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Party of Gorkha youths demand separate Gorkhaland state as PPS for Darjeeling

DEEP GAZMER

DARJEELING, JUL 11: Heads and representatives of different regional political parties of the hills held an all party meeting on Saturday to recommend and come to a consensus on the Gorkhaland demand issue to be raised by the Darjeeling MP, Raju Bista during the monsoon session of Parliament. The initiative to convene the all party meeting was taken by the Naya Party Nirman Samity (NPNS) comprising youths from various fields. "We were compelled to take the initiative, finding that political parties of the hills were vested in other issues. The monsoon session of Parliament starts from July 21. We want our Darjeeling MP to raise the Gorkhaland demand in Parliament. Our consensus will be his (Bista's) strength," NPNS

coordinator, Birendra Rasaily said. The NPNS coordinator said all attending political parties had been handed a 'Recommendation Draft' which was required to be approved by the respective Presidents and Secretaries. "We reached out to different regional political parties a week ago. Most gave their consent to our initiative to convene an all party meeting. The recommendation draft has to be signed by the Presidents and the Secretaries of the political parties. The signed draft will be handed to the Darjeeling MP. We have to support our MP to bring a Government Bill in Parliament," Rasaily said. The Indian Gorkha Janashakti Front, Sumeti Mukti Morcha and the Gorkha Rastriya Nirman Morcha attended the meeting with their

respective President, Secretary and Convener. The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, Gorkha National Liberation Front and the Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha sent their representatives. The Jan Andolan Party, Communist Party of Revolutionary Marxists and the All India Gorkha League however did not participate or send representatives even though invitation was extended to them by the organizers of the all party meeting committee. "We may be a small and upcoming entity. However we are talking about unity and our aspiration of a separate state. We must forgo our egos and stand in a common platform. Gorkhaland has to be debated in Parliament. By not attending or only sending their representatives for the

meeting implies that these political parties have refused to give mandate for Gorkhaland. We will however reach out to them again to get their approval," Rasaily said. On the question of whether the BJP was sincere towards the Gorkhaland demand given its past election promises and the delay, the NPNM coordinator said: "The BJP is not the Government. It is the Central government that will give Gorkhaland. For us the PPS (permanent political solution) is a separate state". IGJF chief convener, Ajoy Edwards after the meet said politically the present moment (politically) in the country and State was the most conducive to get the demands of the hill people heard. "There is a double engine government. They are committed and ready to

give. So everything is positive. We have to be united and not miss this golden opportunity to achieve our demand," he said. The GNLF, an ally of the BJP only sent its spokesperson but asserted it stood firm on the demand for a Gorkhaland state and urged the different political parties to strengthen the hand of the Darjeeling MP. "We may have differences in other issues, but when it is the question of Gorkhaland, we have never backed down. Our party was the first to struggle for a separate state and gave sacrifice. The GNLF is part of the tripartite talk with the Union government. Our party president and secretary not attending the meeting does not mean we oppose Gorkhaland," GNLF spokesperson Y Lama said.

Development projects and welfare schemes in Kalimpong reviewed in DISHA meeting



EOI CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, JUL 11: Darjeeling MP Raju Bista on Saturday chaired the first meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) for Kalimpong. The progress of key infrastructure projects and the implementation of major Central and State government welfare schemes were reviewed at the meeting.

The meeting brought together elected representatives and senior district officials to assess ongoing development works and improve coordination for the effective implementation and monitoring of government programmes.

Bista said discussions focused on sectors including education, healthcare, drinking water supply, road infrastructure and urban

development. The implementation of the Har Ghar Jal scheme in rural areas, functioning of the Kalimpong Municipality, and the progress of highway construction, maintenance works and rural road projects were also reviewed.

The meeting also examined the status of several welfare schemes, including the Annapurna Bhandar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services and G-RAM-G.

Speaking after the meeting, the Darjeeling MP said the DISHA committee played an important role in bridging gaps between elected representatives and the district administration by ensuring better planning, implementation

and monitoring of development projects and public welfare schemes.

Bista said the objective of the committee was to strengthen coordination among different departments so that government programmes were implemented efficiently and their benefits reached the people in a timely manner.

Kalimpong MLA Bharat Chettri, the District Magistrate, the Additional District Magistrate, the GTA Secretary and officials of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation attended the meeting.

Bista said the government was committed to ensuring transparent, accountable and people-centric governance through the effective implementation of development initiatives and welfare programmes across the district

Army intervenes to prevent communal clash in Imphal



EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JUL 11: Timely intervention by the army has helped prevent a potential communal clash in Imphal on Saturday afternoon. According to a Defence release from Kohima, a crowd of over 600 persons attempted to reach the Kanto Saibal area

in the Imphal West District where a road block had been set up by people of another community.

Indian army columns promptly intervened with the Manipur Police and separated the opposing groups and prevented the situation from escalating into a clash. The crowd resorted to stone throwing

but the security forces exercised restraint and brought the situation under control. There was an attempt to set fire to some vacant houses in the area but the army and the police contained the blaze and prevented any loss of life. The security forces are monitoring the situation closely.

West Bengal to roll out single-window clearance for investments above Rs 100 crore: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DANKUNI, JUL 11: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday announced that his government would introduce a single-window clearance mechanism for investment proposals of Rs 100 crore and above, asserting that land availability would not be a constraint for industries in the state.

Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of a new manufacturing facility of Lux Industries at Dankuni in the Hooghly district, Adhikari said the government was committed to creating a business-friendly environment and attracting fresh investments.

"There will be a single-window clearance system for investment proposals worth Rs 100 crore and above. Land availability will not be an issue for industry," he said, laying the foundation stone for the Rs 600-crore plant.

Claiming that West Bengal was poised to regain its position as a leading investment destination, he said the state was entering a new phase of industrial growth.

"West Bengal will once again become India's top destination for investment. A business-friendly environment is created only when law and order is maintained," he said.

Adhikari alleged that the state's debt had increased from around Rs 2 lakh crore during the Left Front regime to nearly Rs 8 lakh crore under the previous Trinamool Congress government, maintaining that attracting investments was crucial to augmenting the state's own revenue.

Stating that around 10 million workers from West Bengal were employed outside the state, he said the government aimed to create large-scale employment opportunities through industrialization.

Adhikari said his government was working to build a "three-pillar" framework for employment generation through industry, infrastructure and skill development, expressing confidence that people would soon witness the benefits of a "double-engine" government through improvements in law and order, employment, education and healthcare.

West Bengal sets up committee to examine draft Uniform Civil Code Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA, JUL 11: The West Bengal government has constituted a high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to examine a draft Uniform Civil Code for the state. A government notification issued on Friday said the committee was formed in view of the "wide ramifications and voluminous nature" of the proposed legislation.

The panel will undertake a comprehensive examination of the draft Bill before any further steps are taken, it said. The state government said it has prepared the draft Bill with the objective of creating a comprehensive legal framework governing personal civil matters for residents of the state, irrespective of religion, faith or community. The proposed legislation seeks to deal with issues relating to marriage, divorce, intestate succession and testamentary succession, it said. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (retd.) will chair the committee, the notification stated.

Other members include former Meghalaya governor Tathagata Roy, Resident Commissioner Dushyant Narijala, retired IAS officer Shatrughna Singh, Principal Secretary of the Home and Hill Affairs Department Sanghamitra Ghosh, academic Dr Ratna Bhattacharya, former

vice-chancellor of Gour Banga University Gopalchandra Misra, advocate Osman Gani Mallick and former executive director Nirmalya Bhattacharyya.

The committee has been constituted following a decision taken at the state cabinet meeting held on July 2. "It has been set up for a comprehensive examination and review of the draft Bill in view of the wide ramifications and voluminous nature of the subject," a senior state government official said.

Another senior official said the panel would study the draft document in detail and submit its recommendations to the government before any decision on the proposed legislation is taken. The initiative has been taken keeping in view Article 44 of the Constitution, which directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens, the notification stressed.

Since 2014, three states -- Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Assam -- have adopted UCC, and West Bengal is set to become the fourth. The West Bengal UCC bill aims to standardize civil laws across all communities regarding marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption. The bill is similar to the models in Uttarakhand and Assam in key parameters. The UCC was one of the BJP's key electoral promises in the 2026 assembly polls. The party came to power, ending the Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule in the state.

PRERSSSTRUSTOFINDIA

LEH / JAMMU, JUL 11: The Ladakh administration is all set to export 1,000 metric tonnes of fresh apricots with the dispatch of the product's first overseas shipment to Dubai's Lulu Group on July 14. Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra on Friday reviewed all the arrangements and asked officials to ensure timely procurement, refrigeration, quality certification and seamless transportation for the export consignment, which will reach Delhi by road before being loaded on a cargo plane to Dubai.

The flagging off of the inaugural consignment will be undertaken on July 14, in coordination with concerned departments and police to ensure the smooth movement of refrigerated vehicles. Chairing a review meeting, Kundra assessed the preparedness of departments and stakeholders involved in the initiative, which is aimed at facilitating exports of Ladakh's apricots to other international markets as well.

The chief secretary reviewed arrangements for procurement, grading, sorting, packaging, transportation and export of the fruit, besides taking stock of the quantity of apricots being mobilised

from different clusters and transportation plans from Leh and Kargil to Srinagar and onward to Delhi.

He also reviewed quality standards, grading procedures and rejection rates, directing officials and aggregators to minimise post-harvest losses through strict adherence to quality protocols and scientific handling practices. Kundra stressed the need for transparent and timely payments to farmers and aggregators and instructed departments to ensure prompt quality certification, procurement and financial transactions. Officials informed the

meeting that the first consignment of apricots is scheduled to be flown to the United Arab Emirates on July 14 through a special cargo aircraft departing from Delhi. Reviewing the flight schedule and dispatch timeline, the chief secretary directed all stakeholders to ensure that consignments reach Delhi within the stipulated timeframe.

Kundra asked deputy commissioners and transport agencies to closely monitor road conditions and ensure smooth movement of consignments from production clusters, including Sarchu and

Zanskar, to Srinagar and onward to Delhi, while preparing contingency plans for possible disruptions. Stressing the importance of maintaining an uninterrupted cold chain, Kundra reviewed pre-cooling facilities, refrigerated transport, temperature protocols and certification procedures, directing officials to strictly follow standard operating procedures from collection centres until export. He further instructed agencies to prominently showcase Ladakh's identity on the packaging of export products and ensure compliance with branding and quality standards.

Ladakh set to export 1,000 MT of apricots to Dubai; first shipment to be dispatched next week



It lacks candidate of calibre: Prashant Kishor after BJP nominee pulls out from Bankipur bypoll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, JULY 11: Jan Suraa Party founder Prashant Kishor on Saturday called the BJP candidate's decision to withdraw his candidature from the Bankipur assembly bypoll in Bihar "unprecedented", and claimed that the saffron party "lacks a candidate of calibre". Kishor, who is contesting the by-election on his party's ticket, claimed that usually, nominees of BJP's rivals withdraw from electoral contests due to "pressure or fear from the saffron party". In an abrupt development, the BJP on Friday named youth wing leader Neeraj Kumar Sinha as its candidate for the bypoll to the Bankipur assembly seat in Patna, after nominee Abhishek Kumar Sinha pulled out citing "family reasons".

"Until now, people across the country have withdrawn from electoral contests due to pressure or fear from the BJP. However, for the first time, a BJP candidate himself has pulled out of the election race. The development is unprecedented," Kishor said. Abhishek Kumar Sinha, popularly known as Bunt, who is a vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha's state unit, expressed his inability to contest the bypoll a day after filing nomination papers, causing the opposition to chuckle that the ruling party was "jittery at the prospects of a defeat" in the seat vacated by BJP national president Nitin Nabin. Kishor described the development as a victory of the strength of democracy and the people's

trust. "The message is clear: people now want change and are finding their voice. This time, they will teach the BJP a lesson in its own bastion. The saffron party lacks a candidate of calibre," Kishor told reporters here. The new BJP nominee met Chief Minister Samrat Choudhry on Saturday and is expected to file his nomination papers on Monday. Kishor said that no force can withstand the power of the people. e asserted that the people's mandate is the "greatest force" and that the final decision ultimately rests with them. "The BJP is known to entice or intimidate candidates of its rivals. Now its own candidate is running away. The BJP is jittery at the prospects of a defeat. They used to brag that they can win Bankipur even if they field anyone. The people have decided to punish the BJP," Kishor claimed. "People of Bihar are clear in their view that a person like Samrat Choudhary, given his conduct, character and public image, cannot be imposed as the chief minister of Bihar. The CM can come from any community; that is not the issue. The real issue is choosing a capable and deserving person," the Jan Suraa party founder said. The by-election will be held on July 30, and the result will be out on August 3. The bypoll was necessitated by the election of sitting BJP MLA Nitin Nabin to the Rajya Sabha after being named as the party's national president. Nabin had won the Bankipur seat for five consecutive times, which has been a BJP stronghold.

Cong demands SC-monitored probe into alleged Ram Temple donation irregularities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RANCHI, JULY 11: Senior Congress leader Manikrao Thakare on Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored independent probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Addressing a press conference at the Jharkhand Congress headquarters here, Thakare alleged that neither the BJP nor the Uttar Pradesh government had fixed accountability despite the Special Investigation Team (SIT) reportedly uncovering serious irregularities. "The SIT

probing the case has uncovered several serious irregularities in its report, on which the government has not yet provided any official clarification," he alleged. Thakare, the Congress in-charge of Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, sought a forensic audit of the temple trust's accounts from its inception and questioned the composition of the trust, calling for its restructuring with eminent and independent members. "If no irregularities have occurred, then why is the government afraid of ordering an independent probe under the Supreme

Court's supervision? Despite the entire trust being in the dock, why are only small-time employees being punished? Is the 'double-engine' government shielding the big offenders," he asked. He also demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain the role of the Prime Minister's Office in the formation of the trust and its administrative supervision. Thakare further alleged that the trust had spent around Rs 113 crore on the Ram Lalla 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony on January 22, 2024, and over Rs 10 crore on a flag-hoisting event held later that year.

Demanding compensation for accident victim, locals block NH 522 in Jharkhand's Chatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHATRA, JULY 11: Traffic remained paralysed on Saturday on the National Highway 522 in Jharkhand's Chatra district due to a road blockade staged by locals demanding compensation for the family of a 28-year-old CRPF jawan killed in an accident, officials said. The blockade, which began on Thursday evening, was continuing as of 3 pm on Saturday. Hundreds of vehicles, including commercial trucks and passenger buses, remained stranded in long queues along both routes, they said. The crisis began on Thursday evening, when the victim, Lakshman Kumar Yadav, a resident of Birajpur village in Lawalong police station area, died after a dumper collided head-on with his motorcycle. The accident took place near Delho valley when Yadav was returning from home from Simaria. He was initially rushed to Simaria Referral Hospital, from where doctors referred him to Hazaribag. While being shifted to RIMS Ranchi from Hazaribag, he died on the way. Yadav, who was posted in Jammu and Kashmir, had come home seven days ago on a month-long holiday. "The family members are demanding Rs 11 lakh as compensation. Talks are underway with the transport companies regarding this. Locals are also demanding the stopping of coal vehicle operations on the route

from Hazaribagh district, a letter has been sent to the district administration," Simaria Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Nagargoje Shubham Bhausaheb said. He also stated that no government rules have been made at the state level to prevent coal vehicles from other districts from operating. Administrative measures, such as installing "No Entry" signs or speed breakers, can be taken. Manoj Chandra, the Simaria Assembly in-charge of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and a Central Committee member, along with local satons an indefinite hunger strike from 10 am on Saturday at the incident site. "We are demanding mainly two points from the administration. First, prevent the operations of coal vehicles from Hazaribag on the route. Our second demand is that the families of people who lost their lives due to coal vehicle accidents should be given a minimum fixed compensation of Rs 11 lakh," he told reporters.

He further said that coal vehicles are being driven recklessly on the route from Chhatti-Bariatu in Hazaribagh district to Simaria-Delho. Hundreds of people have lost their lives due to these speeding coal vehicles. "The high-handedness of the transporting companies has reached its peak. Administrative officers, with the support of coal companies, are playing a role in suppressing such cases," he alleged.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Rathindra Nath Chakraborty, son of Sri Rabindra Nath Chakraborty, resident of Mangalghat Bamanghat, P.O. Sri Rampara, P.S. Kotowali, District- Jalpaiguri in the State of West Bengal - has lost three Original chain deeds A. being No. I-1103 for the year 2004, recorded in Book No. I, Volume no. 12, Pages from 372 to 375, registered at the office of the Additional District Sub-Registrar, Jalpaiguri, District- Jalpaiguri, B. Deed being No. I-989 for the year 2006, recorded in Book No. I, Volume no. 14, Pages from 75 to 78, registered at the office of the Additional District Sub-Registrar, Jalpaiguri, District- Jalpaiguri and C. Deed being No. I-2324 for the year 2001, recorded in Book No. I, Volume no. 25, Pages from 379 to 382, registered at the office of the Additional District Sub-Registrar, Jalpaiguri, District- Jalpaiguri on 08.07.2026 at Jalpaiguri on the way when he was going for make photocopies of those deeds and a General Diary has been lodged at Kotowali Police Station, Jalpaiguri, being GDE No. 715/26 dated 09.07.2026. The said title Deeds are not mortgaged anywhere and there is no litigation over the property and not deposited in any court and now he has applied for loan in Punjab National Bank and the said bank intends to create mortgage over the property. If anyone has any other information regarding the above mentioned deed please contact within 07 days with below mentioned Advocate and thereafter no claim shall be entertained in future -

AMIT PAUL
Advocate, Siliguri
9434045630

adv.amitpaul@yahoo.in
Office at Hansadhwani Residency, Ground Floor
Rash Behari Sarani, Hakimpura, Siliguri-734001

Bihar led 'second Independence movement' during Emergency: CP Radhakrishnan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, JULY 11: Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday said Bihar had not only played a crucial role in the country's freedom struggle but also led the front to spearhead the second independence movement during the Emergency," Radhakrishnan said. The vice president recalled his participation in the famous JP movement during the Emergency as a college student, which, he claimed, deeply shaped his political journey. Between June 25, 1975 and March 21, 1977, India was placed under a state of Emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution.

played a crucial role in the country's freedom struggle but also led from the front to spearhead the second independence movement during the Emergency," Radhakrishnan said.

The vice president recalled his participation in the famous JP movement during the Emergency as a college student, which, he claimed, deeply shaped his political journey.

Between June 25, 1975 and March 21, 1977, India was placed under a state of Emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution.

The vice president said that Bihar has produced numerous luminaries, from Rajendra Prasad Singh to Jayaprakash Narayan and Karpoori Thakur, who dedicated their lives for the betterment of the poor. "Elections are indeed fought on party lines, but when elections are over, it is our responsibility to work collectively for people and development. Ideas may differ on the floor of the House, but the Constitution should serve as our common guide," he said.

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CHANGE OF NAME / AFFIDAVIT

আমি, Nilifa Bibi, D/O- Lt.Afchhar Uddin Miah, R.N Road, Mathabhanga, College More, Ward No. 09, P.O. & P.S.-Mathabhanga, Dist.-Coochbehar, ৯/৭/২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 28/04/1984 তারিখে আমার জন্ম হয়।

Rejjak Miah, S/O- Afjal Miah, Village-Bara Masia, P.O.- Nagar Lalbazar, P.S.-Sitalkuchi, Dist.-Coochbehar, ৯/৭/২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 10/02/2001 তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি, Abukamal Azad S/O Nasiruddin Mia, সাকিন - Mahishcharu, Kurshamai, M a t h a b h a n g a , Coochbehar, 29/06/2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা ই এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 04/01/2006 তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার জন্ম হয়।

I, Service No. 13852102-M, Rank Ex. Nk MAKHAN CHANDRA MAHANTA, S/O- Gurudas Mahanta, residing at Vill-Sikarpur, P.O. Kumarganj, P.S.- Sahebganj, Dist. Cooch Behar, Pin- 736134, West Bengal have changed the name of my spouse from Basant Rani Mahanta to Basanti Rani Mahanta vide an affidavit sworn before the Court of Executive Magistrate at Dinhat, Dist. Cooch Behar on 25/06/2026. That said Basanti Rani Mahanta and Basant Rani Mahanta pertain to same and one identical person, not separate one and her actual & correct legal name is Basanti Rani Mahanta

I, SOMA SEN @ SOMA DAS (old name) W/o Sri Soumen Das, R/o Satyen Bose Road, Deshbandhupara, Ward No.30 of SMC, P.O-Siliguri Town, PS-Siliguri, Dist-Darjeeling, Pin- 734004 shall henceforth be known as SOMA DAS SEN (new name) as declared before the Ld Executive Magistrate at Siliguri vide affidavit Sl. No. 21 dt. 08.07.2026. That SOMA SEN @ SOMA DAS (old name) and SOMA DAS SEN (new name) all are the same & one identical person.

আমি, Mampi Khatun, D/O- LL. Karim Bakas Miah, Village-Bara Ghariya, P.O. -Madhyam Madhusudan, P.S.-Sitalkuchi, Dist.-Coochbehar, 24/6/2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা E M কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 01/01/1997 তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি, Rabiul Miah S/O- Karim Bakas Miah, aged about 32 years, by faith Islam, by occupation Cultivation, resident at Village-Chhoto Salbari, P.O.-Chhoto Salbari, P.S.-Sitalkuchi, Dist.-Cooch Behar, 23/6/2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা EM কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 01/01/1994 তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি, Manirul Jamal Mia S/O- Karim Bakas Mia, Village-Chhoto Salbari, P.O.-Chhoto Salbari, P.S.-Sitalkuchi, Dist.- Cooch Behar, ২৩/৬/২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা EM কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 01/01/1994 তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি, Manikul Miah, Vill- Nalgram Fragment, P.O- Jatamari, P.S.- Sitalkuchi, Dist.-Coochbehar, ১৯/৬/২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা EM কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, আমার পুত্র Mohammad Sakil 12/11/2022 তারিখে Gajendra Narayan Singh Hospital (Address-Rajbiraj, Saptari, Nepal,) জন্ম গ্রহণ করে।

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CHANGE OF NAME / AFFIDAVIT

I, (Old Name) Md Belal Hossain, S/O. Sekh Alimuddin Biswas, residing at Vill. Pargaon, P.O. Tungidighi, P.S. Karandighi, Dist. Uttar Dinajpur shall henceforth be known as (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Raiganj, Dated 10.07.2026 (Old Name) Md Belal Hossain and (New Name) Belal Hossain both are same and one identical person. That my son's name is Md Firoj.

I, POONAM DEVI JAISWAL (old name) W/o Late PRAHLAD KUMAR JAISWAL, R/o 142, SETH SRILAL MARKET, SILIGURI, Siliguri (M. Corp), PO: Siliguri, DIST: Darjeeling shall henceforth be known as PUNAM DEVI JAISWAL (new name) as declared before the Ld Notary Public at Siliguri vide affidavit No.25AC 104460 Dt. 10.07.2026. That POONAM DEVI JAISWAL (old name) & PUNAM DEVI JAISWAL (new name) both are the same & one identical person.

I, TANKA PRASAD SUBEDI (SHARMA) (old name) Son of CHAMPAKHAR SUBEDI, resident of Khadalay, Pudung, Pudung Khasmahal, Pudung Kalimpong-I, Darjeeling, Pin-734301 shall henceforth be known as TANKA PRASAD SUBEDI (new name) as declared before the Ld Notary Public at Siliguri vide affidavit No. 39AA 719580 dt. 11.07.2026. That TANKA PRASAD SUBEDI (SHARMA) & TANKA PRASAD SUBEDI (new name) both are the same & one identical person.

I, CHAMPAKHAR SUBEDI (SHARMA) (old name) Son of Chandra Prasad Subedi, resident of Khadalay, Pudung, Pudung Khasmahal, Pudung Kalimpong-I, Darjeeling, Pin-734301 shall henceforth be known as CHAMPAKHAR SUBEDI (new name) as declared before the Ld Notary Public at Siliguri vide affidavit No. 39AA 719581 dt. 11.07.2026. That CHAMPAKHAR SUBEDI (SHARMA) (old name) & CHAMPAKHAR SUBEDI (new name) both are the same & one identical person.

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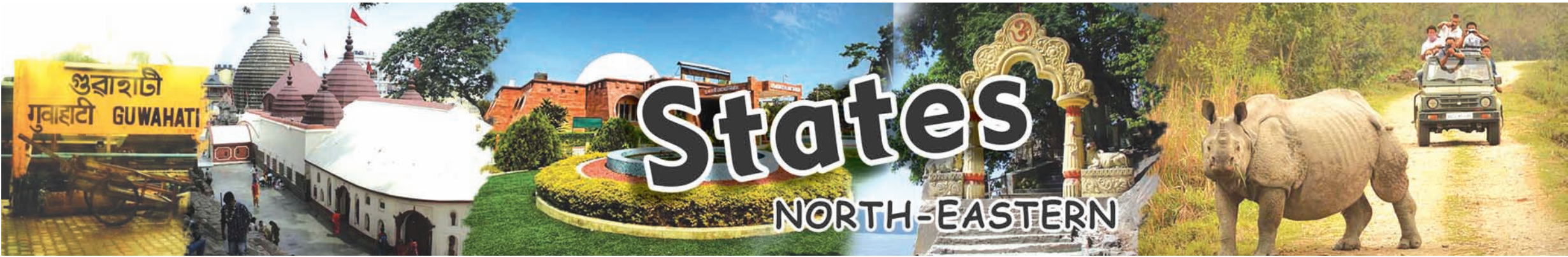
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লিপি

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INFO INDIA: Hindi DAILY from KOLKATA, NEW DELHI SILIGURI and SRI VIJAYA PURAM (Port Blair)



Security forces launch search operations in Manipur after killing of 2 Assam Rifles personnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IMPHAL, JULY 11: Security forces have launched search operations in residential areas, vulnerable routes and forests in Manipur's Ukhrul district to arrest those involved in the killing of two Assam Rifles personnel in an ambush earlier this week, an official statement said on Saturday.

Assam Rifles said the paramilitary force, in coordination with the Border Security Force and Manipur Police, commenced a large-scale search operation in the Nungshang area on Friday. "The joint force is conducting intensive

combing operations in residential areas, vulnerable routes and surrounding forests to trace the perpetrators, recover hidden caches and ensure the safety of local residents," the paramilitary force said.

Assam Rifles Warrant Officer Balwant Singh and Havildar CM Singh were killed when suspected militants fired at a convoy of the force in Nungshong Khong area under the Ukhrul Police Station limits on July 6.

"Assam Rifles, in coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF) and Manipur Police, launched a large-scale search operation in the Nungshang area of Ukhrul

District, Manipur on 10 July 2026 following the tragic ambush of 06 July 2026 in which two Assam Rifles personnel made the supreme sacrifice," it said



in a post on X.

The operation is underway, reaffirming the security forces' unwavering commitment to restoring peace, maintaining law and order

and bringing those responsible to justice", it said.

Meanwhile, NSCN IM, a Naga organisation, had denied any role in the

the Centre.

The organisation said it remains dedicated to the ongoing peace talks and condemned actions that could undermine the peace process.

It urged all stakeholders to act responsibly to preserve dialogue and stability.

Security forces have been conducting search operations and area domination in the fringe and vulnerable localities across Manipur since ethnic violence broke out three years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic strife between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups.



Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Achariya interacts with 44 newly appointed Assam Civil Service officers at a function held on Friday – DIPR Assam

Mizoram Police seize drugs worth over Rs 414 cr in first half of 2026

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, JULY 11: The Mizoram Police on Friday said the force it had seized narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances valued at more than Rs 414.66 crore and arrested 312 people, including 57 foreigners, during the first six months of the current year in the state.

The police also registered 219 cases under various provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act between January 1 and June 30, according to a statement.

Methamphetamine accounted for the largest haul, with 315.903 kg of the contraband valued at Rs 252.72 crore, seized in 38 cases. The operations led to the arrest of 62 people, including 16 foreign nationals. Police also seized 34.923

kg of heroin worth Rs 69.85 crore in 156 cases, arresting 211 persons, including 39 foreign nationals.

Other seizures during the period included 20.628 kg of crystal meth valued at Rs 61.88 crore, 22.286 kg of morphine worth Rs 22.29 crore, 141.492 kg of opium valued at Rs 7.07 crore, 60.681 kg of ganja worth Rs 30.34 lakh, 214.4 kg of codeine valued at Rs 25.22 lakh, and 30 kg of alprazolam worth Rs 30 lakh.

The total value of all narcotics and psychotropic substances seized during these six months was over Rs 414.66 crore, the statement said.

The police said the figures reflected the force's sustained efforts to curb drug trafficking but also underscored the magnitude of the narcotics menace confronting the state.

Church association urges Nagaland govt to seek withdrawal of proposed FCRA amendment Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOHIMA, JULY 11: The Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) has urged Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio to press the Centre to withdraw the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, claiming that it would adversely affect churches, Christian institutions, charitable organisations and civil society groups engaged in humanitarian and developmental work.

In a representation submitted to the chief minister, the NBCC, representing 21 Baptist Associations, four associate members,

disadvantaged areas, and are expressions of Christian fellowship and humanitarian partnership rather than political influence.

While acknowledging the Government of India's authority to regulate foreign contributions in the interests of national security, transparency and accountability, the council maintained that the proposed amendments go beyond reasonable regulation and impose excessive restrictions on genuine charitable and faith-based organisations that complement government welfare efforts.

The NBCC claimed that the proposed Bill could restrict churches and charitable institutions from receiving and utilising legitimate foreign contributions for humanitarian, educational, healthcare and community development initiatives.

It also warned that the amendments would place additional regulatory burdens on smaller churches and grassroots ministries, disrupt long-standing partnerships between Indian churches and global Christian

organisations, undermine programmes serving children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and economically weaker communities, discourage philanthropic support, and create the possibility of institutional assets being taken over if an organisation's FCRA registration is cancelled.

Referring to the Kerala Legislative Assembly's resolution urging the Union government to repeal the proposed FCRA Bill, the NBCC urged the Nagaland government to adopt a similar stand. It said churches are foundational social institutions that have shaped Nagaland's educational, moral, cultural and humanitarian landscape. The representation, signed by NBCC president Rev Achu Chang, general secretary Rev Dr Mar Pongener and secretary (Social Concern) Dr Villo Naleo, said the council remains committed to working with the government in promoting peace, justice, social harmony and holistic development while expressing confidence in the chief minister's leadership in safeguarding the interests of Nagaland.

Tripura Business Conclave attracts investment proposals worth Rs 1.21 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AGARTALA, JULY 11: The two-day "Destination Tripura: Business Conclave 2026", organised by the state Industries and Commerce department here, attracted investment proposals worth Rs 1,21,303 crore, an official said on Friday.

Chief Minister Manik Saha had inaugurated the mega investment event on Thursday, which was also addressed virtually by Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal and DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

"There were over 2,731 plus registrations received for the two-day business conclave. Over 2,000 investors, both within the state and outside, attended the conclave from around 1,200 organisations," Industries & Commerce department secretary Kiran Gitte said at a press conference.

He said a total of approximately 342 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), including investment intents, were signed or submitted by participating investors expressing their intent to invest in various sectors with an estimated value of approximately Rs 1,21,303 crore as a primary estimate.

The power sector attracted the highest value of MoUs with Rs 31,080 crore, followed by industries and commerce-related MoUs fetching Rs 30,000 crore, according to an official release.

The conclave also attracted many blue-chip companies from diverse sectors, including Google, Salesforce, Aarvi (Jindal group) and Lulu Group International. In the last business conclave held in 2025, total investment proposals amounting to Rs 30,000 crore were finalised, but only Rs 8,000 crore has been grounded so far.



Mizoram Cong leader alleges massive misuse of restricted tenders under successive governments

AIZAWL, JULY 11: Senior Congress leader TT Zothansanga on Friday accused both the previous Mizo National Front (MNF) government and the present Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) administration of awarding contracts through opaque and questionable processes.

Addressing a political session at the Congress Bhavan here, he claimed that the governments of his party never misused the restricted tender system and said that it had used them only in exceptional circumstances and never in a manner that attracted public criticism. "The Congress government resorted to restricted tenders only when necessary. There was nothing controversial about the practice during our tenure, and we never misused it," the former MLA said.

Launching a sharp attack on the previous MNF government, Zothansanga alleged that restricted tenders worth Rs. 862.12 crore were awarded in the Public Works Department and Sports Department alone. He further alleged that two individuals, who happened to be the relatives

of the then Chief Minister Zoramthanga, received contracts worth a combined Rs 211.91 crore, which he described as an instance of excessive favouritism.

The Congress leader also targeted the incumbent ZPM government, accusing it of abandoning its pre-poll promises on transparency in public contracting. He recalled that ZPM leaders had repeatedly criticised the MNF government for allegedly violating tender rules and had pledged to end the practice of restricted tenders altogether.

According to Zothansanga, the ZPM manifesto had promised to discontinue restricted tenders, arguing that such practices were contrary to established norms and deprived registered contractors of fair opportunities.

However, he alleged, soon after assuming office, the ZPM empanelled 328 consultancy firms and subsequently issued orders allowing them to undertake works through restricted tender and departmental execution mechanisms. He also claimed that Chief Minister Lalduhoma granted blanket approval for

projects worth Rs 629.17 crore under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme and other works involving the empanelled firms, bringing the total value of approved projects to Rs 957.17 crore. Calling it unprecedented in Mizoram's contracting history, Zothansanga alleged that 135 projects worth Rs 986.71 crore had already been awarded through the Chief Minister's office.

Citing a Congress review of government departments, he said the party had examined 14 major departments so far and found that restricted tenders worth Rs 4,636.98 crore and departmental works worth Rs 910.64 crore had been awarded, taking the total value of projects scrutinised to Rs 5,547.63 crore. He added that more than 15 departments were yet to be examined. Zothansanga also alleged that several contracts that could have been executed by local contractors were instead awarded to firms from outside the state.

There is no immediate reaction from the MNF and ZPM on the accusations.

Two-day Dima Hasao Ethnic Fest 2026 begins at Haflong

EOI CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, JULY 11: The two-day Dima Hasao Ethnic Fest 2026 was inaugurated with much enthusiasm at the scenic Haflong Lake near the Hanging Bridge on Friday. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Chief Executive Member of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Debolal Gorlosa, accompanied by his wife, Smt. Kanika Hojai, along with Executive Members, Members of the Autonomous Council

(MACs), and other dignitaries. Organised by the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council in



collaboration with Dima Hasao Tourism, this year's festival is being held

under the theme "Celebrating Culture through Food and Dance." The event showcases the district's rich cultural heritage through traditional folk dances, indigenous customs, colourful cultural performances, handicrafts, and authentic cuisines representing the various communities of Dima

Hasao. Speaking on the occasion, Gorlosa said the festival is not merely a cultural event but an important initiative aimed at preserving and promoting the district's unique heritage, boosting tourism, supporting local artists, artisans and entrepreneurs, and highlighting the natural beauty and cultural richness of Dima Hasao on a wider platform. He invited people from across Assam and beyond to visit the festival, explore the

exhibition stalls, witness the cultural performances, and enjoy the traditional cuisines of the different tribes residing in the district.

As part of the festival, celebrations will also be organised at different locations across Dima Hasao. The next events are scheduled at Sibarai Hading (I Love Dima Hasao), Haflong on July 17 and 18, Songkho, Umrangso on July 24 and 25, and Hayam, Jatinga Festival Site on July 31 and August 1.

Arunachal Governor urges Rural Bank to expand reach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ITANAGAR, JULY 11: Arunachal Pradesh Governor K T Parnaik on Saturday emphasised that banking facilities must reach every remote village and habitation in the frontier state to ensure inclusive growth and robust socio-economic development.

Parnaik said this when the Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank (APRB) chairman Vikal Sharma called on him at Lok Bhavan here to brief him on the bank's operations, outreach initiatives, financial inclusion programmes, and insurance services, an official communique said.

Underscoring the vital

role of the regional rural bank, Parnaik advised the APRB management to pay special attention to aspiring entrepreneurs, start-up ventures, self-help groups (SHGs), farmers, and rural youth by facilitating smooth access to credit, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship support.

"Timely financial

assistance and guidance can transform innovative ideas into sustainable enterprises, generate employment opportunities, and contribute to the vision of a self-reliant



and economically vibrant Arunachal Pradesh," he noted.

Parnaik further encouraged the bank to work closely with government agencies and development stakeholders to ensure that welfare schemes, livelihood initiatives, and financial inclusion programmes effectively reach the

intended grassroots beneficiaries.

Briefing the governor, Sharma said the bank is currently extending inclusive banking services across the state through its network of 38 branches and is steadily expanding its outreach in a planned manner.

He added that the bank has adopted modern

technologies and multiple service channels to enhance hassle-free access to banking and insurance services for the people of the state.

APRB general manager (Vigilance) Nitul Phukan and senior manager Nako Taker were also present during the meeting, the communique added.



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Character is the basis of happiness and happiness the sanction of character
----George Santayana

Subsidies in the tea sector must be used well by garden owners

It is as well that planters have welcomed the subsidies and incentive proposals to boost tea sector announced for the tea sector in the Assam State Budget, but planters in Assam, as well as in West Bengal, should also remember that for long-term improvements in tea cultivation they themselves must utilize these financial incentives better for improvements in the gardens.

Several associations in the tea sector, including those of planters and traders, have welcomed the subsidy, incentive and tax relief announcements in the Assam Budget 2026-27, noting that such measures will boost the industry. The measures proposed in the budget will help the tea industry retain its global market share and strengthen socio-economic development of workers.

Presenting the budget, State Finance Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah has announced a subsidy of Rs 3 per kg for export-oriented and premium-quality Assam CTC tea for the first time. In case of orthodox and special tea, the production subsidy will be enhanced from Rs 10 per kg to Rs 15 per kg, with premium ‘Matcha’ tea to be added to these categories.

To provide relief to small tea growers, the Minister has proposed to enhance the agricultural income tax exemption threshold from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh of annual agricultural income. At the same time, the tax will be restored for larger assesseees with effect from April 1, 2026, and the additional revenue generated shall be dedicated exclusively to the welfare of tea garden communities. The government will strengthen support to tea growers through Assam Tea Industries Special Incentives Scheme, besides enhancing healthcare facilities and promoting tea tourism.

The Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association has described the decision to introduce the Rs 3 per kg export subsidy for premium CTC tea as a landmark initiative. This is the first dedicated export incentive for premium Assam CTC tea, announced in the state budget and is expected to enhance the competitiveness of Assam tea in international markets. It will help exporters remain competitive in the global market at a time when the industry is facing increasing competition and rising logistics costs. It will also improve price realization across the value chain. The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre, India's largest CTC tea auction house, is expected to benefit significantly from this initiative.

Tea Association of India (TAI) said the budget has provided a fillip to the tea industry in all spheres. “The tea sector has been a backbone of the state economy and an extremely important sector from the employment generation perspective. The hon’ble finance minister has made several proposals for the tea industry and the workforce associated with it in his budget proposals,” TAI secretary general PK Bhattacharjee has said.

The lowering of VAT from 14.5 per cent to 5 per cent on piped natural gas shall reduce the cost of production of the tea estates connected with piped natural gas, he said. The proposal to launch the Assam Tea and Golf Trail, a unique tourism initiative integrating Assam's globally renowned tea estates with its golf courses, will create a world-class experiential tourism circuit.

In West Bengal, incentives for the tea sector presented in the have been confined mainly to the area of labour welfare. In this context, it is important to recall the plight of the famous Darjeeling tea. The total production in the gardens in the hills has come down drastically from about 14 million kg in a year to about six million kg. There are 87 such gardens in the hills. The main reason for this is the failure of the garden management to invest in rejuvenation of old tea bushes. Decades ago, the NABARD had introduced a scheme of financial assistance for rejuvenation of tea bushes in gardens in the hills, but many of the management had failed to take advantage of this. Today Darjeeling tea is paying the price of this negligence.

PIX TALKS



Artists perform the new musical Surinderella, which opens in London next week--PTI



MANISH RAI

It could also have a substantial impact on America's global reputation as a dependable ally. Consequently, the United States must demonstrate more dedication to the KRI's defence. The first step in this direction will be to equip the region with air defence systems that can intercept drones and missiles launched by Iran and its proxies.

During the recently partially concluded US-Iran war, Iran and its proxies in Iraq have conducted over 850 missile and drone attacks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Iran launched thousands of projectiles at Israel and the Gulf states, which received wider international attention. However, the attacks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) by Iranians and their proxies have received less attention.

Compared to Iranian reprisals against other U.S. partners, these attacks against Iraqi Kurdistan have been qualitatively distinct. In Kurdistan, Iranian projectiles have largely gone unchallenged due to the absence of comparable air defence capabilities, unlike in other parts of the region where the vast majority have been intercepted. These attacks are not intended to undermine the American war effort by inducing global economic damage, as we witness in the case of Iranian attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure.

And unlike the barrages directed at Israel, they are not reprisals for their involvement in the conflict either. Instead, Iranian attacks on the KRI are an effort to compel one of America's closest partners in the region to abandon it, to oust the United States from its final remaining foothold in Iraq, and to strengthen Iranian influence over its immediate neighbours.

Iran's strikes against the Iranian Kurdish groups based in KRI should not be interpreted as a pre-emptive containment of these dissident groups. The

REFLEX ACTION

India needs multi-fuel security

India's ethanol push is no longer just about blending petrol. With proposals to extend its use to aviation, the debate has intensified over whether the country is rushing into a fuel whose costs may outweigh its benefits. Concerns range from damage to existing vehicles and lower fuel efficiency to groundwater depletion, food security, the diversion of crops from the food chain and severely low energy density.

Many experts believe the real future of biofuels lies not in food crops but in converting crop residues, municipal waste and other biomass into cleaner fuels.

The E10 or 100 millilitre ethanol per 10 litre of petrol, could be a myth with its low burning capacity – energy density and high-water content, though it could boost profits of distilleries. It's doubtful if it could give the required thrust to a car or now as planned for aircraft as well by the government.

Even the push for ethanol for car is yet not cleared by any lab or study. As per government's admission in court, it is doing a mass experiment with not clear with whose legal sanction.

Intriguing is the recent press conference by three auto companies - Maruti Suzuki, Toyota Kirloskar, and Hero MotoCorp. They mislead the public. Toyota owners' manual contradicts what the company affirms. It does not give clean chit to ethanol. Apart a number of auto companies want guarantees for ethanol use. India's ethanol blending program with unproven energy security, is reshaping crop priorities, with farmers favouring maize over pulses and oilseeds, risking food security. The Economic Survey 2025-26 has warned of increased dependence on edible oil imports and food price volatility, highlighting a conflict between energy and food self-reliance.

Diverting sugarcane, rice and maize to ethanol production risks raising food prices, reduc-

ing food security and worsening groundwater depletion. Expanding maize cultivation has displaced pulses and oilseeds, increasing dependence on edible oil imports. Higher maize demand has also raised livestock feed costs, hurting poultry and dairy sectors. Diverting surplus rice and sugarcane may strain the public distribution system, while water-intensive ethanol crops further aggravate India's growing water crisis.

Apart when the ethanol in E10 absorbs too much atmospheric moisture (especially in humid environments or if a car sits idle), it triggers phase separation. The ethanol and water bond together, sinking to the bottom of the fuel tank. It corrodes the engine, cause sputtering, stalling, and significant damage to fuel injectors and metal parts.

The ethanol blending move calls for immediate withdrawal till detailed prolonged tests are done in government labs.

Above all Brazil worked step by step.

India is seemingly in hurry without a preparation and scientific approach. Implementation of critical tech should be easy and never be coercive. Here profit, unfortunately, alone seems the inspiration. India forced a blanket blend without price reductions, creating dissatisfaction due to the resulting 5–12 percent drop in fuel mileage and ethanol-water blend costs the same as petrol, ensuring higher profits to distilleries.

Ethanol-Water damages: ARAI

The ARAI study on E20 (20% ethanol) does not suggest a blanket disapproval, but presents a mixed picture. While engines generally survive, testing by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) found that prolonged use of E20 in older vehicles designed for E10 can accelerate deterioration of rubber fuel-system. Over 90 percent of

Ethanol Gamble: 30 percent less energy

The government has not clarified how a half-baked idea is forcefully implemented without a study or Lab clearance. No formal clearance has yet been accorded.

Why India Does Not Follow Brazil Transition

Brazil built its ethanol ecosystem over five decades, driven by the 1973 oil crisis. (In 1930, it allowed a blending law). The government initiated the Proálcool program in 1975, introduced mass-produced ethanol-only cars by 1979, and launched flex-fuel (E27, E35 E100, 25 to 30 percent cheaper) vehicles (FFVs) in 2003. This phased approach allowed simultaneous upgrades to fuel pumps, vehicle engines, and sugarcane production. It worked with auto giants for developing fully ethanol compliant engine. It never till today made any bit compulsory.

vehicles in India are not E20 compliant. The mileage loss has a cost. India's in-

stalled ethanol production capacity is 1,810 crore litres annually, spanning 499 operational distilleries. Driven by grain feedstocks like maize, producers average an estimated profit of Rs 20 to 25 per litre. Distilleries have cumulatively earned over Rs 1.96 lakh crore.

Reducing the price of government rice to Rs 22.5 per kg has widened ethanol producers' margins, with production costs of Rs 38–42 per litre versus a government-fixed price of Rs 60–65.

Best Residues, Wastes

Whether ethanol is a clean fuel depends on its full lifecycle, not just tailpipe emissions. Ethanol is only one part of India's broader biofuel strategy, alongside compressed biogas, sustainable aviation fuel, renewable diesel and bioethanol for hard-to-decarbonise sectors. The next generation biofuels have to be

made from farm residues, municipal waste and other non-food biomass, stubble and methane emissions.

What's Ethanol Hurry?

Nothing adequately explains the extraordinary rush towards ethanol. India needs a cafeteria approach to energy, offering multiple fuel options rather than replacing one form of dependence with another. The experience of the US-Iran conflict, which exposed the country's vulnerability to disruptions in petroleum supplies despite widespread adoption of LPG and petroleum-based fuels under schemes like Ujjwala, underscored the risks of over-reliance on a single energy source. Energy security lies in diversification—not in putting too many eggs in one basket.

Ethanol alone will not deliver India's climate goals. Neither will electric vehicles. India's clean energy future will be built on an ecosystem where renewable electricity, electric mobility, green hydrogen and advanced biofuels complement one another rather than compete.

The push for ethanol seems misplaced. Ethanol is only one component of a much broader ecosystem. The carbon footprint math gets complicated because ethanol has roughly 33 percent less energy density leading to a vehicle has to burn more volume than petrol - inflating the emissions and cost-per-mile story. Savings on forex is more a myth. The electric vehicle progress is uncertain. But aviation, shipping, heavy commercial vehicles and several industries will continue to require liquid and gaseous fuels for decades.

The ethanol could be a reserve fuel but not a regular one as its actual costs and environmental hazards are high. It would be more expensive than petrol and never match petroleum fuels. (Views expressed here are personal)

FOCUS

Despite their neglect, Kurds remain a strategic ally of US

ington and Tehran.

The Iranian objective is regretably being facilitated by the absence of a substantive American response and support for the KRG in the wake of these attacks. In its policy toward the Kurds, the United States has been motivated by strategic considerations, supporting Kurdish aspirations only when they are consistent with its objectives. It has been a recurring pattern of Kurdish empowerment that is fleeting, followed by instability and a reversal of autonomy.

The KRG has been one of Washington's most reliable partners in the Middle East. It has helped with counterterrorism efforts and made the region more stable. By permitting it to become vulnerable in the aftermath of this conflict, the United States would erode its credibility and impair one of the few functional Western-aligned governance models in the region. In Iraq, there should be no existential hazards associated with a commitment to partnership with the United States. A proven partner in promoting regional stability, the Kurds are one of the last viable pillars of U.S. influence in Iraq. By permitting its weakening, Tehran would achieve a strategic victory that would be exceedingly challenging, if not impossible, to reverse.

KRI-US relations are currently at a critical juncture. Tensions are increasing because of the changing priorities of the United States, although a shared history fosters a bond. This precarious situation has the poten-

tial to result in violence, instability, and humanitarian crises or to reverse the political, economic, and security gains that the Kurds have achieved. This setback would not only remove a key security partner for the West, but it would also hinder the spread of democracy in a region ruled by authoritarian regimes.

It could also have a substantial impact on America's global reputation as a dependable ally. Consequently, the United States must demonstrate more dedication to the KRI's defence. The first step in this direction will be to equip the region with air defence systems that can intercept drones and missiles launched by Iran and its proxies. The KRG officials have been seeking such support for a long time, but they are frequently frustrated by bureaucratic constraints that necessitate approval from the federal government in Baghdad, even for defensive capabilities.

Additionally, Washington should take a proactive approach towards establishing a long-term agreement between Baghdad and Erbil regarding the management and exportation of oil, budget allocation, and power sharing. Since the United States has substantial diplomatic, political, and financial influence over the Iraqi government, the US can put pressure on Baghdad to accept the legitimate demands of the KRG.

To guarantee the KRG's stability and its capacity to function as a regional security partner, it is imperative to resolve its chronic financial issues. (IPA)



SCAORA condemns abusive conduct by litigant in SC, urges legal action to uphold court’s dignity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 11: The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association on Saturday strongly condemned the alleged abusive conduct of a litigant inside the apex court's courtroom, saying such incidents undermine the dignity of the judiciary and the administration of justice.On Friday, litigant PrabalPratap from Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, appearing in person, was forcibly removed from the apex court after he allegedly hurled abuses and threw his legal papers during the hearing of his petition challenging an Allahabad High Court order.In a statement, SCAORA said its executive committee had taken "serious note" of the incident in which a litigant appearing in person allegedly used abusive language, made disrespectful utterances and behaved inappropriately before the apex court.

"While placing on record its deep appreciation for the magnanimity, patience and restraint demonstrated by the Hon'ble Court, the Committee underscores that such judicial grace and forbearance must not be misconstrued as a lack of authority or resolve," it said.It said attempts to misuse judicial proceedings through "grandstanding", seeking publicity or exerting pressure on the court amounted to a serious abuse of the judicial process and should be firmly discouraged."Such conduct, which undermines the sanctity of the court and seeks to influence the course of justice through intimidation, sensationalism or publicity-oriented tactics, must be firmly discouraged," it said.

The SCAORA urged that appropriate action be taken in accordance with law to uphold the dignity and authority of the court and ensure that such incidents were not repeated.The association also disapproved of the recording and circulation of videos, messages or other material relating to such incidents, saying such dissemination sensationalised judicial proceedings and undermined the sanctity of the institution.The incident occurred before a partial working day bench comprising justices K V Viswanathan and AlokAradhe.At the outset, the litigant adopted an unusually confrontational tone.

"Mr judicial servant. I order you to order the registration of an FIR against the ACP Lucknow," the litigant, who was wearing a black coat without a lawyer's band, said while addressing the bench.A security person immediately intervened, overpowered and removed him from the courtroom, allowing the proceedings to continue.

Show same concern for rain-hit farmers as traffic snarls: Onion growers' body to Maharashtra govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NASHIK,JULY 11: An onion-growers' body on Saturday urged the Maharashtra government to show the same urgency for rain-affected farmers as it does for traffic disruptions like the recent Mumbai-Pune expressway landslide.The Maharashtra State Onion Growers' Association president Bharat Dighole stated that while inconvenience caused to commuters during heavy rains got immediate attention, the financial losses suffered by farmers due to recurring natural calamities and crashing crop prices are rarely met with equal concern."When traffic comes to a standstill in cities for a few hours, the entire state's attention is drawn to it. But when excessive rains, hailstorms, unseasonal showers, floods or drought destroy farmers' crops, the same amount of concern is rarely seen," Dighole noted in a statement.He pointed out that farmers battle crop diseases, erratic weather, price crashes and transport bottlenecks, often suffering losses worth lakhs of rupees in a single day, yet continue farming with resilience.

Describing the traffic disruption due to a landslide on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway as a temporary

problem arising out of heavy rains, Dighole said such incidents could occur during major infrastructure projects or natural disasters."Rather than politicising such incidents, there should be a constructive discussion on how to minimise such occurrences in future, strengthen emergency response systems and reduce inconvenience to citizens," he said.Dighole further said that the investments made in expressways, roads, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure ultimately benefited the public, including farmers, by improving connectivity and reducing transportation time and costs.Efficient transport infrastructure was crucial for perishable farm produce such as onions, vegetables and fruits, as timely access to markets helped preserve quality and improved the possibility of better returns for farmers, he said.Dighole clarified that the association was not aligned with any political party and would continue to support measures that promoted farmers' welfare."Cities and villages are equally important for Maharashtra's development. Along with the inconvenience faced by urban residents, farmers' suffering also deserves an equally sincere hearing," he added.

Farmers of some Latur, Dharashiv villages face new agri woe as snails eat up soybean crop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHHATRAPATISAMBHAJINAGAR, JULY 11: Snails are the latest headache for farmers in Maharashtra's Latur and Dharashiv districts as they are eating soybean saplings, the problem being especially acute in fields close to rivers and other waterbodies. The snails come out at night and eat the tender leaves of the newly grown soybean crop, Superintendent Agriculture Officer Mahesh Tirthkar told PTI on Saturday."The problem is currently in five to seven villages of Dharashiv and Latur. The snails are seen in fields near rivers and other water bodies or in areas facing waterlogging. We are telling farmers to keep metaldehyde balls at the boundaries and inside the fields," he said.Metaldehyde is an organic compound predominantly used as a molluscicide to kill slugs and snails, and is widely deployed for agricultural and gardening purposes. The problem needs quick solutions because snails are highly adaptable creatures and can expand their area of operations quickly, Tirthkaremphasised.The snails infesting the fields in the two districts are fairly big, he said, adding that it is not yet known where they have come from.Farmer Baliram Abarbande of Wadal in Latur's Renapur taluka said snails have eaten 75 per cent of his soybean crop on a three-acre plot."Farmer families are coming together after sunset to catch these snails in order to destroy them later. These snails come out at night. They lay eggs 4-5

inches deep in the soil. So the fields need to be ploughed deep before the next planting," another official said.

E-TENDER NOTICE.
Name of work: "Emergent Temporary construction of Two Number of waterproof pandal with ceiling and side cover (without hanger) - (1) Pandal 75 feet x 40 feet including Stage (18 feet x 24 feet) with flower decoration, Stair, Barricading around the D-Zone area (200 sitting capacity) with low height wooden platform covered with carpet, (2) Pandal 60 feet x 40 feet with low height wooden platform covered with carpet and other allied works in connection with the upcoming VVIP visit to BOP Jumagach on 18th July 2026 , in the district of Jalpaiguri under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD."
Short NIT No – 06 of EE,PWD, Jalpaiguri Division, Jalpaiguri.
Last Date of submission :- 14-07-2026 upto 12.00Hrs
Opening date :- 14-07-2026 at 12.30Hrs
N.B.-: Corrigendum if any will be published in departmental website only. For detail plz see- <https://wbpwd.gov.in>

Govt committee backs ban on 'Satluj', cites 'sovereignty', 'security' concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 11: A committee set up by the Centre to examine the content of the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer film 'Satluj' is learnt to have recommended that the ban on its public access through online streaming platforms should remain as the film allegedly goes against India's sovereignty and integrity, government sources said on Saturday.The Honey Trehan-directed film depicts the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who investigated the cremation of thousands of unidentified bodies in Punjab between 1984 and 1994, and was abducted and murdered by the state police in 1995.It was pulled from the OTT platform ZEE5 for viewers in India two days after its release on July 3 after the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting cited security concerns.

Subsequently, the ministry set up an inter-department committee (IDC) under the IT Rules 2021 for a detailed examination of the film and

recommend the future course of action.The issue turned political in Punjab, with the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) demanding that the ban be lifted, and Shiromani Akali Dal announcing plans to screen the film across the state.Sources said the committee pointed out that the ban on the film under Section 69A of the IT Act was justified.Section 69A empowers the government to block online content on grounds including India's sovereignty and integrity, defence, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states and public order.

The committee comprises representatives from the ministries of information and broadcasting, home affairs, electronics and information technology, women and child development, external affairs, defence, and law and justice, among others.It observed that the narrative of the film is not balanced as it whitewashes the acts of the militants while highlighting the excesses committed by the security forces in Punjab during the militancy years.

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

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EXTRAORDINARY

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3496]

नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, जुलाई 6, 2026/शुक्रवा 15, 1948

No. 3496]

NEW DELHI, MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026/ASHADHA 15, 1948

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

[Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation)]

NOTIFICATION

Malgao, the 6th July, 2026

S.O. 3657(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 20A of the Railway Amendment Act, 2008, the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule annexed here to, is required for execution, maintenance, management and operation of Special Railway Project namely "Aluabari Road – New Jalpaiguri 3rd & 4th B.G. Line" in the district of Darjeeling, in the state of West Bengal hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within a period of 30 (thirty) days, from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 20D of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the respective Competent Authority, viz. Additional District Magistrate (LA), Darjeeling at his office, in office hours in writing and shall set out the grounds there of, and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 20D of the said Act shall be final in this regard.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid offices of the Competent Authority.

Mouza wise Schedule of Land in Darjeeling District

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Police Station	Name of Mouza	J.L. No.	L.R. Plot No.	Area to be Acquired (Acre)	Area to be Acquired (Hectare)
1	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Bara Pathuram	77	982	0.0007	0.0003
					984	0.0025	0.0010
					985	0.1656	0.0670
					986	0.2352	0.0952
					987	0.1497	0.0606
					988	0.3642	0.1474
					989	0.1982	0.0802
					990	0.3324	0.1345
					991	0.2498	0.1011
					992	0.0529	0.0214
					993	0.0682	0.0276
					999	1.0008	0.4050
TOTAL AREA IN BARAPATHURAM MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						2.8202	1.1413
2	Darjeeling	Naxalbari	Rangapani	105	594	0.0660	0.0267
					595	0.9620	0.3893
					598	0.7991	0.3234
					599	0.0232	0.0094
					750	0.1189	0.0481
					753	0.3501	0.1417
					759	0.1105	0.0447
					760	0.1006	0.0407
					761	0.3000	0.1214
					762	0.1400	0.0567
					763	0.0709	0.0287
					764	0.2414	0.0977
					765	0.4520	0.1829
					769	0.0015	0.0006
					770	0.2200	0.0890
					771	0.2753	0.1114
					777	0.2506	0.1014
					778	0.1396	0.0565
					779	0.1000	0.0405
					780	0.4011	0.1623
					787	0.0017	0.0007
					788	0.3138	0.1270
					793	0.0452	0.0183
					798	0.0665	0.0269
					799	0.1011	0.0409
					807	0.0005	0.0002
					808	0.1324	0.0536
					809	0.1806	0.0731
					810	0.0892	0.0361
					811	0.0700	0.0283
					1042	0.1688	0.0683
					1043	0.1119	0.0453
					1044	0.2128	0.0861
					1045	0.4754	0.1924
TOTAL AREA IN RANGAPANI MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						7.0927	2.8703
3	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Bansgaon Chakla - 1	111	401	0.3235	0.1309
					428	0.0188	0.0076
					429	0.0670	0.0271
					431	0.0277	0.0112
					432	0.0815	0.0330
					433	0.0141	0.0057
					434	0.0089	0.0036
					484	0.0185	0.0075
					485	0.0521	0.0211
					486	0.0408	0.0165
					487	0.0205	0.0083
					492	0.0474	0.0192
					532	0.0882	0.0357
TOTAL AREA IN BANSGAON CHAKLA-1 MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.8090	0.3274
4	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Bansgaon Chakla - 2	111	854	0.2869	0.1161
					856	0.3615	0.1463
					857	0.2352	0.0952
					920	0.0109	0.0044
					921	0.0366	0.0148
					922	0.0492	0.0199
					924	0.0507	0.0205
					925	0.0210	0.0085
					926	0.0571	0.0231
					927	0.0086	0.0035
					1465	0.0178	0.0072
					1466	0.0040	0.0016
					1688	0.3044	0.1232
					1689	0.0900	0.0364
					1690	0.1200	0.0486
					1691	0.1438	0.0582
					1694	0.0062	0.0025
					1695	0.3548	0.1436
					1697	0.1085	0.0439
TOTAL AREA IN BANSGAON CHAKLA-2 MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						2.2672	0.9175
5	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Leusipakuri	84	469	0.0200	0.0081
					470	0.0524	0.0212
					471	0.0393	0.0159
					536	0.0756	0.0306
					537	0.0655	0.0265
					543	0.0200	0.0081

					546	0.0781	0.0316
					551	0.0717	0.0290
					569	0.1152	0.0466
					576	0.0689	0.0279
					577	0.0121	0.0049
					578	0.0652	0.0264
					580	0.0707	0.0286
					573/1865	0.0472	0.0191
TOTAL AREA IN LEUSIPAKURI MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.8019	0.3245
6	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Chhota Pathuram	78	1232	0.0442	0.0179
					1233	0.0351	0.0142
					1234	0.0175	0.0071
					1323	0.0608	0.0246
					1328	0.0479	0.0194
					1329	0.0546	0.0221
					1330	0.0358	0.0145
					1331	0.0702	0.0284
					1332	0.0692	0.0280
					1337	0.0783	0.0317
					1338	0.0514	0.0208
					1339	0.0124	0.0050
					1411	0.1055	0.0427
					1412	0.0783	0.0317
					1231/1729	0.1357	0.0549
					1410/1742	0.0882	0.0357
TOTAL AREA IN CHHOTA PATHURAM MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.9852	0.3987
7	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Nirmal	73	56	0.0803	0.0325
					57	0.0339	0.0137
					58	0.5367	0.2172
					64	0.1287	0.0521
					65	1.0823	0.4380
					66	0.0302	0.0122
					67	0.2419	0.0979
					68	0.0262	0.0106
					240	0.0237	0.0096
					241	0.1097	0.0444
					242	0.1515	0.0613
					498	0.0015	0.0006
					499	0.0811	0.0328
					500	0.3694	0.1495
					502	0.0272	0.0110
					503	0.0452	0.0183
					506	0.0665	0.0269
					507	0.0311	0.0126
					508	0.0947	0.0383
					509	0.0183	0.0074
					510	0.0096	0.0039
					517	0.0022	0.0009
					536	0.0042	0.0017
					537	0.0111	0.0045
					543	0.0193	0.0078
TOTAL AREA IN NIRMAL MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						3.2265	1.3057
8	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Banshgaon	110	333	0.0497	0.0201
					334	0.0578	0.0234
					337	0.1710	0.0692
					338	0.1134	0.0459
					345	0.0292	0.0118
					346	0.0062	0.0025
					374	0.1722	0.0697
					375	0.0904	0.0366
					376	0.1025	0.0415
					377	0.0435	0.0176
					399	0.0230	0.0093
					400	0.0934	0.0378
					401	0.0200	0.0081
					402	0.0116	0.0047
					403	0.0405	0.0164
					420	0.0175	0.0071
					421	0.0027	0.0011
TOTAL AREA IN BANSHGAON MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						1.0448	0.4228
9	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Bhushibhita	71	695	0.0143	0.0058
TOTAL AREA IN BHUSHUBHITA MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.0143	0.0058
10	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Nembutary	86	480	0.0556	0.0225
					613	0.0778	0.0315
					650	0.0084	0.0034
TOTAL AREA IN NEMBUTARY MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.1418	0.0574
11	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Mahipal	88	9	0.1124	0.0455
					11	0.0193	0.0078
					12	0.0129	0.0052
					13	0.0205	0.0083
					15	0.0250	0.0101
					16	0.0151	0.0061
					17	0.0136	0.0055
					18	0.0193	0.0078
					20	0.0143	0.0058
					21	0.0148	0.0060
					22	0.0007	0.0003
					34	0.0006	0.00025
					92	0.0259	0.0105
					93	0.0114	0.0046
					94	0.0146	0.0059
					95	0.0457	0.0185
					96	0.0158	0.0064
					113	0.1497	0.0606
					114	0.0845	0.0342
TOTAL AREA IN MAHIPAL MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.6161	0.24935
12	Darjeeling	Phansidewa	Paschim Bansgaon Kismat	99	1977	0.0035	0.0014
					1978	0.0082	0.0033
					1980	0.0504	0.0204
					1981	0.0343	0.0139
					1982	0.0390	0.0158
					2244	0.0296	0.0120
					2245	0.0210	0.0085
					2246	0.0321	0.0130
					2247	0.0272	0.0110
					2248	0.0378	0.0153
					2249	0.0600	0.0243
					2250	0.0200	0.0081
					2251	0.3062	0.1239
					2252	0.0262	0.0106
					2253	0.0516	0.0209
					2254	0.0166	0.0067
					2261	0.0205	0.0083
					2262	0.0245	0.0099
					2263	0.0445	0.0180
TOTAL AREA IN PASCHIM BANSGAON KISMAT MOUZA (MORE OR LESS)						0.8532	0.3453
TOTAL AREA IN DARJEELING DISTRICT (MORE OR LESS)						20.6729	8.36605

[F. No. W/207/CON/NJP/LAND/AUB-NJP(3rd & 4th Line)/3]
SANJEEV KUMAR, CE/CON/NJP Project

India is giving world a new model of development: PM Modi in New Zealand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AUCKLAND, JULY 11: India's pace of development is unprecedented despite global challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, asserting that the country is giving the world a new model of development.

Speaking at an Indian community event titled 'Kia Ora Modi' in Auckland, also attended by his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon, Modi said that the relationship between India and New Zealand is built on cherished memories, enduring friendship, shared values and a mutual commitment.

"Amidst global challenges, the speed at which India is developing is unprecedented. Today, India is the world's fastest-growing major economy," Modi said, amid cheers and applause from the

audience.

Prime Minister Modi said India is giving the world a new model of development.

"Today in India, billions of digital transactions are happening every month through UPI. India is touching new heights in drone technology and the space economy," he said, amid cheers and chants of 'Modi Modi'.

Stating that the future of India and New Zealand is intertwined, Modi said the bilateral trade agreement will accelerate India's journey towards a developed nation. Modi said that the space sector itself demonstrates the immense potential of the economic partnership between India and New Zealand.

"The same spirit is reflected in our trade agreement. This agreement will accelerate our journey towards a developed India.

It will create new opportunities for businesses in both India and New Zealand," he told a more than 10,000-strong gathering of the Indian diaspora.

Modi, who arrived in Auckland on Friday on the final leg of his three-nation tour, said that there is another important similarity between the two nations.

"It is our shared commitment to celebrating and preserving our indigenous cultures," he added.

Modi, the first Indian prime minister to visit New Zealand in 40 years, showed a muffler to the crowd and said he received it as a gift along with a cap and glove when he visited New Zealand around 25-30 years ago, before entering public life. He said that the relationship between India and New Zealand is built on cherished memories, enduring friendship,

shared values and a mutual commitment.

"A beautiful expression from New Zealand's culture captures the essence of this relationship – Waka. For centuries, this word has symbolised bringing people together. A Waka is not merely a boat. It is a symbol of a shared journey. Today, the India-New Zealand Waka is ready to embark on a new voyage together," he said.

"A vast ocean of opportunities lies before India and New Zealand," he said.

Modi thanked his Kiwi counterpart Luxon, government officials and the members of the Labour Party, saying that their presence reflects the strong bipartisan support for the India-New Zealand relationship.

"It is also a testament to the remarkable achievements of the Kiwi-Indian community," he

said. Modi said the local people have embraced the Indian community in New Zealand as he mentioned a few achievers like Nikhil Ravi Shankar, Anand Satyananda and cricketer Rachin Ravindra.

"New Zealand is the place where Indian cities have been respected even on the streets," he added.

In every era, India has transformed itself... and the reason is that India is always willing to learn from others. For us, it is not the size of a country's population that matters, but its commitment to the welfare of its people, and therefore, we have learnt a lot from New Zealand and are still learning from it," he said.

"Today, we see that women are contributing on a massive scale in New Zealand's society. India, too, is today opening new doors of opportunity for women with the mantra of women-led development,"

he said. Modi said that just as India places great importance on its economy and ecology, it attaches equal importance to its heritage.

"A testament to this commitment is the manner in which India safeguarded the sacred Saroop of the Guru Granth Sahib. When Afghanistan faced a crisis, we brought the sacred Saroop of the Guru Granth Sahib to India with the utmost respect and reverence," he said.

Modi urged the Indian community to continue serving as a bridge of friendship, trust and cooperation between India and New Zealand, helping to realise the full potential of the Strategic Partnership for the benefit of both nations.

Noting that 2026 marks 100 years of sporting collaboration, Modi said that both the countries are keen to further deepen their sporting ties.

INBRIEF

Taiwan and eastern China brace for Typhoon Bavi

TAIPEI: Typhoon Bavi has brought strong winds and rain to Japan's southern islands, as Taiwan and eastern China brace for the powerful storm with evacuations and high alerts. With maximum sustained winds of 144 kph (89 mph) near its centre, Typhoon Bavi is forecast to pass north of Taiwan on Saturday, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Administration. It is expected to move toward Zhejiang in eastern China and, according to China's National Meteorological Centre, make landfall in the early hours of Sunday. Across Japan's southern islands in the prefecture of Okinawa, local authorities have warned of high waves, strong winds and storm surges, with more than 200 flights cancelled across the region, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK. Strong winds and rain have hit islands including Ishigaki.

10 injured in overnight Russian missile and drone strikes on Kyiv

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, JULY 11: At least 10 people, including a child, were injured after Russia launched an overnight missile and drone attack on Kyiv early Saturday, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service. Explosions and fires were reported across the capital's Solomianskyi, Darnytskyi and Dniprovskyi districts, the emergency service said in a statement on Telegram.

In Solomianskyi district, a strike ignited a fire in a three-storey office and warehouse building, while another warehouse caught fire in the Dniprovskyi district after it was hit.

Russia launched 10 missiles of various types, including six ballistic missiles, along with 121 drones against Ukraine overnight, Ukraine's Air Force said. Ukrainian air defences said they shot down or electronically suppressed two missiles and 111 drones.

The Air Force said direct hits were recorded at 11 locations from ballistic missiles, two guided air-to-surface missiles and seven attack drones. Falling debris from intercepted weapons was reported at three additional locations. Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had targeted drone production facilities in Kyiv, as well as the ports of Izmail and Chornomorsk in Ukraine's southern Odesa region. The ministry also said Russian air defences destroyed 178 Ukrainian drones overnight over eight Russian regions, as well as over the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula and the Black and Azov seas.

88 terrorists killed in ongoing anti-terror operation in Balochistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI, JULY 11: At least 88 terrorists were killed in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province since the launch of a major anti-terror operation on July 5, the government said on Saturday. Nine terrorists were killed in the past 24 hours, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement. "The total number of terrorists killed since July 5 in Operation Shaban has reached 88," he said. The military, paramilitary Rangers and the Frontier Corps are participating in the ongoing operation, which has involved both ground and air offensives against the militants.

The operation was launched after insurgents carried out several coordinated attacks across Balochistan on July 5. The deadliest attack targeted a police checkpoint at Mangi Dam in Ziarat district, where militants killed nine policemen before abducting 18 others. Their bodies were later recovered from the Zarghoon Gar mountainous area near Ziarat, officials said. Meanwhile, families of the slain policemen continued their sit-in protest at Koila Phatak Chowk on the outskirts of Quetta, demanding justice and improved security for law enforcement personnel.

Jaishankar to launch India's UNSC campaign, meet UNSG Guterres next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK, JULY 11: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will launch India's campaign for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for the 2028-29 term and also meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the world body's headquarters next week.

Jaishankar undertook an official visit to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman from July 5-10 and is expected to arrive in the US on Saturday. He will launch India's official campaign for the UN Security Council tenure 2028-29 at a special event in the UN headquarters on Monday. He will then attend the 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting and interact with his EU and Belgian counterparts in Brussels on July 14-15.

According to a schedule of meetings released by the UN, Guterres will meet Jaishankar at the UN headquarters on Monday afternoon.

India had last sat at the UN horseshoe table for the 2021-22 term. Elections for the 2028-29 term will be conducted in June next year, when India and Tajikistan will compete for the sole seat in the Asia-Pacific Group category. The UNSC elections will come amid significant geopolitical shifts as the world continues to grapple with challenges such as the Ukraine war, Gaza conflict and the US-Israel war against Iran.

In its message for its UNSC candidature, India has highlighted "India4UNSC 2028-29 Peace, Planet, Progress." Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the Parliament of

Indonesia this week, had said that the global order is changing rapidly, and in this context, "developing countries like ours are seeking equal participation and a greater role in global affairs. In this evolving global landscape, India firmly believes that reforms in the United Nations Security Council can no longer be delayed."

India has been at the forefront of years-long efforts for achieving reform of the Security Council, including expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, saying the 15-nation Council, founded in 1945, is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century and does not reflect contemporary geopolitical realities. Delhi has consistently underscored that it rightly deserves a permanent seat at the horseshoe table.

India has called for an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of UNSC membership, cautioning that reform of the UN Security Council will border on "failure" if only its non-permanent category of membership is expanded, as this will "fundamentally" not change the decision-making power-structure of the five permanent members.

With the UNSC reform process moving at a snail's pace through the decades, India asserted that a "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" approach must not become a tool to block progress. "Status-quoists have tried to use this argument in their favour and thereby, entrench the existing inequities in the Security Council," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni had said last month.



Bosnian muslims bury a coffin containing remains of one of the 10 newly identified victims of Srebrenica genocide during a mass burial ceremony in Potocari, Bosnia, Saturday---PTI

Multiple New York Times reporters issued subpoenas over Air Force One reporting

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JULY 11: The Trump administration issued subpoenas on Friday to several New York Times journalists after its report this week on security concerns involving the new Air Force One, according to the paper.

The new jet, which President Donald Trump received as a gift from Qatar, just entered service last week. The subpoenas seek to force the reporters to testify before a federal grand jury in Manhattan on Wednesday, the paper said, adding that federal agents delivered some subpoenas to the reporters at their homes. The NYT report could not be independently confirmed and there was no immediate response from the White House or the Department of Justice.

"The appearance of federal law enforcement agents on the doorstep of news reporters should shock the conscience of any American who believes in the Constitution and the press freedom it protects," said the paper's lawyer David McCraw in a Friday statement. The developments come after

Trump threatens Iran after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral saw open calls for his killing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, JULY 11: US President Donald Trump threatened Iran on Saturday after the funeral of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei saw open calls for his killing, further underlining the tensions gripping the Middle East as an interim deal to end the war buckles under repeated crossfire in the region.

Trump made the comments on his Truth Social after senior US officials demanded that Iran make a public statement saying the Strait of Hormuz is open and that

ships crossing the vital corridor won't be killed any longer. So far, Tehran has not done so, instead insisting that the route remain under its control and that it be allowed to charge ships moving through it, upending decades of precedent that consider the strait an international waterway.

There had been multiple days of US airstrikes targeting Iran, as well as Iranian retaliatory fire targeting nations across the Middle East. Those strikes had been sparked by Iran attacking three ships in the strait earlier this week. A thousand "missiles are

Locked and Loaded and aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran, with thousands of more to immediately follow, should the Iranian Government act on its threat," Trump wrote on his website.

The US president said his threat was in response to threats "to assassinate, or attempt to assassinate" him. During Khamenei's funeral, mourners repeatedly held posters or banners calling for him to be killed along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Iran war's opening moments on February 28 saw an airstrike that killed Khamenei, 86.

Pak PM holds talks with Iran, Qatar leaders to revive stalled US-Iran negotiations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, JULY 11: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held separate talks with the leaders of Iran and Qatar in an effort to revive the stalled US-Iran negotiations. The talks were held on Friday night as efforts picked up pace to mend

the broken peace bridge between the warring sides after the recent escalation and attacks on the rival targets. In his conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Sharif expressed "deep concern over the recent escalation in tensions in the region" and underscored the

urgent need to "restore regional peace and stability," according to a statement by the PM Office. He urged parties to "exercise restraint and refrain from any action that could jeopardise the hard-earned peace gains achieved over the past few months". Sharif stressed the

importance of upholding the commitments undertaken under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), describing it as an enduring framework for promoting mutual understanding, respect and shared prosperity in the region and beyond.



CHURCH ROAD-7773
NANAK COMPLEX, SEVOKE ROAD
Siliguri-734001
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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 25.07.2026 14:00 to 25.07.2026 18:00 for the recovery of respective amount, due to the Bank of Baroda (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and the Guarantor(s) as specified here under:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower	Total Dues for recovery	Description of the Immovable properties	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit EMD (in Rs.)	Data & Time for inspection of the properties
1.	M/S Hill King Dairy Pvt. Ltd. Mortgagee 1. Kalpana Sagar 2. Mr. Sunil Sagar Guarantors :- 1. Mr. Sunil Sagar S/o. Dadu Sagar 2. Mrs. Kalpana Sagar W/o. Sunil Sagar 3. Mr. Rudra Bahadur Gurung S/o. Dambar Bahadur Gurung	Rs. 10,58,62,964.60 (Rupees Ten Crore Fifty Eight Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Four and Sixty Paise Only) as on with further interest incidental expenses and costs etc. thereon	Property ID : BARB082024HILL Equitable mortgage of one residential flat measuring the property is part of a finished residential flat at Gr. floor (2 no 3 BHK flat merged together) located at Southern side of Gr. Floor measuring-1145 sqft-Super Built area with proportionate share of land and common area in a two storied residential building erected on a plot of land measuring 6.56 katha including proportionate share of land and common area ground floor of the south east side of the building forming part of L.R. Khatian no. 238, R. S. Plot no-749 and 69, corresponding to L.R. Plot no-78 situated within J.L. no- 53 of Mouza- Dhukuria, Pargana- Patharghata, P.S. Matigara, Sub Division- Siliguri, Adsr- Siliguri II at Bagdogra under Patharghata Gram Panchayat, Dist. Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal. Possession : Symbolic	Rs. 24,10,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ten Thousand Only) Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,41,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Forty One Thousand Only)	From 18-07-2026 14:00 To 18-07-2026 18:00

The e-auction will be conducted through Bank's approved service provider M/s SISL Infotech Pvt. Ltd. at their web portal <https://baanknet.com>. The interested bidders shall ensure that they get themselves registered on the e-auction website and deposit earnest money in the virtual wallet created by service provider as per guidelines provided on <https://baanknet.com>
The interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting, Bid documents. Training/Demonstration, Terms & conditions on online Inter-se Bidding etc., may visit the website <https://baanknet.com>
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda, the Secured Creditor's website <https://www.barb.co.in/> and website: baanknet.com
Statutory Notice under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act : This is also a notice to the Borrower/Guarantor of the above loan under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 for conducting of Auction for the sale of secured assets on above mentioned date.
For Enquiry : RAJARSHI DASGUPTA, Authorised Officer-scale-IV-CM, Mobile No. 8373061102
Note :-
1. In case of refund of the bid/auction amount due to any reason, successful bidder/auction purchaser will not be entitled to claim the interest on the bid/auction amount.
2. The above mentioned property is in symbolic possession of the authorised officer of Bank of Baroda. Physical possession to be handed over to the successful auction purchaser as and when it is available to the bank.
Date : 08.07.2026
Place : Siliguri
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

Bollywood actors Hema Malini, right, and Shatrughan Sinha during the 'Dream Girl's Diamond Jubilee' event, marking actor Hema Malini's 60-year journey in Indian cinema, in Mumbai—PTI



Bollywood actors Hema Malini, right, and Madhoo Shah during the 'Dream Girl's Diamond Jubilee' event, marking actor Hema Malini's 60-year journey in Indian cinema, in Mumbai—PTI

FORTUNE FORECAST

ARIES



At times we need to understand a few things. It is not wise to be straight forward and tell the truth bluntly. There are other ways to do a few things. You will be caught in a similar situation. It will be wise for you to remain quiet or mold your words. Otherwise, people will get upset by what you say. This will only harm your interests. Otherwise, you will repent for it but by then it will be too late. But your time will change for better.

TAURUS



It is going to be a wonderful week for you. You will get back to winning ways. Now is the time to set long term goals too. You will get a promotion or can be transferred to your job. You will have monetary benefits. It is time for all round gains. You will also carry your secret relationship. But soon you will have to take a decision to get married. Some family members' health may cause some concern. You need to go for routine checkups done. There is nothing much to worry about.

GEMINI



Some new problems will come to bother you this week. You will feel a bit let down. You need to take care of your health. An old disease may resurface again. You need to go for regular checkups. Your enemies will become active again but not trouble you much. You will also be troubled by the authority of work. Your hard work will not give the desired results. This may upset you a bit.

CANCER



Some positive developments will take place. It could be a new job offer or some other material gain. The marriage of a family member can also get finalized. You will feel overjoyed with success. There will be atmosphere of joy and happiness at your home. You will become the strength of your family. And your family members, particularly children, will look at you for support and guidance. You will also see the mindset of your grown-up children and try to see life from their viewpoint.

LEO



Time will be highly beneficial for you this week. Due to your busy schedule, you will be unable to give time to your family. But your family members will be very understandable and will support you under all circumstances. You will have gains in your business. And money and wealth will be coming. You will achieve your targets. All your work will be completed as planned. You will also win some award or reward.

VIRGO



You will rise in your work; fate is on your side. You will get new job/business opportunities. Your status and respect in society will grow. Your friends will give you good company. You will also plan to buy a new item for your house. All efforts and tasks related to children's education will be completed. Students will study well. Time will improve and you will get new opportunities in your business. All your held-up work will be completed.

LIBRA



You will plan a major expansion in your business. Those looking for job opportunities will be successful. The results of exams/interview too will be favorable. You will continue to increase your knowledge. Your everyday activities will keep you busy, but you need to give time to your family from your busy schedule. You will also get back blocked money from somewhere. Your economic side will remain strong. You will also meet an influential personality.

SCORPIO



It will be a favorable week for you. You will get positive results in money-related matters. Your plans will be successful. Your focus on work will increase and support will be gained. Peace will be there in the family and there will also be complete fulfillment of new work. New contracts will be made. You can also fall in love with a person working in your office. You will also undertake business-related trips.

SAGITTARIUS



You will successfully earn money. You will also receive good news. These are cheerful days. People will praise you a lot. You will also remain busy with everyday work. Working women will get full support. Students will keep doing their work with full loyalty and concentration. You will also have the desire to learn something new. You will also get the benefit from your hard work. Your profits will double in business, and you will also be praised.

CAPRICORN



It is going to be a time spent very nicely. Luck is again favoring you. You will go about your task with full vigour and lot of enthusiasm. You are bound to make progress even in adverse circumstances. The orbit of Jupiter and Saturn will bring stability in your career. You stand to gain lot of money with your hard work. You will enjoy a peaceful married life without any disturbances. An unknown person will also help you when you expect the least.

AQUARIUS



It will prove to be a crucial week for you. You will fulfill your dreams but will have to work hard to realize those. You will behave nicely with people. You will witness growth in your business. Your objectives will also be fulfilled. You will adopt new means to fulfill your objectives. There will be an improvement in your financial condition. You will also enjoy a wonderful love life. You will come closer to your spouse.

PISCES



There is a yog and signs of success in business and profession. Your money and wealth will grow. You will have gains from investments made. You will also be inclined towards religious activities. Romance will bloom and you will get success in your love interests. The husband and wife will have good understanding. Company of close friends will be helpful in your progress.



Actress Akansha Ranjan makes a stylish appearance at the wedding ceremony of Anshula Kapoor and Rohan Thakkar in Mumbai—IANS

Karisma Kapoor says she loved Neelam Kothari's dance, recalls audience throwing coins during 'Paap Ki Duniya'



Bollywood star Karisma Kapoor shared a fun secret from her school days in the upcoming episode of 'India's Best Dancer Season 5'.

After a performance on the iconic song 'Main Tera Tota' from the 1988 film 'Paap Ki Duniya', pictured on Chunky Panday and Neelam Kothari, it prompted Karisma to reveal a fun anecdote from her childhood.

She said, "Mere paas ek chota sa trivia hain, which I would like to share kyunki main itni excited ho rahi thi ye gaane mein."

(I have a small piece of trivia that I would like to share because I was getting so excited during this song)

Sharing her secret with a laugh, Karisma added, "I will share this, ye manch pe main ek secret batana chahungi. I hope meri mummy nahi dekh rahi hain. Lekin maine school bunk kiya tha, I used to love Neelam, toh ye 'Paap Ki Duniya' film se gaana hain 'Main Tera Tota',

with Chunky Panday and Neelam. Toh mein gayi thi, I used to love her dancing. Aur mujhe yaad hain ye gaane pe itne saare coins phek rahe the, main Satyam Theater Worli mein gayi thi mere six seven friends ke sath and actually we bunked school."* (I want to reveal a secret on this stage. I hope my mother isn't watching this. But I had actually bunked school.

I used to love Neelam, and this song 'Main Tera Tota' is from the film 'Paap Ki Duniya', starring Chunky Panday and Neelam. I went to watch the film because I absolutely loved her dancing.

I vividly remember people throwing so many coins at the screen during this song. I had gone to Satyam Theatre in Worli with six or seven of my friends, and we had actually bunked school)

The revelation came after a high-energy performance by contestants Roshan and Anuradha, choreographed in Terence Lewis' signature style.—IANS

Shreya Kalra calls Gaurav Khanna 'blessed': May God never give anyone a wife like Akanksha Chamola

"LOCK UPP: SACH YA SAZAA"

contestant Shreya Kalra took a sharp dig at Akanksha Chamola following a heated confrontation on the reality show, calling her actor-husband Gaurav Khanna a "blessed man" and remarking, "May God never give anyone a wife like her." Shreya was seen having a conversation with Shilpa Shinde and Madhuri Grover after all contestants ganged up against them. It all happened when Shilpa ordered two premium meals despite the "Kharcha Paani" for buying meals from the digital canteen was low.

Speaking to her only two friends Madhuri and Shilpa, Shreya called Akanksha a "mandbuddhi" (idiot).

Shreya said: "Chamola is an idiot. Farah Khan told her on stage, 'you all are ganging up on her.' She didn't come and tell anyone. She's an idiot."

Taking a dig at her separation with Gaurav Khanna, Shreya called the actor a "blessed man".

"Gaurav Khanna is a blessed man that he got rid of this witch. She ruined the joy of winning that show (Bigg Boss). May God never give anyone a wife like her," Shreya concluded.

The episode also saw Akanksha Chaudhary calling names to Shreya, who was seen maintaining her calm as she did not react.

The Netflix show currently has popular names such as Akanksha Chaudhary, Yogesh Rawat, Sunita Ahuja, Ram Kapoor, Shreya Kalra, Shivangi Joshi, Harshad Chopra, Sufi Motiwal, Dheeraj Dhoopar, Madhuri Jain Grover, Riyaz Aly and Varun Yadav aka Laila.

It is hosted by Farah Khan and Riteish Deshmukh.

The first edition of "Lock Upp" was hosted by Kangana in 2022. Karan Kundrra was introduced as Jailor for the entire season. Munawar Faruqui was named as the winner. The second installment will have fourteen inmates, two jailers, and one lock-up for 6 weeks. As per the rules, inmates must complete tasks to earn in-game currency required for even the basic necessities such as food, supplies, and privileges.—IANS



Birthday Forecast



Moon semi-square Jupiter on your solar return chart and it will give fantastic results. You will get peace and happiness. You will also get full support from your life partner. An influential person will provide you with timely help and take you forward in your life. The decisions regarding court cases that are pending will be in your favour. Works will get completed. Before making any investment in land, vehicles etc. take proper advice. You will try and obtain all the amenities in life. You will get lot of time to spend with your companion. You will get a chance to get connected to new people. You will also get a chance to fulfil your interests. You will also enjoy the holidays fully. You can get a responsible position in your job. Money will be spent on comforts and facilities. You will be able to overcome obstacles with your good understanding.

Lucky dates : 3, 12, 21, 30

Lucky days : Monday, Tuesday, Saturday

Lucky colours : Blue, violet, Green

PEANUTS



CROSSWORD

1		2	3		4	5	6		7
			8						
9	10				11				
		12			13				
14				15	16		17	18	
19			20				21		
					22	23			
24		25		26		27			28
			29						
30						31			

ACROSS

- Undesired escape
- Automaton
- Make fast
- Deal with successfully
- Insect
- Repair
- Dry, of champagne
- Wilfully disregard
- Chant
- School of whales
- Golf mounds
- Attempts
- Again
- Pleasure voyage
- Vision
- Irritable

DOWN

- Resinous substance
- Way of viewing
- Eager
- Spirit
- Constellation
- Resting place
- Swarmed
- Augury
- Clamour
- Used a sieve
- Obtain
- Laid bare
- Flower
- Musical drama
- Comfort
- Frozen formation
- Result of addition
- Turned to one side

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS FOR THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

To solve the Sodoku Puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	7	2					1	
			2	4			8	6
6	8				3			2
				1	4			
7								4
			5	7				
3			4				6	9
8	4			9	6			
	5					4	3	

SOLUTIONS

P	R	O	B	E	D	H	A	T
R	I	V	A	L	A	M	A	
O	M	E	G	A		R	U	M
U	R		N	E	E	D	L	E
D	O	T	S		L	E		
R	K				M	O	T	H
I	N	D	I	G	O		F	O
B	A	R			P	A	T	I
I	T	E	M		A	M	E	N
S	E	W		S	L	I	N	K

6	1	2	4	5	3	9	8	7
5	9	8	6	7	1	2	3	4
3	7	4	2	9	8	5	6	1
7	3	1	5	8	2	4	9	6
2	6	9	7	1	4	8	5	3
4	8	5	9	3	6	7	1	2
9	2	3	1	4	5	6	7	8
1	4	7	8	6	9	3	2	5
8	5	6	3	2	7	1	4	9



Sport

Meghalaya Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs flags off Shillong Leg of 135th IndianOil Durand Cup trophy tour

EOI CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, JULY 11: Wailadmiki Shylla, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya, welcomed the Trophy Tour of the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup to Shillong on Saturday, as the football-loving state received the tournament's three iconic trophies following their ceremonial flag-off by President of India Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi earlier this month.

The ceremony was also attended by Lieutenant General Mohit Wadhwa SM, General Officer Commanding, 101 Area; Air Marshal Devendra P. Hirani, YSM VSM, Senior Air Staff Officer, Eastern Air Command; Major General D.K. Singh SM VSM, General Officer Commanding, Bengal Sub Area and Vice Chairman,

Durand Cup Organising Committee; Major General Jai Singh Bainsla SM, Additional Director General, Assam Rifles, Isawanda Laloo IAS, Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Meghalaya, Idashisha Nongrang IPS, Director General of Police, Meghalaya, John F. Kharshiing, Working President, Meghalaya State Olympic Association and Hamletson Dohling, President, Meghalaya Football Association, along with senior civil and military officials, representatives of participating clubs and members of the football fraternity.

The ceremony celebrated Meghalaya's rich footballing heritage while formally inaugurating the Trophy Tour's journey through the first of the tournament's five host cities. The programme featured a



presentation on the rich legacy of the Durand Cup, a special screening of the President of India's Trophy Unveiling and Flag-off Ceremony held earlier this month at Rashtrapati Bhavan, a choir performance by the 15-member Khmih Creative Society, the ceremonial

showcase of the tournament's three iconic trophies, the Durand Cup, the President's Cup and the Simla Trophy and an exchange of mementoes between the dignitaries before the trophy convoy was flagged off.

Mr Shylla said, "Football is not merely a game in

France's Fabien Brau-Boirie, centre, is tackled by Australia's Ryan Loneragan and Len Ikitau, left, during the Nations Championship rugby international between France and Australia in Brisbane



Ben Gunter, center, of Japan is tackled by Ireland's Stuart McCloskey, left, and Ciaran Frawley during the Nations Championship rugby international between Japan and Ireland in Newcastle

PM Modi tours New Zealand sports innovation showcase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AUCKLAND, JULY 11 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday toured an exhibition showcasing New Zealand's innovative sports equipment and technologies, demonstrated by some of the country's leading athletes and sporting icons. Modi is in New Zealand on the final leg of his three-nation visit. This is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister in 40 years.

He was joined by his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon at the sports equipment showcase.

"Sports have always been a strong bridge between India and New Zealand. This year, we are also marking a century of vibrant sporting ties," Modi said in a post on X.

"In Auckland, PM Luxon and I attended a Sporting Showcase, where we saw a range of cutting-edge sporting innovations. It was wonderful to see how technology and creativity are shaping the future of sports while bringing our two nations even closer," he added.

The two leaders did a walk-through of the equipment on display at the venue and interacted with decorated athletes from New Zealand and other stakeholders associated with high-performance sports, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"The leaders witnessed cutting-edge sports equipment and technologies, demonstrated by some of New Zealand's leading athletes and sporting icons," the ministry said in a post on X.

At the showcase, Modi recalled 100 years of sports engagement between India and New Zealand and noted that a Sports Joint Action Plan concluded during the visit would help the two countries expand ties beyond cricket.

The visit was in keeping with the desire of both sides to expand sports cooperation, especially as India gears up to host the Commonwealth Games 2030, the MEA said.

Earlier in the day, Modi and Luxon held talks, following which India and New Zealand elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and set a five-year target to double their annual bilateral trade in goods and services to Rs 35,000 crore.

The meeting between the two leaders yielded 18 concrete outcomes, including 10 agreements.

Separately, Modi also held an interaction with a select group of CEOs and business leaders. Modi also received a ceremonial welcome at Government House in Auckland earlier.

"The traditional Maori powhiri was a moving reflection of New Zealand's rich heritage and traditions," he said in a post on X.

Modi's three-nation tour was largely focused on expanding cooperation in the Indo-Pacific against the backdrop of China's increasing assertiveness in the region. He visited Indonesia and Australia before this.

Alcaraz's drop shot reminds me of my short-arm jab: Gill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, JULY 11 /--/ Shubman Gill sees a bit of his own batting in Carlos Alcaraz's tennis, with the India Test and ODI captain comparing the Spaniard's deceptive drop shot to his trademark short-arm jab. Gill, who watched the men's semifinals at Wimbledon, also spoke about his admiration for the great Roger Federer and revealed the sporting legends he would invite for a dream dinner.



Alcaraz's drop shot is widely considered one of the most effective and revolutionary variety tactics in modern tennis while Gill routinely employs the short-arm jab against short-pitched deliveries.

"The drop shot that Alcaraz plays, it reminds me of the short-arm jab in cricket. I play that shot too, it's my trademark shot. Quick, deceptive, and very effective," Gill said on JioStar. Gill named Serena Williams, Federer and cricket icons Sachin Tendulkar and West Indies batting great Viv Richards as his dream dinner guests.

"Serena Williams, Roger Federer, and then the cricketers would be Sir Viv Richards and Sachin sir. Those are the four legends I would love to sit with and have dinner with them. "I think the conversations would be incredible. They have all dominated their eras and have so much to share about their journeys. It would be a dream dinner." The India skipper also backed Sinner to emerge champion at the All England Club. "I'm backing Sinner to win Wimbledon. He is a fantastic player, and he carries himself really well both on and off the court." Gill said Federer remains his favourite tennis player, explaining that the Swiss maestro's apparent ease masked years of hard work.

Indian GM Iniyen wins 6th La Plagne Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LA PLAGNE (FRANCE), JULY 11 /--/ Indian Grandmaster Iniyen Pa triumphed at the 6th La Plagne Open International Chess Tournament, delivering an unbeaten performance in the Masters category here.

The tournament, which concluded on Friday, featured 142 players from 20 countries, including 13 Grandmasters and 22 International Masters. Iniyen scored 7.5 points from nine rounds to claim the title. The 23-year-old Indian remained unbeaten, registering six wins and three draws to finish as the clear winner. After receiving a first-round walkover and drawing his second-round game, Iniyen steadily built momentum with two consecutive victories.

Following another draw in Round 5, he sealed the title with three successive wins, including crucial victories over GM Luca Moroni of Italy, who finished third, and IM Danyil Mosesov of Ukraine, who secured the runner-up spot. Heading into the final round with a one-point lead, Iniyen needed only a draw to confirm the title. He comfortably achieved the result by drawing his final-round game against IM Aronyak Ghosh of India, securing the championship outright.

Mikel Merino stars again as Spain edges Belgium 2-1 in World Cup quarterfinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INGLEWOOD (US), JULY 11 /--/ Mikel Merino is Spain's World Cup hero once again, and even he finds it hard to believe. A mere four days after Merino scored a clutch goal as a substitute in injury time to beat Portugal, he found himself in the right spot again in the quarterfinals when Belgium's backup goalkeeper spilled the ball into his path.

Merino booted it home in the 88th minute, sending Spain to a 2-1 victory Friday and into a titanic semifinal showdown with tournament favourite France. "I've done this again, and it's happened to me again, so it would seem that coincidence exists," a smiling Merino said. "If you're ready and you try, I guess it can happen for you."

Already a versatile contributor in any role he can get as a depth player for his country or English club Arsenal, the multi-positional Merino has transformed into the ultimate super-sub while providing exactly what Spain needed to survive two knockout matches against top opponents.

Merino has scored two goals in his first World Cup — and they're both historic.

"Honestly, it's crazy to be able to help the team once again," he said. "This time in a different way, but at the same time to

believe and trust that the opposing goalkeeper could make a mistake and to stay alert. ... I prepare for when the moment comes, and hopefully they keep coming."

Merino is the first to admit he also needed luck, and Belgium keeper Senne Lammens provided it after he was forced into his first World Cup match in the 71st minute by an injury to starter Thibaut Courtois.



semifinals for the first time since they won the World Cup in 2010. A powerhouse matchup with France has been anticipated since the draw was announced late last year, and Spain was grateful to secure its spot. "We came here for this, to play against the best teams in the world," Merino said. "We are confident in our possibilities, at the same time respecting the opposition. This is one of those games that you dream of when you're a kid, and now we have the chance to compete against a massive rival. Hopefully we'll get the win."

World Cup quarterfinal resale prices drop, FIFA selling nearly 1,200 more seats for final at USD 7,380

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, JULY 11 /--/ World Cup ticket resale prices dropped for quarterfinal matches following the elimination of co-hosts United States and Mexico, and FIFA has nearly 1,200 seats on sale for the final at USD 7,380. The site TickPick listed the lowest price for the Spain-Belgium game on Friday at Inglewood, California, at USD 1,381, down from USD 3,261 before the U.S. lost to Belgium in the round of 16. The lowest price for the England-Norway

match at Miami Gardens, Florida, on Saturday was USD 2,049, down from USD 3,866 before England defeated Mexico to reach the quarterfinals. It listed the lowest price for the Argentina-Switzerland game at Kansas City, Missouri, at USD 1,142, down from USD 2,381 before the round of 16. Standing outside SoFi Stadium on Friday, Jake van Baarsel said he bought tickets two days earlier. The 65-year-old from Riverside, California, said he hadn't previously planned on attending because he

knew ticket prices were so high. But when his son called to tell him he obtained seats at a lower price, he decided to pay for two at USD 1,000 each to share the moment with his 13-year-old grandson.

"It's one of those things — it's a memory maker for my grandson and me," he said. "So how much money do you put on a memory?" "So yeah, it's steep for a game, but we enjoy." Others who bought tickets well ahead of Friday's quarterfinal match paid far more. Lisandro Pineda, 70, of East Los Angeles, said

he paid about USD 2,200 a month ago. "The price was too high, I think, but it's a resale, remember," he said. "I didn't want to be left out. I've never been to a World Cup. I didn't go to the one we had before. So I figured, I have the money, I have the time, what the heck, buy the ticket, so here we are." Kourosh Modarress, 68, of Los Angeles, said his family bought hospitality tickets at USD 7,000 each after they failed to obtain other tickets in one of FIFA's sales rounds. "I think it's highway robbery," he

said.

FIFA had nearly 1,200 category two tickets priced at USD 7,380 on sale Friday for the World Cup final on July 19 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The governing body's last-minute ticket sales site, which at times had listed the game as sold out, had 1,178 seats available across five sections of the top deck along the sidelines: 282 in section 344, 299 in section 343, 139 in section 335, 443 in section 334 and 15 in section 333. FIFA also was selling 68 front category

one tickets in the lower deck at prices ranging from USD 19,995 to USD 32,970 and had remaining hospitality tickets in its Trophy Lounge and Trophy Lounge+ sections priced at USD 34,500 and USD 32,500, including food and drinks. Soccer's governing body did not immediately respond to a request for comment on why the additional tickets had become available. Resale tickets for the final were available on FIFA's marketplace at prices from USD 7,440.50 to USD 11,499,998.85.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

effort in the heats earlier in the day on Friday.

AFFIDAVIT



I, Mintu Barman, now will be known as Bipul Barman vide Mathabhanga notary public affidavit, dated 3/6/2026, as my wrong name mentioned in my Aadhaar Card no. 7653 2371 6547. Address : Vill- Ashokbari part - I, Mathabhanga, Coochbehar.