

## News Impact

### ICR DA issues traffic advisory

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** The Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) district administration on Wednesday issued a traffic advisory, restricting "the movement of pedestrians and vehicles along the stretch of CC pavement road from Ganga market to Jullang with effect from 22 July till the restoration of the road."

The administration issued the traffic advisory following a request from the PWD Capital Division-B executive engineer for closure of the road, stating that due to significant erosion of the road formation, the stretch of (Contd. on P-3)

### One arrested with heroin

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** A 26-year-old woman was on Thursday arrested in Hapoli in Lower Subansiri district for alleged involvement in drug peddling, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided a rented house near Pai Gate and recovered contraband substances weighing 61 grams, suspected to be heroin, from her possession, they said. (Contd. on P-3)

### Sumbachu SHP verified for issuance of carbon credits

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** The 3 mw Sumbachu small-scale hydropower project (SHP) of the Hydro Power Development Corporation of Arunachal Pradesh Limited (HPDCAPL) has been successfully verified for the second monitoring period by the Universal Carbon Registry (UCR), confirming the issuance of carbon credits for the financial year 2022-23. The project is based in Zemithang in Tawang district. (Contd. on P-3)

## School witnessing silent transformation

Bengia Ajum

**NGISSA, 17 Jul:** A Government Primary School here in Longding district, located near the Indo-Myanmar border, is witnessing a silent transformation due to the effort of one Ganchai Wangsa, the chairman of the School Management Committee (SMC).

Gangsa, who belongs to Ngissa village, took over as the SMC chairman in August 2022, and has since initiated a series of measures to transform the primary



Before



After

school of his village.

The school, established in 1975, was literally defunct before Wangsa became the

SMC chairman. The student enrollment was low and the teacher was mostly absent as the school did not have

proper accommodation for teachers, and learning aids were also not available. (Contd. on P-3)

## Bogong Banggo villages perform traditional ritual for monsoon rain

Mingkeng Osik

**PASIGHAT, 17 Jul:** A special traditional ritual called 'Mogum' was performed at the Tigra-Mirbuk community hall here in East Siang district on Wednesday, bringing together people from 22 villages under the Bogong Banggo unit as dry season prevails in the area as the area continues to experience dry weather.

This age-old ritual is believed to please the rain de-



ities. Villagers state that by offering prayers and performing these customs, they hope for good monsoon rains and a successful farming season.

The ceremony took place at the meeting point of two local streams - Sibbo and Sipi - a spot considered sacred by the community. (Contd. on P-3)

## Arunachal urges Centre to increase flights to state

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** The Arunachal Pradesh government has urged the Centre to fulfil its assurance regarding the expansion of air connectivity in the state.

Civil Aviation Minister Baloo Raja has made the request ahead of the upcoming inauguration of the new terminal building of Donyi

Polo Airport here.

In a letter to Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammoohan Naidu Kinjarapu recently, Raja reminded him of the commitment made during meetings held in New Delhi in March and May this year.

"You had kindly assured us of introducing new flight

services to additional southern cities, and also of commencing daily services between Itanagar and Delhi in parallel with the inauguration of the airport's new terminal building," Raja pointed out in his letter, a copy of which was made available to the media on Thursday. (Contd. on P-3)

## Jairampur conferred State-Level Swachh Survekshan Award

### Raja seeks revised funding policy for NE

**NEW DELHI, 17 Jul:** Jairampur town in Changlang district has been conferred the State-Level Swachh Survekshan Award 2024-25 under the category 'Promising swachh shehar of Arunachal

Pradesh', in recognition of its commendable performance in the national Swachh Survekshan assessment.

The award ceremony was held at the Vigyan Bhavan here on Thursday in

the presence of President of India Droupadi Murmu, along with other dignitaries.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal presented the award, which (Contd. on P-3)

### Ogin Nayam wins Mehli Golbhai Award

Agnes Linko

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** Ogin Nayam, a visual artist who brings life to his imagination through water colour, has brought pride to the state by becoming the fourth recipient of the prestigious Mehli Golbhai Award for the best illustrator of children's book, 2025.

His wordless book, When the Sun Sets, is a mesmerising journey of how a day looks like in Ane Donyi's life after a hard day's work. Descending beyond the mountains she sets forward for home, where she continues with her homely chores, knits scarves and sweaters (Contd. on P-3)

## Tribal woman entitled to equal share in ancestral property: SC

**NEW DELHI, 17 Jul:** The Supreme Court on Thursday held that a tribal woman or her legal heirs would be entitled to an equal share in ancestral property.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Joymalya Bagchi said denying the woman heir a right in the property only exacerbates gender division and discrimination, which the law should ensure to weed out.

"When applying the principle of justice, equity and good conscience, the

courts have to be mindful of the above and apply this otherwise open-ended principle contextually," the bench said.

The top court observed that in the present case, if the views of the subordinate court were upheld, the woman and her successors would be denied a right to property on the basis of the absence of a positive assertion to such inheritance in custom.

"However, customs too, like the law, cannot remain stuck in time and others can-

not be allowed to take refuge in customs or hide behind them to deprive others of their right," it added.

The verdict came on an appeal filed by the legal heirs of a woman belonging to a scheduled tribe. They sought partition of a property belonging to their maternal grandfather.

The trial court and the first appellate court dismissed the plea by the legal heirs saying their mother had no right in the property of her father. (Contd. on P-3)

## Students sit on floor, edn commissioner seeks reports on furniture

Staff Reporter

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** Following the photo story of children studying on the floor in a classroom without desks and benches at the Government Primary School in Lanka in Namsai district, which was published by this daily on 2 June, Education Commissioner Amjad Tak on Wednesday sought detailed report on the furniture supplied in the last three years.

"It has come to my notice that furniture supplied under the ISSE/Samagra Shiksha scheme to various schools across Arunachal Pradesh - though dispatched from the state level as per Project Approval Board (PAB) approvals - has not been properly installed or, in many cases, not

received by the intended schools," Tak said.

The commissioner added that the matter has attracted public attention through photographs and reports in various media, particularly *The Arunachal*

*Times* (2 July, 2025 edition), highlighting the absence or improper installation of furniture in several schools.

"The issue is of serious concern and warrants immediate action. (Contd. on P-3)

**No. DC-ICC-17016/56/2025-JUD**  
**Itanagar, dated, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**  
**CAPITAL :: ITANAGAR**

### TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Whereas, the Executive Engineer, Capital Division-B, PWD, AP, Itanagar has submitted a letter vide No.CD-B/Works/2015-26/747 dated 15/07/2025 stating that due to significant erosion of the road formation, the stretch of CC pavement road from Ganga Market to Jullang is in hazardous condition which pose a serious threat to vehicular/pedestrian movement and requested this office to issue road closure notification.

And whereas, in view of the above, it is felt expedient to stop the pedestrian/vehicular movement along the said stretch of road to avoid untoward incidents/loss of lives and properties.

Therefore, in the interest of public safety and security, traffic advisory is hereby issued from this office restricting **"the movement of pedestrians and vehicles along the stretch of CC pavement road from Ganga Market to Jullang wef 22.07.2025 till the road is restored"**.

Further, the Executive Engineer, PWD, CD-B is directed to put barrier and display notices/signboard at both the ends of the vulnerable road portion and to initiate early restoration of the road.

Sd/-

**(Toko Babu), APCS**  
Deputy Commissioner,  
Capital, Itanagar

DIPR/ARN/005231/2025

## State BJP celebrates 9 years of Pema Khandu govt

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** The state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated nine years of the Pema Khandu government at its head office here on Thursday.

The programme was attended by MLA Mutchu Mithi, BJP IT and e-governance chairman Nyamar Karbak, vice president Ashok Sangchou, general secretary Junty Singphoo, and MLA Alo Libang, along with the party's state office bearers and newly appointed chairmen, vice chairmen and several former MLAs.

Addressing the gathering, Karbak presented a narrative on the political journey of Khandu since 2011, and said that "we, his colleagues, are proud to work under his inspiring leadership over the last nine years."

Mithi in his address said that the strong leadership of Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein would be "remembered in golden letters in the history of Arunachal Pradesh."

"Their combined efforts have brought unprecedented growth and progress to our state," he said, and added that Arunachal has touched new heights in development. "The people's unwavering trust in Khandu and Mein has marked this as a golden period of governance," he said.

"Under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state has transformed from being viewed only as a strategic border zone during other parties' regimes to becoming a land of peace and development in the BJP regime," Mithi said. He also mentioned that sanctioning of the Frontier Highway is a significant step towards further development and securing the state's international border.

Mithi further shared that the state budget has increased significantly - from Rs 9,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 39,000 crore today, reflecting the economic upliftment and infrastructural progress. (Contd. on P-3)



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Announces offline course for legal enthusiast on (BSA, BNS, BNSS & CPC). Class begins- 28 July. Center-Naharlagun, C-Sector. Contact : 6009127309/ 825903352.

JOB

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HIRING

Male candidate with sound computing skill is required for running cyber cafe at DNGC gate. Interested candidate may submit their resume/bio-data @ 8730943400. Perks negotiable for right candidate.

WANTED

(1) Librarian - M.L.I.Sc / B.L.I.Sc, (2) Hostel Warden - 12th Pass / Graduate. Arunachal Law Academy, Naharlagun. Apply at : [nlgfoundation5@gmail.com](mailto:nlgfoundation5@gmail.com) or WhatsApp 96816 54321.

REQUIRED

PGT Biology (residential) required for a reputed CBSE affiliated senior secondary school at Nlg, Arunachal Pradesh. Salary 38k fixed. T&C applied. The interested candidate may cont: 8798673332/ 8794007007.

REQUIRED

GB Bistro Disco Bar and Lounge staff requirement. Housekeeping male-2, Waiter/ Waitress-10, Captain-2, Receptionist-1. Interested person Cont. 9233691541.

WE ARE HIRING

Speech & Language Therapist. Qualification and prerequisites: a Bachelor's or Master's in speech and Language Pathology (BASLP/MASLP). Min 1 year of experience of working as speech and language Therapist with children. Cont: 8798601182 / 8729826683.

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JOB

REQUIRED

PGT Chemistry teacher for coaching institute at Yupia with free accommodation. Remuneration will be discuss. Cont: 9362063720.

MISCELLANEOUS

BOY'S PG

Newly opened Boys P.G single room available at Infinity Boys P.G, G-Extension, Backside SBI Bank, Nlg. 24 hrs electricity/ water & RO filter. 8132817819, 7005709884.

BORE WELL DRILLING.

For bore well drilling with high powered Rig, Casing pipe PVC/MS pipe. Contact: Hi Tech Bore well drilling and piling services. 8921601164 / 9394469339.

Netflix's espionage thriller

series 'Saare Jahan Se

Accha' to premiere August 13

MUMBAI, 17 Jul: Streaming service Netflix on Thursday announced that its latest original series "Saare Jahan Se Accha", a fictional espionage thriller headlined by actor Pratik Gandhi, will premiere on the platform on August 13.

Set against the politically charged backdrop of the 1970s, the show follows a covert intelligence operation to avert a looming nuclear threat.

Created by Gaurav Shukla and produced by Bombay Fables, "Saare Jahan Se Accha" stars Gandhi as meticulous and resilient intelligence officer Vishnu Shankar caught between duty, danger, and moral dilemmas.

The cast also features Sunny Hinduja, Suhail Nayyar, Kritika Kamra, Tillotama Shome, Rajat Kapoor and Anup Soni in pivotal roles.

"With 'Saare Jahan Se Accha', we've built a world that's urgent, intense, intimidating, and full of quiet tension. Playing intelligence officer Vishnu Shankar, someone who walks the tightrope between duty and morality, was one of the most challenging roles I've taken on," Gandhi said in a statement.

Directed by Sumit Purohit, the series explores the high-stakes world of intelligence where the slightest delay in relaying critical information could alter the nation's fate. (PTI)

Vaani Kapoor on cancel and boycott culture: Don't get this volatile behaviour

MUMBAI, 17 Jul: I don't get the cancel and boycott culture, says actor Vaani Kapoor, who believes that censorship in any form restricts an artist's freedom to take creative risks and explore new ideas.

In May, Vaani's romance drama movie "Abir Gulaal", also starring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, was set for release in Indian theatres but found itself in a controversy in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, an incident that renewed calls for boycott on Pakistani artists from politicians and trade organisations. The movie was not allowed to be released.

When asked how the recent events affected her, the actor spoke about the impact of censorship in the field of arts.

"I'm not so into censorship. I believe you can give a certificate... Sometimes what happens is there's no limit, there are times when I hear censorship, (I feel) they

Priyadarshan announces 'Haiwaan' with actors Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan

MUMBAI, 17 Jul: Filmmaker Priyadarshan has officially announced "Haiwaan", his upcoming film that reunites actors Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan.

The "Hera Pheri" director recently posted a picture of the two actors watching India vs England test match at Lord's Cricket Stadium in London on Instagram.

"Haiwaan'- my next film with @akshaykumar and Saif Ali Khan at Lord's," he wrote in the caption on Tuesday.

The details of the plot have been kept under wraps.

Akshay and Saif have shared the screen space in



many movies such as "Main Khiladi Tu Anari", "Yeh Dillagi", "Aarzo", "Tu Chor Main Sipahi" and "Keemat". They were last seen together in the 2008 action film "Tashan", which also featured Kareena Kapoor Khan and Anil Kapoor.

Akshay is working on

two more movies with Priyadarshan -- horror comedy "Bhoot Bangla" and the much-awaited third part of the "Hera Phera" franchise.

Saif Ali Khan was last seen in Netflix's "Jewel Thief" and also featured in films like "Devara: Part 1" and "Adipurush". (PTI)

Neeraj Ghaywan's 'Homebound' to be screened at Toronto International Film Festival

NEW DELHI, 17 Jul: Filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan's "Homebound" is set to be screened at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival.

The film, starring Ishaan Khatter, Jahnavi Kapoor and Vishal Jethwa, is part of the Gala Presentations line-up for the movie gala's 50th edition, which will be held from September 4 to 14.

Produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, "Homebound" had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May under the Un Certain Regard section.

Johar shared the news of the film heading to Toronto on his official Instagram page.

"#Homebound has been officially selected for the Toronto International Film Festival 2025 (@tiff\_net) in the Gala Presentations category. Extremely thrilled and elated to be a part of this prestigious

festival - another time for us at Dharma!!!" he wrote.

The other films in the Gala Presentations category include Chloe Zhao's "Hamnet", Derek Cianfrance's "Roofman", Rebecca Zlotowski's "A Private Life" and Nicholas Hytner's "The Choral".

"Homebound", which is executive produced by Hollywood legend Martin Scorsese, revolves around two childhood friends played by Khatter and Jethwa.

The official synopsis of the film reads: "Two childhood friends from a small North Indian village chase a police job that promises them the dignity they've long been denied. But as they inch closer to their dream, mounting desperation threatens the bond that holds them together."

The movie is inspired by the New York Times 2020 essay "Taking Amrit Home" by journalist Basharat Peer.

Disney Pixar's 'Hoppers' to release in Indian theatre on March 2026

NEW DELHI, 17 Jul: "Hoppers", an upcoming animated film from Disney Pixar, will be released in Indian theatres on March 6, 2026, the Hollywood studio has announced.

Written and directed by Daniel Chong, the movie features a voice cast that includes Piper Curda, Bobby Moynihan, and Hollywood star Jon Ham.

"Hoppers" tells the story of Mabel (Curda), a deter-

mined 19-year-old college student who uses cutting-edge technology to "hop" her consciousness into the body of a lifelike robotic beaver in order to protect a threatened forest glade from destruction, a press release said.

Mabel's journey from university life into the lush wilderness, where she navigates forest politics, befriends a flamboyant bear named King George, voiced by Moynihan, and tries to

stop the plans of the ambitious and sly Mayor Jerry, voiced by Hamm.

What starts as a covert mission becomes a surprising tale of belonging, identity, and environmental connection, read the official logline.

Chong is best known for his work on Cartoon Network's "We Bare Bears" and "We Bare Bears: The Movie". "Hoppers" is produced by Nicole Paradis Grindle. (PTI)

Our E-mail Address

Editor: [editor@arunachaltimes.com](mailto:editor@arunachaltimes.com)

News: [news@arunachaltimes.com](mailto:news@arunachaltimes.com)

Advertisement: [advnt@arunachaltimes.com](mailto:advnt@arunachaltimes.com)

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Help - Line

Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Services VOLVO Bus Services					
Sl No	Route	Day Service	Night Service	Service Day	Fare
1	ITANAGAR - TEZU	6:00 AM	7:00 PM	DAILY	820
2	TEZU - ITANAGAR	6:00 AM	7:00 PM	DAILY	820
3	ITANAGAR - NAMSAI	6:00 AM	7:00 PM	DAILY	660
4	NAMSAI - ITANAGAR	6:00 AM	7:00 PM	DAILY	660
5	ITANAGAR - GUWAHATI	6:00 AM	6:00 PM	DAILY	780
6	GUWAHATI - ITANAGAR	6:00 AM	7:00 PM	DAILY	780
7	ITANAGAR - ROING	7:00 AM	*	DAILY	690
8	ROING - ITANAGAR	6:00 AM	*	DAILY	690
9	ITANAGAR - SHILLONG	*	5:00 PM	DAILY	1035
10	SHILLONG - ITANAGAR	*	4:30 PM	DAILY	1035
11	TEZU-GUWAHATI (VICE-VERSA)	*	3:00 PM	MON,WED,FR	1290
12	NAMSAI-GUWAHATI (VICE-VERSA)	*	4:00 PM	MON,WED,FR	1150

OTHER NORMAL SERVICES

S/NO	ROUTES	DEPARTURE TIME	SERVICE DAY	FARE
1	ITANAGAR - DAPORIJO (VIA ZIRO) (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	SUN, TUES, THURS	660
2	ITANAGAR - RAGA (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	SUN, TUES, THURS	370
3	ITANAGAR - DUMPORIJO (VIA TIRIBIN) (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	MON, THURS, SAT	755
4	ITANAGAR - TIRIBIN (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	MON, THURS, SAT	655
5	ITANAGAR - BARIRIJO (VIA TIRIBIN)	5:30 AM	SUN,	685
6	ITANAGAR - KOLORIANG (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	MON, WED, FRI	600
7	ITANAGAR - PASIGHAT	5:30 AM	DAILY	540
8	PASIGHAT - ITANAGAR	12:30 PM	DAILY	540
9	ITANAGAR - TALI (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	TUES, THURS, SAT	800
11	ITANAGAR - TAWANG (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	MON, WED, FRI	1875
12	ITANAGAR - NYAPIN (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	SUN, TUES, THURS	485
13	ITANAGAR - LIKHABALI	5:30 AM	SUN, TUES, THURS	320
14	LIKHABALI - ITANAGAR	9:00 AM	MON, WED, FRI	320
15	ITANAGAR - KHONSA (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM & 6:00 AM	DAILY	710
16	ITANAGAR - WAKKA (VIA LONGDING)	5:30 AM	TUESDAY & FRIDAY	740
17	ITANAGAR - KAYING VIA AALO (VICE-VERSA)	5:30 AM	DAILY	730
18	ITANAGAR - AALO	5:30 AM	DAILY	620
19	ITANAGAR - CHANGLANG (FORCE CRUISER)	6:00 AM	DAILY	1225
20	ITANAGAR - CHANGLANG (FORCE TRAVELLER)	5:30 AM	DAILY	700
21	ITANAGAR - AALO	6:00 AM	DAILY	620
22	ITANAGAR - AALO	3:00 PM	DAILY	620
23	ITANAGAR - SEPPA	6:00 AM	DAILY	455
24	ITANAGAR - MIAO	6:00 AM	DAILY	710
25	ITANAGAR - YINGKIONG	6:00 AM	TUESDAY & FRIDAY	800
26	ITANAGAR - ROING	6:00 AM	MON, WED, FRI	550
27	ITANAGAR - LONGDING	6:00 AM	DAILY	700
28	ITANAGAR - ZIRO (VICE-VERSA)	8:00 AM	DAILY	220
29	ITANAGAR - PASIGHAT	9:00 AM	DAILY	540
30	PASIGHAT - ITANAGAR	6:00 AM	DAILY	540
31	ITANAGAR - NAMSAI	7:00 AM	DAILY	660
32	NRISBT - KALAKTANG	6:00 AM	MON, WED, FRI	1175
33	NRISBT - BOMDILA (XYLO)	6:00 AM	TUES, THURS, SUN	900
34	NRISBT - BOMDILA (SEMI-DELUXE)	5:00 PM	DAILY	770

Ticket can be booked online at [www.apsts.arunachal.gov.in](http://www.apsts.arunachal.gov.in)

Booking Counter/ Enquiry Nos.: Itanagar - 9774034571, NRISBT- 8794272203, 8798075557



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Enquiry : 0360 3519664

Office : 9436631237

NIBA HOSPITAL, PAPU NALLAH

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Emergency : 8099871783

HORMIN HOSPITAL, NAHARLAGUN

Reception : 7640887371

HEEMA HOSPITAL, ITANAGAR

8794236321

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Dy. Medical Superintendent-I: 9612484249, Dy. Medical Superintendent-II: 9436052156

Ambulance Service : 9862709467 Free Ambulance Service : 108

POLICE

Emergency Response Support

System (ERSS) for Medical: 112,

Police and Fire Capital Police Control Room : 6009909795

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NARCOTICS HELPLINE CELL : 9362812717

EMERGENCY MEDICAL HELPLINE NUMBER

104

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Toll Free Number: 1930 (Time 9 AM to 6 PM)

CHILD LINE : 1098

WOMAN HELPLINE : 181

PUROIK HELPLINE NUMBER : 7085721317

CMAAY GRIEVANCE CELL : 9402914555

AYUSHMAN BHARAT : 8956048405

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HELPLINE NUMBERS: 0360-2218710 (LANDLINE), 7005752266 (MOBILE)

ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU, CIVIL SECRETARIAT, ITANAGAR

HELPLINE NUMBER : 9436040040

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Madee Green Solutions at [madeegreensolutions@gmail.com](mailto:madeegreensolutions@gmail.com)  
9856080078 / 8798076591



## School witnessing...

(From P-1) Today, the school is thriving and is witnessing a rise in enrollment, too. As of now, 56 students are enrolled in the school. But it was not easy for Wangsa, as when he took over the school was in a dilapidated condition and had only one teacher.

First, he renovated the teacher's quarters, so that the teacher could stay on campus. "I initiated the construction of the teacher's quarters and encouraged the teacher to stay on campus. Next, the staff room and office were improved. After that, I took up the improvement of desks, benches, and toilets," said Wangsa.

After that, he improved the infrastructure of the school building and ensured regular midday meals for the students. With the help of Arunachal Shiksha Vikas Samiti, one more teacher was recruited. "Now we have two teachers who are taking care of the school. The fencing of the school has also been erected. We are hoping to have one more teacher in the coming session," he added.

Wangsa also regularly visits the school and takes personal initiatives to support the teachers and students. He is doing everything, mostly from his contributions.

Seeing his interest, the Education Department extended help by providing small grants for office stationery and white boards.

## Tribal woman entitled...

(From P-1) It was held so for the reason that no evidence had been led to show that the children of a woman heir were also entitled to property.

A provision of the Hindu Succession Act lays down that the law of succession should not apply to the members of scheduled tribes unless the Union of India, by notification in the official gazette, otherwise directs.

The provision stipulates that a daughter in a scheduled tribe community cannot legally demand her share in the father's property.

The top court's judgement said the issue also involved the question of violation of Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

"There appears to be no rational nexus or reasonable classification for only males to be granted succession over the property of their forebears and not women, more so in the case where no prohibition to such effect can be shown to be prevalent as per law."

The bench went on, "Article 15(1) states that the state shall not discriminate against any person on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. This, along with Articles 38 and 46, points to the collective ethos of the Constitution in ensuring that there is no discrimination against women."

The top court said denying the mother her share in her father's property, when the custom is silent, would violate her right to equality vis-à-vis her brothers or those of her legal heirs vis-à-vis their cousin.

"Keeping with the principles of justice, equity and good conscience, read along with the over arching effect of Article 14 of the Constitution, the appellant-plaintiffs, being her legal heirs, are entitled to their equal share in the property," it held. (PTI)

## Bogong Banggo villages...

(From P-1) From Rengging to Berung, all village units took part in the event, showing unity and faith in their shared traditions. Local MLA Tapi Darang also joined the gathering, supporting the community and its cultural beliefs.

Bogong Banggo Kebang president Basalung Jamoh said, "It's saddening to experience a drought, specifically when the season of cropping has arrived already. This ritual performed by the Bogong Banggo Kebang is not only for the welfare of our Adi people but for all the local units. We wish a prosperous cultivation for everyone. This ritual of the Adi community not only reflects the people's strong connection with nature but also their deep respect for the traditions passed down through generations."

## Students sit on...

(From P-1) In light of the above, the following instructions are hereby issued for strict compliance," Tak stated.

He directed the ISSE/Samagra Shiksha state project director and deputy state project director to submit a detailed, school-wise report on furniture supplied during the last three years, specifying the quantity, date of supply, and current installation status, within seven days from the date of the issuing of the order.

He also directed all the DDSEs to conduct a thorough cross-verification at the school level to ascertain the status of the supplied furniture in the last three years and submit a verified, school-wise report on the actual receipt and installation of furniture within a period of seven days.

"The reports from both the SPD office and the DDSEs are to be submitted to the directorate without fail within the stipulated timeframe. Non-compliance with this order will be viewed seriously and may attract disciplinary action," the commissioner iterated.

## Ogin Nayam wins...

(From P-1) for the clouds to keep them warm, interacts with the many creatures in the spiritual realm, and finally sleeps a sleepless night - for does the sun really sleep?

Just like the soft and subdued tones that liven up this narrative, Nayam creates a beautiful yet subtle blend of indigenous philosophy with the material and cultural realities of the larger Indian subcontinent, opening up many a window for self-reflection and contemplation.

Since his entry into the world of children's book as an illustrator, Nayam's work has captured many hearts and earned many awards and accolades over the years.

Asamo, is That You?, a book on monsters from lores across the Northeast, co-authored and illustrated by Ogin Nayam and Canato Jimo (best illustrator, 2024) holds the title of Book of the Year - Best Overall Design, 2022, awarded by FICCI Publishing Awards. Home, a book that captures the painful journey of refugees, authored by Fausto Aarya De Santis and illustrated by Ogin Nayam holds the title, Children's book of the Year - English, 2022, awarded by FICCI Publishing Awards.

Both these books, along with his other illustrated books - Tine and the Faraway Mountain and We Hope - are also listed books in the Parag honour list.

## Arunachal urges Centre...

(From P-1) He said that, buoyed by the positive assurance, the state government shared the development with the public through the local media, raising expectations among the citizens.

Raja noted that the new terminal building at the Donyi Polo Airport (Hollongi) is nearing completion and is expected to be inaugurated in the first week of August. He urged the civil aviation ministry to act on the earlier commitments in the larger public interest.

"The people of this easternmost state of India had long dreamt of robust air connectivity, and it finally began to materialise with the inauguration of Donyi Polo Airport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18 November, 2022," he said.

He also informed the union minister that Arunachal is set to host the 3rd Northeast Aviation Summit in Itanagar on 5 September this year, as was also discussed during their earlier meeting.

Raja sought continued cooperation and guidance from the ministry in strengthening the aviation sector in the state.(PTI)

## Jairampur conferred...

(From P-1) was received by Arunachal Pradesh Urban Affairs Minister Balo Raja and Urban Affairs Commissioner Vivek Pandey on behalf of the state.

Following the award ceremony, a meeting of urban development ministers was convened at the same venue, bringing together union and state ministers, commissioners, and senior officials from across the country to deliberate key urban priorities.

The meeting featured sharing of best practices under various missions, as well as roundtable discussions on key themes, including garbage-free cities, water security, urban governance, and housing-service convergence. Dedicated sessions also focused on the progress under the SBM (U) and the PMAY (U).

During the meeting, Raja made a strong appeal for a revised funding policy tailored to the unique needs of hilly and Northeastern states. He urged the ministry to relax the population eligibility criteria to 5,000 for small towns and district headquarters, stating that the current per capita-based funding model under the SBM-U and AMRUT excludes several deserving urban areas in Arunachal.

Emphasizing the state's ecological importance -with over 80% forest cover - Raja stressed that the vision of a Viksit Bharat must include equitable urban development in frontier regions.

He further called for a separate, flexible funding mechanism for the Northeast, and sought immediate support under the urban challenge fund to address the state's pending proposals and urban reform agenda.

# Natung visits agri college site, lays foundation stones for projects

**WATTE, 17 Jun:** Indigenous Affairs Minister Mama Natung on Thursday visited the construction site of the agriculture college here in Bana circle of East Kameng district.

The minister expressed deep gratitude to the people of Watte for their generous donation of 33 hectares of land for the establishment of the college. "I am very much grateful to the people of Watte for their generosity to donate 33 hectares of land for the establishment of the agri-

culture college in the greater interest of the district and the state," said Natung.

During the visit, the minister also laid the foundation stones for a 150-metre span RCC bridge over the Kameng river, which will connect Kaffla with the agriculture college, and a dedicated water supply project for the agriculture college.

Commending the PWD for completing 30% of the project work ahead of schedule, the minister said

that the establishment of the agriculture college would significantly boost agricultural education opportunities and contribute to the socioeconomic development of East Kameng and the state at large.

The minister was accompanied by Watte ZPM Pritam Yangda Neri, Papum Valley ZPM Lada Tayem, Agriculture Secretary Samuel Changkija, PWD Joint Secretary Mika Nyori, East Kameng DC Himanshu Nigam, public leaders, GBs, and others.

# AOA welcomes decision to revive Arunachal State Games

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** The Arunachal Olympic Association (AOA) on Thursday welcomed the state government's decision to revive the Arunachal State Games on an annual basis, and decided to fix a permanent date for the event.

During a meeting held at the Dorjee Khandu Convention Centre here, the AOA also decided to participate in the proposed 4th North-east Games to be hosted by the Tripura Olympic Association in Agartala from 26 October to 2 November.

"A four-member committee has been formed to study and submit an action plan for Olympic Games-

qualified state sports disciplines affiliated with theAOA," it stated in a release.

The meeting unanimously approved the amendments to the AOA's memorandum and rules and regulationssubmitted by three expert committee members.

In a major decision, the AOA de-affiliated 22 sports associations after repeated notifications due to their underperformance for the last many years, while an ad hoc committee will be constituted for the Arunachal Athletics Association.

The meeting approved the expenditure statements

presented by the treasurer with regard to the 38th National Games, the 3rd North-east Games, and the 4th Arunachal State Games.

The meeting emphasized the need for collaboration between the government and sports associations to achieve the objectives of the Olympic mission as announced by the chief minister.

"The AOA is committed to promoting sports development in Arunachal Pradesh and identifying talented athletes to represent the state at national and international levels," said AOA general secretary Bamang Tago.

# Career counselling prog organized

## Prem Chetry

**LHOU, 17 Jul:** The All Rhebla Gangsum Students' Union organized a career counselling session for students of Class 6 to 12 at the Government Higher Secondary School here in Tawang district on Thursday.

Motivating the students, Tawang Deputy Commissioner Namgyal Angmo shared her inspiring journey from a remote village in Ladakh to cracking the UPSC examination. She explained that she hailed from a small village where she completed her early schooling before moving to Maharashtra.

She graduated from a university in the USA and earned a master's degree in Delhi. After working for two years in the private sector, she left her job to focus on preparing for the UPSC examination. Her hard work paid off, and she became an IAS officer in the 2020 batch.

"If you opt for arts because you fear maths and science, it is not a choice but a compulsion. Your choice of stream should align with your interests," she said, emphasizing that pursuing one's interests - not fear-driven decisions - shapes a successful career.

Meanwhile, Aka Tulku Tsering Chaijee Rinpoche,

vice president of the Indian Himalayan Council of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition, encouraged the students, saying, "You have the freedom to choose what to study, unlike us, who must study the Bhoti language, Buddhist philosophy, and scriptures. Therefore, make choices that reflect your passions."

He advised the students to respect their parents and teachers, and highlighted that Classes 10 and 12 are pivotal moments in shaping their careers. Additionally, he advised the students to stay away from drugs and other harmful substances that could derail their lives.

# NMBCC, NCORD meeting held

**LEMMI, 17 Jul:** A joint meeting of the district-level Nasha Mukti Bharat Campaign Committee (NMBCC) and the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) of Pakke-Kessang, organized jointly by the WCD and the Police Departments, was held here in Pakke-Kessang district on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by, among others, HGBs/GBs, PRI leaders, master volunteers of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, ZPM Sunil Nabam, DC Bani Lego, SP Tasi Darang, and HoDs.

On the occasion, awareness on substance abuse and its ill-effects on individuals - emotionally, economically and socially - was imparted by resource persons from the Health and Family Welfare Department and the

Police Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC and the SP dwelt on the ill-effects of drugs and their consequences. Both urged the youths to keep away from the dreaded menace and appealed to all stakeholders to join the fight against drug abuse.

They also instructed all the participating GBs and master volunteers to keep strict vigil in their respective areas, and to report to the nearest police station if they find anything suspicious, including cultivation of cannabis.

Earlier, Child Development Programme Officer (HQ) SC Tok outlined the objectives of the programme and the status of the activities carried out in the district. He also high-

## Fish markets inspected

**BOMDILA, 17 Jul:** West Kameng Food Safety Officer DKesang Yeshi Tukshipa inspected various fish markets here on Thursday.

The inspection focused on detecting the presence of formalin in fish - a harmful chemical sometimes used to preserve freshness. Samples were carefully examined on-site, and awareness was also spread among vendors about the health risks associated with chemical contamination.

The initiative aimed to safeguard consumers and maintain strict vigilance on food safety standards in the district. (DIPRO)

## ICR DA issues...

(From P-1) CC pavement road from Ganga market to Jullang is in a "hazardous condition," posing a serious threat to vehicular/pedestrian movement.

The administration has directed the PWD CD-B EE to put up barriers and display notices/signboards at both the ends of the vulnerable road portion, and to initiate restoration of the road at the earliest. (DIPRO)

## One arrested...

(From P-1) The accused woman had been jailed for three months last year after being caught with 10 grams of heroin. She was out on bail at the time of her arrest, a police officer said.

Further investigation is underway. (PTI)

## Sumbachu SHP verified ...

(From P-1) The development follows a formal notification received from the UCR and project partner Creduce Technologies Pvt Ltd, one of India's largest renewable energy and carbon credit advisory firms. The project, which comprises two 1.5 mw Pelton turbine generators, has already earned 16,326 tonnes of carbon credits as of mid-2023, and aims to secure an additional 97,783 tonnes of carbon credits by 2028.

The foundation for this achievement was laid on 13 December, 2021, when the HPDCAPL signed a memorandum of understanding with Creduce Technologies Pvt Ltd, headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This partnership marked the beginning of Arunachal Pradesh' formal entry into the carbon credit ecosystem, with the HPDCAPL becoming the first renewable energy entity in the state to claim and monetize carbon credits.

HPDCAPL Chairman Toko Onuj said the corporation is working to become a leading contributor to India's voluntary carbon market from the Northeast

"As the only commissioned project of the HPDCAPL, the 3 mw Sumbachu SHP plays a pivotal role in supporting the corporation's operational and financial sustainability. Its verified status under the UCR framework further enhances its role in climate action and sustainable development," said Onuj.

Earlier, initiatives were taken by the HPDCAPL regarding a sensitisation programme on carbon neutrality held on 25 March, 2025. The sensitisation programme was attended by key stakeholders such as the NABARD, the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, major banks, and Creduce Technologies.

The discussions focused on market potential, regulatory frameworks, and financial mechanisms for achieving India's net-zero targets.

## State BJP celebrates...



(From P-1) "Our chief minister continues to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people, supported strongly by the committed BJP karyakartas across the state," Mithi said.

"The event reflected a shared sense of pride, unity, and dedication towards continuing Arunachal Pradesh' journey of transformation and prosperity under the guidance of Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, with the strong backing of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the faith of the people of Arunachal Pradesh," the party stated in a press release.

ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड

Oil India Limited

P.O. Duliajan - 786602, Assam, India. CIN: L11101AS1959GOI001148

ENGAGEMENT ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

(NOTIFICATION NO. HRAQ/CONT-EX-B/25-224 dated 18/07/2025)

Oil India Limited intends to engage Contractual Chemist (Laboratory) in Oil India Limited, Field Headquarters (FHQ), Duliajan. All details viz. date of Walk-in-Interview, reporting time, venue, eligibility criteria etc., for Walk-in-Interview of Contractual Chemist (Laboratory) in Oil India Limited, Field Headquarters (FHQ), Duliajan are included in the detailed advertisement. Please read the detailed advertisement carefully which is available in the website of Oil India Limited i.e. [www.oil-india.com](http://www.oil-india.com) under OIL for All menu > Career at OIL > Current Openings section.

Urgent Requirement

Hiring for a Reputed Company in

Arunachal Pradesh

Post: Senior Customer Relationship Manager

Job Description: Manage client relationships, drive customer satisfaction and lead CRM initiatives. Strong communication and interpersonal skills required.

Experience: Minimum 5 Years

Location: Itanagar, Naharlagun

CTC: Rs. 7 Lacs p.a

Post: Senior Human resources Manager

Job Description: Lead HR operations, recruitment, and policy execution. Strong communication, leadership, and organizational skills essential.

Experience - Minimum 10 Years

Location - Itanagar, Naharlagun

CTC : Rs. 9 Lacs p.a

Contact details

Email: [arunachalmanpowerconsultancy@gmail.com](mailto:arunachalmanpowerconsultancy@gmail.com)

Note : Direct Hiring by Company. No agency



Thought of the day

“The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.”  
~ Thomas Huxley ~

The Arunachal Times

Finish NH-415

Work under Package B of National Highway (NH) 415, the main highway of the state capital, is way behind schedule, with the overall physical progress currently at 44.56 percent, leaving 55.44 percent of the work still pending.

The total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs 341.71 crore, of which Rs 151.64 crore has already been released.

The stretch of the highway involving a flyover - 3.95 km from Hotel Benjamin in Papu Nallah to Model Village in Naharlagun - is being developed under the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

It was originally scheduled for completion by December 2024, but the deadline has now been extended to 31 July, 2026.

The construction of the highway and flyover has faced repeated delays and unnecessary interruptions, largely due to the inefficiency and lack of commitment from the contractors, who have failed to deliver despite several years having passed.

The project authorities must ensure that this critical section of the road is completed on time. Persistent traffic congestion and poor road conditions have become a norm over the years due to ongoing construction activities. Therefore, it is imperative that the work is completed and the revised deadline is strictly adhered to.

**Financial literacy workshop conducted**

**ITANAGAR, 17 Jul:** A financial literacy workshop for students was organized at PM SHRI KV No 2 here on Thursday by managers and assistant managers from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI officials enlightened the students with practical insights into banking, savings, digital transactions, and the importance of financial planning.

The session not only enhanced students' awareness but also encouraged responsible financial behaviour from an early age, the school stated in a release.

The workshop aimed at equipping young minds with essential financial knowledge and money management skills, crucial for daily life.

**30 more placements in Amazon from Graphic Era**

**DEHRADUN, 17 Jul:** Global tech giant Amazon has extended placement offers to 30 more students from Graphic Era Deemed University and Graphic Era Hill University, offering packages of Rs 47.88 lakhs. With this, Graphic Era has set a new benchmark in placements with top multinational companies.

During this academic session, students from BTech programmes at Graphic Era have received placement packages as high as Rs 61.99 lakhs. Among the top package recipients are students from both Graphic Era Deemed University and Graphic Era Hill University campuses in Dehradun, Haldwani, and Bhimtal.

Dr Rajesh Pokhriyal, placement coordinator at Graphic Era, informed that over 4,550 students have already received placement offers from leading companies across India and abroad this session.

the purview of statutory bodies such as the AICTE, COA, PCI, INC, ANMHVC, BCI, or similar regulatory councils."

Prof Singh further said that, in addition to these two categories of scholarships, the RGU has consistently extended a range of other scholarship schemes to its students since its inception.

The university also offers a complete scholarship to students from the economically weaker sections of society under the Royal Scholarship for EWS.

Through these inclusive and merit-based scholarship schemes, Assam Royal Global University continues to strengthen its commitment to accessible, equitable, and holistic education.

**DRI nabs foreign national woman on bus with crystal meth worth Rs 7.63 cr**

**PUNE, 17 Jul:** The Pune unit of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested a foreign national from a bus on the Mumbai-Bengaluru highway and allegedly seized 3.815 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine worth Rs 7.63 crore from her, an official said on Thursday.

The woman, who was travelling from Delhi to the Karnataka capital, was held on a specific tip-off that she was carrying psychotropic substances, the DRI official said. (PTI)

Science motivational prog held

**NAHARLAGUN, 17 Jul:** The North East Institute of Science & Technology's (NEIST) branch here organised a 'science motivational programme' under Project Jigyasa at the institute's premises on Thursday.

"The aim of the programme was to ignite scientific curiosity and promote hands-on learning among young minds," the NEIST informed in a release.

As part of the programme, a group of 22 students (class toppers) from Class 9 to 12, accompanied by two of their science teachers from PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Itanagar, visited the NEIST branch in G Sector.

NEIST scientist-in-charge Dr Chandan Tamuly introduced the institute's mission, research focus, and societal relevance. He assured to provide all support and help relevant to science projects to the students. The students visited different labs for small/simple scientific experiments, and gained understanding of the sophisticated facilities available at the institute.

The group was guided by a team of researchers and laboratory officials to different scientific laboratories, where they witnessed live demonstrations of various scientific experiments. The visiting students were given detailed explanations about the laboratory instruments, techniques, and ongoing research projects.

Following the lab sessions, the students were brought together for an engaging awareness and training programme on mushroom cultivation. Under the guidance of experts, the students learned about the process and importance of mushroom farming, and also had the opportunity to prepare their own mushroom cultivation bags.

The visit concluded with a tour of the institute's pilot plant, where the students received hands-on training in vermicomposting and biofertilizer preparation.

**India test-fires nuclear-capable Agni, Prithvi missiles**

**NEW DELHI, 17 Jul:** India on Thursday successfully test-fired nuclear-capable short range ballistic missiles Prithvi-II and Agni-I from an integrated test range off the Odisha coast, demonstrating its strategic deterrence capability.

The test-firing of the missiles, conducted by the elite Strategic Forces Command, validated all operational and technical parameters, according to the defence ministry.

On Wednesday, India successfully test-fired indigenously developed Akash Prime missile in Ladakh that has been customised to operate at an altitude above 4,500 metres.

The test-firing of the missiles came over two months after the May 7-10 military conflict between India and Pakistan.

Both Prithvi-II and Agni-I missiles have been an integral part of India's nuclear deterrence.

"Short-range ballistic missiles — Prithvi-II and Agni-I — were successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha on July 17," the ministry said in a brief statement.

It said the launches "validated all operational and technical parameters. "These tests were conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command," the ministry said.

On test-firing of Akash missile, the ministry said it carries added significance as it follows the "exceptional performance" of India's indigenously developed air defence systems during Operation Sindoor.

Akash Prime is an upgraded variant of the Akash weapon system built for the Indian Army.

The test-firing of the missile in Ladakh assumed significance as it is close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"India on July 16 achieved a significant milestone by successfully destroying two aerial high speed unmanned targets at high-altitude in Ladakh by Akash Prime, the upgraded variant of Akash weapon system for the Indian Army," the ministry said in a separate statement. (PTI)

to dominate. District-wise reservation acts as a complementary mechanism, helping distribute opportunities more evenly across both ethnicity and geography.

This policy must not be viewed as divisive, but rather as a bridge towards true pan-Arunachal harmony - where no region is left behind. With proper checks and periodic review, district-based quotas can serve as a temporary but transformative tool to uplift lagging districts and build a more equitable and united Arunachal.

Let us not fear decentralisation of opportunity. True unity lies in balanced representation, shared growth, and collective empowerment.

**Aspirant**

China backs Russia's initiative to revive Russia-India-China troika

and the world."

China stands ready to maintain communication with Russia and India on advancing the trilateral cooperation, he said.

The Russian and Chinese interests in the revival of the RIC followed the recent visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to China to take part in the SCO foreign ministers' meeting, during which he held talks with top Chinese officials, including Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Joint work in the RIC format was stalled, first because of the coronavirus and later by the India-China military standoff in eastern Ladakh in 2020, Lavrov said last year.

The Ladakh standoff resulted in the freeze of India-China relations for over four years. The bilateral ties revived after a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan last year on the sidelines of the BRICS summit.

Since then, there has been a steady dialogue process between the two countries to normalise relations.

Jaishankar's recent trip came after the visits of NSA Ajit Doval and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to China.

Lavrov said in May that Russia, which shares close ties with India and China, is "genuinely interested" in the revival of the RIC format.

He said the trilateral mechanism initiated by Russia's former prime minister Yevgeny Primakov resulted in 20 meetings between the three countries at various levels.

The three countries were the prime movers of the formation of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and the New Development Bank (NDB) of the grouping, which now includes 10 members.

A host of issues, including the growing rivalry between India and China and Beijing's persistent backing of its all-weather ally Pakistan in its anti-India acts, diluted the RIC's relevance and importance.

Of late, there is increasing Russian and Chinese interest in the revival of RIC as India has become a member of Quad - the emerging alliance of the US, India, Japan and Australia, which is seen by Beijing as a grouping aimed at containing its rise.

For its part, Russia is concerned over the emerging closer ties between India and the European Union against the backdrop of its continued war against Ukraine, according to the Russian analysts.

Lidia Kulik, a senior researcher at the Centre for Indian Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, believes that any format of cooperation in Eurasia is useful because the continent has long been tired of endless conflicts.

For India, relations with Russia traditionally play an important role, given that New Delhi and Beijing have problems. Moscow's involvement creates prospects for cooperation in the RIC format, Kulik told Izvestia. (PTI)

**Readers' Forum**

**Editor,**

Through your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the district administration of the capital to the issue of parking spaces in the market premises in Ganga area.

The market area, right from Akashdeep to RK Mission, always seems to be busy during morning hours when people come out for visiting doctors at RK Mission Hospital, and during evening hours when people usually come out for shopping for household grocery items. At these times, it is very difficult to find a parking place, especially for four wheelers, whereas the RK Mission complex and Akashdeep complex have limited parking spaces for visitors and commuters.

Further, the colony roads in and around the RK Mission area and Akashdeep complex, such as G Sector, F&G Sector and F Sector, always have roadside parking which creates obstacles to the movement of other vehicles. It also creates hurdles for school buses, gas vehicles, etc, to pass through.

In view of above, it is suggested that the authority concerned may initiate necessary directives for proper use of the multistorey car parking facility at the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Services complex, Itanagar, which has the capacity to hold about 200 cars. The parking facility was inaugurated on 19 February by the chief minister for public use. But due to lack of awareness among the public, it is not being widely used by commuters.

Further, the authority may also restrict roadside parking in sector roads to avoid traffic congestion, and make it mandatory to park vehicles at the multistorey car parking facility at APSTS complex.

**Shashi Ranjan Kumar, F&G Sector, Itanagar**

**Workplace violence against migrant workers**

**Editor,**

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to highlight the recent death of two migrant workers from Assam in Arunachal Pradesh.

The recent infrastructure investment booming in Arunachal, spurred by the discovery of rare earth materials and growing strategic concerns over Chinese incursions has led to a marked rise in migrant labourers. There is a degree of 'dependency syndrome' in the state where most youths remain unemployed, and there is less availability of local labourers in blue-collar professions.

Notably, the Mising community of Assam, who share Tani ancestry with Arunachal tribes, has come forward to help the state. But tragically, this shared heritage has not prevented workplace violence - two recent grievous attacks against Mising people, one involving a machete and another a firearm, arose from construction site-related disputes. It is respectfully submitted before the Arunachal DGP that in light of recent developments, the machete used in the first incident under reference qualifies prima facie as a 'dangerous weapon' under the scope of the Arms Act, 1959. Given that it was used intentionally to inflict fatal harm, it is therefore respectfully requested to consider registering the weapon as an unlicensed arm and invoke relevant provisions of the Arms Act against the accused.

There exists a credible risk of recurrence, considering the gravity of the offence and its wider social fallout. Though these attacks are framed as individual criminal acts, these are not isolated incidents but symptoms of a deeper societal malaise. The state must urgently invest in vocational training of local youths to pursue dignified blue-collar work near the districts where heavy infrastructure is under progress. Simultaneously, migrant labourers must be protected under codified safety norms, and the local labour officer should be directed to register those workers under the e-Shram portal, and as on 16 March, 2023 data available, only 32.07% has been registered in the state. Thereafter, the official must provide dry ration to them under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).

Our Constitution imposes an obligation on the part of the state to protect the dignity of the individual at all places, including at the workplace. It is reflected under Article 42 and 43 of the Indian Constitution. It is, therefore, an earnest appeal before the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh and also its kind people to protect the labourers from any kind of harassment, as they come to work for the development of your state, leaving behind their family members.

**Shahin Yusuf, Guwahati, Assam**

In support of district-wise domicile reservation for DC office posts

**Editor,**

Through the columns of your esteemed publication, I wish to express my support for the policy of district-wise domicile reservation in the APSSB examinations for DC office posts.

Though viewed as controversial by some, this policy is a progressive and inclusive step towards ensuring balanced regional development across Arunachal Pradesh.

Ours is a vast and diverse state where access to quality education, coaching facilities, and employment opportunities varies widely among districts. Aspirants from remote and underdeveloped areas often face systemic disadvantages and remain underrepresented in open competition - not due to lack of merit, but due to lack of equal opportunity.

District-wise reservation seeks to ensure fair representation from all corners of the state, especially the most backward and neglected regions. It helps address historical imbalances, empowers local communities, and promotes inclusive governance. Every district - whether central or border - deserves a fair chance in the state's development narrative.

While merit must always be upheld, equity is equally essential in a welfare-oriented society. The existing scheduled tribe (ST) reservation does not automatically ensure geographic representation, as candidates from more developed or urban areas may continue

APPSC website crash and need for transparent exam process

**Editor,**

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I wish to bring to the attention of the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) chairman and secretary the persistent issues faced by aspirants due to the commission's poor digital infrastructure and lack of transparency.

It has been over three days since the commission announced the release of admit cards for the assistant engineer (AE) recruitment test, yet aspirants are still unable to download them. The official website remains non-functional, constantly crashing or failing to load - creating anxiety and confusion among candidates.

This is not the first time that such a technical failure has disrupted the recruitment process. It is extremely disappointing that APPSC, our state's premier recruiting body, still operates with an outdated system that cannot handle even 4,000 to 5,000 applicants, while other states manage 30,000 to 50,000 candidates smoothly through robust and efficient platforms. Such recurring issues reflect poorly on the commission's credibility and raise concerns about its preparedness and professionalism.

Furthermore, the APPSC should ensure greater transparency in its examination process. It should publish the total number of applicants, along with their names and qualifications, prior to the recruitment test - just as was

Car parking issue in the capital

**Editor,**

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The market area, right from Akashdeep to RK Mission, always seems to be busy during morning hours when people come out for visiting doctors at RK Mission Hospital, and during evening hours when people usually come out for shopping for household grocery items. At these times, it is very difficult to find a parking place, especially for four wheelers, whereas the RK Mission complex and Akashdeep complex have limited parking spaces for visitors and commuters.

Further, the colony roads in and around the RK Mission area and Akashdeep complex, such as G Sector, F&G Sector and F Sector, always have roadside parking which creates obstacles to the movement of other vehicles. It also creates hurdles for school buses, gas vehicles, etc, to pass through.

In view of above, it is suggested that the authority concerned may initiate necessary directives for proper use of the multistorey car parking facility at the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Services complex, Itanagar, which has the capacity to hold about 200 cars. The parking facility was inaugurated on 19 February by the chief minister for public use. But due to lack of awareness among the public, it is not being widely used by commuters.

Further, the authority may also restrict roadside parking in sector roads to avoid traffic congestion, and make it mandatory to park vehicles at the multistorey car parking facility at APSTS complex.

**Shashi Ranjan Kumar, F&G Sector, Itanagar**

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**Shashi Ranjan Kumar, F&G Sector, Itanagar**

labourers must be protected under codified safety norms, and the local labour officer should be directed to register those workers under the e-Shram portal, and as on 16 March, 2023 data available, only 32.07% has been registered in the state. Thereafter, the official must provide dry ration to them under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).

Our Constitution imposes an obligation on the part of the state to protect the dignity of the individual at all places, including at the workplace. It is reflected under Article 42 and 43 of the Indian Constitution. It is, therefore, an earnest appeal before the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh and also its kind people to protect the labourers from any kind of harassment, as they come to work for the development of your state, leaving behind their family members.

**Shahin Yusuf, Guwahati, Assam**



# Arunachal - From frontier land to futureland

Rup J Pater

Once upon a time - to be precise, nine years ago (to be very precise 17 July, 2016) - Arunachal Pradesh was a beautiful but distant dream for many. Scenic? Yes. Serene? Absolutely. But fast and futuristic? Maybe not so much. Fast forward to today, and we have a transformation story that could easily rival any Bollywood underdog-to-hero saga.

The economic growth story is nothing short of phenomenal. The state's gross state domestic product (GSDP) has witnessed a staggering rise of 166% over the past decade - jumping from Rs 17,959 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 47,823 crore in 2024-25. This 2.6-times increase reflects not just a statistical surge but a deeper economic transformation powered by fiscal discipline, infrastructure investment, and inclusive development. From a slow climb in the early 2010s, the GSDP trajectory took off post-2016, marking Arunachal's emergence as a rising economic powerhouse in the Northeast.

Yes, under the leadership of Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Arunachal has swapped its sleepy image for a dazzling digital dazzle. From hydropower to highways, e-governance to ecotourism, the state is on a turbocharged mission to re-

define itself.

Picture this: 13,000+ km of new roads criss-crossing the hills like arteries pumping life into remote corners. From Vijaynagar to Tali, areas that once took days to reach can now be accessed with a sigh of relief and a smartphone GPS.

Rural roads expanded under the PMGSY alone have connected 1,187 habitations, while 2,506 kms of roads in border areas have brought accessibility to 252 remote villages.

The momentum doesn't stop there. The 1,839-km Frontier Highway project, sanctioned with a massive investment of Rs 55,000 crore, promises to stitch together strategic locations from Bomdila to Vijaynagar. The CM's Comprehensive State Road Development Plan (CMCSRDP) is also hard at work. With Rs 500 crore allocated for Phase II, a total of 393.57 kms of roads have been constructed so far under a total sanction of Rs 965.99 crore.

Need electricity? Arunachal is not just generating enough for itself - it's on the way to becoming a power-surplus powerhouse, with 1,270 mw of installed hydropower capacity.

From being a power-deficit state, it is now the second power-surplus state in the Northeast. Hydropower capacity increased by 213% - from 405 mw to 1,270 mw. Over 3 lakh households

have been electrified. The state now aims to tap its full potential of 58,000 mw, with 13 new hydropower projects totalling 15,000 mw beginning construction within the next three years.

You thought the state was remote? Well, now it's digitally connected with 4G in 3,500+ villages and 5G in all districts. Yes, you read that right - 5G! Even your city cousin stuck with buffering Netflix is jealous.

To be frank, the digital revolution has been impressive. Over 3,065 villages now enjoy 4G telecom services, and all districts are 5G connected.

And yes, in a move that would make Steve Jobs smile from the clouds, the government launched CM Dashboard, e-Bhavishya, and e-Pragati, making bureaucracy finally go 'digital-first'. The introduction of e-Office in 971 offices, with over 2.45 lakh files created and 6.5 million file movements, signifies a complete digitization of governance.

And the pièce de résistance? The Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar, which has brought the state capital into India's aviation map. Commercial flights now operate from Pasighat, Tezu, and Ziro, and intra-state air connectivity is supported by eight operational advanced landing grounds and 25+ helicopter service locations.

Let's face it. Government

schemes have long been the stuff of mythical creatures - often heard of, rarely seen. But in Arunachal, they are now as real as your morning chai.

Enter Seva Aapke Dwar 2.0 (with version 3.0 already in the oven). These mega service camps are not just red-tape tamasha - this is governance on foot, with babus turning into foot soldiers, marching into far-flung areas armed with certificates, awareness pamphlets, and an unwavering determination to leave no eligible citizen behind.

With over 1,051 camps and 15 lakh+ beneficiaries, this model ensures saturation of schemes, real-time data monitoring, and direct engagement with citizens.

And the numbers are inspiring. Under the Dulari Kanya Scheme, 12,174 beneficiaries have received support. The Chief Minister Aarogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) has reached 1,53,284 families, covering over 6.5 lakh individuals. Another 791 youths have undergone training through the CM Yuva Kaushal Yojana.

Employment generation has seen an uptick through the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Swavalamban Yojana (DDUSY), which supported 2,648 beneficiaries. The DBT revolution has ensured that over 57,000 old-age pensioners, thousands of widows, and disabled citizens receive their benefits

directly. It's as if governance found GPS and Google Pay at the same time.

On the welfare front, the National Old Age Pension Scheme supports 10,636 people over 80 and 4,785 under 80, with state top-ups enhancing their monthly support. Similarly, 4,170 ASHAs receive a combined monthly incentive of Rs 5,000, and over 58,900 women benefit from the CM Social Security Scheme.

The list of acronyms - DDUSY, CMAAY, CMCSRDP, ANKY, MOVCD and more - might confuse even a seasoned journalist, but behind each is a story of real impact: farmers receiving subsidies, girls getting ed-ucational support, artisans being empowered, and unemployed youths being up-skilled.

Through initiatives like Cabinet Aapke Dwar, ministers and bureaucrats directly interact with citizens across 26 districts. This participatory governance has led to the identification and resolution of local issues on the spot.

Education has not been left behind. Teachers under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan are receiving state top-ups ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 21,000. Under various scholarship schemes, 51,000+ students are receiving financial aid while honorariums are given to 6,225 anganwadi workers and helpers.

They say the Northeast is India's jewel. Well, Arunachal is polishing itself into a diamond.

With 79.3% forest cover and a leading position in organic farming (kiwis, cardamoms, oranges - you name it!), Arunachal isn't just saving the planet, it's flavouring it too.

It ranks 1st in kiwi production, 2nd in large cardamom, and is the leading orange producer in Northeast India. Under PM-Kisan, Rs 142.67 crore has been transferred to 99,656 farmers. 96,492 kisan credit cards have been issued, covering 99.26% of eligible farmers.

Two crude palm oil mills have been established under NMEO-OP, making Arunachal the first state in India to operationalize such facilities.

Tourism, too, is booming. With a 143.76% increase in tourist arrivals from 2015 to 2024, Arunachal is no longer off the grid. Recognitions such as 'Most Offbeat Destination' (Outlook Travellers Award, 2023) and 'Top Mountain Destination' (India Today) have made it a global curiosity.

Under the CM Paryatan Vikas Yojana, 1,000+ tourism entrepreneurs have received subsidies, while 156 students are currently being trained under the CM Paryatan Shiksha Yojana.

Healthcare is undergoing a renaissance. The first

MBBS batch graduated from TRIHMS, where seats have doubled from 50 to 100. Institutional deliveries rose from 52.2% to 79.2%, and vaccination coverage has jumped from 38% to 77.5%.

The 'Medicine from the Sky' drone initiative, a first in South Asia, is now delivering vaccines and diagnostic kits to remote villages.

In sports, the state has bagged over 1,200 medals since 2016, and ranks 2nd among NE states when it comes to the medal tally of the 38th National Games 2025. The Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, 20 indoor sports halls, and Khelo India Centres are nurturing talent across disciplines.

The Arunachal Olympics Mission is the cherry on the cake, preparing athletes for the 2028 and 2032 Olympics.

Meanwhile, in industry and entrepreneurship, the state has 21,982 registered MSMEs and an investment pipeline worth Rs 809 crore. Through the UNNATI Scheme and SEE Trinity, the state aims to create 25,000+ jobs in the next five years.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has unveiled a bold vision: Arunachal Vision 2047, which focuses on 'higher happiness', sustainable development, and inclusive growth. The vision is aligned with the union government's Saptarishi priorities and puts special emphasis on renewable en-

ergy, tribal welfare, and women empowerment.

The Pakke Declaration 2047, India's first ministerial-level climate action framework, outlines 75 strategies across eight thematic pillars, covering everything from resilient healthcare to renewable energy. Already, 147 action lines have been completed, backed by Rs 1,776 crore in investments. Arunachal now boasts India's highest carbon stock at 1,021 Mt and contributes 14.38% of the country's carbon sequestration.

Initiatives like the Air-gun Surrender Abhiyan, which saw 2,400+ guns surrendered to protect wildlife, gained international recognition, even being mentioned by the Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat.

What was once a distant, picturesque border state is now leading from the front. Arunachal is no longer a story of potential alone; it is a live case study of what vision, grit, and grassroots governance can achieve.

So the next time someone wonders where India's growth engine is revving loudest, just point them to the east. Arunachal isn't waiting for the future - it's building it, one road, one scheme, one dream at a time.

So, the next time someone says, "Oh, Arunachal? Isn't that too far?" - just smile and reply: "Far? It's ahead." (*The writer is PRO to Chief Minister*)

## Comparative analysis of Articles 371A, 371G, and 371H: Understanding the trade

Tadup Tana Tara

Nabam Regum's review of my book, 75 Years of Legal Evolution: Arunachal Pradesh Path From AFR to Civil Courts Act, prompted an unexpected scholarly challenge. His 3 July social media post, written in his capacity as president of the Papum Pare District Bar Association, highlighted a glaring gap in constitutional scholarship - Article 371H - and urged immediate academic attention to this provision governing Arunachal Pradesh' special status.

His appeal turned the upcoming high court vacation into a research opportunity. What started as preliminary notes has grown into the foundation for what may become a significant contribution to constitutional jurisprudence, filling a gap that has existed far too long.

The Indian Constitution recognizes the unique character of the Northeastern states through specific provisions addressing indigenous communities' distinct needs and rights. Articles 371A, 371G, and 371H represent the most significant of these provisions, creating legal frameworks that foster autonomy while preserving tribal culture and identity. Examining these articles reveals their individual provisions, broader implications, and interconnections - particularly relevant

to understanding Arunachal's constitutional position.

The Indian Constitution has historically recognized the unique demographic and cultural composition of its Northeastern states through provisions designed to address the distinct needs and rights of indigenous communities. Among these provisions, Articles 371A, 371G, and 371H stand out as they offer a legal framework aimed at fostering autonomy and preserving the culture and identity of tribal populations. By examining these articles, a clearer understanding of their respective provisions, implications, and interconnections can be established, particularly within the context of Arunachal.

Article 371A is primarily specific to Nagaland. Enacted to protect the customs and traditions of the Naga people, this article grants the state the authority to legislate on land ownership and management of natural resources while underscoring that the legislative assembly of Nagaland will not have the authority to impose laws in the context of land use or religious practices that are not congruent with the traditions of the Naga tribes. This degree of autonomy over land and culture is pivotal for the Nagas, who view land as integral to their identity.

Additionally, Article 371A underscores the significance of customary laws

and the protection of the rights of indigenous people, ensuring that their historical and cultural practices are preserved without external interference.

In sharp contrast, Article 371G applies specifically to Mizoram. Similar to Article 371A, it also focuses on safeguarding the cultural identity of the Mizo people. It bestows upon the Mizoram legislative assembly the power to regulate and legislate in matters, including land ownership and customs, thereby reinforcing the idea that any laws impinging on their cultural practices need consensus from the local populace. This legislative power extends to the management of key resources and customary laws, reflecting a similar ethos found in Nagaland while offering its unique safeguards based on Mizo customs. For the Mizo people, the article has played a critical role in maintaining their cultural integrity amidst broader national policies that may not always align with their practices.

Article 371H is unique to Arunachal and aims to protect the state's cultural identity while also interpreting specific roles for governance and autonomy. It designates the state assembly with the power to legislate on issues relating to land and resources, alongside establishing a representative body for local governance. However, unlike its counterparts in Nagaland and Mizoram, Article 371H

does not afford similar comprehensive autonomy over customary practices. Instead, it somewhat integrates local governance mechanisms within the broader framework of state governance. This autonomy is crucial in a region widely noted for its diversity of tribes and languages, which necessitates tailored governance practices to ensure effective representation and protection of indigenous rights. However, the nuances in the execution and interpretation of Article 371H have led to community concerns regarding its efficacy in granting true autonomy.

Examining the distinct features of these articles reveals not only their individual strengths but also the overlapping themes that bind them together. At the core of each is the recognition of indigenous customs and the emphasis on preserving cultural integrity within respective governance frameworks. Articles 371A and 371G place considerable emotional and legal weight on land and its cultural significance for the respective tribes. In this regard, one can say that these articles echo the unwavering tribal sentiment linking land to identity, heritage, and autonomy. The safeguarding of natural resources through legislation has been recognized as a necessity for indigenous communities, fostering a sense of ownership and enabling self-determination.

Despite these apparent similarities, a critical analysis also reveals considerable disparities in the scope and implementation of these articles. While Articles 371A and 371G afford a high degree of legislative power and autonomy to the respective assemblies, Article 371H faces challenges with regard to its practical implications. The degree of local political engagement and administrative effectiveness in Arunachal often highlights limitations encumbering Article 371H. For instance, many governance functions, including land management, are still largely influenced by broader state directives that sometimes overlook local customs and practices, leading to frustration among the indigenous population.

In analyzing the broader legal comparison across Articles 371A, 371G, and 371H, one can identify critical mechanisms for addressing indigenous rights and cultural preservation. The persistence of community-driven advocacy in Nagaland and Mizoram has fostered political environments conducive to dialogue on rights and autonomy. In contrast, the governance disharmony in Arunachal, marked by the unsynchronized interplay of local customs and state policies, reveals a lack of representation in decisions affecting land rights and cultural practices. Therefore, the effectiveness of each article hinges not merely on

its legislative wording but also on its practical application and the participatory channels available for communities to voice their needs.

The socio-political narratives behind these legal frameworks also garner significance when exploring their distinct features. In Nagaland and Mizoram, the storied legacies of conflict, negotiation, and eventual state integration have shaped tailored needs for

371A and 371G, the empowerment of local assemblies to regulate on culturally pertinent matters has legitimized tribal governance structures and led to a cohesive path towards self-determination. The strengths of these model articles can serve as instructional lenses through which Article 371H can pursue reform, elevating tribal voicing within the legal framework of Arunachal.

Engagement with civil

Provision	Nagaland (371A)	Mizoram (371G)	Arunachal Pradesh(371H)
Customary Law	Protected	Protected	Not Protected
Land Rights	Protected	Protected	Not Protected
Religious Practice	Protected	Protected	Not Protected
Governor's Powers	No	No	Yes (Law & order)

autonomy reflected in their articles. On the contrary, Arunachal's greater challenge lies in the diverse demographic composition of tribal groups, rendering broader negotiations on cultural rights and resource management more complex. Herein lies the essence of the differences, where Articles 371A and 371G leverage narrower cultural identities to create legislative provisions, while Article 371H navigates through a diverse unity comprising multiple tribes.

The intersection of culture, law, and governance facilitates opportunities for enhanced representation among indigenous populations. As seen in Articles

society actors and grassroots organizations is essential to recalibrate the balance of rights and governance under Article 371H. The assertive incorporation of community feedback into legal frameworks enables the creation of synergistic alliances across political, legal, and social dimensions. Additionally, continued advocacy and legal mobilization have proved impactful in other states, potentially serving as a constructive foundation for Arunachal.

Future deliberations concerning the autonomy and rights of indigenous communities across the Northeastern states might benefit by conceptualizing these articles not as isolat-

ed legal entities but as components of a continuum that seeks to strengthen indigenous representation. This perspective underscores a moratorium on comparing disparate governance frameworks toward creating a collaborative discourse around inclusivity and collective rights across tribal populations.

For easier understanding, a comparison of Articles 371(A), 371 (G) and 371 (H) is shown below in the table:

## Groundnut seeds distributed, farmers trained

**KARSINGSA, 17 Jul:** A total of 4,120 kgs of groundnut seeds were distributed to 126 farmers of Papum Pare district during a training programme on groundnut cultivation organized by the Papum Pare Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at its campus here on Wednesday.

Participants, mostly women farmers, from SHGs under the Papum Pare Ar-

SRLM and the ArSRLM BMMs in Balijan, Kimin, Doimukh, Sagalee and Borum attended the programme.

KVK agronomist Tadang Meena imparted training on the cultivation technique of groundnut. She highlighted the health benefits of groundnut, seed treatment, sowing method, and harvesting technique of ground-

nut in detail.

KVK farm manager Dr Nabam Gama encouraged the farmers to visit the KVK to get advanced technical know-how on agriculture and allied subjects.

Addressing the participants, District Agriculture Officer Maze Piel urged the farmers and farmwomen to adopt scientific cultivation techniques and focus on commercial cultivation to

profit from the ventures.

Borum BMM Tapo Nalo expressed gratitude to the KVK for arranging such farmers-oriented programme for the SHGs and individual farmers, and gave assurance with regard to monitoring of the fields during the cultivation period of groundnut.

Balijan BMM Monu Kamsar also spoke.

## Circle-level trg for BLOs held

**BASAR, 17 Jul:** The Leparada district election office conducted a circle-level training programme for all booth-level officers (BLO) of the four circles, viz, Tirbin, Sago, Basar and Dari, under Basar assembly constituency from 8 to 16 July.

Keeping with the schedule, the training was held at the EAC office in Tirbin, the DC's conference hall in Basar, Sago circle, and the

CO office in Dari on 8, 10 and 16 July.

Electoral Registration Officer Dr MN Taloh led the sessions with a detailed orientation on the roles and responsibilities of BLOs. She thoroughly explained the processes involved in handling Form 6 (inclusion of names), Form 7 (deletion), and Form 8 (correction, shifting of residence, issuance of duplicate EPIC, and


PwD registration).

Basar Circle BLO Yummar Riram imparted hands-on training on the use of the BLO mobile application with the fellow BLOs to ensure smooth and error-free digital operations.

The training sessions witnessed active participation of all assistant electoral registration officers, BLOs, and election officials. (DIPRO)

ENGINEERING WORK

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TSK/Engg/40 of 2025; dated: 14-07-2025. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work.  
**Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item:**  
Tinsukia Division:- Simaluguri-Moranhat and Simaluguri-Bhojo Formation treatment (Total=3.80 TKM) and Additional work in connection with PSR removal at Curve No. 6, 10 & 13 between Simaluguri-Moranhat section.  
Tender Value: ₹5.07, 19,798/-; Earnest Money: ₹4.03,600/- E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 07-08-2025 and opened at 16:00 hrs. on 07-08-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 07-08-2025 in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
DRM (Work)/Tinsukia (DIPRO)

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# Australian prime minister indulges in panda diplomacy as state visit in China nears end

**BEIJING, 17 Jul:** Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has toured a panda breeding facility in the final stages of an extended state visit that has cast China as a fellow champion of a global fair trade system under threat from the United States.

The panda diplomacy stop Thursday in the central Chinese city of Chengdu highlighted Australia's special status as the only Southern Hemisphere country to host a pair of the rare Chinese native animals. Albanese and his fiancée Jodie Haydon visited a pen where they saw Fu Ni, a giant panda who had been on loan to Australia's Adelaide Zoo until last year.

"A great ambassador for China and a great friend of Australia," Albanese said of Fu Ni as she chomped on bamboo.

## China loans Australia pandas

Premier Li Qiang used a visit to the Adelaide Zoo last year to announce Fu Ni and her partner Wang Wang would be replaced by another China-born pair that will hopefully breed.

The new couple, Xing Qiu and Yi Yan, made their public debut in January at

the zoo in the South Australia state capital where they are a major tourist attraction.

Albanese's China trip, which began Saturday and ends on Friday, is extraordinarily long compared with Australian state visits over the past decade and marks a normalization of bilateral relations that plumbed new depths under the previous Australian government's nine-year reign.

Albanese said he had visited Chengdu and the Great Wall of China, as well as the usual diplomatic destinations of Beijing and Shanghai, as a show of respect to the Chinese people.

"The Great Wall of China symbolises the extraordinary history and culture here in China, and showing a bit of respect to people never cost anything. But you know what it does? It gives you a reward," Albanese told reporters.

"One of the things that I find about giving countries respect is that you get it back," he added.

In 2020, Beijing banned minister-to-minister contacts and imposed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers on commodities including

wine, beef, coal, barley and lobsters that cost Australian exporters up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year. This was a response to Australia's previous government demanding an independent inquiry into the cause of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the pandemic was the final straw, relations had been deteriorating for years over issues including laws banning covert foreign interference in Australian politics and Australia barring Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei on security grounds from involvement in the national 5G network rollout.

The trade barriers have all been lifted since Albanese's center-left Labor Party was first elected in 2022. But now, the United States threatens to become a major disruptor to global trade through President Donald Trump's tariff regime.

## Chinese president urges Australia to hold course

Chinese President Xi Jinping told Albanese at the outset of their bilateral meeting in Beijing Tuesday that the important thing their two countries had learned in repairing relations was

that equal treatment, seeking common ground and pursuing cooperation served the interests of both.

"No matter how the international landscape may evolve, we should uphold this overall direction unswervingly," Xi said through an interpreter. The comment was widely interpreted as a reference to U.S. tariffs.

Albanese replied that his government welcomed progressing cooperation under their decade-old bilateral free trade agreement.

"Australia will remain a strong supporter of free and fair trade," Albanese said.

The United States has allocated Australia the minimum 10% tariff on U.S. imports. Australia argues that any tariff cannot be justified and that the U.S. has enjoyed a trade surplus with Australia for decades.

The greater economic damage for Australia would likely be from a Chinese economic downturn caused by its U.S. tariff treatment. Around a third of Australian exports go to China.

## Australia shifts away from the US

James Laureceson, director of the University of Technology Sydney's

Australia-China Relations Institute, described China's presentation of itself as Australia's ally in defending free trade as "self-serving."

"It's not so much Australia aligning with China. It's really just about Australia and China agreeing they've got a shared interest in the existing system, and it's the U.S. that's walking away from that," Laureceson said.

"I don't think the big shift this week is Australia getting closer to China. I think the distance with the United States is getting wider and wider," he added.

Albanese's political enemies have criticised him for now having four face-to-face meetings with Xi – including two in Beijing – while the prime minister has yet to meet Trump in person. Albanese and Trump were to hold a one-on-one meeting on the sidelines of a Group of Seven summit in Canada last month, but the U.S. president left early.

Albanese said this week he expected to meet Trump this year.

"I look forward to a constructive engagement with President Trump. We have had three constructive phone conversations," Albanese said. (AP)

## UK signs treaty on defence, trade and migration with Germany

**LONDON, 17 Jul:** UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz signed a landmark treaty on Thursday that pledges to tighten defence ties and boost law-enforcement cooperation against criminal people-smuggling gangs using the English Channel.

"This is a historic day for German-British relations," said Merz, making his first official visit to Britain since taking office in May. "We want to work together more closely, particularly after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. It is overdue for us to conclude such a treaty with each other."

Starmer said the agreement — signed at London's V&A Museum, which is named after Queen Victoria and her German husband, Prince Albert — was a "statement of intent, a statement of our ambition to work ever more closely together."

Starmer has made it a priority of his centre-left Labour Party to curb the gangs behind cross-Channel people smuggling. About 37,000 people were detected crossing the English Channel from France in small boats in 2024, and more than 20,000 people made the crossing in the first six months of 2025. Dozens have died trying to make the crossing.

Berlin agreed last year to make facilitating the smuggling of migrants to the UK a criminal offence, a move that will give law enforcement more powers to investigate the supply and storage of small boats to be used for the crossings. Merz is expected to commit to adopting the law change by the end of the year.

"Chancellor Merz's commitment to make necessary changes to German law to disrupt the supply lines of the dangerous vessels which carry illegal migrants across the Channel is hugely welcome," Starmer said. (AP)

# Ukraine to boost domestic arms production to counter Russia's invasion, says Zelenskyy

**KYIV, 17 Jul:** A new Ukrainian government approved Thursday will race to expand domestic arms production to meet half the country's weapons needs within six months as it tries to push back Russia's invasion, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Meanwhile, Switzerland said Thursday that the U.S. Defense Department had informed it that Washington is diverting a Swiss order for Patriot air defense systems to help Ukraine, which badly needs to improve its response to increasingly heavy Russian aerial attacks.

## Patriot air defense systems for Ukraine

The Swiss Defense Ministry, which in 2022 ordered five Patriot systems, said Thursday it has been informed by the U.S. Defense Department that it will "reprioritize the delivery of Patriot systems to support Ukraine."

It was not immediately clear whether the Swiss-ordered Patriots would go directly to Ukraine or would replace units in other European countries that may be donated to Kyiv.

Delivery to Switzerland of the systems, worth billions of dollars, was scheduled to begin in 2027 and be completed in 2028. But the Swiss government said Washington informed it of the delay on Wednesday, adding that it was unclear how many systems would be affected.

The need to adequately arm Ukraine's military is pressing as Russia looks to drive forward its summer offensive after three years of war and pounds Ukrainian cities with hundreds of drones and ballistic and cruise missiles. It remains unclear when the promised U.S.-made weapons, especially the Patriot systems, might reach Ukraine. Trump has agreed to send the weaponry, but it will be paid for by European countries.

## No timeframe for foreign weapons in Ukraine

The U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Matthew Whitaker, said he couldn't give a timeframe for when Ukraine might get extra foreign

weapons.

"We are all moving with haste to facilitate this and get this done. Things are actually moving very quickly, but I can't verify a date that this will all be completed. I think it's going to be an ongoing movement," he told reporters in Brussels.

"The plan is that there will be American-made defense equipment, capabilities, that will be sold to our European allies, that they will provide to Ukraine," he said.

British Defense Secretary John Healey said Thursday he and his German counterpart Boris Pistorius will chair a meeting of Ukraine's allies on Monday to discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's weapons plans. Healey said U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and NATO leader Mark Rutte will attend the meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group.

NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, told The Associated Press Thursday that "preparations are underway" for weapons transfers to Ukraine and that NATO is working "very closely" with Germany to transfer Patriot systems.

Grynkeiwich said at a military event in Wiesbaden, Germany, that he had been ordered to "move (the weapons) out as quickly as possible." He said the number of weapons being transferred is classified.

German Defense Ministry spokesperson Mitko Müller said

Wednesday he couldn't confirm that anything is currently on its way to Ukraine.

Rutte, the NATO chief, said in Washington on Monday that the alliance is coordinating the military support with funding from allies in Europe and Canada. He said there were commitments from Germany, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Canada, "with more expected to follow."

## Ukraine now makes 40% of its own weapons

Ukraine's domestic defense manufacturing already accounts for almost 40% of weapons used by the Ukrainian military, according to Zelenskyy. As uncertainty grows about how many more weapons shipments Western countries can provide — and how quickly — Ukraine is keen to increase its output and widen its strikes on Russian soil.

"What we need is greater capacity to push the war back onto Russia's territory — back to where the war was brought from," Zelenskyy said late Wednesday in his nightly video address.

"We must reach the level of 50% Ukrainian-made weapons within the first six months of the new government's work by expanding our domestic production."

Ukraine has also developed its own long-range drones, which it uses to strike deep inside Russia. (AP)

## At least 4 dead and 1,300 evacuated after heavy rain in South Korea

**SEOUL, 17 Jul:** Two days of heavy downpours in South Korea have killed at least four people and forced more than 1,300 others to evacuate, officials said Thursday.

One person was killed when their car was buried by soil and concrete after a retaining wall of an overpass collapsed in Osan, just south of Seoul, during heavy rain on Wednesday, the Interior and Safety Ministry said.

Three other people were separately found dead Thursday in a submerged car, a stream, and a flooded basement in southern regions. Ministry officials said they were still investigating whether those deaths were directly caused by heavy rain.



The heavy rain has forced the evacuation of 1,382 people from their homes, the ministry said in

a statement, adding 46 flights have been cancelled. Parts of southern South Chungcheong province have

received up to 420 millimeters (16.5 inches) of rain since Wednesday, according to the ministry. (AP)

## A fire at a shopping center in eastern Iraq kills more than 60 people

**KUT, 17 Jul:** A fire engulfed a newly opened shopping center in eastern Iraq, killing more than 60 people, including children, Iraqi officials said Thursday.

Civil defense teams rescued more than 45 people who became trapped when the fire broke out late Wednesday in the city of Kut in Wasit province, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Others are still missing, according to the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

Photographs and videos on local media showed the five-story Corniche Hypermarket Mall engulfed in flames only a week after it had opened. While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, officials and residents alleged that a lack of fire safety measures in the building contributed to the scale of the tragedy.

Iraq's Interior Ministry said in a statement that 61 people died in the shopping center fire, most of them from suffocation. Among the dead were 14 charred bodies that remain unidentified, it said.

The fire was deeply painful for the community, said 60-year-old Kut resident Abdul Redha Thahab,

"My friend and neighbor's family, who lived right next to my house — a family of six, the husband, his



wife, their two daughters, and two young children — all perished in the fire," he said.

Provincial Gov. Mohammed al-Miyahi declared three days of mourning. He said legal cases were filed against the building owner and shopping center owner, but did not specify what the charges were.

"We assure the families of the innocent victims that we will not be lenient with those who were directly or indirectly responsible for this incident," al-Mayyeh said.

In a phone interview with The Associated Press, al-Miyahi called the fire "a heartbreaking tragedy for the people of Wasit" and alleged that the building owner had not implemented the necessary fire safety

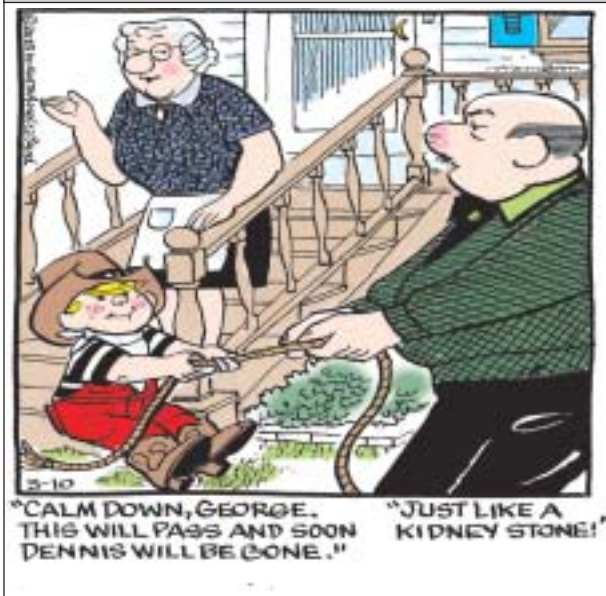
measures when he converted it into a shopping center.

He said that no government official has resigned or been dismissed as a result of the fire, and that they are currently awaiting the results of the investigation. The results of the preliminary investigation will be released within 48 hours, he said.

The building owner could not immediately be reached for comment.

Poor building standards have often contributed to tragic fires in Iraq. In July 2021, a blaze at a hospital in the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah that killed between 60 to 92 people was determined to have been fueled by highly flammable, low-cost type of "sandwich panel" cladding that is illegal in Iraq.

### Dennis the Menace



### Peanuts



### Garfield



### Sudoku

			3		
5		6			
		1	5		
		5	4		
			2		1
4					

### Previous issue's Solution

3	5	2	1	4	6
4	6	1	3	5	2
6	2	5	4	1	3
1	3	4	6	2	5
5	4	6	2	3	1
2	1	3	5	6	4



DIPR/ARN/005222/2025



# Freestyle Chess: Praggnanandhaa and Erigaisi make cut; Carlsen out of title contention

**LAS VEGAS, 17 Jul:** Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa took down world number one Magnus Carlsen en route the top-bracket quarterfinals along with Arjun Erigaisi at the USD 750,000 Freestyle Grand Slam Tour here.

Praggnanandhaa continued the recent trend of Indian players outsmarting Carlsen and sent the Norwegian's campaign haywire on Wednesday. Carlsen has in recent weeks also been beaten by reigning world champion D Gukesh, who is not competing here.

The 19-year-old Praggnanandhaa was in his elements as he effectively deployed his pieces right from the word go and even though Carlsen got some chances, Praggnanandhaa crashed through with some imaginative manoeuvres.

The loss against



Praggnanandhaa had such a cascading effect on Carlsen that he lost another game against Wesley So in the next round and was shockingly eliminated from the top bracket by Levon Aronian of United States 2-0 in the final tiebreaker for the fourth spot that ensued.

The 16-player event was divided into two groups of eight each and the top four from each pool

advanced to the quarterfinals after playing once with each of the other participant.

The rules have been framed in such a way that those who do not make the top bracket in the first set of qualifiers can no longer win the event and Carlsen can at best finish third if he wins the remaining matches.

Erigaisi was the other Indian from the second

group who made it to the quarterfinals. It was a fine come-from-behind performance by Erigaisi, who faced some initial struggles.

Praggnanandhaa tied for the first spot on 4.5 points out of a possible seven in his group with Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Javokhir Sandarov, along with Aronian, finishing on four points.

Carlsen ended fifth ahead of Vincent Keymer of Germany, Wesley So and lone woman participant Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan.

In the second group christened black, Hikaru Nakamura topped the standings with an astonishing 6/7 with his American countryman Hans Niemann finishing second on 4.5 points.

Erigaisi finished tied third on four points with another local star Fabiano Caruana.

Another American trio of Leinier Dominguez Perez, Sevian Samuel and Robson Ray finished 5-7 in the second group with Indian Vidit Gujrathi ending on the last spot.

In the Quarterfinals now, Praggnannadhaa will meet Fabiano Caruana of United States while Erigaisi will have to tackle Abdusattorov. (PTI)

## Pro League was a good wake-up call ahead of next year's Asian Games and WC: Sreejesh

**NEW DELHI, 17 Jul:** Former India captain and goalkeeping stalwart P R Sreejesh believes the just-concluded FIH Pro League was a good wake-up call for the men's national hockey team ahead of next year's Asian Games and the World Cup.

India struggled in the European leg of the Pro League and finished eighth out of nine teams to avoid relegation by a whisker.

But Sreejesh, who was part of India's bronze medal winning sides in Tokyo and Paris Olympics, felt that players didn't perform too badly but unfortunately results didn't favour the team.

"I think the players performed really well, we created lot of opportunities. We gave very good fight on the field but sometimes it happens the result went against us," Sreejesh said on the sidelines of the launch of Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on Wednesday night.

"The preparation was perfect but unfortunately the result was not perfect for us but the coaches have enough time to prepare the team for the Asia Cup and definitely next year the

Asian Games and World Cup is there.

"I think this Pro League gave us a very good wake-up call to prepare and to be on our toes to prepare for World Cup and Asian Games," he added.

The Asian Games will be hosted by Aichi-Nagoya in Japan from September 19 to October 4, while the World Cup will be jointly organised by the Netherlands and Belgium from August 15 to 30.

Post retirement after Paris Games, Sreejesh is now the coach of Indian men's junior hockey team and he is enjoying his current journey.

"Same routine, when you wake up early in the morning it's about preparing the players, ensure they are doing their best and rest of the day prepare for the next session, analysing the players.

"The only thing is that I am stressing my mind more now, earlier I used to stress my physical part but now it's about my mental part. But I am enjoying," he said.

India is set to host the FIH Junior World Cup in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 till December 10 this year, and Sreejesh is not leaving no stone

turned to prepare his players.

"For them (players) the biggest challenge is Junior World Cup because four-nation tournaments and stuffs like that are not going to throw enough pressure on them as the Junior World Cup. My duty is to share my experience with them, how to prepare for a big tournament, big matches," he said.

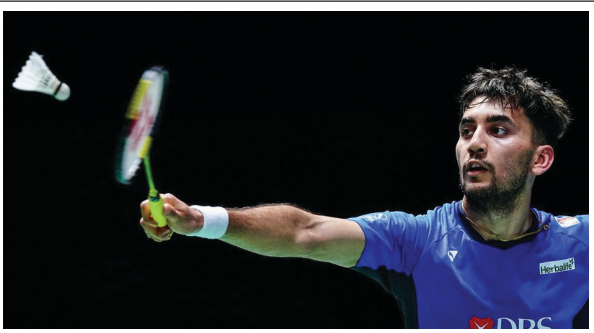
"I faced enough pressure being a player and now being a coach I think it is upto me to take that pressure from the players. I am helping them to be realistic. Being a coach sharing experience as a player is more important."

India are clubbed along side Pakistan, Chile and Switzerland in Pool B at the Junior World Cup.

Even though uncertainty looms large over Pakistan's participation in the Junior World Cup owing to tensions between the two countries following Operation Sindoor, Sreejesh doesn't want to focus on one particular team.

"We are in the same pool (India and Pakistan) but I don't want my players to think about one particular team," he said. (PTI)

## Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag exit Japan Open, India's campaign ends



**TOKYO, 17 Jul:** Indian shuttlers continued to falter at the Japan Open with Lakshya Sen and the star men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowing out in the second round to draw curtains on the country's campaign at the Super 750 tournament here on Thursday.

World No. 18 Lakshya's inconsistent run resulted in a 19-21, 11-21 loss to Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles that lasted close to an hour.

The 23-year-old, who had looked promising in the opener with a commanding 21-11, 21-18 win over China's Wang Zheng Xing, failed to carry the momentum forward.

In the men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag were handed a 22-24, 14-21 defeat by the fifth-seeded Chinese combine of Liang Wei Keng

and Wang Chang in a battle between former world No. 1 pairs.

With this win, Paris Olympics silver medallists Wei Keng and Wang Chang extended their head-to-head lead over the Indians to 7-2.

After a slow start, the Indian pair did well to take an 18-14 lead but couldn't hold on to the momentum as their Chinese counterparts sealed a thrilling first game.

The world number five Chinese duo continue in the same vein in the second game as Satwik and Chirag struggled with their smashes and defence to concede their fourth defeat on the trot to Wei Ken and Chang.

The lone surviving Indian, Anupama Upadhyaya fought hard against second seed Wang Zhi Hi of China before losing the round-of-16 match 21-13 11-21 12-21 in 55 minutes. (PTI)



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## We are taking one game at a time as World Cup is still some time away: Deepti Sharma

**SOUTHAMPTON, 17 Jul:** Deepti Sharma feels that Indian team is on the right track as far as preparations for the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup are concerned but wants to focus on the ongoing England series as the marquee event is still two months away.

Deepti scored a composed 62 not out in India's successful chase of 259 in the opening WODI against England on Wednesday. This is India's penultimate 50-over series with one left at home against Australia starting September 14. The Women's ODI World Cup starts on September 30 with India taking on Sri Lanka.

"Just in terms of preparation for the World

Cup. I think as a team, we did some really good things in Sri Lanka and here also. World Cup is a little too far (away).

"We are not thinking about that but definitely we are going one match at a time. That's what we are thinking at the moment," Deepti said at the post-match press conference after guiding team to four-wicket victory over England.

She feels that her calmness did help in achieving the target with ease and her stand of 90 with Jemimah Rodrigues was a game-changing one.

"I knew that I can be calm and composed. It (partnership with Rodrigues) was a turning point for us. We had

focused that we have to focus on partnership when I was batting with Jemie (Rodrigues' nickname).

"When we were at the crease, the plan was to go at 5-6 runs per over and that's what we did."

Deepti has often received flak about her batting in the slog overs but never felt that she was under any kind of pressure during her time in the middle.

"Actually, I was not nervous because I played this kind of situation earlier and few matches back also. I knew that if I play till the end with Jemi, we can take the game. I was quite confident that if I will be there, I will have to finish and I was focusing more on that." (PTI)

## Russell to retire from international cricket after 2nd T20 against Australia

**KINGSTON, 17 Jul:** Flamboyant T20 freelancer Andre Russell will draw the curtains on a start-stop 15-year international career for the West Indies after the second T20I against Australia here on July 22.

Russell's most significant achievement is being a member of two T20 World Cup winning West Indies teams in 2012 and 2016 respectively. Since 2019, Russell has featured exclusively in the T20 format. He has represented the West Indies in 84 T20Is, 56 ODIs and one solitary Test.

The 37-year-old Jamaican, a cornerstone of West Indies' T20 success, had been named in the squad for the five match series against Australia but will play his final two international matches on July 20 and 22 at his beloved home ground -- the Sabina Park.

Russell, who was part of the title-winning squads in 2012 and 2016, announced his decision just seven months ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

"Words cannot explain what it meant. To represent the West Indies has been one of the proudest achievements in my life," Russell said in a statement posted by Cricket West Indies.

"When I was a kid, I did not expect to get to this level, but the more you start to play and get to love the sport, you realize what you can achieve. This inspired me to become better because I wanted to leave a mark in the maroon colours and become an inspiration to others," he added.

"I love playing for the West Indies and I love playing at home in front of my family and friends where I get to showcase my talent and produce more high-quality performances. I want to finish my international career on a high while being a role model for the next generation of cricketers coming out of the Caribbean," he said.

The swashbuckling all-rounder has snapped 61 wickets and scored 1078 runs in 84 T20I outings. He retires a month after former West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran announced his shock retirement from international cricket before turning 30. (PTI)

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