How to Apply for Gyanmarg Academy Numaligarh Recruitment ?

Interested and eligible candidates may send their updated resume along with a recent passport sized photograph through mail to (gyanmarga2018@gmail.com) or contact institute authority at +91-8638245451.

Last date of submission of application: 26th May 2026 .

About Gyanmarg Academy Numaligarh

Gyanmarg Academy is a senior secondary school affiliated with Assam State School Education Board (ASSEB), located at Numaligarh, Golaghat, Assam. The institution is dedicated to delivering quality education with a strong emphasis on academic excellence, overall personality development, and ethical values.

With a learner-friendly environment and a focus on conceptual understanding, the school adopts modern teaching methodologies to enhance students' knowledge and skills. Special attention is given to English proficiency, discipline, and co-curricular activities, ensuring the holistic growth of students.

Gyanmarg Academy strives to shape responsible, confident, and future-ready individuals capable of meeting the challenges of a dynamic world.

BJP's Bengal win can reshape India's economic direction: Pradeep Gupta

NEW DELHI, May 22: Pollster Pradeep Gupta has argued that the BJP's victory in the West Bengal Assembly election has the potential to reshape not just the state's future but also the economic direction of the entire country, citing eastern India's vast natural resources, ports and untapped trade potential.

The founder-chairman of Axis My India said states, such as Bihar, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal, collectively possess enormous economic and strategic importance.

"It is not just about Bengal. A victory there can change the direction and condition of the entire country," Gupta told PTI in an interview on Wednesday, while discussing the broader implications of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) poll triumph in West Bengal, dislodging the Trinamool Congress (TMC) from power after 15 years.

According to Gupta, eastern India's importance stems from its natural resources, maritime access and connectivity to the northeast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Referring to West Bengal's geographical position, he said access to the Andaman Islands effectively passes through the state,



underlining its strategic significance.

He noted that Bengali and Tamil-speaking communities form a substantial part of the population in the islands because eastern India historically served as an important resource and migration base.

Gupta pointed out that regions with a strong port infrastructure and trade networks historically became centres of prosperity.

"It is often said that countries with the highest number of ports become the most prosperous because trade and business move through them. Without the movement of goods and commerce,

prosperity cannot come," he said.

Lamenting what he described as the economic decline of eastern India, Gupta questioned the developmental trajectory of Bihar and Odisha despite their mineral wealth and natural resources. He also said Assam and much of the northeast had long remained geographically and economically isolated.

"Look at the condition of Bihar. If you separate Odisha's mines and natural resources for a moment, what remains of its economy? Assam and the northeast were virtually cut off for years," he said.

On West Bengal, Gupta said the

state once served as one of India's foremost industrial and commercial centres, housing several major corporate headquarters during the colonial and early post-independence years.

He referred to the migration of businesses and business communities out of Kolkata over the decades, saying many firms shifted operations to cities, such as Mumbai and Bengaluru, while several business families later moved abroad. He also cited the collapse of the Tata Motors' Nano project in Singur as an example of how industrial opportunities were lost in West Bengal.

"Those who tried to harness Bengal's potential, like the Nano factory project, were driven away," he said. Gupta further claimed that migrant voters from eastern India appeared unusually determined to travel back home to cast their votes this time, suggesting a strong undercurrent of political change.

Recalling conversations with people travelling from cities such as Mumbai, Gupta said many voters were eager to participate despite logistical difficulties and fears around electoral participation. (PTI)

'Need innovators, not interpreters': Pradhan bats for Indian languages in education system

NEW DELHI, May 22: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday defended the emphasis on Indian languages in the education system, saying India needs "innovators, not interpreters", while asserting that foreign languages should not become a burden for students. Addressing the Jagran Bharat Education Conclave 2026, Pradhan expressed his support for teaching foreign languages, noting that students involved in global trade should learn multiple foreign languages.

"I am in favour of teaching foreign languages. Those who will handle Indian trade and commerce in global markets should learn even five foreign languages," the minister said. However, he stressed that students should study in the language in which they understand concepts best.

"When a child needs clarity, they should not remain burdened with foreign languages. They should study in the language in which they understand concepts clearly," he said.

Pradhan cited a review by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which found that only one per cent of the board's total student population is studying foreign languages.

"We conducted a review through CBSE and found that foreign language students constitute only one per cent of the total student population," he said.

Responding to criticism over the emphasis on Indian languages, the minister said that India's rapid growth in innovation, research and manufacturing requires creators and innovators rather than translators.

"Indian languages should be studied because India has rapidly advanced in innovation over the past 10 years. Our production, research and national requirements have grown. India now has a population of 140 crore, and the Global South is increasingly connected with India. The expectations of the Global South rest on India's research,

innovation and low-cost production value chain," he said.

He emphasised that to strengthen India's innovation and low-cost production ecosystem, the nation needs more innovators than interpreters. "A few interpreters will always be needed, but society must decide whether it wants innovators or interpreters," he added.

"Our education policy is moving towards creating innovators," the minister said.

Pradhan welcomed criticism in a democracy as long as it is logical and relevant. "Criticism is essential in a democracy. But criticism should be logical and relevant — it should help take the debate forward," he added.

On Friday, the Supreme Court said it will hear a plea next week challenging the new CBSE policy, which has made the study of three languages, including at least two native Indian languages, compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi mentioned the matter before a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi.

"This is an urgent PIL. The petitioners are students, teachers and parents. They are challenging the new policy of the CBSE by which, in the 9th standard, two more languages have been made compulsory," Rohatgi said.

Urging the top court to list the matter for hearing on Monday, Rohatgi said, "It will create chaos."

The CJJ said next week will be a miscellaneous week, and the matter would be listed.

According to a recent circular issued by the CBSE, the board has made the study of three languages, including at least two native Indian languages, compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1.

The move is part of the CBSE's alignment of its Scheme of Studies with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. (PTI)

India, Cyprus upgrade ties to a strategic partnership

NEW DELHI, May 22: India and Cyprus on Friday elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and set up a joint task force to facilitate deeper cooperation in sectors such as infrastructure and shipping as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides for wide-ranging talks.

The two leaders also deliberated on the West Asia crisis as well as the Ukraine conflict, with PM Modi saying New Delhi supports all efforts for an early end to the hostilities.

"Over the past decade, investment from Cyprus to India has nearly doubled. Trust between the two countries has increased, and with the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement, numerous new possibilities have emerged," Modi said in his media statement.

Taking advantage of this, we are targeting to double this investment again in the next five years, he said.

"And to realise this resolve, today we are elevating our trusted

relationship to a strategic partnership," he added.

The prime minister also noted that the friendship between India and Cyprus is both "strong and futuristic" as he elaborated on various aspects of his talks with Christodoulides.

"We also discussed global issues. Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support efforts for the early end of the conflict and for peace," Modi said.

"We are also unanimous on the view that reform of global institutions is urgent and important for resolving the growing global challenges," he said.

The prime minister said the two countries also decided to expand cooperation in areas of maritime security and counter-terrorism.

In his remarks, Christodoulides said India and Cyprus decided to set up a joint task force for cooperation in key sectors such as infrastructure and shipping. Christodoulides kicked-started his three-day visit to India on Wednesday. (PTI)

SC grants bail to accused in UAPA case over recruitment of 'hybrid' terrorists



NEW DELHI, May 22: The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Suhail Ahmad Thokar, who was arrested in a UAPA case for allegedly conspiring with proscribed terrorist groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. It was alleged that these terror groups, in collaboration with their facilitators and leaders based in Pakistan, were involved in influencing and radicalising susceptible local youth.

The prosecution had alleged that an FIR was registered subsequent upon the receipt of intelligence regarding the incubation of a larger conspiracy in the Kashmir valley and the conspiracy was orchestrated by proscribed terrorist groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. It was alleged that these terror groups, in collaboration with their facilitators and leaders based in Pakistan, were involved in influencing and radicalising susceptible local youth.

The prosecution had alleged that Thokar played an active role in providing refuge to the members of the terrorist organisations and their associates.

During the arguments before the high court, his counsel had argued that there existed a conspicuous absence of material evidence implicating him in any criminal conspiracy with the alleged terrorist outfits and nothing incriminating was recovered from his possession.

Opposing his submissions, the NIA's counsel had argued in the high court that the prosecution was clearly able to establish that Thokar played an active role in arranging logistical support for terrorists in the Kashmir valley. (PTI)

period already spent by him in custody and also that conclusion of trial in the matter would take some time.

It directed that Thokar be enlarged on bail subject to furnishing the bail bond to the satisfaction of the special NIA court at Delhi. Thokar had earlier moved the high court challenging a January 2023 order of the trial court denying him bail in the case lodged under various provisions of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

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Madhya Pradesh HC allows second postmortem of Twisha Sharma

JABALPUR, May 22: The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Friday permitted a second postmortem of Twisha Sharma, the Noida woman who was allegedly harassed for dowry and died last week, her family members said.

The HC has allowed the petition filed by Twisha's father Navnidhi Sharma, their lawyer Ankur Pandey told PTI.

He said the high court has directed the state government to make arrangements for a team of doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, to be flown to Bhopal.

The family approached the high court two days after a lower court turned down their plea for a second autopsy.

Twisha was found hanging at her marital home in Bhopal's Katara Hills area on May 12. The family of the 33-year-old model turned actor accused her in-laws of pushing their daughter to death. Her in-laws claim she was addicted to drugs.

While her postmortem was done at AIIMS Bhopal, her family had

sought a second autopsy, citing discrepancies.

Two days ago, Judicial Magistrate First Class Anudita Gupta in Bhopal rejected the family's plea, stating that the conscience of the court must be satisfied to order a re-postmortem. Minor infractions of procedure will not impel the court to order a second autopsy, the magistrate had noted.

The lower court also observed that the body was currently kept in the AIIMS Bhopal mortuary at -4 degrees Celsius, but required -80 degrees for longer preservation, a facility unavailable anywhere in the city.

Following Twisha's death, police registered an FIR under Sections 80(2), 85, and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita along with relevant sections of the Dowry Prohibition Act, naming her husband Samarth Singh and mother-in-law and former judge Giribala Singh.

Police have also announced a cash reward of ₹ 30,000 for information leading to Samarth Singh's arrest and approached the court for revocation of his passport. (PTI)

Bihar Police says attacks on personnel increased amid intensified crackdown on criminals

PATNA, May 22: Bihar Police on Friday claimed that attacks on its personnel have increased amidst an intensified crackdown on criminals, forcing officers to open fire in self-defence in some cases.

Rejecting allegations that police encounters were being carried out on the basis of caste, newly appointed additional director general of police (law and order) Sudhanshu Kumar asserted that law enforcement agencies do not differentiate on caste lines.

"Police have no caste, and neither do criminals. For criminals who attack police personnel, we will not ask their caste before taking action against them to save our lives," Kumar told reporters at the police headquarters here.

He said sustained action by police, including arrests, speedy trials and seizure of properties acquired through crime, had led to desperation among criminal elements.

"In the wake of arrests, speedy trials and seizure of property acquired through crime, it is natural that some desperate elements will take such steps as attacking police, but we are ready for that," he said.

The ADGP said Bihar Police identified 1,433 criminals under provisions related to seizure of illegally acquired properties between January and May 15, and proposals against 428 people were sent to courts during the period.

Proceedings for seizure of property are underway against 103 accused, while attachment orders have

been issued against four others, he added.

Kumar said 33,126 accused were arrested between January and May 15 in serious criminal cases, including murder (2,023), dacoity (311), loot (573) and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (1,572).

Furthermore, courts across the state convicted 70,624 people in 52,567 cases between January and April, of whom two persons were awarded death sentence, 453 were sentenced to life imprisonment and 253 received jail terms of more than 10 years, he added.

The ADGP said preventive action under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) was taken against 4,13,118 people between January and May 15, while bond proceedings were initiated against 1,34,358 people during the same period. He also said 1,146 accused were arrested in cases related to communal violence (57), attacks on police personnel (1,065), mob violence (04) and celebratory firing (20) in the same period.

According to a statement issued by the PHQ, police arrested 1,34,225 accused people and seized 1,466 illegal firearms, 7,073 cartridges, 12 bombs and 259 detonators between January and April.

Police also busted 35 illegal mini gun factories and seized narcotics, including 3,644 grams of heroin and over 16,408 kg of ganja, besides confiscating 7,709 vehicles during the period. (PTI)

Tribals embracing Christianity, other faith must be delisted from ST list: Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram

NEW DELHI, May 22: Religious conversion is a major threat to the country and has deeply affected tribal regions, leading to "serious social conflicts and divisions", Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram president Satyendra Singh has said, while calling for a constitutional amendment to check this menace.

In an exclusive interview with PTI Videos, Singh said the solution to "many problems related to conversion" lies in amending Article 342 of the Constitution to deny benefits under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category to those who convert from Hinduism to Christianity or Islam on the lines of Article 341, which has such provisions for the members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) embracing other religions.

Singh said while the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, an RSS-affiliate, mainly works in areas such as education, healthcare, self-reliance and cultural awareness, it set up the Janjati Suraksha Manch in Raipur in 2006 to further pursue

the issue of "delisting" the members of the ST communities who have converted to Islam, Christianity or any other non-Hindu religion.

He claimed that a large section of the tribal community has undergone religious conversion, adding that wherever conversions took place, a strong sense of "alienation" emerged.

"Our own people gradually became disconnected from each other. Conflicts and divisions started within the society itself. One brother became Christian, another remained Hindu, and this created divisions within families and communities," he said.

Referring to Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram founder Balasaheb Deshpande, Singh said, "He had said in his final days that while we are engaged in the service of people, the coming times would also be a period of struggle. Therefore, we would also need to prepare workers from that perspective."

Singh also acknowledged that

social discrimination and caste divisions within the Hindu society have contributed to religious conversions.

"There can be many reasons behind religious conversions. Some shortcomings also existed within our own society. People should have received more affection and inclusion," he said.

He alleged that missionary activities expanded during the British rule under the pretext of education, healthcare and welfare work, and claimed that "inducements" provided by Christian missionaries also played a role in conversions.

"The Hindu society also had caste divisions and feelings of superiority and inferiority. Missionaries offered affection as well as inducements, and that contributed to conversions," Singh said.

According to Singh, religious conversions took place most significantly in the northeast, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala. (PTI)

Severe heatwave conditions likely to prevail over parts of India: IMD

NEW DELHI, May 22: Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are likely to persist over the plains of northwest India, Central and East India, and parts of Peninsular India during the next six to seven days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

The IMD stated that heatwave conditions are likely in isolated areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from May 22 to May 28.

"Severe heatwave conditions over East Uttar Pradesh and East Madhya Pradesh are expected during the same period," the IMD said.

It added that heatwave conditions are very likely in isolated/some pockets over Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi from May 22 to May 28.

Severe heatwave conditions are predicted in some areas of these re-

gions between May 24 and May 27.

"Heatwave conditions are very likely in isolated/some pockets over Rajasthan during May 22-28, with severe heatwave conditions likely in isolated/some pockets over West Rajasthan during May 24-28," the IMD said.

Parts of Vidharbha, Coastal Andhra, Yanam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are likely to witness heat wave or severe heat wave conditions on different dates between May 22 and May 28.

Furthermore, warm night conditions are expected in isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh and Vidharbha from May 22 to May 24, in Odisha from May 22 to May 26, and in Telangana on May 22 and May 23. (PTI)

Maharashtra emerging as leading AI hub, says Fadnavis, announces Mumbai Tech Week

MUMBAI, May 22: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the state is emerging as a leading hub for artificial intelligence (AI) innovation in the country, asserting that the upcoming Mumbai Tech Week 2026 will be larger and more impactful than last year's edition.

Announcing the event at Sahyadri Guest House, Fadnavis said AI would be the most transformative force in the future and stressed the need to adopt the technology across sectors.

Mumbai Tech Week 2026, scheduled on May 29 and 30 at the Jio World Convention Centre, will see participation of leading global AI companies, including OpenAI, Meta, Anthropic and Google Cloud.

More than 10,000 developers and technology enthusiasts are expected to attend the event, organised by the Tech Entrepreneurs Association of



Mumbai (TEAM) in association with the Maharashtra government, IDFC FIRST Bank and Meta, an official release said.

"Platforms like Mumbai Tech Week will help take opportunities in AI to the youth and establish Maharashtra as the country's leading cen-

tre for AI innovation," the chief minister said. He pointed out that the state government was already using AI in several departments to improve governance and administrative efficiency.

"The government is playing the role of the biggest stakeholder in

this transformation," Fadnavis said, noting that Tech Week should also showcase the government's AI initiatives through experiential presentations.

He praised the growing scale of TEAM and said an increasing number of young professionals and entrepreneurs were joining the initiative. "Let us organise a bigger and more effective Mumbai Tech Week than last year and connect Maharashtra's youth with new opportunities in the AI sector at the global level," he said.

The event, themed "India: AI in Action", will showcase practical applications of AI across industries.

TEAM co-chair and governing council member Harsh Jain said Mumbai Tech Week 2026 would focus not only on discussions but also on demonstrating how AI is transforming industries and creating economic opportunities.

"With the Maharashtra govern-

ment as our partner, we have an opportunity to make this a landmark moment for Mumbai and Maharashtra's AI economy," Jain said.

He said the event would also host AI Excellence Awards 2026, an early-stage startup showcase and an AI-based job fair. More than 25 companies are expected to participate in the recruitment drive, offering over 250 job opportunities to more than 30,000 candidates, he said.

According to organisers, the event will also feature masterclasses, "Stories Unplugged" sessions and 14 satellite events across Mumbai ahead of the main conference. TEAM is a non-profit industry body working to strengthen Mumbai's technology ecosystem. Its governing council includes entrepreneurs such as Harsh Jain, Aakrit Vaish, Naia Saggi, Dhruvil Sanghvi, Akanksha Hazari, Vishal Gondal, Mayank Kumar and Vivek Khemka. (PTI)

Manipur CM appeals to people to come forward for talks, not to resort to bandhs

Shutdowns and blockades mainly affect daily wage earners and disrupt state economy



IMPHAL, May 22: Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh on Friday appealed to the people of the state to come forward for talks and not to resort to bandhs or blockades.

Singh was speaking at the inauguration of a bridge at Akham Makha Leikai in Imphal West district.

Addressing a gathering, Singh said, "Enforcing bandhs and blockades out of anger toward the government only leads to hardship, particularly for the daily wage earners."

He also said, "I have been to Jiribam twice. First, I visited the district by helicopter and second by road, during which members of Kuki, Paite, Hmar and Meiteis gathered together at the grassroots level and interacted. All are having cordial relations."

"The day after I returned from Jiribam, a bomb attack at Tronglaobi in Bishnupur district killed two small children in April causing much grief to all of us. The incident caused disruptions to the economy of the state due to shutdowns and bandhs," he said.

Singh appealed, "To the people to come forward for talks to reach a mutual understanding whenever there is any frustration or anger towards the government, as bandhs cause hardships, particularly to families of daily wage earners."

Later, in a social media post, Singh said "I am pleased to inaugurate the RCC Bridge over the Nambul River at Akham Mayai Leikai in Lamsang Assembly Constituency today, in the esteemed presence of MLA Lamsang ACS Rajen Singh."

He also said, this vital infrastructure project will strengthen connectivity between key areas, facilitate the movement of people and goods, support local markets, and contribute to economic growth and inclusive development.

"The government remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing road connectivity and building quality infrastructure for the welfare and progress of the people of Manipur", he added. (PTI)

Arunachal CM calls for collective action to protect biodiversity

Stresses harmony with nature and SDGs on International Day for Biological Diversity

ITANAGAR, May 22: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday called for renewed collective commitment towards protecting biodiversity and preserving the rich diversity of life on the planet, stressing that human well-being is intrinsically linked to the health of ecosystems.



Marking the International Day for Biological Diversity, Khandu, in a social media post, urged people to strengthen efforts towards environmental conservation and sustainable living.

"On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to protecting and preserving the rich diversity of life on our planet," the chief minister said in a post on X.

Emphasising the interdependence between humanity and nature, Khandu stated that the observance serves as a reminder that ecological balance and sustainable development must go hand in hand.

"This year's theme, 'Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development', reminds us that the

well-being of humanity is deeply interconnected with the health of our ecosystems," he added.

Khandu's message assumes significance for the state, one of the country's most ecologically rich states and part of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot.

The state is home to vast forest cover, rare flora and fauna, diverse tribal cultures and several endangered species, making environmental conservation a critical aspect of its developmental policies.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on May 22 to increase

awareness and understanding of biodiversity-related issues.

The day commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity and highlights the global need to conserve ecosystems, protect wildlife and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

In recent years, Arunachal Pradesh has intensified efforts towards balancing infrastructure growth and environmental protection through community-based conservation, sustainable tourism initiatives, wildlife protection measures and climate-resilient development strategies. (PTI)

Tripura BJP's chief demands four-day work week for govt staffers

AGARTALA, May 22: BJP's chief whip in Tripura Assembly, Kalyani Roy, on Friday urged the state government to introduce a four-day weekly work schedule for all its employees with an enhancement of daily working hours.

Currently, 50 per cent of government employees of Group C and D categories are attending their respective offices, while the rest are working from home following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to save fuel in the wake of the West Asia conflict.

"Following the prime minister's appeal amidst the West Asia conflict, the state government has ordered 50 per cent of Group C and D employees to work from home while the remaining workforce is attending offices (from May 14) as part of austerity measures," Roy said in a press conference.

She said the people must adhere to the prime minister's call for saving fuel because nobody knows when the conflict will end.

"Chief Minister Manik Saha, his cabinet colleagues and MLAs have already reduced their escorts and vehicles following the PM's

appeal. I urge the people to adopt austerity measures by using public transport, e-rickshaws or bicycles for short distances," she said.

Roy said the government has already introduced an e-office system from the civil secretariat to the gram panchayat level but support from Group C and D is required to keep the system going.

"Therefore, I appealed to the government to introduce a four-day work week for the employees by increasing working hours in offices from the existing eight hours to nine hours or so," she said. (PTI)

Arunachal to set up state-level policy think tank: CM

Institute to support evidence-based policy making and long-term development plan



ITANAGAR, May 22: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday said the vision of establishing the Institute for Transforming Arunachal Pradesh (ITA) is steadily taking shape with proactive engagement between NITI Aayog and the state government.

He described the initiative as a major step towards evidence-based policymaking and long-term development planning for the frontier state.

In a social media post, Khandu said the proposed institute would serve as a dedicated state-level policy think tank aimed at providing strategic direction and development planning tailored to Arunachal Pradesh's unique geographical, cultural and economic realities.

"For long, we have strongly advocated the need for a dedicated state-level policy think tank that can provide strategic direction, evidence-based policymaking and long-term development

planning tailored to Arunachal Pradesh's unique geographical, cultural and economic realities," the chief minister said in a post on X.

Khandu expressed gratitude to NITI Aayog member Dr Joram Aniya, CEO Nidhi Chhibber and officials associated with the initiative for their commitment towards Arunachal Pradesh's developmental journey.

The proposed Institute for transforming Arunachal Pradesh is expected to function as a specialised policy and research body that can assist the state government in framing data-driven policies, monitoring developmental indicators, strengthening institutional governance and designing sustainable growth strategies suited to the state's needs, officials said here.

Arunachal Pradesh has, in recent years, intensified efforts towards infrastructure expansion, border area development, entrepreneurship promotion, tourism, hydropower and sustainable economic growth.

The state government has also been working closely with NITI Aayog on several developmental initiatives, including aspirational district programmes, innovation ecosystems and youth empowerment strategies.

NITI Aayog, the apex public policy think tank of the Centre, plays a key role in promoting cooperative federalism and supporting states in policy formulation and development planning through a collaborative approach. (PTI)

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REVENUE OFFICER
DIPHU REVENUE CIRCLE
KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL, DIPHU
NO. KAAC/ARO/Railway Land Acquisition/1208
Dated: 22/05/2026**

Notification

In pursuance of the order issued by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Department of Revenue vide memo *KAAC/Rev-2220 Pt./2026/20-A dated 21/05/2026*, the brief description of land mentioned in the scheduled below is hereby notified under Section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 for acquisition of land in connection with the Railway doubling Project from Nirmal T.E to Matipul Block No.2 in the district of Karbi Anglong, Assam, under Diphu Revenue Circle, Borjan mouza.

Any person interested in the said land may raise claims and objection within Twenty-one(21) days from the date of publication of this notification. Every such objection shall be made in writing to the competent authority, namely, Assistant Revenue officer, Diphu clearing stating the grounds thereof. The competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or through a legal practitioner, and may, after considering all such objections and conducting further enquiry, if deemed necessary, pass an order either allowing or disallowing the objections.

The land plans and other details of land to be acquired under the notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person in the said office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of land to be acquired with or without structures falling under Railway Doubling Project covering a stretch of 3.242 KM from Nirmal T.E to Matipul Block No.2 in the district of Karbi Anglong, Assam.

Sl. No	Village	Mouza	District	Dag No/Patta No	Type of Land	Class of Land	Area acquired (in Hectre)			
1	Nirmal T.E	Borjan	Karbi Anglong	42-P.P-1	Private	Commercial	0.0053			
2				43-PP-1	Private	Commercial	0.0066			
3				44-PP-1	Private	Commercial	0.0022			
4	Khatkhathi Block No.4	Borjan	Karbi Anglong	113-PP-14	Private	Phong	0.091			
5				125-PP-20	Private	Sali	0.257			
6				172-PP-70	Private	Commercial	0.106			
7				80-PP-14	Private	Sali	0.3473			
8				31-PP-68	Private	Commercial	0.2543			
9				32-PP-14	Private	Jalatok	0.0669			
10				112-14	Private	Commercial	0.0937			
11				34-PP-14	Private	Commercial	0.1311			
12				30-PP-34	Private	Commercial	0.0642			
13				29-PP-12	Private	Commercial	0.0803			
14				28-PP-34	Private	Commercial	0.0414			
15				27-PP-37	Private	Commercial	0.0334			
16				26-PP-30	Private	Commercial	0.0267			
17				25-Nil	Private	Commercial	0.008			
18				24-Nil	Private	Commercial	0.009			
19				23-PP-67	Private	Commercial	0.024			
20				22-PP-69	Private	Commercial	0.0307			
21				21-PP-71	Private	Commercial	0.0495			
22				20-PP-36	Private	Commercial	0.0267			
23				19-PP-13	Private	Commercial	0.0455			
24				18-PP-19	Private	Commercial	0.0006			
25				17-PP-11	Private	Commercial	0.0013			
26							154-AP-29	Private	Commercial	0.0004
27							109-AP-28	Private	Commercial	0.016
28							114-PP-35	Private	Commercial	0.001
29	4-PP-12	Private	Commercial				0.2115			
30	3-PP-12	Private	Commercial				0.1606			
31	5-Nil	Govt Land	Road				0.0929			
32	138-Nil	Private	Commercial				0.2918			
33	1-PP-1	Private	Commercial				0.2498			
34	Khatkhathi Block No.3	Borjan	Karbi Anglong				60-PP-12	Private	Bari	0.0589
35							59-PP-13	Private	Bari	0.0722
36				51-Nil	Govt Land	Road	0.0194			
37				50-PP-14	Private	Bari	0.1151			
38				49-PP-15	Private	Bari	0.2247			
39				20-PP-23	Private	Phong	0.0856			
40				18-PP-23	Private	Bari	0.0468			
41				17-PP-16	Private	Bari	0.0776			
42				16-PP-17	Private	Bari	0.0763			
43				14-PP-18	Private	Bari	0.0883			
44				13-PP-19	Private	Bari	0.02			
45				12-PP-20	Private	Bari	0.0133			
46				11-PP-20	Private	Bari	0.0977			
47				122-PP-22	Private	Bari	0.1079			
48				2-PP-21	Private	Bari	0.0852			
49	Ghoriyal Dubi Block No.1	Borjan	Karbi Anglong	70-PP-1	Private	Sali	0.091			
50				73-PP-1	Private	Bari	0.21			
51				74-Nil	Govt Land	Road	0.009			
52				71-PP-92	Private	Bari	0.016			
53				75-PP-1	Private	Bari	0.1432			
54				77-Nil	Govt Land	Stream	0.0127			
55				78-PP-93	Private	Bari	0.1963			
56				353-PP-94	Private	Bari	0.229			
57				81-Nil	Govt Land	Road	0.0174			
58				82-Nil	Private	Bari	0.0093			
59				84-PP-95	Private	Sali	0.0756			
60				85-PP-96	Private	Bari	0.0722			
61				205-PP-97	Private	Bari	0.082			
62				86-AP-22	Private	Bari	0.0763			
63	Matipul Block No.2	Borjan	Karbi Anglong	2-AP-10	Private	Phong	0.0561			
64				3-PP-17	Private	Phong	0.1172			
65				181-Nil	Govt Land	Road	0.008			
66				217-PP-62	Private	Phong	0.0434			
67				278-PP-66	Private	Bari	0.1473			
Total							5.6277			

Sd/-
Assistant Revenue officer
&
Land Acquisition officer
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu

Chaubey assures full-fledged ISL next edition after dramatic 2025-26 season finish

KOLKATA, May 22: Marred by controversy in the build-up, the curtailed Indian Super League made a dramatic end with East Bengal claiming the title, and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey assured that the tournament would return in a full-fledged format next season.

Twenty-two years after their last national league triumph, East Bengal finally ended their long wait for glory by defeating Inter Kashi 2-1 in a thrilling ISL 2025-26 finale at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan here Thursday night.

"Of course we will see a full-fledged ISL next season," Chaubey told reporters after the match.

Mohammed Rashid emerged the unlikely hero with a decisive 72nd minute strike after league top-scorer Youssef Ezzejjari had cancelled out Alfred Planas' early goal soon after the break.

The win helped East Bengal finish on top with 26 points from 13 matches, edging Mohun Bagan Super Giant on superior goal difference after both Kolkata giants ended level on points.

Hailing the rivalry between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, Chaubey said: "Whenever there is competition, it is always healthy for football. The Kolkata derby between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal is among the biggest rivalries in world football."

"East Bengal had been lagging behind over the last few years, but the way they have come back this season will immensely benefit Bengal football."

"As long as the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal rivalry stays alive, Bengal football and Indian football will stay alive."

The 2025-26 ISL season kicked off on February 14, a delay of five months due to financial and governance deadlock after the expiry of the Master Rights Agreement between the AIFF and FSDL.

Each team got to play only a maximum of 13 matches, as opposed to 24 last season.

"I never said football would stop in India," Chaubey said. "This season we organised 21 tournaments and close to 2,100 matches. Never before in Indian football history have so many matches been played in a single season."

"Yes, there were crises and some controversies too. Sometimes controversies are even created because they keep people interested. But I strongly believe Indian football is moving forward and will continue to progress this way."

ISL's future is still uncertain



amid a fresh deadlock between clubs and the AIFF over commercial and broadcast structures. Several franchises have pushed for a club-led operational and commercial model, while uncertainty over the roadmap has stalled player contracts and renewals across teams.

At East Bengal too, head coach Oscar Bruzon had earlier publicly announced that he may not continue if clarity over the ISL's future does not emerge soon.

Chaubey said Indian football had already endured enough turbulence this season after the league remained suspended for seven months.

"Anyone who follows Indian football knows the sport came to a standstill for seven months after the expiry of the 15-year agreement between AIFF and FSDL."

"For the last eight years there was a system in place and suddenly there was uncertainty. At one stage, it even looked like the league would not happen."

"The Super Cup started late, players lacked match fitness because there were not enough games. So as an organiser, I feel satisfied that AIFF managed to bring everybody together and successfully conduct the tournament."

He said the competitiveness of the league despite the truncated format was the biggest positive.

"The bigger achievement is the way the tournament became so competitive. The way Mohun Bagan and East Bengal kept fighting for the title till the very last day. I don't think we have ever witnessed such an intense ISL season before."

"We made it possible through God's grace and through everyone's hard work."

There was much drama before the final round matches with five teams -- East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Mumbai City FC, Punjab FC and Jamshedpur FC -- in the title race heading into the final round of simultaneous matches on Thursday.

With teams playing only 13 matches this season, compared to 24 last year, the title race remained wide open till the very end. (PTI)

PBKS seek dramatic turnaround to keep playoff hopes alive against struggling LSG

LUCKNOW, May 22: Punjab Kings will need something spectacular to arrest a disastrous slide and keep their fading playoff hopes alive when they take on already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants, in their IPL clash, here on Saturday.

Punjab's campaign has unravelled dramatically since their record 265-run chase against Delhi Capitals on April 25.

From remaining unbeaten till the midway stage and looking like genuine title contenders with six wins in seven matches, the last season's runners-up have crashed to six successive defeats, leaving their playoff hopes hanging by a thread.

Now placed fifth, Punjab not only need to beat LSG in their final league game here on Saturday but also depend on Sunday's double headers (MI vs RR and KKR vs DC) to earn a place in the playoff.

The Shreyas Iyer-led side would hope both Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders lose their respective matches.

A Rajasthan Royals win over Mumbai would officially end Punjab's hopes, while a KKR victory over Delhi Capitals could bring net run rate into play. At present, PBKS hold a slight edge in NRR over KKR.

But before permutations come into the picture, Punjab first need to rediscover their form after a prolonged slump that has exposed flaws across departments.

Their aggressive top order of Priyansh Arya, Prabhshimran Singh and Cooper Connolly has failed to provide the explosive starts that defined the first half of their season.

Priyansh has managed just one fifty in his



last seven innings and was dismissed for a duck in the previous game, while Prabhshimran too has struggled for consistency with only one fifty in his last five innings.

Connolly has shown glimpses but has not converted starts into substantial scores.

Having remained among the leaders in run-getters' tally, captain Iyer's returns too have dipped sharply during the losing streak, crossing fifty only once in the six defeats.

The middle order, which scripted the memorable chase against Delhi, has also lost momentum, while their bowling unit has leaked runs regularly at both ends of the innings.

Fielding has further hurt their campaign, with dropped catches proving costly in crucial

moments. LSG, meanwhile, have endured a forgettable season and are out of playoff contention after managing just two wins in their last 10 matches.

They suffered a seven-wicket defeat to Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur in their previous outing, a game dominated by teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Yet, the home side would take confidence from their recent performances at the Ekana Stadium, where both they secured both their last two wins -- against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings.

The biggest positive for LSG has been the form of Australian duo Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis at the top.

The pair added 109 in only 8.2 overs in the last match and will once again be crucial if LSG are to finish their campaign on a positive note in front of the home crowd.

Nicholas Pooran too would look to rediscover his touch after managing just 87 runs in his last four innings.

Skipper Rishabh Pant, who has endured a disappointing season with only one fifty so far, will also hope to end on a high. In the bowling department, it remains to be seen whether veteran pacer Mohammed Shami returns after missing the previous game.

Teams:

LSG: Rishabh Pant (c), Abdul Samad, Ayush Badoni, Matthew Breetzke, Himmat Singh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, Arshin Kulkarni, Mitchell Marsh, Shahbaz Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Mohammed Shami, Prince Yadav, Digvesh Singh Rath, Mayank Prabhhu Yadav, Wanindu Hasaranga, Anrich Nortje, Josh Inglis, Mohsin Khan, Naman Thari, Akash Maharaj Singh, Mukul Choudhary, Manimaran Siddharth, Arjun Sachin Tendulkar, Akshat Raghuvanshi.

PBKS: Shreyas Iyer (c), Priyansh Arya, Prabhshimran Singh, Mitchell Marsh, Vishnu Vinod, Nehal Wadhwa, Azmatullah Omarzai, Marco Jansen, Musheer Khan, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Suryansh Shedge, Arshdeep Singh, Xavier Bartlett, Yuzvendra Chahal, Lockie Ferguson, Harpreet Brar, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Pyla Avinash, Yash Thakur, Harnoor Singh, Praveen Dube, Vishal Nishad.

Match starts: 7.30pm. (PTI)

He'll make decision in best interest of team: Simons on Dhoni

AHMEDABAD, May 22: Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons said Mahendra Singh Dhoni alone will decide on his comeback, stressing that the veteran wicketkeeper-batter would only return if he feels fully fit and ready to contribute to the team.

Dhoni, 44, couldn't play a single game in this edition due to a leg injury but Simons said he impressed in the nets with his clean striking.

"Are you seriously asking me that question? We always are," Simons said when asked if CSK are hopeful of Dhoni's availability next year.

"I mean, honestly, he has hit the ball so well. He obviously had a leg injury, which made it very difficult for him to run, so that's why he couldn't play."

"But in terms of hitting the ball in the nets, he's hitting it as well as I've ever seen him hit it. But I keep saying this, only MS will know, and MS will make the decision about when he's ready and when he's right."

The former South Africa all-rounder said Dhoni would always prioritise the team's interest over personal milestones.

"And I tell you what, if he knows he's not, he won't play. But if he is right, he will. He'll make the decision in the best interest of the team and not for himself as an individual. (PTI)

Rashid says GT thriving by not dwelling on imperfections

AHMEDABAD, May 22: Aware of the scrutiny around Gujarat Titans' middle order, star spinner Rashid Khan said the side has succeeded this season by not dwelling on imperfections but trusting players to deliver in different situations, and adapting quickly to conditions.

GT registered a massive 89-run win over Chennai Super Kings in their last league match on Thursday to take the top two positions in the points table.

"I think every team has those little bit areas to improve and have some areas very strong. You can't be a complete 100% perfect team. Doesn't matter how good a player you will have ... throughout the tournament there has been lots of discussion about our middle order and things like that but I feel everyone is stepping up," he said.

"Everyone is taking the responsibility and I feel like that's so important. If you keep thinking about those 10% or 15% you are not accurate, it's going to affect the rest of 70-75 or 80%."

"For us the thing is that we just keep the thing simple. Whoever the opposition is, how are we going to be more impactful whoever gets the opportunity in the middle. Either you bat, bowl or field. So don't much think about where we weak, where we strong. Think about what is in front of me and how I can do better for the team."



Rashid heaped praise on the bowlers for their consistent effort this season.

"The wicket didn't change. I think the bowling attack we have, especially the fast bowling unit we have, we have done a really great job throughout the tournament," Rashid said.

"And I feel like on this wicket, if you hit the right area consistently with a good pace, there is something for the bowler. While putting score on the board, you just don't go with the flow, you just see the condition first and then you try to play accordingly."

The Afghanistan leg-spinner said Gujarat's biggest strength has been their ability to read conditions faster than the opposition.

"I think that's the kind of main strength which remains for us throughout the competition, that we adjust ourselves with the condition very quickly as a bowling unit and also as a batting unit."

"So I feel like we adjusted ourselves with the condition and the wicket quicker than them and I think that's the reason behind we

won again," he said.

Reflecting on the challenges of bowling in high-scoring games, Rashid said modern-day T20 cricket demands aggressive thinking from bowlers even under pressure.

"In this game, when you're defending 230, you will go for runs. It's not something like you're going to be still bowling 18 to 20 dot balls," he said.

"But I feel like for you as a bowler, one thing remains, how I'm going to make it super hard and tough for him to hit that ball for a boundary," he added.

Rashid also spoke about dealing with difficult phases in his career, including a forgettable outing in 2019 when he conceded over 100 runs in a first-class innings.

"Well, I think in life you have good days and bad days and you have to know how to manage yourself in bad days as well," he said.

"And if you keep doing well and don't have any bad day, I don't think you're going to learn a lot," he added.

The 27-year-old said he focuses more on execution and consistency than match results, revealing that he regularly studies his pitching maps after games to assess his performance.

"Every game I play, I ask the video analyst to send me the pitching map and I see where I pitched maximum deliveries and what I can do better," Rashid said. (PTI)

PCB removes long-serving physio Cliffe Deacon

LAHORE, May 22: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has parted ways with long-serving team physiotherapist Cliffe Deacon, appointing Iftikhar in his place for the upcoming home ODI series against Australia.

Deacon, a South African who had been with the national side since 2017, apparently did not return with the Test squad from Bangladesh.

On Friday, the PCB named Iftikhar (one name given by PCB) as the physiotherapist for the Australia series, though it did not officially state the reasons behind Deacon's exit.

Sources claim his tenure came to a close over recurring injury issues among players.

The source said PCB was not happy with some players pulling out late from matches and series due to injuries. The board was also concerned that some players had managed to conceal fitness issues.

"Dr Javed Mughal who is now an important member of the PCB's medical and sports medicine team also gave a detailed brief to the board on the national team's support staff performance and requirements," the source said.

Deacon, a former first class player in South Africa, joined the national team's support staff back in 2017. (PTI)

Net bowlers: The unseen architects of IPL batting fireworks

NEW DELHI, May 22: The towering sixes, audacious scoops and last-over carnage that define the Indian Premier League are often rehearsed far from the television glare, shaped by an invisible workforce that rarely gets acknowledged -- the net bowlers.

While franchise superstars command crowds and dominate headlines, an army of largely anonymous young pacers and spinners spend weeks hurling deliveries in practice nets and serving as crucial sparring partners in one of cricket's most lucrative leagues.

For many, it is cricket's most unusual apprenticeship: bowling relentlessly to the biggest names in the game, often being asked to imitate Jasprit Bumrah's yorkers, Sunil Narine's mystery spin, or Mitchell Starc's left-arm thunderbolts -- all for daily allowances that are modest by IPL standards but invaluable as a career. Their only dream is wearing a franchise jersey instead of carrying drinks and spare balls.

IPL franchises usually keep around three to five specialist net bowlers with them, apart from the local bowlers arranged by host state associations and clubs at different venues. Their earnings are modest by IPL standards -- generally about ₹ 5,000 to 7,000 per day spent at the nets -- but the exposure is priceless.

"For me, bowling in the nets has never been about money. It is the rare opportunity to bowl to such great batsmen and to gain experience. That is the biggest incentive, and that is what matters," says pacer J.V. Karthik, a net bowler from Karnataka.

For many of them, the real payment lies elsewhere: a conversation with a senior India player, a technical tip from a renowned bowling coach, or simply the opportunity to test themselves against elite batters.

And in the IPL, fortunes can change all of a sudden. The lanky Gurnoor Brar, who was recently included in India's team for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, stands out as a classic example.

First summoned at Punjab Kings nets and



later signed by the franchise once Shikhar Dhawan, the then skipper, got impressed with bounce he generated from that 6 feet 5 inch frame. He played one game for PBKS but word spread and for the next year he became a regular Team India net bowler. Harshit Rana, another India pacer, started as a net bowler before forcing his way to the national team.

Chetan Sakariya also has a similar back story.

Before becoming an India international, the left-arm pacer spent time as a net bowler with franchises such as Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals, quietly trying to catch the attention of coaches and scouts.

"I was trained at nets of both MI and RR. But it was an amazing moment for me when Royals picked me up in the auction," Sakariya recalled about the 2021 IPL auction where Rajasthan signed him for Rs 1.2 crore.

"I never expected that. I was a bit nervous too because the Royals is a big team with a lot of big stars. I was in awe to see the likes of Kumar Sangakkara, Sanju Samson, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, and David Miller," he said.

"The happiest moment was when they handed me the debut cap in their first match of the season against Punjab Kings and for-

unately I performed well," Sakariya said, recalling his memorable debut spell of 3/31.

Sakariya's journey is now part of IPL folklore, but he is hardly the only one.

Umran Malik first impressed at the nets of Sunrisers Hyderabad during the 2021 season in Dubai before joining the squad as a Covid-19 replacement for injured India pacer T Natarajan.

Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya was initially a net bowler for Mumbai Indians before earning a mid-season contract in 2022 as a replacement for injured player Arshad Khan. Akash Madhwal was another net bowler at both RCB and MI and later got a Mumbai Indians contract.

Most net bowlers do not travel regularly with teams through the season. Franchises typically rely on local bowlers arranged by state associations whenever the tournament moves cities. Only in exceptional situations -- especially when injury concerns emerge in the main squad -- do net bowlers sometimes travel with the team and find themselves closer to a possible breakthrough.

Selection into these roles is hardly accidental. Performances in BCCI domestic tournaments such as the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, impressive outings in state leagues and rec-

ommendations from scouts often determine who gets a chance.

Biju George, KKR Head Scout and renowned fielding coach, explained the selection process for net bowlers.

"We track players during various state premier leagues, and we have around 19 state leagues running in the country. Once we find a bowler who has good pace, variations and temperament, we pass the information to the team's coaching staff. They will be then invited for trials," he said.

"In the trials, we put them in match situations to further assess their skills. If the management thinks a particular player suits their needs then the team will acquire him in the auction. But a couple of others will stay with the team as net bowlers for the rest of the season," he added.

And in the IPL ecosystem, one opportunity can change everything overnight.

For Karnataka pacer JV Karthik, a single net session with Mumbai Indians in 2023 remains among the defining experiences of his cricketing life.

"Back in 2023, I had a chance to bowl to Mumbai Indians team at nets. It was the first time I bowled to players like Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Tim David and some others," Karthik said. What struck Karthik most was not merely the quality of the batters, but their professionalism and humility.

"They were all very special batsmen, and we understood why they play international cricket for such a long time. I think I bowled for about 20-30 minutes and later after the nets they were happy to pose for some photos for us and I got signs of Rohit and Suryakumar on the ball that I bowled to them."

Such moments become treasured possessions for these young bowlers -- reminders that the distance between obscurity and recognition may not be as vast as it seems.

And even when the cameras ignore them, they continue to observe closely -- how international stars train, recover, analyse conditions and prepare mentally. (PTI)

Batting with Kohli made a big difference in my growth, says Devdutt Padikkal

BENGALURU, May 22: Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter Devdutt Padikkal says opening alongside Virat Kohli in his debut IPL season helped him understand the art of constructing an innings, a lesson that continues to shape his approach in T20 cricket.

Padikkal, who burst onto the scene with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the 2020 IPL, said watching Kohli operate from close quarters gave him invaluable insight early in his career.

"When I made my IPL debut with RCB in the 2020 season, I felt ready. I had a solid run of scores in domestic cricket behind me," Padikkal said during an interaction on JioStar.

"And batting with Virat Kohli, one of the greatest in the game, was a huge help. At that age, watching him build an innings gave me so much clarity and understanding of how to construct a knock. That made a big difference in my growth," he added.

The Karnataka batter said his subsequent stints with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants, where he batted in multiple positions, broadened his understanding of the game.

"Moving from being a dedicated opener to batting in different positions lower down the order was challenging, especially at a young age. But those experiences with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants shaped me into the player I am today," he said.

"Batting at different numbers taught me how to read situations, construct innings under pressure, and adapt my game."

Padikkal admitted the 2024 IPL season tested him mentally, but said the difficult phase eventually became a turning point in his career.

"The 2024 IPL season was a tough one. Bouncing back from a difficult season is never easy. During that season, a lot was going on in my head," he said.

"You must go through the phase, accept it, and figure out how to come out better. Once the season ended, I knew exactly what I had to work on."

The left-hander credited RCB mentor Dinesh Karthik and head coach Andy Flower for helping him tweak both his technique and mindset after his return to RCB.

"I made several changes to my batting technique with the help of Dinesh Karthik and Andy Flower. I needed to adjust a few things to shift from red-ball to white-ball cricket," he said.

"Mentally, I had to bring more intent into my game. I needed to go out with the mindset of looking to score off every ball. Once I did that, the results started showing."

Padikkal said RCB's batting depth has allowed top-order players to attack more freely in an evolving T20 landscape.

"Having a powerful and deep batting lineup at RCB is a luxury. When you know the batting order is strong all the way down, it gives you extra confidence to play freely at the top," he said. (PTI)