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JNC moves Pollution Control Board against Shree Cement

Plan from the Indian Bureau of Mines. According to their EIA, a mine cannot proceed without an approved Mining Plan, as per legal regulations,” he said.

The JNC also flagged environmental categorisation.

“Fourthly, the Saipung Reserve Forest is distinctly situated just 4.26 km from the project site, as indicated by the EIA. The EIA Notification of 2006 states that areas within 5 km are classified as Category A, yet the EIA asserts that it is categorized as B.”

Referring to the Disaster Management Plan, Lyngdoh said the mine’s Disaster Management Plan is baseless, as it proposes a seismic safety zone or earthquake protection zone that the Government of India has already revoked in March 2026.

“The report indicates that Shree Cement submitted the EIA on April 7, which was 35 days after the withdrawal from the Gazette of India. This implies that they intend to base our land protection plan on an obsolete law.”

“There are additional violations committed by Shree Cement, yet government bodies such as SEIAA and MSPCB have proceeded to conduct public hearings without properly reviewing the relevant documents and regulations,” Lyngdoh alleged.

Drawing a parallel with recent enforcement drives, he said, “Recently, we have observed that the government, through the police department, has made significant efforts to address the issue of black tinted vehicle windows and other infractions. However, the pressing question remains: how do we confront Shree Cement? This constitutes a breach of the law.”

“This inquiry will also be directed to the Chief Minister, who oversees the Forest and Mining Department; what actions will he take in response?” he added.

Appealing to local residents, Lyngdoh said, “The union also conveys a message to the residents of Nongkhlieh Elaka, who are the rightful landowners: remember that when this company approaches to purchase land for mining, it is not the land they seek, but the mineral resources contained within it.”

“The clear message is: ‘Do not sell your land at the expense of your property.’ The acquisition of land by companies resembles the purchase of jhur; even land for residential construction is now priced at thousands per square foot, and how much land does 217 hectares encompass? Do not be swayed by temporary wealth; instead, let us learn to care for our land with a long term perspective.”

“We strongly encourage the government to take action regarding this matter, and we also call on the Chief Minister to clarify these issues to the public that the party has already addressed,” Lyngdoh said.

“Furthermore, we pose a significant question: how is it possible that the approval from the State Environmental Appraisal Committee of the Gujarat government is ineffective in Meghalaya?”

Meghalaya partners with CK-12 to strengthen digital learning

aim to make these subjects more accessible, practical and engaging for learners,” said Vijay Mantri, Co-Project Director, MPOWER, and Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Education.

He added that “such partnerships are important in ensuring that students are not only enrolled in schools, but are also meaningfully supported to learn, participate and build confidence in subjects that are critical for their future opportunities.”

“The Government of Meghalaya recognises the importance of hands-on learning and practical training. Building teachers’ confidence is essential, as it empowers them to adopt creative teaching approaches and effectively bring these methods into classrooms for the benefit of students,” said Banteilang Kharshandi, Director, Directorate of School Education and Literacy, Deputy State Project Director of SSA, and Joint Secretary, Education Department.

Under the MoU, “MPOWER will facilitate coordination, implementation support and capacity-building activities, including teacher training for the effective use of digital tools in classroom practice.”

The CK-12 Foundation will “provide access to its digital learning platform, along with technical assistance and content support.”

Speaking at the event, Miral Shah, Co-founder and Chief Technology and Product Officer, CK-12 Foundation, said, “Today, we stand in an era of unprecedented opportunities, uncertainties and disruption. The world our children will enter after graduation will be very different from the one we experienced, and we must prepare them for that future.”

“Fortunately, digital education, accelerated by AI, offers immense opportunities to truly personalise teaching and learning for students and teachers at scale. We are excited to collaborate with Meghalaya in its pursuit of engaging students in learning and supporting teachers through Meghalaya’s thoughtful curriculum and CK-12’s state-of-the-art AI-powered education platform,” Shah added.

The partnership also reflects the larger vision of MPOWER, which was initiated by the Government of Meghalaya to support adolescents not only through academic learning, but also through life skills, wellbeing, empowerment and resilience-building.

Over the last year, MPOWER has been working with schools, teachers, departments and partner organisations to create a stronger support system for adolescents in Meghalaya. Much of this work has involved institution-building, curriculum support, teacher capacity-building, school-level engagement and partnership development, which are critical foundations for long-term impact.

“The MoU with CK-12 Foundation builds on this ongoing work and marks an important step in strengthening the learning component of MPOWER.”

Principals and representatives from Mawkdok Secondary School, Pynthorumkhrakh Presbyterian Higher Secondary School, Seng Khasi Higher Secondary School and Sibsing Memorial Higher Secondary School also participated in the event, along with representatives from Nice Infotech and members of the MPOWER team.

This collaboration reinforces the Government of Meghalaya’s continued commitment to improving the quality of education and supporting adolescents through strategic partnerships, technology-enabled learning and stronger classroom support.

43 HPC (D) militants lay down arms in Mizoram

Aizawl, April 30 (IANS): Seventeen days after signing a bipartite agreement with the Mizoram government, 43 cadres of the Hmar Peoples’ Convention (Democratic), Lalhmingthanga Sanate faction, formally returned to the mainstream on Thursday by laying down their arms and embracing a peaceful way of life.

To mark this significant milestone, the Mizoram government organised the ‘Homecoming and Arms Laying Ceremony’ at the Central Training Institute Parade Ground, Sesawng, in Aizawl district, in the presence of Chief Minister Lalduhoma.

Welcoming the cadres, the Chief Minister observed that discussions on peace in Mizoram have long been intertwined with the issue of the Hmar Peoples’ Convention (Democratic). He reiterated that the government has consistently remained open to dialogue and commended Home Minister K. Sapdanga and his team for their tireless efforts in achieving this breakthrough.

He affirmed that Mizoram can now confidently be described as a truly peaceful state.

Emphasising unity, he stated that there are no divisions within the Mizo community and that all share a common identity as Mizo. Any attempt to create divisions, he asserted, will not succeed. He called upon all sections of society to stand united and move



forward together.

Reflecting on the value of peace, Lalduhoma noted that it is hard-earned and demands sacrifice. He expressed deep appreciation for the courage shown by those who have laid down arms, describing their decision as an act of true bravery.

The Chief Minister urged citizens to reject any ideology, policy, or action that could give rise to unrest or conflict, and to work collectively to sustain peace and stability in the state.

Home Minister K. Sapdanga described the occasion as a historic day for Mizoram and warmly welcomed the Hmar Peoples’ Convention (Democratic) cadres into the mainstream. He attributed the agreement’s success to the Chief Minister’s unwavering commitment to

peace, highlighting the Chief Minister’s personal sacrifices in pursuit of a harmonious Mizoram.

Sapdanga described the Chief Minister as a true symbol of peace for the state and encouraged the cadres to work with the government for progress and to lead peaceful lives with their families.

Mizoram Assembly Speaker Lalbiakzama expressed satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the agreement, noting that as the only ruling party Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Hmar Demand Area, achieving peace has always been among his foremost priorities.

Lalhmingthanga Sanate, leader of the Hmar Peoples’ Convention (Democratic), acknowledged the positive changes brought about

under the present government. He appreciated the Chief Minister’s understanding of their concerns and cited key developmental initiatives, including the construction of the Unity Bridge and improvements to the Mauchar road.

While noting that the agreement may not fully meet all expectations, he stated that it is acceptable and satisfactory, which led to their decision to join the peace process.

The ceremony began with a Bible reading and prayer led by Pastor Lalmunsiamia, ICI, Sesawng.

The Hmar Peoples’ Convention (Democratic) cadres formally handed over their arms to Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) H. Ramthlengliana.

Guv stresses optimal use of resources

Staff Reporter Shillong, April 30: Meghalaya Governor CH Vijayashankar today stressed the need to fully leverage available resources to boost agricultural productivity and farmer welfare during a meeting with Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Ramnath Thakur at Lok Bhavan.

The Governor and the Union Minister discussed the importance of effective implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in agriculture and timely utilisation of allocated funds, ensuring

that schemes reach the intended beneficiaries on priority, said a press communique issued by the Governor’s Secretariat.

The Governor underscored the need to leverage available resources to their fullest potential for enhancing agricultural productivity, strengthening farmer welfare and promoting sustainable development in the state.

He highlighted priority delivery of schemes to intended beneficiaries and optimal use of allocated funds.

Zubeen Garg death probe

Fast track court rejects bail plea of key accused

Guwahati, April 30 (IANS): A fast track court on Thursday rejected the bail plea of Shyamkanu Mahanta, the festival organiser and a key accused in the death probe of Assam’s cultural icon Zubeen Garg, dealing a setback to the accused in the ongoing case.

With the latest order, Mahanta will continue to remain in judicial custody until further directions from the court.

During the hearing, the counsel representing Mahanta sought bail on various grounds, while the prosecution opposed the plea.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court declined to grant relief at this stage.

Further legal proceedings in the matter

are expected to continue in the coming days.

The case pertains to the death of Zubeen Garg, who died on September 19 last year while swimming near Lazarus Island in Singapore.

The incident occurred just a day before the singer was scheduled to perform at an event organised under the NEIF banner.

Following the incident, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Assam Police’s CID conducted an extensive probe and filed a chargesheet in December.

The chargesheet named seven accused individuals, including Mahanta. Of them, four have been booked on charges of murder, intensifying the gravity of the case.

Earlier, Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa

Sarma, had termed the case a “plain and simple murder” during a discussion in the state Assembly, underlining the government’s stance on the matter.

Meanwhile, a parallel investigation carried out by Singapore Police reached a different conclusion, stating that there was no evidence of foul play in Garg’s death.

Despite this, authorities in Assam have maintained that the findings of the foreign probe will not influence the ongoing investigation and trial in the state.

The case continues to draw widespread public and political attention, with the upcoming bail hearing expected to be a crucial stage in the legal proceedings.

EKH district admin issues monsoon alert

Staff Reporter Shillong, April 30: East Khasi Hills district administration has issued a public advisory ahead of the monsoon season, urging residents to take precautions against heavy rainfall, strong winds, and possible flooding.

“In view of the upcoming Monsoon Season which may result in heavy rainfall, strong wind and flood, the following are the advisories for the public,” the advisory issued by the deputy commissioner stated.

Residents have been asked to ensure safe keeping of all objects such as lumber piles, loose tin sheets, loose bricks, garbage cans, signboards etc. which might be blown

away in strong wind.

The advisory also cautioned against electrical hazards.

“Switch off all electrical appliances like electric iron, mobile charger, television set etc. if the lightning persists,” it said.

With Meghalaya expecting heavy showers, the DC warned of water-related risks.

“People are required to take extra care during heavy rainfall as there is a likelihood of flash flood, especially in areas near the rivers and streams.”

“People are requested not to go near the waters or walk through moving water and stay away from streams, drains, culverts, rivers and waterfalls, etc. Currents can

be deceptive and shallow, fast moving water can knock you off your feet,” the advisory noted.

It further added, “Do not venture into streams, rivers and waterfalls.”

Motorists and pedestrians have been advised against risky travel during downpours. “Do not drive through flooded areas and stay away from electric poles or power lines to avoid electrocution.”

For disaster-related assistance, the public has been asked to “Dial 112 for assistance during disaster.”

“The public is advised to remain alert and take necessary precautions to ensure safety during this period,” the advisory concluded.

 बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda		REGIONAL OFFICE				ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE			
G. S. Road, Bhangagarh, Guwahati, Kamrup (M), Assam- 781005									
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that Bank has repossessed/seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation/Loan Agreement executed by the parties and Vehicle will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is” and “Whatever there is” basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s / Guarantor/s / Vehicle/Total Dues / Reserve Price / e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-									
Sr. No.	Branch Name and Address	Name & address of Borrower/s / Guarantor	Total Dues	Vehicle Make & Model RTO, Registration No.	Date & Time of e-Auction	1. Reserve Price 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 3. Bid Increase Amount	EMD deposit Account	Inspection Date & Time	Contact Person
1.	Nongthymmai Branch Bank of Baroda, Power Grid Road, P.O. & P.S. Rynjah, Shillong, East Khasi Hills Dist., Shillong- 793006	Ms. Ambika Chettri Jhalupara, East Khasi Hills Shillong, Meghalaya, PIN- 793002	Rs. 7,48,512.00 as on 08.08.2024 and further interest and charges	Maruti Suzuki Baleno Zeta RT0: SHILLONG Regd. No. ML 05 AA 1746	18.05.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1. Rs. 3,20,000.00 2. Rs. 32,000.00 3. Rs. 5,000.00	As per Baanknet website	13.05.2026 & 14.05.2026 10.30 am to 4.30 pm	Ms. Darihun Nongkynrih Mobile No. 6033091418
2.	Nongthymmai Branch Bank of Baroda, Power Grid Road, P.O. & P.S. Rynjah, Shillong, East Khasi Hills Dist., Shillong- 793006	Ranjan Kumar Ray Riibong, Rabindranath Area, East Khasi Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya- 793004	Rs. 5,45,886.33 as on 31.12.2025 and further interest and charges	Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. Brezza Smart Hybrid LXI RT0: SHILLONG Regd. No. ML 05 AA 2435	02.06.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1. Rs. 3,75,000.00 2. Rs. 37,500.00 3. Rs. 5,000.00	As per Baanknet website	28.05.2026 & 29.05.2026 10.30 am to 4.30 pm	Ms. Darihun Nongkynrih Mobile No. 6033091418
3.	Nongthymmai Branch Bank of Baroda, Power Grid Road, P.O. & P.S. Rynjah, Shillong, East Khasi Hills Dist., Shillong- 793006	Ms. Saphibannangkiew Mylliemngap 255, Near Children Hospital, Pokkseah East, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya- 793006	Rs. 9,00,779.00 as on 02.09.2025 and further interest and charges	Tata Motors Punch CRE 1.2P MT RT0: SHILLONG Regd. No. ML-05-AE-5059	02.06.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1. Rs. 5,00,000.00 2. Rs. 50,000.00 3. Rs. 5,000.00	As per Baanknet website	28.05.2026 & 29.05.2026 10.30 am to 4.30 pm	Ms. Darihun Nongkynrih Mobile No. 6033091418
4.	Laitumkhrakh Branch Bank of Baroda, Modrina Mansion, Main Road, Laitumkhrakh, Shillong- 793003	Mrs. Guddi Parveen H. No. 14, Western Side of Barpathar, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya- 793002	Rs. 7,30,540.19 as on 24.02.2024 and further interest and charges	Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd./ Kicks XL Diesel RT0: SHILLONG Regd. No. ML-05-U-6069	18.05.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1. Rs. 2,50,000.00 2. Rs. 25,000.00 3. Rs. 5,000.00	As per Baanknet website	13.05.2026 & 14.05.2026 10.30 am to 4.30 pm	Mr. Badal Kumar Srivastava Mobile No. 9679546252
5.	Jowai Branch New Hill, Jowai, Jaintia Hill, Meghalaya - 793150	Banrilang Jungai Lumpariat, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya- 793150	Rs. 11,31,925.00 as on 11.05.2024 and further interest and charges	Tata Nexon CRTV PMT RT0: JOWAI Regd. No. ML-04-D-9350	02.06.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1. Rs. 7,20,000.00 2. Rs. 72,000.00 3. Rs. 5,000.00	As per Baanknet website	28.05.2026 & 29.05.2026 10.30 am to 4.30 pm	Mr. Bevan Kharkongor Mobile No. 8131076700
6.	Shillong Branch Bank of Baroda, Police Bazar, Shillong- 793001	Mr. Manoj Kr. Rai Umroicant, Umhri, Umium, Ribhoi, Meghalaya- 793103	Rs. 4,89,016.00 as on 02.02.2025 and further interest and charges	Renault India Pvt. Ltd. Tribler RXL Petrol RT0: SHILLONG Regd. No. ML-10-C-6785	18.05.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1. Rs. 1,35,000.00 2. Rs. 13,500.00 3. Rs. 5,000.00	As per Baanknet website	13.05.2026 & 14.05.2026 10.30 am to 4.30 pm	Ms. Lakyntiew Riti Syiem Mobile No. 7005603759
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Date: 01.05.2026, Place: Guwahati					Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda				