



NH-10 closure extended till Aug 8 due to safety concerns

Our Correspondent

DARJEELING, August 6: The NH-10, the vital highway connecting Sikkim and Kalimpong to the plains, will remain closed for two more days, according to a fresh directive issued by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL).

The highway, which was initially closed on August 3 following a major collapse at Sethijhora, was earlier expected to reopen by 6 pm on August 6, as per a previous NHIDCL order.

However, a revised order issued Wednesday states that the road section from Coronation Bridge to Chitrey will remain closed to all classes of vehicles until 9 am on August 8, citing ongoing safety

concerns. This stretch forms part of the 52.1 km section of NH-10 under the administrative control of NHIDCL from Sevoke to Rangpo.

The decision, the order states, has been taken under Section 33 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002, in the interest of public safety.

The highway has been rendered dangerous for vehicular movement following the collapse and development of cracks at Sethijhora, a landslide-prone zone.

Commuters have been advised to use alternate routes, while NHIDCL has coordinated with the Kalimpong district administration to manage traffic diversions and ensure the smooth flow of vehicles during the closure period.

Sikkim's Kezia Chettri selected as special guest for Independence Day at Red Fort

Kezia Chettri, a Physiotherapy student from Singtam, Sikkim, currently studying at Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCP), has been invited by the Government of India as a special guest for the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, New Delhi, on August 15, 2025.

She recently represented Sikkim at the National Youth Parliament 2025 in the Central Hall of the Indian Parliament, after standing second at the State-level Youth Parliament.

Kezia has also been shortlisted among the top four candidates across Asia for the Commonwealth Students' Association Regional Representative (Asia) post, representing India on an international platform, a press release informs.



RG Kar rape-murder anniv: Prolonged protests planned in Bengal from Aug 8

KOLKATA, August 6 (IANS): Starting from this weekend and continuing till the next, West Bengal is all set to be rocked again over protest movements by various groups on the first anniversary of the rape and murder of a woman junior doctor of R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata in August last year.

The body of the victim was recovered from a seminar hall within the hospital premises on the morning of August 9.

While the sole convict in the case, civic volunteer Sanjay Roy had already been sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court, even after a year, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had been unable to complete its investigation on the alleged "larger conspiracy" behind the crime.

Hence, while the movement last year was mainly targeted at the state administration in West Bengal

and the ruling Trinamool Congress, this movement will have a larger perspective, also focussing on the alleged inability of the CBI to complete a fool-proof investigation in the matter.

The parents of the victim have given a 'Nabanna Abhijan' (march to the state secretariat) call on August 9 and appealed to all political parties to join in the procession, demanding justice for their daughter on her death anniversary.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, who first floated the idea of involving the victim's parents there, has extended full-fledged support to the protest march.

On Wednesday, Adhikari accused the West Bengal government of allegedly using its entire police administration to stop the protest march.

The BJP leader stated that a special police briefing has

been convened on Wednesday evening, which almost all top IPS officers of West Bengal Police have been asked to attend.

Using his social media handle, LoP Adhikari, without mentioning Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's name, said she has gone to Jhargram to attend her events after deploying the police force to protect the state secretariat.

"Abhaya's parents, a year after the hellish episode that happened to their child, have called for a 'Nabanna Abhijan' to demand answers from the state's police and health minister for her failure over the incident. But out of that fear, the honourable person has already fled the city on the pretext of an administrative program in Jhargram!" LoP Adhikari alleged.

Sharing a copy of the police note for the briefing later in the day, the BJP leader said, "To protect her chair at the state

secretariat, all the big police officers are meeting today at the police line in Shibpur, Howrah, to make arrangements for how to send the entire state police on the road!"

Besides the march to the state secretariat, several protest programmes have been announced by other pressure groups from August 8 to August 15 to observe the anniversary of the tragedy.

Joint Platform of Doctors (JPD), West Bengal, Medical Service Centre, Service Doctors affiliated to All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO), West Bengal Doctors' Forum, and Association of Health Service Doctors, will organise multiple protest movements.

The convenor of JPD, Punyabrata, said that the state government had failed miserably in ensuring the safety and security of Bengal's daughters in hospitals and colleges.

Bengal man sentenced to death for rape & murder of minor daughter

KOLKATA, August 6 (IANS): A court in West Bengal's West Burdwan district on Wednesday handed down the death penalty to a man convicted of killing his minor daughter after raping her.

The court pronounced the verdict within 15 months since the heinous crime was committed.

Judge Suparna Bandopadhyay of the exclusive Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) court in Asansol gave the verdict after considering the testimony of 16 witnesses and supporting evidence of the presence of the father's DNA

in his daughter's body.

Public prosecutor Somnath Chatteraj said that the judge convicted the accused father within one year and three months after taking the testimony of 16 people.

The incident took place on May 13 last year, in the Narsingbandh area of the Hirapur police station in Asansol.

As the girl's mother saw the 15-year-old lying on a bed, bleeding from her nose and ears, she screamed, waking up the neighbours, who rushed to her house. The victim also had a scar on her neck. The mother had complained at that time that her husband prevented her

from taking her to the hospital. The neighbours forcibly took the girl to the hospital, where the doctor declared her dead.

The initial autopsy report revealed that the minor was raped before being murdered. The father was arrested based on the complaint of the girl's mother. Following an investigation, explosive information emerged.

After interrogating the father and receiving the post-mortem report, the police found out that the minor was raped and strangled to death with a rope. The police also recovered the rope, which was used in the murder, from a dustbin near the house.

The Asansol court convicted the father on Monday on the basis of all the evidence and testimonies of 16 people, and the judge announced the quantum of punishment today.

Public prosecutor Chatteraj said the DNA of the accused person was found on the victim's genitals. "Multiple pieces of evidence were found on the bed sheet. The court sentenced the accused to death based on the statement of the mother, the statements of the investigating officer, doctors, and considering other evidence," he added.

Over 32,000 mothers to be honoured under Aama Sasaktikaran Yojana

Sikkim to celebrate first-ever Aama Samman Diwas on Aug 10

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: As envisioned and directed by Chief Minister PS Golay, August 10 has been declared as Aama Samman Diwas, to be observed every year, beginning this year.

"This historic initiative, launched on the eve of 8th Jan Unmukti Diwas is a tribute to the selfless sacrifices, hard work and love of mothers across Sikkim. It reflects the leadership's unwavering respect and genuine intentions toward real women empowerment, further adding to the legacy of progressive welfare schemes under the SKM government," said the SKM in a media statement Wednesday.

The ruling front shared about the benefits to be extended to the Aamas of Sikkim on this August 10.

More than 32,000 Aamas will be felicitated under the Sikkim Aama Sasaktikaran Yojana, with the disbursement of the first installment of financial assistance cheques.

Over 4,200 Aamas will benefit under the Sikkim Aama Sahayog Yojana, which provides financial assistance for four LPG gas cylinder refills annually.

The SKM informed that a total of 210 Aamas from the grassroots level, selected across various categories from all districts, will be specially invited and honoured at the State-level event.

They include 15 Best Amma Hospital Safai Mitra from STNM Hospital and all district hospitals; 30 Best Amma ASHA Workers, 5 from each district; 30 Best Amma Aaganwadi workers, 5 from each district; 30 Best Amma SHG Workers, selected by the

office of OSD to CM; 15 Best Amma Safai Mitras from GMC, SNP, MNP, NJNP, NMC, and GNP; 30 Best Amma Panchayat representatives, former or present; 30 Best Amma PWD workers, 5 from each district; and 30 Best Amma Mid-Day Meal Cooks, 5 from each district.

"These honours are not only symbolic recognitions but also a genuine gesture of appreciation towards the tireless service and contribution of our mothers in various sectors from healthcare and sanitation to education, nutrition and rural development," said SKM



press & publicity wing president Ranjana Pradhan.

The Aama Samman Diwas stands as a shining example of people centric governance and a model of inclusive growth under the leadership of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), which is most unique and noble initiative in the country itself, added Pradhan in the media statement.

Sikkim MP urges Centre to cover wildlife crop damage under PMFBY

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Sikkim Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba on Wednesday met Ram Nath Thakur, the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, at his office in Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi. He submitted a formal representation requesting the inclusion of crop damages caused by wild animals under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), a press release informs.

In the representation, the Lok Sabha MP highlighted the persistent issue of crop losses

faced by farmers in hilly and forest-adjacent regions such as Sikkim due to frequent raids by wild animals like wild boars, monkeys, and deer. He noted that while PMFBY provides coverage for various natural calamities and non-preventable risks, damages caused by wild animals remain unaddressed, leaving affected farmers without any financial protection.

"This recurring threat has not only caused significant crop losses but has also demoralized farmers, leading to reduced cultivation and underutilization of arable land in some regions," Indra Hang

said in his submission.

He urged the Ministry to consider wild animal intrusion as a valid risk under PMFBY, pointing out that such an inclusion would directly benefit farmers while also advancing the Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' income and ensuring sustainable agriculture in vulnerable areas.

Indra Hang also proposed the possibility of initiating a pilot scheme in high-risk districts, in collaboration with Forest department and local panchayats, to assess feasibility and develop effective implementation



models.

The representation reflects the voice of countless farmers across Sikkim and other

affected States who continue to suffer due to the lack of financial coverage for such damages, the release mentions.

Bista urges Union Home minister to expedite PPS for Darjeeling region

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Darjeeling Lok Sabha MP Raju Bista on Wednesday met Union Home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. On behalf of the people from Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars, he congratulated Shah on becoming the longest serving Home Minister of India.

"Further, I took the opportunity to discuss various administrative and political issues concerning our region, particularly the need for expediting the Permanent Political Solution process to ensure justice, development, and peace in our Darjeeling hills, Terai, and Dooars. I also expressed my gratitude for the Central government's continued support and commitment to addressing the longstanding aspirations of the people of our region," said the Darjeeling MP



in a press statement.

Bista shared that the Union Home minister assured him that the government remains dedicated to finding a Constitutional framework that respects the unique identity and aspirations of the region.

He said that the Home Ministry is working on our issue, and will soon be taking

productive steps in this regards, said Bista.

The meeting was very fruitful, and I am assured about a bright future of our Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars region and people under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Home minister Amit Shah, said Bista.

17th Mountain Division GOC calls on Governor

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Major General M. S. Rathore, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 17th Mountain Division, called on Governor Om Prakash Mathur at Raj Bhavan today.

During the courtesy meeting, Major General Rathore extended his heartiest congratulations to the Governor on the successful completion of one year in office and briefed him about the recent achievements of the Indian Armed Forces, particularly highlighting the successful operations conducted under Operation Sindoor.

The Governor lauded the Indian Armed Forces for the

exemplary execution of Operation Sindoor and praised their unwavering dedication, resilience, and commitment to safeguarding the sovereignty and security of the nation, a Raj Bhavan release informs.

Further, the Governor presented Major General Rathore with a copy of the book "Jaisa Maine Jaana", a compilation of his speeches delivered in and outside Sikkim over the past year.

Additionally, the Governor also conveyed his best wishes to Major General Rathore for all his future endeavours and urged him to continue serving the nation with the same sense of duty and dedication, the release mentions.



Fresh cyclonic circulation to bring more rain in South Bengal

KOLKATA, August 6 (IANS): The Meteorological (MeT) office on Wednesday again predicted heavy rainfall over South Bengal districts in the next few days as a cyclonic circulation system is likely to develop over Gangetic West Bengal, triggering another spell of heavy showers.

According to a MeT department official, a cyclonic circulation, which is currently over Bangladesh, might make its way into the state. "This will bring another round of heavy rain across all districts of South Bengal for the next few days. Meanwhile, rain will continue in several districts today and the day after," said an official of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata's Alipore.

Since July, a prolonged spell of heavy rain has occurred across West Bengal due to successive low-pressure areas combined with cyclonic circulation. The active monsoon winds also paved the way for moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal, resulting in more rainfall.

At the same time, North

Bengal is also witnessing heavy to very heavy rainfall under the influence of the monsoon trough, which passes through Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, to Arunachal Pradesh and close to the foothills of the Himalayas.

South Bengal districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, and Nadia are likely to receive heavy rainfall. Districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad, East Burdwan, West Burdwan, Bankura, West Midnapore, and South 24-Parganas are likely to witness heavy rain on Thursday as well.

A heavy rainfall warning has been issued in the North Bengal districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar till Thursday.

Heavy rains are likely to occur in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar districts on Friday. Besides, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain with thunderstorms in all districts of North Bengal for the next few days. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain with lightning is likely in the rest of the districts.

Assam govt to launch portal for indigenous citizens seeking arms licenses

GUWAHATI, August 6 (IANS): In a significant move aimed at safeguarding indigenous communities in sensitive and remote regions, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday announced the launch of a dedicated portal to apply for arms licenses.

The new initiative, he said, is a "special scheme" targeted at ensuring the safety of original inhabitants and indigenous Indian citizens of Assam who perceive a genuine threat to their lives.

"The Assam government are committed to the safety of indigenous people. A dedicated portal is coming up where indigenous citizens living in vulnerable areas can apply for arms licenses. After a thorough, multi-layered scrutiny, licenses will be granted to eligible individuals," the Chief Minister stated.

According to officials, the scheme is designed exclusively for indigenous people residing in areas categorised as "vulnerable" or "remote" by the district administration or assessed as such by designated security agencies.

Applicants must demonstrate a credible threat to life or personal safety as part of the eligibility criteria. The arms license issuance process will involve a stringent security assessment, detailed verification, and vetting by law enforcement and authorised security agencies.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Margret Rai, W/o Raj Kumar Rai, resident of Changey Senti, Pakyong District, Sikkim have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Margaret Rai as declared before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at Pakyong, Sikkim vide affidavit No. A 316827, dated 24th day of July 2025. Margret Rai and Margaret Rai both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajendra Kumar Chettri, S/o Late Dal Bahadur Chettri, resident of Upper Dodak, Bariakhop, Soreng District, West Sikkim have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rajendra Chhetri as declared before the Oath Commissioner at Gangtok, East Sikkim vide affidavit No. A 382355, dated 06th day of August 2025. Rajendra Kumar Chettri and Rajendra Chhetri both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vinod Bucha , Vinod Kr Bucha , Vinod Kumar S/o Late Babu Lal Bucha , resident of Rongli BazarP.O & P.S Rongli Pakyong District, Sikkim have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Vinod Kumar Bucha as declared before the Oath Commissioner, Sikkim, Vide affidavit No B361379 dated 5th day of August 2025. Vinod Bucha , Vinod Kr Bucha , Vinod Kumar and Vinod Kumar Bucha both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nageena Rai, W/o Noyal Rai, resident of Jhordhara 5th Mile, Tadong, District Gangtok, Sikkim have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nageena Subba as declared before the Oath Commissioner at Gangtok, East Sikkim vide affidavit No. A 387474, dated 06th day of August 2025. Nageena Rai and Nageena Subba both are same and one identical person.

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LOST

I, Seemran Rai, D/o Yuva Raj Rai, resident of Samsing PW, Pakyong Road, Near Forest Check Post, Changey Senti GPU Pakyong would like to inform the general public that I have lost my original copy of 3rd semester report card bearing Reg no. 202109081, Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing while shifting from Manipal hostel to Lumsey. If found please contact: 6297060774

LOST

I, Nirjara Gurung, D/o Durga Prasad Gurung, resident of Yangthang, Guruthang, Near Geyzing Girls School, Gyalshing, West Sikkim would like to inform the general public that I have lost my original copies of 1st and 2nd semester report cards bearing Reg no. 202109002, Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing while shifting from Manipal hostel to Lumsey. If found please contact: 7797369085

PROPERTIES FOR SALE/LEASE

(Contact: 8372040324 / 9547076677)

FULLY FURNISHED NEW HOTEL FOR LEASE: At Gangtok Upper Burtuk Swastika (Road side) having 12 Rooms with all attached toilets, reception, lobby, bar restaurant, kitchen dining room, 1 staff room, with 3 vehicles parking space. Lease/ negotiable.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: At Gangtok Ranipool Marchab (road side) 4km distance from Ranipool bazar land measuring 40 x 80 sqft, price/ negotiable. Land measuring 40 x 50 sqft price/ negotiable.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: At Gangtok Upper luing (Road side) 2 . 5 km distance from Bojoghari Army canteen, land measuring 2 acres, plot is also available, price / negotiable.

GENERAL FLAT ONLY SLAB FOR SALE : At Gangtok Tadong N H 10 (Road side) flat measuring 3000 sqft, 1 & Half floors, with 1 vehicle parking space, price / negotiable

NEW UNDER CONSTRUCTED BUILDING FOR RENT/LEASE: At Yangyang (road side) Half km distance from Yangyang Bazar, way to police training centre and Sikkim university road 5 storied building measuring 60 x 60 sqft, suitable for Hotel, office, bank , school , institute, with ample parking space Rent / negotiable.

FULLY FURNISHED RESIDENTIAL FLAT FOR RENT: At Gangtok Upper Burtuk Swastik (Road side) Having 3 bed rooms with all attached toilets, 1 sitting room, 1 kitchen dining room , 1 balcony, with 1 vehicle parking space rent/ negotiable.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: At Gangtok Tadong Greendale school road (back side) 1 minute walking distance from road land measuring 40 x 50 sqft price / negotiable

MINUTE BUILDING FOR SALE : At Gangtok Tadong Greendale school road (road side) 5 storied building measuring 40 x 40 sqft. With 3 vehicles parking space, price / negotiable,

TRIBAL LAND FOR SALE: At Namchi municipal area Near Panchayat office, below municipal office land measuring 60 x 60 sqft. Price / negotiable

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: At Gangtok (Road side) 150 mtrs distance from Mintokgang new constructed flat measuring 1245 to 1800 sqft, Having 3 bed rooms with all attached toilets, with each room's balcony. 1 sitting room, 1 kitchen, dining room, 1 common toilet, with 1 vehicle parking space and many more facilities, price / negotiable.

GENERAL BUILDING FOR SALE / LEASE: At Gangtok Namnang Road (road side) Near Ramada Hotel having 17 rooms, with all attached toilets, 1 meeting hall, 1 kitchen dining room and 3 nos residential family units, total area measuring approx 11000 sqft. With 5 vehicles parking space. Price / negotiable

FULLY FURNISHED GUEST HOUSE FOR RENT: At Gangtok Development area (road side) Having 2 bed rooms, 1 sitting room, 1 kitchen dining room, 2 toilets, 1 balcony, Rent / negotiable .

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GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: At Gangtok Rumtek (road side) Near Rumtek Gumpa Land measuring 3 Acres, plot is also available price / negotiable.

IF YOU WANT YOUR LAND / BUILDING / FLAT AND HOTEL TO SALE / RENT AND LEASE PLEASE CONTACT:
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साहित्य अकादेमी वार्षिक युवा पुरस्कार नियम

THE ANNUAL AKADEMI YUVA PURASKAR RULES

1. सामान्य

(1) यह पुरस्कार साहित्य अकादेमी (इसके पश्चात् जिसे 'अकादेमी' कहा जाएगा) द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त 24 भाषाओं में पहली बार प्रकाशित किसी भी भारतीय लेखक जिसकी आयु अथवा पुरस्कार वर्ष में 1 जनवरी को 35 वर्ष अथवा उससे कम हो, की प्राप्त पुस्तक अथवा किसी युवा भारतीय लेखक की संश्लेष कृति को प्रत्येक वर्ष प्रदान किया जाएगा।

(2) पुरस्कार के रूप में लेखक को उन्नी राशि प्रदान की जाएगी, जिसकी अकादेमी समय-समय पर निर्धारित करेगी। पुरस्कार राशि के अतिरिक्त एक प्रशस्ति-पत्र भी प्रकाशित किया जाएगा, जिसमें पुस्तक के विषयवस्तु तथा अकादेमी भाषा और साहित्य में लेखक के योगदान की संक्षेप में चर्चा होगी।

(3) लेखक की राष्ट्रियता भारतीय होनी चाहिए तथा उसकी पुस्तक का प्रकाशक दुनिया में कहीं से भी हो सकता है।

(4) दोहरी नागरिकता वाले लेखक पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय नहीं हैं। प्रस्ताव भारतीय तथा भारतीय मूल के व्यक्ति (पीआईओ) पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय नहीं हैं।

(5) साहित्य अकादेमी पुरस्कारों की किसी भी श्रेणी में पुरस्कार लेखक को जीवन में केवल एक बार एक ही भाषा में दिया जाएगा।

(6) पुरस्कार के लिए केवल उन्नी विचार दिए जाएंगे जब चयन की अंतिम प्रक्रिया में कम से कम तीन पुस्तकें हों।

2. पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीयता में मानदंड

(1) पुरस्कार के विचारार्थ होने के लिए पुस्तक का संबद्ध भाषा तथा साहित्य में विशिष्ट योगदान होना चाहिए। पुस्तक संस्कृतनामक या सामाजिकनामक हो, किन्तु निम्नलिखित से से किसी भी श्रेणी की नहीं होनी चाहिए :

(क) अनुवाद कृति, अथवा

(ख) संक्षिप्त, अथवा

(ग) विश्वविद्यालय या परीक्षा की उपाधि के लिए तैयार किया गया प्रबंध या शोध-कार्य अथवा

(घ) ऐसे लेखक की कृति, जिसे अकादेमी से (बाल साहित्य पुरस्कार/अनुवाद पुरस्कार के अतिरिक्त) पहले भी पुरस्कार मिल चुका है, अथवा

(ङ) ऐसे लेखक की कृति जो अकादेमी के कार्यकारी मंडल का सदस्य है, अथवा

(च) पुरस्कार वर्ष में 1 जनवरी को लेखक की आयु 35 वर्ष से अधिक हो।

(2) कोई समीक्षित कृति पुरस्कार हेतु विचारणीय हो सकती है यदि पुस्तक में सम्मिलित भाग अपने आपमें पूर्ण हो।

(3) लेखक की मृत्यु के पश्चात् प्रकाशित कृति पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय नहीं होगी।

(4) ऐसी पुस्तक पुरस्कार के अयोग्य होगी, जिसके संबंध में कार्यकारी मंडल को यह विश्वास हो जाए कि उसे पुरस्कार दिखाने के लिए समर्थन द्युतय है।

(5) सूचीको के दिनांकियों के अनुसार, एक पुस्तक न्यूनतम 49 पृष्ठों (क्वर पृष्ठों को छोड़कर) की होनी चाहिए।

(6) 1 जनवरी 2025 से पहली बार प्रकाशित पुस्तकों के संबंध में सभी पुरस्कारों के लिए आईएसबीएन अनिवार्य है।

(7) स.प्रकाशन (लेखक प्रकाशक भी है) सभी पुरस्कारों के लिए विचारणीय हो सकते हैं, बशर्तें उनका आईएसबीएन हो। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक पुस्तकें (ई-बुक) पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय नहीं हैं।

(8) दो या दो से अधिक भाषाओं में प्रकाशित पुस्तकें प्राप्त नहीं हैं। एकल भाषा में पुस्तकें (साहित्य अकादेमी द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त निम्नलिखित लिपि-भाषा में) पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय हैं :-

असमिया में असमिया, बाङ्ला, देवनागरी में बोडो, देवनागरी में डोगरी, रोमन में अंग्रेजी, गुजराती में गुजराती, देवनागरी में हिंदी, कन्नड़ी में कन्नड़ी, कन्नड में कन्नड, देवनागरी में कोकणी, देवनागरी में मैथिली, मलयाळम में मलयाळम, मणिपुरी में मणिपुरी, देवनागरी में मराठी, देवनागरी में नेपाळी, ओड़िआ में ओड़िआ, पुरुञ्चली में पंचाळी, देवनागरी में पंजाबी, पंजाबी में पंजाबी, संथाली में संथाली, देवनागरी में संस्कृत, तमिल, अरबी में मैथिली, तमिळ में तमिळ, तेलुगु में तेलुगु तथा फ़ारसी-अरबी में उर्दू।

(9) रीडर (संपादन) पुरस्कार के विचारणीय नहीं हैं।

(10) अकादेमी द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तकें अनुवाद पुरस्कार सहित सभी अकादेमी पुरस्कारों के लिए विचारणीय नहीं होगी।

(11) एम से अधिक लेखकों द्वारा लिखी गई पुस्तकें तथा एक से अधिक लेखकों के संकलन इस पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय नहीं हैं।

(12) ऐसे लेखक को पुस्तक पुरस्कार के लिए पात्र नहीं होगी, जो साहित्य अकादेमी का मास्टर सदस्य, पूर्व अध्यक्ष, कार्यरत कर्मचारी हों।

3. विचारणों का प्रकाशन, पुस्तकों की अर्चना तथा पुस्तकों के लिए भाषा परामर्श मंडल के सदस्यों की संसुर्धियाँ प्राप्त करना

(1) अकादेमी प्रत्येक वर्ष अपने द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त 24 भारतीय भाषाओं के उन युवा भारतीय लेखकों द्वारा लिखित उनकी प्रथम अथवा श्रेष्ठ पुस्तकों को पुरस्कार करने हेतु संस्कार पत्रों के साथ-साथ साहित्यिक परीक्षाओं से विचारणों का प्रकाशन करेगी, जिन लेखकों की आयु पुरस्कार वर्ष में 1 जनवरी को 35 वर्ष अथवा उससे कम हो।

(2) लेखकों, प्रकाशकों तथा लेखकों के शुभचिंतकों द्वारा विचारणीय पुस्तकों को लेखक के जन्म-प्रमाण पत्र के साथ, अकादेमी में विचारार्थ जमा किया जा सकता है।

(3) प्रकाशक अपनी हस्ताक्षरवाले चिप्टी भी पुस्तकें भेज सकते हैं।

(4) लेखकों द्वारा जमा की गई पुस्तकों को लेखकों अथवा प्रकाशकों को वापस नहीं किया जाएगा तथा पुरस्कार प्रक्रिया से संबंधित पत्राचार का कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया जाएगा।

(5) युवा पुरस्कार के लिए चयनित पुस्तक उत्तर गई साहित्य अकादेमी पुरस्कार हेतु मान्य नहीं होगी, किन्तु पुरस्कार वर्ष के अतिरिक्त आगामी वर्ष वर्षों में लेखक द्वारा लिखित किसी अन्य पुस्तक को साहित्य अकादेमी पुरस्कार हेतु विचारार्थ भिजाया जा सकता है।

(6) प्राप्त पुस्तकों की सूची तथा समस्त 24 भारतीय भाषाओं की सूचीयुक्त पुस्तकों की सूची संबद्ध भाषा परामर्श मंडल के (संयोजक सहित) सभी सदस्यों को इस अनुसूची के साथ भेजी जाएगी कि वे अकादेमी द्वारा निर्धारित तिथि तक दो पुस्तकें अनुमोदित करें। प्रत्येक सदस्य –

(क) सूची से दोनो पुस्तकें, अथवा

(ख) एक पुस्तक अथवा-सूची से और दूसरी अपनी स्वकी कृति, अथवा

(ग) दोनों पुस्तकें अपनी स्वकी की चुन सकता है।

(7) अनुसू के प्रमाण (जन्म तिथि के रूप में, लेखक को भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी किसी भी पहचान पत्र जैसे आधार कार्ड या मतदाता पहचान पत्र या पासपोर्ट आदि की स-सत्यापित प्रति प्रस्तुत करनी चाहिए।

(8) छप नाम/उपनाम से लिखी गई कृति के संदर्भ में लेखक को स-चोषणा प्रस्तुत करनी होगी।

4. प्रारंभिक फैसल तथा उसके कार्य

(1) प्रारंभिक फैसल में दस निर्वाचित होंगे जिनका चयन अध्यक्ष द्वारा संबद्ध भाषा परामर्श मंडल के सदस्यों के सुझावों को ध्यान में रखकर किया जाएगा।

(2) भाषा परामर्श मंडल के सदस्यों से प्राप्त सुझावों/संश्लेष करके प्रत्येक निर्वाचित को भेजी जाएगी।

(3) प्रत्येक निर्वाचित दो पुस्तकें अनुमोदित करेगा। दो पुस्तकें जिनमें निम्न (42) के अनुसार ऐसी गई सूची में से चुनी जा सकती हैं अथवा निर्वाचित द्वारा अपने विवेक से।

5. जूरी और उसके कार्य

(1) प्रारंभिक फैसल के निर्वाचकों की सुझावों पर नि-संदर्भित सूची तैयार करेगी।जूरी के सदस्यों का चयन अध्यक्ष द्वारा इस संदर्भ में प्राप्त संबद्ध परामर्श मंडल के सदस्यों की संसुर्धियों पर विचार करने के उपरान्त किया जाएगा।

(2) प्रारंभिक फैसल के निर्वाचकों द्वारा अनुमोदित पुस्तकें अकादेमी खरीद कर जूरी के सदस्यों और संयोजक को भेजींगी।

(3) संयोजक, जूरी और अकादेमी के बीच संयुक्त सूच का काम करेगा। वह सब सुनिश्चित करेगा/करेगी कि जूरी की बैठक उचित और संयोजकता रूप से संचाल हो। वह जूरी की रिपोर्ट पर प्रतिप्रस्तार भी करेगा/करेगी। संयोजक की अनुमतिपूर्व में अकादेमी के अध्यक्ष सामान्य परिषद या परामर्श मंडल के किसी सदस्य को उनके चयन पर नामित करेगा।

(4) जूरी के सदस्य जो दो सर्वसम्मति से अपना मतदान से पुरस्कार के लिए पुस्तक को खान में रखें वह पुरस्कार की अनुसूची करेगें। वे यह भी अनुसूच कर सकते हैं कि उनके विचार में इस वर्ष कोई भी पुस्तक पुरस्कार के योग्य नहीं है। समस्त सदस्यों को बैठक में भाग लेना होगा, कोई सदस्य यदि किसी कारणवश बैठक में उपस्थित हो नहीं पाता तो वह अपनी संसुर्धि लिखित रूप में भेज सकता/सकती है। चयन में भाग लेने हेतु उनसे दूरभाष पर संकेत साधा जा सकता है।

6. पुरस्कार की घोषणा

(1) जूरी की संसुर्धि को औपचारिक अनुमोदन और पुरस्कार की घोषणा के लिए कार्यकारी मंडल के संश्लेष करेगा। पुरस्कार की घोषणा के साथ ही एक सूची जूरी के सदस्यों के नाम और अंतिम सराफा में जूरी गई पुस्तकों की सूची भी घोषित कर दी जाएगी।

7. विधि

(1) यदि भाषा परामर्श मंडल के किसी सदस्य या निर्वाचित द्वारा संसुर्धि भेजने की समय सीमा की अवधि पूरी जाती है तो अकादेमी यह मानकर संसुर्धि कि उच्छा/उत्सवी कोई संसुर्धि नहीं है और सदस्य/अर्जी पुरस्कार-प्रक्रिया को ओर बढ़ाएगी। विचार उस विधि पर निर्भर है कि जिसमें अकादेमी सदस्य-सीमा को बढ़ा पाने की शक्ति में हो तथा वास्तव में उसे बढ़ाती हो।

अकादेमी कार्यलय का प्रकाशन समय-सीमा के बारे में निर्णय ले सकता है।

(2) कार्यकारी मंडल/अध्यक्ष के निर्णयानुसार पुरस्कार संयोजक की तिथि और स्थान निर्धारित किया जाएगा।

(3) यदि पुरस्कार प्रदान किए जाने के पूर्व किसी पुरस्कार विजेता की मृत्यु हो जाती है तो उस विधि में वह पुरस्कार उसके उत्तराधिकारी, पत्नी अथवा किसी कानूनी सहित को दिया जाएगा।

(4) परामर्श मंडल के सदस्य, प्रारंभिक फैसल के सदस्य तथा जूरी सदस्य किसी भी चुनाव से मुक्त होंगे की घोषणा करेगी और या घोषित करेगी कि वे पुरस्कार के लिए जूरी की सूची की अवधि नहीं कर रहे हैं जो उनमें से या किसी भी प्रकार के सांख्यिक मंडल/डि-में भागमें से उन्ने संघर्षित है।

साहित्य अकादेमी

Secretary Sahitya Akademi

Health and Family Welfare Department

Government of Sikkim

STATE IEC BUREAU

M.A.C.P.No 281/2023

Publication Notice

Due on / / 2025 or There after before 30 days

IN THE MOTOR ACCIDENT TRIBUNAL,DISTRICT COURT, SANGLI

Smt Rajiv Prabhakar Gadgil ----- Applicant

Versus

Thupden Tdhering Bhutia ----- Respondent

To,

R.No. 1. Thupden Tdhering Bhutia - R/o Tikiuk, Gayzing, West District, Sikkim

R.No. 2. Passang Norbu Bhutia - R/o Tikiuk, Gayzing, West District, Sikkim

R.No. 4. Lhakit Lepcha (Son of Dawa Pinto Lepcha) - R/o 31 Tikiuk, Gyalshing – Sikkim 737111

Counseling Notice

Dated 6th August 2025

It is notified for the information of all candidates who have registered for allocation of supernumerary seats through Central Seat Allocation Board NEUT-2025 under Sikkim State that the Spot Round counseling for allocation of remaining supernumerary seats of CSAB NEUT 2025 will be held in the Office of Additional Secretary, Technical Education, Education Department, Tashiling, Gangtok on 11th August 2025 at 11:00 a.m. The candidate who has been allotted seats in Round I and Round II wanting to upgrade his/her choice are also eligible to participate in the counseling. The parents whose candidates have already joined institutions located in other parts of the country can represent them in the above counseling.

Please note that the allotment will be made strictly as per merit and reservation policy of the government. This notice is also uploaded in the official webportal www.education.sikkim.gov.in.


Sd/- Additional Secretary Technical Education Education Department Government of Sikkim

R.O. No. 158/IPR/PUB/Classi/25-26 Date: 06/08/2025

Junior Clerk District Court, Sangli

Superintendent District Court, Mahesh Sudhokar Geyralhosu

Date-०५-०8-2०2५



SIKKIM JUDICIAL ACADEMY

SOKEYTHANG, GANGTOK

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sikkim Judicial Academy invites sealed tenders from registered and authorized Distributors/Dealers/Suppliers for the supply of furniture at Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang, Gangtok.

Interested parties may view the detailed terms and conditions in the official website of the Academy at <https://www.sikkimjudicialacademy.nic.in/advertisement> and submit the tender on or before 30.08.2025 at 04:00 pm at the Office of the Director, Sikkim Judicial Academy.

R.O. No.: 156/IPR/PUB/Classi/25-26 Date: 05.08.2025

Sd/- Director Sikkim Judicial Academy


CHANGE OF NAME

I, Neetu Singh Baraily, W/o, Subash Baraily, aged about 46 Years, permanent resident of Tibet Road, Gangtok, Sikkim, P.O Gangtok & P.S Sadar- 737101, do hereby solemnly declare, that previously my name has been recorded as Neetu Singh and Nitu Singh, vide this affidavit No. A382352 I have changed my name from Neetu Singh and Nitu Singh to Neetu Singh Baraily for all the purpose before the Oath Commissioner, Gangtok Sikkim on 5th day of August,2025.

ELECTRICAL WORKS AT ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: AP/EL/12/25-26. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. AP/EL/12/25-26. Name of work:** At New Mal Jn.- Electrical work for: Upgradation/modernization of infrastructure at goods shed, provision of goods office with toilets and drinking water facility, labour rest room with toilet, merchant room with toilet, bathing facility along with provision of CCTV. **Tender Value:** ₹15,41,663.66/- **Earnest Money:** ₹30,800/- **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 25-08-2025 **& opening at 15.30 hrs. of 25-08-2025** at DRM/Elect (G)/Alipurduar jn. office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in **Asstt DEE/ G&Chg., Alipurduar Jn.**





पी एम श्री जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय, पाक्योंग, सिक्किम

PM SHRI JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA, PAKYONG, SIKKIM

NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO CLASS-XI (Science and Humanities) AGAINST VACANT SEATS FOR THE SESSION 2025-26

Applications are accordingly invited from eligible students for admission to Class XI against the vacant seats likely to be available in JNVs during the academic year **2025-26**. Admission will be made on the basis of performance of students in Class X Board Examinations conducted by CBSE / State Education Board.

NO OF VACANT SEATS

❖ **HUMANITIES- 25 SCIENCE- 27**

Eligibility

❖ Date of birth of the candidate must be between 01.06.2008 to 31.07.2010 (both dates are inclusive).

❖ The candidate must have passed Class X from a recognized school (affiliated to CBSE or any other State Education Board) of Pakyong and Gangtok districts during the academic session 2024-25.

❖ Only a student securing 60% or above (First class) in class X is eligible to apply.

❖ The candidate opting for Science Stream must have at least 60% marks in Science subject and candidate opting for Mathematics in any stream must have at least 60% marks in Mathematics in class X.

Selection Criteria

❖ Preference will be given to candidates from CBSE affiliated Schools. If seats still remain vacant, candidate from other recognized State Boards may be considered, strictly in order of merit. Merit list will be prepared and students will be selected only against the vacancies based on the marks obtained in class X. Stream wise merit list will be prepared for the JNV Pakyong in accordance with the criteria decided by the Samiti.

How to Apply

❖ Download application form from the website www.navodaya.gov.in

❖ Fill the downloaded form and submit the filled form in the school mail-jnvpakyong36@gmail.com or submit the form physically to JNV Pakyong, Raigaon, Pakyong, Sikkim

❖ The last date to submit the APPLICATION FORM is **10th August, 2025**

Contact Details:

Sh. Tamal Krishna Saha- 9831479842, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Shriwas- 7987734189, Sh. Sudip Roy-9589670528



Independence Day celebrations start at Yangang

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: The 79th Independence Day celebrations in Yangang sub-division started with patriotic fervour and community participation at PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Yangang today.

The highlights of the day were cultural performances, speech competition, and matches of the open football tournament and junior-level football tournament.

The entire celebration was conducted in a fully eco-friendly manner, reflecting the district's commitment to sustainability and responsible celebration, informs a press release.

Melli MLA N.B. Pradhan attended the event as the chief guest. Deputy Speaker and area MLA Raj Kumari Thapa, other local dignitaries and government officials were also present.



Suspension of 4 election officers in Bengal a warning to others by ECI

KOLKATA, August 6 (IANS)

The direction from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to West Bengal Chief Secretary, Manoj Pant, on Tuesday ordering suspension of four election officers, should be considered as the commission's first note of caution for all involved in the electoral process in the state.

The ECI action against the four election officers posted with two Assembly constituencies in two districts of West Bengal, was in connection with their alleged involvement in wrongful addition of names in the electoral rolls of these two seats.

Given the latest action, the

office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, has started conveying to all involved in the system to be mindful that the commission does not get a chance to detect similar instances of irregularities and order similar punitive actions in the future.

"The message from the commission is loud and clear, that all involved in the process are under watch, and no irregularity in the system would be able to escape the vigilance of the commission. So, on our part, we are also asking all electoral officers in the state to be extremely mindful in carrying out their

duties with due diligence and strictly go by the book," an insider from the CEO's office said.

He explained that in the order from the ECI to the state government for the suspension of the four electoral officers and registration of FIRs against them, the commission had also clearly sent a note of caution for all in the system about the punitive provisions for similar offenders.

If proven guilty, the erring individuals will be imprisoned for a term of at least three months, but it might extend to two years, accompanied by a fine, as mentioned in

Monday's communique from the ECI to the Chief Secretary.

Besides suspending and registering FIRs against these four election officers, the commission had also directed the Chief Secretary to register an FIR against one data entry operator involved in the system.

The main charges against these four errant election officers, two Electoral Returning Officers (EROs) and two Assistant Electoral Returning Officers (AEROs), were that they not only failed in performing duties as EROs and AEROs while disposing of the applications but also

violated the policy of data security while sharing their login credentials of the election registration database with unauthorised persons.

The office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Agarwal, first conducted a thorough probe against these two EROs, two AEROs, and one data entry operator, following complaints received against them regarding their involvement in the wrongful addition of names in the electoral rolls of these two constituencies.

Thereafter, the office of the CEO also forwarded a report on their findings to the commission.

Soreng MLA, district administration's study visit to Yakten village

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6:

Soreng-Chakung MLA Aditya Golay along with Soreng DC Dhiraj Subedi, ADC D.R. Bista, IT assistant director Amir Bhandari and other officials from Soreng district administration visited Yakteen village in Pakyong district, recently recognized as India's first digital nomad village.

The primary objective of the visit was to gain first-hand understanding of the community-driven homestay model tailored for digital nomads, and to study its day-to-day functioning, informs a press release.

The delegation interacted

with various stakeholders, including Tourism department, homestay owners and local participants, to assess their roles and collaborative efforts in sustaining this unique initiative.

During the visit, the team observed how Yakteen village has successfully blended local culture, sustainable tourism, and modern digital infrastructure to cater to the needs of remote workers from across the country and abroad. The model emphasizes community participation, capacity building, and the sharing of economic benefits among residents, thereby fostering both cultural




preservation and economic growth.

MLA Aditya Golay appreciated the efforts of Pakyong district administration, local community and Tourism department, Pakyong in pioneering this initiative in Pakyong district, noting that it offers valuable lessons for similar community-led projects and replications in Soreng district. The visit also marked

an important step towards exploring adoption of such sustainable tourism models in Soreng district as well as other parts of the State, the release states.

The delegation expressed confidence that continued collaboration among all stakeholders will ensure the long-term success of the digital nomad village concept and contribute significantly in featuring Soreng as a

prominent tourist destination in Sikkim additionally uplifting Sikkim's reputation as a progressive and eco-conscious tourism destination.



Gangtok weather

Max. Temperature : 23° C

Min. Temperature : 19° C

NFR's New Bongaigaon workshop makes remarkable progress

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: The New Bongaigaon Workshop (NBQS) under Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved significant progress in the month of July, reflecting its continued commitment towards quality maintenance, innovation and operational excellence.

In terms of coach production and maintenance, the workshop out-turned a total of 78.5 coaches. This includes 24 ICF (Non-AC), 4 ICF (AC), 20 LHB (Non-AC), 14 LHB (AC) including four power cars, six DEMU trailer coaches, two DEMU driving power coaches, two NMGHS (POH), six NMGHS/NMGH converted coaches and one intermediate overhauling coach. Additionally, 134 wagons were turned out during the month, along with 11 wagons that were detained due to non-availability of Centre Buffer Coupling (CBC) yokes, informs a press release.

In trolley dispatch activities, the workshop dispatched a total of 108 coach sets, comprising 43 SS1 sets, 20 LHB Non-AC, 23 LHB AC, 52 ICF Non-AC, 7 ICF AC and 6 DEMU sets. Under the wheel dispatch category, NBQS dispatched 223 wheel pairs which included 72 pairs for BCN, 105 for LHB, 42 for ICF and 4 special category wheels.



The workshop continued its focus on upgrading safety and functionality. During July, five wagons were converted to the twin pipe air brake system, taking the cumulative total to 262. Notably, all wagons now out-turned from NBQS are 100% twin pipe compliant. Additionally, 27 wagons were modified for door height reduction and door blocking, with a cumulative total of 384 wagons now having this modification. Furthermore, 35 in-house items were manufactured to meet production requirements.

According to the release, NBQS has also ensured 100% compliance in implementing new design modifications during periodical overhauling activities. "In terms of environmental and

housekeeping goals, the workshop disposed of 326.384 metric tonnes of ferrous and 37.193 metric tonnes of non-ferrous scrap, helping achieve scrap disposal targets and improve workshop cleanliness," the NFR's chief public relations officer said.

Among key innovations, the workshop successfully developed a safety valve test bench for BTPN tank wagons, designed for accurate testing at pressures ranging from 0.35 kg/cm² to 1.4 kg/cm². "This system enhances safety testing efficiency and reliability. In addition, a prototype model of the BTPN tank wagon filling and discharge system was created to improve operational knowledge sharing among workshop staff and supervisors."

Kartavya Bhavan reflects Centre's commitment to build Viksit, Atmanirbhar India: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, August 6

(IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday dedicated the newly-constructed Kartavya Bhavan to the nation, asserting that this new construction reflects the Centre's commitment to building a 'Viksit' and 'Atmanirbhar' India.

He inaugurated the Kartavya Bhavan-03 at Kartavya Path in New Delhi earlier in the day and also visited an exhibition related to the construction of the Kartavya Bhavan-03, showcasing the building's modern features and highlighting the aspects of the building constructed to ensure environmental sustainability.

Following this, PM Modi took to X and posted, "Kartavya Bhavan, on the path of duty, is a symbol of our unwavering commitment and continuous efforts toward serving every individual. It will not only help in swiftly delivering our policies and schemes to the people but will also provide a new momentum to the country's development. I am deeply proud to dedicate this building, an example of state-of-the-art infrastructure, to the nation."

Stressing that Kartavya Bhavan reflects the Modi government's "commitment to building a 'Viksit' and 'Atmanirbhar' India," the Prime Minister said, "Today, the nation has witnessed the tireless hard work and determination of our labouring brothers who have shaped it. I am extremely delighted to interact with them."

PM Modi also planted a sapling in the courtyard of the

newly-constructed complex, aligning with this 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative.

"Full attention has been given to environmental protection in the construction of Kartavya Bhavan, for which our country is committed. Today, I also got the fortunate opportunity to plant a sapling in its courtyard," he posted.

Later in the evening, the Prime Minister will address a public gathering at the same venue at approximately 6.30 p.m.

The inauguration of Kartavya Bhavan-03 marks a significant milestone in the ongoing Central Vista redevelopment project.

As the first of several upcoming Common Central Secretariat buildings, the new structure is designed to streamline administrative functioning by consolidating various ministries and departments currently operating from scattered locations across Delhi.

Kartavya Bhavan-03 spans an area of approximately 1.5 lakh square meters, including two basement levels and seven floors (Ground + 6 levels).

It will house several key government offices, including those of the Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSME, DoPT, Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA).

The state-of-the-art complex integrates modern



infrastructure with cutting-edge technology to support efficient and secure governance.

The new building will exemplify modern governance infrastructure featuring IT-ready and secure workspaces, ID card-based access controls, integrated electronic surveillance, and a centralised command system.

The facility will promote eco-consciousness through zero-discharge waste management, in-house solid waste processing, e-vehicle charging stations, and extensive use of recycled construction material.

Kartavya Bhavan-03 is designed to consume 30 per cent less energy compared to conventional office buildings.

It includes double-glazed facade windows to regulate indoor temperatures and reduce noise, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, energy-efficient lifts, and a centralised energy management system.

Solar panels installed on the rooftop will generate over 5.34 lakh units of electricity annually.

Odisha govt mandates all government offices to be painted saffron

BHUBANESWAR, August 6

(IANS): In a bid to bring visual uniformity and a distinct identity to public infrastructure, the Odisha government, on Wednesday, issued a notification mandating a uniform saffron-themed colour code for all government buildings across the state.

As per the notification issued by the Works Department on July 30, 2025, the new colour scheme will be implemented henceforth for all new government buildings, and will also be applicable during periodical repair and renovation of existing buildings.

The new standard adopts saffron-inspired RGB shades, giving a warm and traditional look to public structures. A visual reference of the approved colour palette has been shared as Annexure-1 with

the notification.

This move, which comes into immediate effect, is applicable to all departments of the state government as well as state public sector undertakings.

Officials say the saffron palette will offer a distinct and dignified appearance to government buildings, aligning with Odisha's cultural warmth and architectural aesthetics.

The order was issued by the direction of the Governor of Odisha Hari Babu Kambhampati, marking a new chapter in the state's approach to infrastructure branding and upkeep.

After assuming charge in the state, the Mohan Charan Majhi-led BJP government has ordered the transformation of the visual landscape of various government office buildings and

quarters, public transport (the state-owned LaccMI buses), school buildings, adopting saffron as the dominant colour.

In an effort to wipe out the legacy of the previous Biju Janata Dal (BJD) regime, the BJP government swapped the green colour — associated with the opposition party's symbol — for saffron, marking a clear break from former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 24-year leadership.

As per reports, the state government has also issued orders recently directing that primary school students will carry saffron ID cards from the academic year 2025-26.

Meanwhile, opposition Biju Janata Dal and Congress have lashed out at the BJP-led state government in the past over its decision regarding the adoption of saffron in various sectors.

Uttarakhand cloudburst: CM Dhami meets affected families, assures all possible assistance

DEHRADUN, August 6

(IANS): Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Wednesday reached the cloudburst-hit Uttarkashi region and met the families of those affected by the devastating mudslide, triggered by flash floods. He assured the affected families of all possible assistance in this difficult hour and also sought to comfort them by embracing and hugging them.

Taking to X handle, Uttarakhand CM wrote, "In Dharaali (Uttarkashi), I met with the families of those affected by the disaster and assured them of all possible assistance in this hour of crisis. This disaster has caused immense grief to many families, and we understand their pain."

"Our government stands fully with the affected families. Disaster management and relief operations are being conducted swiftly. Our priority is to search for every missing person and provide complete support to the affected families," he added.

The Chief Minister also instructed the district administration and all departments to speed up relief and rescue operations, adding that rescuing every individual was his administration's top



priority.

"Our first and foremost priority at this hour is to ensure relief and rescue operations. State rescue teams along with NDRF, SDRF and Army are working in tandem to salvage the situation," CM Dhami told the scribes.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister undertook an aerial survey of the flash floods-triggered mudslide zone and instructed officials to remain on 24-hour alert mode.

"In Dharaali, Uttarkashi, all government agencies, departments, and the army are engaged in relief and rescue operations with mutual coordination. Last night, more than 130 people were rescued. Closed routes are being

reopened, and all possible assistance is being provided to the affected," he informed.

Dharaali village in Uttarkashi was hit by a raging mudslide triggered by flash floods on Tuesday afternoon. The picturesque village, home to various hotels, homestays and restaurants, was washed away by the raging river water flowing down the hill, causing widespread devastation and destruction.

The village is the main stopover on the way to Gangotri, the place where the river Ganga originates.

The Indian Army is also engaged in relief and rescue efforts, with its MI-17 and Chinook helicopters lifting the stranded villagers to safety.

Gyalshing district administration organises coordination meeting for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Gyalshing DC Tenzing D Denzongpa chaired a coordination meeting on Har Ghar Tiranga campaign with the heads of offices under Gyalshing district today at the conference hall of District Administrative Centre, Gyalshing.

During the meeting, the stakeholder departments were informed about the vital roles and essentially required pre-preparatory measures necessary for effective convergence of the campaign. Primary focus was given to instilling the spirit of togetherness and motivate hoisting of national flags in every house in the district by way of the campaign, informs a press release.

The DC discussed the instructions of Chief Secretary on the campaign and encouraged stakeholders to work together on the



responsibilities bestowed upon.

The DC laid stress on developing efficiency in the assigned responsibilities and advised for collective efforts on timely implementation and effective convergence of

the campaign in the district.

SDM (HQ) Pulkit updated the august house on the instructions received and emphasised goals of the Ministry of Culture for the campaign. He informed the house on phase-wise

campaign in the district and mentioned that, the prime goal was to encourage the general public for active and collective participation in the national level campaign.

The campaign will be launched in the district on

August 8.

The meeting was also attended by SP Tshering Sherpa, Gyalshing ADC Suresh Rai, ADC (Development) Surat Kumar Gurung and Gyalshing SDM Sandesh Subba.

Fire destroys house in Malutar



Our Correspondent

DARJEELING, August 6: A devastating fire completely gutted the house of Devendra Subba at Malutar Tea Garden under the Tindharia-Mahanadi constituency in Kurseong this morning. The incident occurred

around 10 am, with no casualties reported.

According to Devendra Subba, only his father was at home at the time of the incident, and they were unable to salvage any belongings from the two-storey wooden house.

The fire also caused partial damage to the nearby house of C.B. Raj Subba and the shop of Pranil Subba. A fire tender from Kurseong responded to the scene and helped bring the blaze under control.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

RGU student receives CERN funding grant

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Zahid Mamud, an MSc Physics student at The Assam Royal Global University (RGU), has been awarded a prestigious funding grant by CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research and one of the world's leading centres for scientific research. The grant will support his participation in an international training programme in Spain, informs a press release.

Established in 1954, CERN is headquartered in Meyrin, Switzerland. It is an intergovernmental organization that operates the world's largest particle physics laboratory.

Zahid has been selected to attend the CAS course on "Introduction to Accelerator Physics", scheduled to be held in Santa Susanna, Spain, from September 21 to October 4. A former INSPIRE



Fellow, Zahid's selection reflects his unwavering dedication, academic brilliance, and commitment to advancing in the field of physics, the release mentions.

Expressing his delight over this achievement, RGU vice chancellor Prof. AK Buragohain stated, "Zahid's recognition by CERN is a proud moment for the entire university. It highlights the quality of our academic environment and the global potential of our students."

Bangladeshi man caught trying to enter India underneath moving truck

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, August 6: A Bangladeshi national was arrested at Fulbari border check post on Tuesday after he attempted to enter India by hiding underneath a Bhutan-registered truck.

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel discovered the man clinging to the truck's chassis as it was crossing the Indo-Bangladesh border around 10 am.

The man, identified as Jibon Roy, a resident of Kumarpada under Taraganj police station in Rangpur district of Bangladesh, was apprehended by BSF personnel at the integrated check post along with the truck driver. Both were handed over to New Jalpaiguri police for further investigation.

The truck had reportedly entered Bangladesh through the same border a day earlier carrying boulders. On its return journey to Bhutan, Roy allegedly chose to hide beneath the vehicle to evade border security.

During interrogation, Roy claimed he fled Bangladesh due



to alleged persecution of the Hindu community and was attempting to seek refuge in India.

In recent weeks, several Bangladeshi nationals have been arrested while trying to cross the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal borders illegally. BSF personnel deployed in Fulbari and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel posted at Panitanki have apprehended over a dozen such individuals in the past two months.

Roy was produced before the Jalpaiguri court on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, truck drivers have been cautioned about such incidents and instructed to thoroughly inspect their vehicles before crossing the border to prevent unauthorized individuals from hitching a ride undetected.

Soreng DEO holds monthly coordination meeting with political parties



SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Soreng DC and District Election Officer Dhiraj Subedi convened the monthly coordination meeting with representatives of political parties through video conferencing today.

The meeting discussed rationalisation of polling stations; identification of new polling stations; appointment

of New BLOs, BLSS, and BLAs for proposed polling stations; appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) by political parties; and electoral roll updates and voter registration.

During the meeting, the DEO emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts to ensure smooth and inclusive electoral processes, informs a press release.

Representatives from various political parties actively participated in the discussions, providing valuable suggestions and raising relevant concerns.

The meeting was joined by the representatives from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Sikkim Democratic Front, and Citizen Action Party (CAP) Sikkim alongside officials from Election Cell, Soreng from DAC Soreng.

IRC meeting at ICAR Sikkim Centre discuss status of projects & future research

GANGTOK, August 6 (PIB): The Institute Research Committee (IRC) meeting of ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre was held on August 4-5, at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, Tadong in Gangtok.

Dr. Ashok Kumar, HoRC, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, chaired the meeting, which was attended by eminent scientists, technical experts, and project staff.

Dr. SK Dutta, PME cell member, extended a warm welcome to the participants at the outset.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Ashok Kumar emphasized the importance of the IRC meeting for reviewing the

progress of existing projects and approving new ones. He further stressed the need for scientific publication, documentation, and IP protection of research findings.

Dr. Ashok Kumar, HoRC, ICAR Sikkim Centre; Dr. Sudip Kr. Dutta, Senior Scientist (Horticulture); Dr. Shaon Kumar Das, Senior Scientist (Soil Science); Dr. Saurav Saha, Senior Scientist (Agril. Physics); Dr. T.L. Bhutia, Senior Scientist (Vegetable Science); Dr. Amit Kumar, Scientist SS (Agronomy); Dr. Tamilarasan K., Scientist (LPM); and Dr. Prakash Sharma, Head, KVK-East Sikkim, presented their ongoing and new project activities.

The meeting reviewed

project progress, including ongoing, near-completion, and completed initiatives, as well as evaluated new project submissions. Dr. Ashok Kumar, at the plenary session, appreciated the efforts of all the scientists of the centre.

Dr. SK Dutta in his closing remarks, expressed gratitude to all participants for their active engagement and valuable inputs on ongoing and new projects. He also outlined the themes for the upcoming IRC-2025. The meeting underscored the importance of planning an interface meeting with state government departments to ensure stakeholder issues are addressed in ICAR project finalization.

DPS-Siliguri organises 3rd RD Surendra Agarwal Memorial Interschool Swimming Competition



SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: The 3rd RD Surendra Agarwal Memorial Interschool Swimming Competition 2025 was organised by Delhi Public School, Siliguri on August 5-6.

A total of 24 schools from in and around Siliguri and Manjuri Public School from Sikkim participated in the competition.

The championship

commenced with a floral tribute to the founder father of Delhi Public School, Siliguri, Late Surendra Agarwal and welcoming the guests. The students presented a graceful dance performance in the opening ceremony.

Principal Anisha Sharma, in her welcome address, emphasized on the importance of encouraging wholesome sports like swimming among the

youngsters for ensuring physical wellbeing.

After a close contest, swimmers in various categories were awarded trophies, medals and certificates by pro vice chairperson, DPS, Siliguri, the chief guest of the day.

In his vote of thanks, school vice principal Sukanta Ghosh thanked the school management for taking initiative to promote different sports for school children.

One booked under NDPS Act



SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, August 6: In a significant breakthrough under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Singtam Mission, a dedicated team led by PI Sher Bahadur Manger, in coordination with the Singtam Police, conducted a successful anti-drug operation near the Topakhani Tunnel.

During the operation, the

team intercepted an individual later identified as Shubham Subba, a resident of Shastri Nagar, Siliguri.

Following due legal procedure, a search was conducted in the presence of Gazetted Officer Dorjee Sherpa, BDO of Khamdong, and two independent witnesses Nikhil Rai and Sanjeev Kumar Gurung. Upon inspection, the police recovered 58.75 grams of a

sticky, brown-coloured substance, suspected to be brown sugar, hidden in the right front pocket of the accused's off-white jeans.

The case has been registered at Singtam Police Station under the relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and further investigation is currently underway.

Nayabazar-Jorethang Nagar Panchayat launches SHG Market to empower local communities

NAMCHI, August 6 (IPR): In a dedicated effort to strengthen governance and support the economic and social empowerment of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State, Nayabazar-Jorethang Nagar Panchayat (NJNP) has allocated specific areas and designated days for SHG activities within Jorethang town.

As part of this initiative, the inaugural event of the Swayam Sikkim SHG Mela was held today in Jorethang. The programme was organised by NJNP in collaboration with the Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission

under the Rural Development department. Area MLA Madan Cintury attended the event as the Chief Guest. He inaugurated the SHG market, visited each of the stalls, and interacted with the SHG members present.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA reaffirmed Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang's commitment to supporting, promoting, and uplifting SHGs across the state. He urged SHG members to take full advantage of the opportunities being provided and use them as

stepping stones towards personal and community growth.

He highlighted the benefits that the market would bring to the public by providing access to fresh, organic produce. He also assured the SHG members of his personal support and encouraged all departments involved to actively contribute to the market's long-term development.

Further, he recommended that NJNP and local panchayats conduct a survey to identify a more suitable permanent location for the SHG market.



In conclusion, he praised the enthusiasm and dedication of the SHG members, extended his

gratitude, and wished them success in their future endeavours.

NJNP president Pavitra Manav emphasised that the newly established market not only serves as a platform for selling organic products but also fosters the growth and development of SHGs. He expressed sincere gratitude to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support of SHGs and the relevant departments.

He encouraged SHG members to work closely with the departments to ensure the market's continued success and

expansion. He also invited more SHGs to set up stalls and utilise this platform to grow their businesses.

SIRD&PR director Bishal Mukhia reflected on the historic SHG Sammelan held in 2019 at Jorethang, where the Chief Minister had first laid out a vision for a progressive SHG future, an initiative now being actively realised.

He noted that departments have been working diligently to build SHG capacity in areas such as digital literacy and financial inclusion. SIRD&PR has partnered

with local banks to provide necessary banking services to SHGs, ensuring smoother financial transactions.

He also stressed the importance of health and wellbeing, stating that the SHG market aims to become a central hub for organic produce across Sikkim.

The SHG market will operate twice a week—on Wednesdays and Sundays. The market will function as a hub for SHG visibility, business promotion, and the enhancement of livelihoods for members across the region.

Case registered against Malayalam actress Shwetha Menon for allegedly acting in obscene content

Police in Kerala’s Kochi have registered a case against popular Malayalam actress Shwetha Menon, following a complaint that she allegedly acted in obscene content and profited from it.

The complaint was filed by social activist Martin Menachery, and the case has been filed under Section 67(A) of the IT Act and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.

The complaint cites scenes from several Malayalam films in which Menon acted, including “Paleri Manikyam”, “Rathinirvedam”, and “Kalimannu”—the latter being a film directed by Blessy that featured real footage of the actress giving birth.

A condom advertisement featuring the actress has also been included in the list of allegedly objectionable material.

Despite the serious allegations, all the works mentioned by the complainant were certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and released to the public through mainstream platforms.

Many of these films are still



accessible in the public domain.

The complaint alleges that scenes from these films are being shared widely on social media and adult websites, which, according to the petitioner, amounts to indecent representation and misuse of digital platforms.

Initially, the police reportedly did not act on the complaint, but Menachery approached the Emakulam Chief Judicial Magistrate’s court, which then instructed the police to register a case.

Based on the court’s

directive, the Kochi Central police proceeded to file an FIR against Menon.

Confirming the news, a top police official said they are bound by rules and when a court directs them, they have to do it.

“Now we will probe the complaint,” the official said.

The FIR reportedly mentions that nude or semi-nude scenes involving the actress are being circulated via online platforms, further prompting the case registration.

This fresh development comes at a time when Menon is

contesting for the prestigious post of the President of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA).

She is pitted against popular actor and BJP leader Devan.

At one point of time, there was a feeling that she might be elected unopposed to the post of the President after four male candidates withdrew, but Devan said it’s always better to win through the democratic process, and if it happens, it will be a commendable achievement for her, and if not, it will be seen as a gratis gesture.

No plans to curb weekly F&O expiries: SEBI Chairman

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Wednesday termed media reports about curbing weekly expiries as “speculative”.

“I am not aware of any such communication. Media reports are speculative, what we have been saying is out in the open,” the SEBI Chairman said.

He added that reforms are needed, but the nature of those reforms is determined through a process.

Following his statement, BSE shares entered the green zone after declining during the morning hours. BSE shares were

trading at Rs 2,400, up Rs 33 or 1.41 per cent as of 2.30 pm. The Nifty Capital Markets index also entered the green zone following the SEBI Chairman’s comment, advancing 2.36 per cent after experiencing an intraday decline of over 1 per cent.

Shares of Angel One, Motilal Oswal, UTI AMC and CAMS saw a 0.45 per cent to 1.41 per cent increase. After reports surfaced on Tuesday that the market regulator and government are considering curbing weekly expiry to reduce speculation, shares of BSE and other capital

market stocks started dipping and extended their losses today.

Last month, SEBI’s Whole-Time Member Ananth Narayan had expressed concerns at the surge in F&O contracts and also said that the regulator would consider improving the quality of the F&O market “by extending the tenure and maturity of the products and solutions on offer”.

“As many experts have pointed out, our Indian derivative market ecosystem is unique, in that on expiry days, comparable turnover in index

options is often 350 times or more the turnover in the underlying cash market—an imbalance that is unhealthy, with several potential adverse consequences,” he said.

A SEBI study in July 2025 found that the number of retail investors trading in F&O has decreased by 20 per cent compared to the previous year, but increased by 24 per cent compared to two years ago. Traders with a total turnover of less than Rs 1 lakh were the majority who left the F&O business.

Kajol says 2025 is turning out to be great year, sets return of her OTT show’s new season

Bollywood actress Kajol, who is returning with the 2nd season of the courtroom drama streaming show ‘The Trial: Pyaar Kaanoon Dhokha’, has said that 2025 has been an enriching year for her.

The makers of ‘The Trial: Pyaar Kaanoon Dhokha’ released a quirky video announcing the return of the 2nd season. It shows that the actress’ character of Noyonika Sengupta has now found her footing in the ruthless world of law as she battles new challenges, impossible choices and shocking betrayals that’ll keep you at the edge of the seats.

Kajol, who returns as Noyonika Sengupta, shared, “Professionally, it has been an incredibly enriching year for me - I’ve had the chance to explore a range of characters & stories and among them, Noyonika remains especially close to my heart. From being an underdog in the first season to having found her own footing in the cut-throat legal world, I’ve loved stepping back into her shoes”.

“I genuinely can’t wait for all of you to experience what we’ve created this season. It’s been a labor of love”, she added.

‘The Trial - Pyaar Kaanoon Dhokha’ is a format of the original U.S. series ‘The Good Wife’, which was produced by CBS Studios in association with Scott Free Productions and King Size Productions with the format rights that are licensed by Paramount Global Content Distribution.



LEADING MEN

Taylor Kitsch and Chris Pratt were all smiles at the premiere of their Prime Video series *The Terminal List: Dark Wolf* in New York City on August 4.

BUSINESS

5G smartphone shipments capture 87 pc of overall India market in April-June

NEW DELHI, August 6 (IANS): 5G smartphone shipments accounted for 87 per cent of the overall India market in the April-June quarter, marking a 20 per cent yearly increase, a report showed on Wednesday.

Notably, 5G smartphones priced between Rs 8,000 and Rs 10,000 recorded over 600 per cent year-on-year growth, reflecting surging demand for affordable 5G access, according to the report by CyberMedia Research (CMR) India.

India’s smartphone market grew 8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in Q2 2025. The growth was fuelled by rising adoption of affordable 5G smartphones, strong channel push, and a wave of strategic new launches across key price bands.

“The Rs 10,000-Rs 13,000 5G smartphone segment witnessed over 138 per cent YoY growth in Q2 2025. This surge was primarily driven by the growing demand for value-for-money 5G smartphones among first-time smartphone upgraders,” said Menka Kumari, senior analyst, Industry Intelligence Group (IIG) at CMR.

Apple posted strong double-digit growth in India, capturing a 7 per cent market share, fuelled by strong demand

for premium smartphones. The iPhone 16 series — especially the iPhone 16e — was a major growth driver. In the premium segment (above Rs 50,000), Apple’s market share grew by 54 per cent on-year.

Vivo captured the top spot with 19 per cent market share, while Samsung secured second spot with 16 per cent overall market share in Q2 2025.

In the full year 2025, CMR anticipates the Indian smartphone market to witness moderate growth, with shipments growing in single digits.

“The second half of the year will be pivotal, driven by new smartphone launches timed with the festive season. Upcoming flagship smartphone launches are expected to drive heightened consumer interest and accelerate device upgrade cycles,” said Pankaj Jadli, analyst, Industry Intelligence Group at CMR.

While there is growing awareness of AI-led features, they remain a marginal factor in actual purchase decisions, with consumers prioritising core smartphone attributes like battery life, camera quality, and overall performance,” Jadli added.

India Post undertakes nationwide rollout of advanced postal tech under IT 2.0

NEW DELHI, August 6 (IANS): As part of its digital transformation under IT 2.0, India Post has undertaken a massive nationwide rollout of the Advanced Postal Technology (APT) application, the Ministry of Communication said on Wednesday.

This transition from the legacy system marks a major step toward delivering faster, smarter, and more customer-centric postal services.

Meanwhile, given the scale and complexity of this migration, spanning over 1.64 lakh post offices across urban, rural, and remote areas, slowness was observed during the first day of rollout on August 4.

However, the technical team worked around the clock and rectified the slowness by the next day.

Anticipating such



challenges because of the scale and complexity of this rollout, the Department has already put in place dedicated support teams and real-time monitoring systems to promptly address and resolve operational issues.

The APT system is now delivering notable improvements in transaction speed, digital payment integration, real-time tracking, and overall user experience, the ministry said.

According to the ministry, on August 5, more than 20 lakh articles were booked and more than 25 lakh articles were delivered through the new application across India.

“India Post remains firmly committed to ensuring uninterrupted public service. The Department is closely monitoring performance and continues to take all necessary measures to ensure a smooth and efficient

transition,” it said.

Earlier, it was announced that the Department of Posts would introduce its next-generation APT application throughout Delhi in a major step toward digital transformation and improved customer service.

“On August 4, 353 Post Offices and 61 Branch Post Offices across the capital will launch the updated digital platform,” the ministry had said last week.

For this, the department had planned a service outage for Saturday, August 2, to ensure a safe and seamless transition.

As the system went through necessary data migration, validation, and configuration procedures, no public transactions were conducted at the 414 impacted locations on this day.

7,200 complaints filed over fake goods sold by e-commerce firms in January-June

NEW DELHI, August 6 (IANS): As many as 7, 221 grievances related to the sale of spurious, fake and duplicate products in the e-commerce sector have been registered in the 6-month period from Jan to June this year on the National Consumer Helpline, up from 4,997 such complaints registered during the entire year in 2024, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

During FY 2024-25, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has carried out a total of 22 search and seizure operations at warehouses associated with e-commerce platforms. These include three search and seizure operations each in the states of Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra; two search and seizure operations each in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; and one search and seizure operation each in Gujarat, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs B.L.Verma said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

The minister said that to

safeguard the interests of consumers from unfair trade practices in e-commerce, the Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020. These rules outline the responsibilities of e-commerce entities and specify the liabilities of marketplace and inventory e-commerce entities, including provisions for consumer grievance redressal.

In terms of the provisions of these rules, e-commerce entities are not allowed to manipulate the price of goods or services offered on their platforms to gain unreasonable profit by imposing on consumers any unjustified price having regard to the prevailing market conditions.

The rules also bar these entities from discriminating between consumers of the same class or making any arbitrary classification of consumers affecting their rights under the Act.

Besides, the rules provide that no e-commerce entity shall adopt any unfair trade practice, whether in the course of business on its platform or

otherwise.

On National Consumer Day 2024, 13 major e-commerce companies, including Reliance Retail, Tata Sons Group, Zomato, Ola and Swiggy, signed the “safety pledge” finalised by the Department to ensure consumer safety.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been set up to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices and to initiate class action, including the enforcement of recalls, refunds and return of products. Its core mandate is to prevent and regulate false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the public interest.

The CCPA has also issued “Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023,” listing 13 specified dark patterns identified in the e-commerce sector. These dark patterns include false urgency, basket sneaking, confirm shaming, forced action, subscription trap, interface interference, bait and switch, drip pricing, disguised advertisements, nagging, trick

wording, SaaS billing, and rogue malware.

Further, an “Advisory in terms of Consumer Protection Act, 2019 on Self-Audit by E-Commerce Platforms for detecting the Dark Patterns on their platforms to create a fair, ethical and consumer-centric digital ecosystem” was issued by the CCPA on June 5.

The CCPA has also notified the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements. These include conditions for an advertisement to be non-misleading and valid; certain stipulations in respect of bait advertisements and free claim advertisements; and duties of manufacturer, service provider, advertiser and advertising agency, the minister said.

Action is taken by the CCPA against various entities, including e-commerce platforms, for affecting consumers, as a class, for violation of consumer rights, false and misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices as defined under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, he added.

What the planets have for you today

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

Be more optimistic than usual today, Aries. It's important that your intense emotions don't bog you down. You may lose sight of important facts. Maintain a healthy relationship between you and reality. You may find that your head is in the clouds and you're slowly slipping into some netherworld that has nothing to do with you. Don't get thrown off course.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

You may be in quite the party mode today, Taurus. Be open and social with the people around you. Take off on a wild adventure that quenches your thirst for spontaneity and fun. Stay up late and talk to a friend you haven't seen for a while. The time to live is now. Make the most of every moment of your life.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Searching for the hidden meaning in things may be a waste of time, Gemini. Go with the flow and have fun. The more you relax, the more relaxed people will be around you. It will make for better chemistry in general, regardless of whom you're with. You need to be a friend if you want to make friends. Don't turn everyone into your enemy. Take the chance to get to know them.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Your creative nature is at a peak today, Cancer, and the artist within you is tempted to come out and play. Indulge in a fantasy world that makes you happiest. Escapism may be a necessary element to the day in order to balance all the hard work you've been doing. Express yourself creatively through whatever means available.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23)

You're likely to feel a burst of energy encouraging you to engage with others in fun, creative projects, Leo. Join a group of musicians and rock the night away. It's OK to spend a good part of the day up the clouds. This is where you operate best. There's no need to resist this tendency. If other people become frustrated by your otherworldly attitude, that's their problem and not yours.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23)

Issues regarding love and romance are likely to improve quite a bit over the next couple weeks, Virgo. The thing to be most concerned about today, however, is that you may take an unrealistic approach to current relationships. You might be in a dream world in which you perceive the situation to be quite different from what it actually is. Be careful of this tendency.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

When it comes to situations regarding love and romance, it might not be a bad idea to lighten up a bit now, Libra. You might be taking things way too seriously in this area of your life. Consequently, it's difficult for others to get close. You may very well intimidate them. Take a more fun-loving, easygoing approach and see where the adventure takes you.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

This should be a fun day for you, Scorpio. You should enjoy a good mood and social times with others. Don't do anything that requires discipline or realistic thinking. This is a better day to simply have fun and relax. If you must work, do your best to keep your mood up. You can have fun even if you're being productive with menial tasks and duties.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 22)

Take an adventurous approach, Sagittarius, especially when it comes to love and romance. Don't get moody or down in the dumps when things don't seem to be going your way. It's up to you to change your attitude. Trust that things will improve when you turn the corners of your mouth up instead of down. Stop worrying about every little issue that comes up. Take it all in stride.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23-Jan 20)

Love is coming your way, Capricorn. You're likely to be more passionate than usual. Be careful that your enthusiasm for the object of your desire doesn't go overboard. It's possible that you have an unrealistic view of the situation. It also could be that someone is leading you on and making you think something that isn't completely true.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

The fast actions of the day may confuse you, Aquarius. Don't be surprised if your head is in a whirl over recent events involving love and romance. You may feel as if things are happening too quickly for you to really understand them. Try not to be so analytical. You may find that you're chasing a lost cause while the train is pulling out of the station. Hop on board and leave the other issue behind.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

Your dreamy nature is going to be sparked today and you may take an idealistic view of the world, Pisces. Even though the current situation isn't exactly how you view it, that doesn't mean you can't change the situation to make it more the way you want. Be courageous when it comes to your goals. Let your fantasies run wild and work to turn them into realities.

06-08-2025			
DAILY MARKET UPDATE			
Powered by Prudent Wealth			
Nifty -0.31% ↓ 24574.2 (-75.35)	Sensex -0.21% ↓ 80543.99 (-166.26)	Bank Nifty 0.09% ↑ 55411.15 (50.9)	
GAINERS			
	Company	Price	%Gain
	Asian Paints	2,491.20	54.4
	HDFC Life	752.55	14.05
	Bharat Elec	389.7	3.05
	Trent	5,356.50	39
LOSERS			
	Company	Price	%Loss
	Wipro	239.96	-5.95
	Sun Pharma	1,595.20	-36.9
	IndusInd Bank	803.35	-15.8
	Jio Financial	326.55	-6.3
Indian equity indices ended lower in the second consecutive session on August 6 with Nifty below 24,600. At close, the Sensex was down 166.26 points or 0.21 percent at 80,543.99, and the Nifty was down 75.35 points or 0.31 percent at 24,574.20. About 1,292 shares advanced, 2,594 shares declined, and 144 shares unchanged. Except PSU Bank (up 0.6 percent), all other sectoral indices ended in the red with Information Technology, Media, Realty, Pharma, FMCG down 1-2 percent. The BSE midcap and smallcap indices down 1 percent each.			
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SIKKIM EXPRESS

A Sacred Call

In the quiet mountains of Sikkim, a spiritual wisdom and legacy that has quietly guided the Lepcha community for centuries is at risk of fading into oblivion. It's a way of life where every tree, river, mountain, and storm are seen as sacred — not just part of nature, but as a living force to be respected and revered. At the heart of this tradition are the Mun and Bongthing, the spiritual healers and priests who've long been the soul of Lepcha culture. They are more than religious figures — they are storytellers, environmental guardians, herbal healers, and keepers of ancient knowledge passed down through generations.

A recent symposium titled 'Lepcha Mun and Bongthing: Tracing Their Ancient Spiritual Routes', organised by the Department of Culture and Renjyong Mutanchi Ringmom Kurmoo, was an important step in bringing attention to their legacy. The number of practicing Mun and Bongthing has been steadily falling. Modern education, urbanisation, and changing lifestyles are pulling younger generations away from their roots. Many no longer see the relevance of traditions that once shaped their identity and guided their way of life.

But here's the thing — these traditions are still deeply relevant. The Mun and Bongthing are custodians of something irreplaceable. They hold the community's collective memory, understand nature's rhythms, and offer healing not just of the body, but of the spirit. Their rituals are vital connections to ancestry, to place, to purpose. And they hold answers to some of today's challenges too — from mental well-being to environmental conservation.

What we often forget is that culture isn't just what we build — it's also what we carry inside us. Temples and museums matter, yes. But so do chants, stories, songs, healing practices, and the quiet knowledge of how to live well with the world around us. That's what's at risk of being lost if we don't act. Not just for the Lepcha community, but for all of us who need to remember how to live in balance with nature.

Preserving these traditions doesn't mean freezing them in time. It means giving them space to breathe, to grow, to be passed on — with pride. It means making sure a new generation can walk with one foot in the future and the other firmly rooted in their past. The Mun and Bongthing still have much to teach us. But only if we choose to listen — before the silence of forgetting drowns out their wisdom for good.

Handlooms of India: Weaving Heritage, Empowering Futures

(Article written by Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles Shri Pabitra Margherita on the occasion of 11th National Handloom Day)



SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA

Every August 7, National Handloom Day marks a moment that binds India's past with its future thread by thread, story by story. The day commemorates the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, when handwoven fabric emerged not only as a piece of fabric but as a powerful symbol of resistance, self-reliance, and cultural identity. What began as a clean slate evolved into the warp and weft of heritage, art, and community expression.

The handloom sector today supports over 35 lakh weavers and allied workers, 72% of whom are women, across rural and semi-urban India. For all its richness, the sector now stands at one that demands innovation without dilution, technology without erasure, and modernization without marginalization.

An enduring heritage

The rich heritage of handloom weaving in India dates back to ancient civilizations of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. Over the millennia, this craft flourished

with each region developing its own grammar of weave, signature techniques, motifs, and meaning. From the golden glow of Assam's Muga silk, to the famous Banarasi silk sarees; from Kashmir's Pashmina to Tamil Nadu's lustrous Kanjeevaram sarees, India's handloom traditions are as diverse as its people.

In a weaver's home, where the loom often shares space with the kitchen or a side "angan", each saree or shawl is being prepared to communicate a one of a kind anecdote. With minimal technology, but maximal creativity, weavers convert yarns into heirlooms. The unstitched drape, so emblematic of Indian clothing, became a canvas for regional expression, rituals, and storytelling. To quote our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, **"Handlooms manifest India's diversity and the dexterity of countless weavers and artisans."**

The North East: A loom of opportunity

The Northeast region houses around 52% of the total handloom workers of the country, with Assam leading the nation with over 12.83 lakh weavers and 12.46 lakh looms as per the 2019-20 Handloom Census. **Sualkuchi**, known as the **"Manchester of Assam,"** stands as a testament to traditional weaving excellence, while developing hubs like Machkhowa in Dhemaji district

further boost the sector.

Recognizing its cultural significance, the government's dedicated mission for the North East focuses on promoting tribal weaves, encouraging handloom tourism, facilitating exports, and training youth. This region is being positioned as a global design hub where natural fibers, ancient knowledge, and modern entrepreneurship converge. Under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), financial assistance has been extended to 123 Small Clusters in the North Eastern states. A Mega Handloom Cluster has been established in Sivasagar and two such projects are ongoing in Imphal East and Sualkuchi. Around 3.08 lakh weavers have enrolled for universal & affordable social security under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana (PMJJBY), and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana (PMSBY) in the region, including 1.09 lakh from Assam.

From revival to resurgence

Over the last 11 years, India has witnessed a substantial revival in handloom practices, owing to a series of focused interventions from the Ministry of Textiles. Cluster development initiatives, modern tools, and access to credit have helped transform weaving from household activities into micro-enterprises.

The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) have ensured end to end assistance ranging from yarn supply, loom upgradation, work sheds creation to providing access to modern equipment. Schemes like PMJJBY, and PMSBY provided much-needed financial and social safety nets. Concessional credit under Weaver's MUDRA Scheme and margin money

assistance have increased access to working capital.

In order to eradicate costs and enhance productivity for weavers and entrepreneurs, Handloom parks are planned to be set up across high-potential regions. These integrated spaces will incorporate dyeing units, plug-and-play workshops, digital labs, showrooms, and sustainability infrastructure like solar power and waste recycling.

At the same time, Design & Innovation Hubs are being set up at regional levels in partnership with NIFT, NID, and other design institutes, where designers and weavers co-create, preserve, and document the traditional essence of weaving, and archive cultural designs online. These interventions promise to level up both the aesthetic and commercial appeal of Indian handloom on a global scale.

Embracing technology is a must, but the soul of handloom must remain intact. AI is now used for trend forecasting and digital color selection, while blockchain ensures product traceability and combats counterfeiting ushering the sector into the new digital age responsibly.

Reimagining linkages: E-commerce and market access

Marketing and e-commerce will act as the game-changers. The strategy is simple but revolutionary: eliminate middlemen, enhance visibility through promotion, and connect weavers directly to platforms, exhibitions, and marketplaces on the first go. In line with this, handloom weavers are being onboarded on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and indiahandmade.com is offering a transparent, zero commission platform ensuring fair remuneration, free shipping, easy returns, and secure payment options.

Complementing these efforts, as many as 106 handloom products have already been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, celebrating their unique regional heritage and craftsmanship. Together with the 'Handloom Mark' and 'India Handloom Brand', these measures strengthen the distinct identity of handwoven products, assuring buyers of their authenticity, quality, and eco-friendly nature.

Skill, security, and sustainability

Tomorrow rests on inclusive capacity building. Skill development programs for youth, particularly in preserving traditional techniques, are paired with financial and social security schemes- including health insurance, educational scholarships, and pension benefits for weavers.

Simultaneously, eco-friendly dyes, carbon-neutral production models, and lifecycle assessments reinforce the sector's commitment to sustainability, aligning Indian handlooms with the global green movement. The new report titled **"Carbon Footprint Assessment in the Indian Handloom Sector: Methods and Case Studies"**, conducted by IIT Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, serves as both a reference and a guidebook, paving the way for a more sustainable version of India. By embedding environmental consciousness into traditional handloom practices, the study reinforces the Ministry of Textile's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also ensures that the handloom value chain is not only climate-

resilient but also rooted in ethical production, equitable wages, and dignified livelihoods.

Looking forward: Sustain. Support. Scale.

The vision for India's handloom sector is part cultural, part AI, and fully human. Ambitious targets include an export rise, creating new jobs, and providing digital literacy training for weavers across clusters. The future is grounded in three pillars: **sustain** the soul, **support** the maker & **scale** the reach.

Moving beyond wage labor, the sector aims to cultivate entrepreneurship with fellowships, startup grants, and incubation hubs, especially encouraging youth and women leaders. Branding, mentorship, and business development support will foster ownership-based enterprises that are both culturally authentic and commercially viable.

India's handloom sector is ever evolving...

Handloom continues to be a key driver in our journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047 while also preserving the cultural ethos of the country and ushering in sustainability and mindful consumption. The journey from a tool of resistance to a beacon of innovation illustrates handloom's timeless significance leaving an eternal footprint throughout the eons to come. By weaving together heritage, innovation, and collective effort, India's handloom sector stands poised to inspire the world while empowering millions at home. As envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji **"Let us make handlooms a key part of our daily lives & give our traditional handloom products the stature they merit"**.

(A PIB feature)

Tariff Tempest and Strategic Resilience

India's response to America's protectionist pivot

DIPAK KURMI

In the shifting tides of global trade, the late 20th century witnessed a decisive transition from inward-looking economic policies to the embrace of globalisation and free markets.

This transformation—studied by Indian economists and policymakers in the 1980s, including in courses such as “Economic Development and Planning in India” (EDPI) at the Delhi School of Economics—emphasised the structural flaws of India’s import substitution model, especially when contrasted with the spectacular rise of the Asian Tigers: Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan. These economies, collectively dubbed the “Gang of Four,” rode the waves of export-led growth, trade liberalisation, and industrial reform to unprecedented prosperity. India, on the other hand, languished under the weight of the License Raj and a cumbersome bureaucracy that stifled enterprise and productivity.

It was in this historical context that Suresh Tendulkar and his contemporaries argued for economic reforms in India—liberalisation, delinking of licensing, and the dismantling of protectionist trade barriers. These ideas came to fruition in the 1991 reforms, which ushered India into a new economic age. Ironically, in a twist of geopolitical and ideological inversion, it is now the United States—the torchbearer of liberal capitalism—that seems to be turning its back on the very principles it once championed.

The July 5–11, 2025, edition of The Economist’s “Free Exchange” column drew attention to this dramatic reversal. It cautioned the Trump Administration against echoing India’s own License Raj policies of the 1960s and 1970s through the imposition of sweeping tariffs and trade barriers. The comparison is not without merit. President Trump’s aggressive tariff campaign—couched in rhetoric of economic nationalism—is a radical departure from the decades-long American consensus favouring free trade, global integration, and services-led economic development. And nowhere is this rupture more visible than in the newly announced 25% tariff, plus an undefined “penalty,” on Indian imports beginning August 1, 2025.

This punitive tariff has been justified by the Trump Administration on two grounds: India’s alleged high tariff and non-tariff barriers,

and its continued economic engagement with Russia, particularly in the purchase of military equipment and oil. But the announcement went beyond the transactional language of trade negotiations and descended into overt hostility when President Trump referred to India and Russia as “dead economies,” adding insult to injury by suggesting India may one day be forced to buy oil from Pakistan—a country with whom India has long had fraught geopolitical ties. Compounding the diplomatic affront was the simultaneous announcement of an oil exploration agreement between the US and Pakistan, a move clearly intended to provoke India amid its ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with Washington.

The data paints a vivid picture of asymmetry and vulnerability. In 2024–25, Indian exports to the US totalled USD 87.4 billion, while imports stood at USD 45 billion, resulting in a favourable trade surplus of USD 42.4 billion for India. Among the major exports are pharmaceuticals (USD 12.5 billion), gems and jewellery (USD 11 billion), phones, and garments. Imports from the US include high-value goods such as aircraft, nuclear reactors, machinery, electrical equipment, mineral fuels, and petroleum-based products. A sudden 25% tariff—compounded by additional penalties—threatens to upend this delicate balance, potentially depressing demand for Indian exports, wiping out thousands of jobs, and shaving off an estimated 0.3% from India’s GDP growth, as forecasted by Goldman Sachs.

What exacerbates India’s predicament is that the Trump tariffs discriminate not just against Indian goods, but also tilt the playing field in favour of India’s competitors. While India faces a 25% tariff, countries such as Indonesia (19%), Vietnam (20%), Pakistan (19%), and Bangladesh (20%) have been offered more favourable rates. Even the UK (10%), EU, and Japan (15%) have lower tariff burdens. This not only hurts India’s export competitiveness but also undermines its strategic standing in global value chains.

At the heart of this dispute is not merely economics but geopolitics. The US appears to be punishing India for its perceived strategic autonomy—especially its oil and arms deals with Russia—while courting Pakistan as a foil to pressurise New Delhi into concessions during the FTA talks. With the sixth round of FTA negotiations scheduled for August 2025, this tactic may well be a deliberate pressure tactic. But if so, India has thus far handled the provocation with calibrated restraint.

India’s response must be multi-pronged and forward-looking. First, it must remain firm on its red lines, especially on agriculture and dairy, which support over 60% of India’s population. Any trade deal must recognise India’s food security concerns and its policy of public stockholding. These positions are rooted in India’s longstanding commitments at the WTO, where it has demanded a permanent solution to public stockholding and the establishment of a Special Safeguard Mechanism to protect vulnerable farmers from import surges.

Second, India must work towards concluding the FTA with the US on favourable terms, but not at the cost of its strategic autonomy or domestic economic priorities. In parallel, India should accelerate trade negotiations with other partners, particularly the European Union, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Diversification of trade partnerships is not merely a hedge against American unpredictability, but a necessity in an era of fractured globalisation.

Third, India should leverage this moment to undertake essential domestic reforms. The fiscal burden of subsidies in food, fuel, and fertilisers continues to distort markets and inhibit efficiency. By gradually rationalising these subsidies and channelling resources into technology, research, and climate-resilient infrastructure—particularly in the agricultural sector—India can build resilience against both external shocks and internal inefficiencies. Investing in farm mechanisation, drip irrigation, and digital extension services will not only enhance productivity but also empower small farmers to engage with global markets more effectively.

The broader lesson from this tariff conflict is that no country—however powerful—can unilaterally rewrite the rules of global trade without incurring costs. While the US remains a dominant economy, it is no longer the world’s factory. Its economic model has long shifted towards services, which now account for 90% of its GDP. American manufacturing has declined precipitously since the early 2000s, a trend exacerbated by China’s entry into the WTO in 2004 and the globalisation of supply chains. Today, the US imports critical goods—from microchips and battery

components to rare earth metals and lithium—from China, Chile, and Argentina. In 2024 alone, the US ran a trade deficit of USD 1.3 trillion, including a USD 300 billion deficit with China. These imports are not luxuries but essentials for the US economy and its military-industrial complex.

The high tariffs introduced by President Trump are therefore not just economically unsound—they are strategically self-defeating. They defy the foundational principles of international trade, from David Ricardo’s theory of comparative advantage to Jagdish Bhagwati’s gains-from-trade doctrine, and Paul Krugman’s new trade theory based on economies of scale and product variety. Far from benefiting American workers or consumers, these tariffs will likely raise input costs, disrupt supply chains, and inflate prices, especially in sectors dependent on imported components.

Moreover, the new tariffs violate the US’s own WTO obligations. Unlike the US, India has largely adhered to its WTO commitments and has repeatedly reiterated its support for multilateralism in trade. While India is often criticised for its high tariffs, its policies are rooted in developmental concerns and aimed at protecting vulnerable sectors. The US, in contrast, has opted for unilateralism, turning its back on institutions and norms it once built.

Still, the 25% tariff on Indian goods may not be a permanent fixture. It is widely believed, even among American economists and think tanks, that these tariffs are a negotiating tactic rather than a settled policy. Once the India-US FTA is finalised—possibly in the coming months—the punitive measures may be rolled back, restoring a semblance of normalcy to bilateral trade. For India, the key is to hold its ground, articulate its interests clearly, and demonstrate that strategic patience, not reactive belligerence, is the better path.

While the US’s retreat into tariff nationalism marks a dangerous departure from decades of free-market orthodoxy, India has responded with maturity, strategic clarity, and a commitment to long-term reform. In a world where global trade is increasingly weaponised, resilience and diversification are India’s best defence. If the current turbulence catalyses deeper reforms and broader alliances, it may yet prove to be a blessing in disguise.

(Views are personal. Email: dipakkurmiglpd@gmail.com)

Persistent Neglect of Northeast in Indian National Media

HIMANGSHU RANJAN BHUYAN

The northeastern region of India, comprising eight states—Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim—has long been a vital yet overlooked part of the country. Despite its unique cultural mosaic, strategic geopolitical significance, and rich natural resources, this region continues to face persistent neglect by the Indian national media. The limited and often skewed media attention towards the Northeast not only marginalizes its people but also undermines the very fabric of India’s unity and diversity. This ongoing sidelining is a complex problem rooted in geography, politics, cultural ignorance, and media economics, which together result in the Northeast being largely invisible on the national stage.

The roots of this media neglect trace back to the structure and priorities of India’s mainstream press and electronic media. Major media houses are predominantly headquartered in metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. These urban centres shape editorial agendas that focus heavily on their immediate regions or on areas with large, lucrative markets. The Northeast, with its comparatively smaller population and lesser economic clout, falls far outside these priorities. News coverage is often dictated by considerations of advertising revenue and audience interest, making stories from the Northeast appear commercially less attractive. As a result, important issues from the region rarely receive the sustained attention or prime placement they deserve.

The persistent invisibility of the Northeast in national media narratives leads to a disturbing pattern. News about the region mostly surfaces when crises erupt—be it ethnic violence, insurgency, floods, or natural disasters. Even then, coverage is often fleeting, superficial, or sensationalized, reinforcing stereotypes of the Northeast as a conflict-ridden and unstable frontier. Such portrayals ignore the everyday realities of vibrant communities, developmental efforts, cultural festivals, and political dialogues that shape life in the region. This episodic and crisis-driven

coverage serves only to alienate the people of the Northeast further and distorts the perception of the region among the wider Indian public.

A significant consequence of this neglect is the erosion of empathy and understanding between the Northeast and the rest of India. The region’s complex history, marked by colonial legacies, ethnic diversity, and struggles for identity, requires nuanced and context-rich storytelling. However, the national media’s tendency to simplify or homogenize the Northeast into a monolithic entity strips away these complexities. Each Northeastern state is unique, with distinct languages, customs, and challenges, yet this diversity is rarely reflected in mainstream discourse. This reductive approach not only diminishes the region’s cultural richness but also prevents the emergence of informed national conversations on its developmental and political issues.

Representation within newsrooms is another critical aspect contributing to the Northeast’s marginalization. Journalistic leadership and reporting staff predominantly hail from India’s Hindi-speaking belt or southern metro cities, often lacking lived experience or cultural understanding of the Northeast. Without a strong presence of Northeastern journalists in mainstream media, stories from the region risk being reported with bias, ignorance, or outright misrepresentation. Meaningful inclusion of Northeastern voices in media production is vital to bridge the empathy gap and foster more accurate and respectful narratives.

Language barriers further compound the problem. While regional news outlets in the Northeast thrive in local languages, their stories seldom reach national platforms due to lack of translation and cross-media collaboration. English and Hindi dominate the national media landscape, limiting the dissemination of vernacular reports from the region. Strengthening partnerships between regional and national media, and investing in translation and content sharing, would greatly enhance the visibility of Northeast issues on the national agenda.

The rise of digital media has brought some positive change by providing alternative platforms for Northeastern voices. Online portals, independent news websites, and social media channels based in the region have begun to highlight local stories that traditional media overlook. These digital outlets play a crucial role in grassroots reporting and community engagement. However, despite their growth, their reach and influence remain limited compared to legacy national media giants. Without integration into the larger media ecosystem, these alternative sources cannot fully counterbalance the mainstream neglect.

The ramifications of this persistent media neglect go beyond public perception; they influence policymaking and governance as well. Media attention often acts as a catalyst for political action and resource allocation. When Northeast India’s concerns do not receive consistent national coverage, they fail to generate the political urgency required for comprehensive development and peacebuilding. Infrastructure deficits, ethnic tensions, environmental challenges, and social welfare issues in the region remain peripheral in the national policy discourse largely because they are invisible in the public domain. Media, as a democratic watchdog, must actively spotlight these concerns to ensure accountability and progress.

Strategic considerations further underscore the importance of inclusive media coverage of the Northeast. The region shares sensitive international borders with China, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, making it a critical zone for national security and foreign policy. Moreover, India’s “Act East” policy seeks to enhance connectivity and economic integration with Southeast Asia through the Northeast. However, the lack of national media focus on these developments limits public understanding and support for initiatives vital to the country’s strategic interests. Comprehensive coverage would not only inform citizens but also build national consensus on policies affecting the region.

Addressing this persistent neglect requires concerted efforts on multiple fronts. Media organisations must decentralize their operations by establishing robust bureaus in Northeastern states staffed with local

journalists. Editorial priorities should treat stories from the region with equal seriousness and frequency as those from other parts of India. Journalism education and recruitment policies need to actively promote Northeastern representation at all levels, from reporters to editors. National media must also forge partnerships with regional news outlets to facilitate content exchange and wider dissemination of regional stories. Language inclusivity through translations and subtitling can help bridge communication gaps.

The role of media consumers is equally significant. Audiences must demand diverse and balanced news coverage that includes the Northeast as an integral part of India’s national narrative. Civic activism, public discourse, and social media campaigns can pressure media houses to rectify biases and expand their geographical focus. Greater public curiosity and empathy towards the Northeast can drive editorial change and encourage more comprehensive reporting.

Persistent neglect of the Northeast by the Indian national media is not simply a journalistic oversight; it represents a democratic failure. In a pluralistic and federal nation, all regions and peoples must have a voice in the public sphere. The media’s fundamental role as a bridge between the government, civil society, and the citizenry is compromised when vast areas of the country remain invisible. Genuine national integration and social cohesion depend on inclusive media that fairly represents the diversity of India’s geography and culture.

Bringing the Northeast out of the shadows requires an acknowledgment of its importance and an unwavering commitment to balanced reporting. It demands recognition of the region’s unique challenges and contributions, alongside a respect for its cultural and ethnic plurality. Only through sustained and empathetic media engagement can the Northeast become a visible, vibrant, and respected part of India’s democratic and developmental journey. The persistent neglect of the Northeast must end, for the health of Indian democracy and the unity of its people depend on it.

(Views are personal. Email: himangshur1989@gmail.com)

Dunkley, Ecclestone and Lewis nominated for ICC Women’s Player of the Month award

NEW DELHI, August 6 (IANS): England duo of Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone and Ireland captain Gaby Lewis have been nominated for ICC Women’s Player of the Month award for July 2025.

Sophia delivered consistent runs for England through back-to-back white-ball series against India at home in July. After a rare failure in the second T20I in Bristol, the right-handed batter struck a fluent 75 at The Oval to set up a five-run win for England.

She followed with scores of 22 and 46 to finish as England’s leading run-scorer in the T20I series, which India won 3-2. Sophia carried her good form into the ODIs, hitting 83 in the series opener at Southampton. She was dismissed only twice while compiling 126 runs across the three ODI matches.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Sophie claimed four wickets in as many T20Is during England’s home series against India, playing key roles in two victories for the hosts’. She took two wickets and held her nerve with the



bat in a last-ball finish to earn England a consolation win in the fifth T20I in Birmingham.

With the bat, the right-hander scored 65 runs in the format in July, including a career-best 35. Sophie also starred in England’s only ODI

series win at Lord’s, taking 3-27 to help dismiss India for 147 and set up an eight-wicket victory under the DLS method.

On the other hand, Gaby struck 154 runs at an average of 77 in three T20Is, including

hitting two half-centuries, as Ireland swept Zimbabwe 3-0. Her standout knock came in the second match, smashing 87 off 50 balls to clinch the series win for her team.

Gaby also chipped in with

three wickets across the T20I series. She then carried her form into the ODIs, guiding Ireland to back-to-back wins and adding another half-century to complete a dominant white-ball series at home.

Man United closing in to sign Sesko from Leipzig: Report

NEW DELHI, August 6 (IANS): Manchester United are closing in to sign Benjamin Sesko from RB Leipzig, making an offer worth an initial 65 million pounds with an additional 8.9 million pounds in add-ons, says a report.

Manchester United have been involved in a battle for the Slovenian’s signature with Premier League rivals Newcastle, who made a second bid of 69.7 million pounds plus add-ons after an initial offer of just under 70 million pounds plus add-ons.

According to a Sky Sports report, there is no full agreement yet, but discussions are heading in a positive direction, as Sesko wants to join Manchester United over rival bidders Newcastle.

The report from Sky Germany added that Manchester United have moved their base fee closer to 69.6 million pounds, plus possible add-ons, in talks with Leipzig, who are yet to respond to their bid as the tussle to sign the frontman continues.

Sesko was absent from Leipzig’s pre-season friendly defeat to Atalanta on Saturday, as his departure from the club appears imminent. Having informed his teammates of his intention to leave, he trained separately indoors at Leipzig’s training facility on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old maintains

a strong relationship with Leipzig and he is prepared to travel to the UK as soon as a deal is finalised.

Manchester United’s bid for Sesko could have ramifications for Newcastle striker Alexander Isak. Eddie Howe’s side would reluctantly sell Alexander Isak if they land the Slovenian international.

Newcastle turned down a 110 million pounds bid from Liverpool for their star centre-forward Isak last week. Should Sesko head to United then it looks likely that Isak will stay at St James’ Park.

United’s pursuit of Sesko raises questions over Rasmus Hojlund’s future at Old Trafford. Interestingly, Leipzig are interested in Hojlund and had proposed taking the striker on loan as part of any possible deal for Sesko.

Football: Barcelona-Ter Stegen rift deepens amid medical report controversy

MADRID (Spain), August 6 (IANS): The relationship between FC Barcelona and goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen continues to worsen, with the club opening disciplinary proceedings against the goalkeeper. Barca have started the move after Ter Stegen reportedly refused to sign a medical report that the club was going to send to La Liga’s Medical Commission over the 33-year-old’s back injury.

Ter Stegen had an operation on his back last week, with the goalkeeper posting on social media that he expected to be out of action for around three months. However, Barcelona’s medical report estimates he will be sidelined for five months.

The difference is vital to Barcelona, because if La Liga accepts, Ter Stegen will be out

of action for over four months, the club would be able to drop him from its first-team squad and use 80 percent of his salary to register new players under La Liga’s financial fair play rules.

Currently, Barcelona are unable to register new signings Joan Garcia, Roony Bardghji, and Marcus Rashford in their squad. Wojciech Szczesny and Gerard Martin are also unregistered following new contracts, with Martin promoted from the B-team.

With other avenues of income still to supply the necessary funds, Barcelona need the money from Ter Stegen’s salary to register at least some of the five before their La Liga opener against Mallorca on August 16. However, for the moment, Ter Stegen is unwilling to back

down, knowing that if he does so, he has no chance of playing until January, even if he is fit at the end of October.

The problem for Barcelona is even worse, given that Ter Stegen and Inaki Pena are currently Barca’s only two registered goalkeepers, with Pena not part of coach Hansi Flick’s plans. That makes it more vital than ever that the club finds some way of registering Garcia and Szczesny, but the pressure on a goalkeeper who has played 422 times for the club is creating a conflict that shows no signs of ending.

I needed a new and big challenge: Granit Xhaka on decision of joining Sunderland

NEW DELHI, August 6 (IANS): Ahead of the Premier League 2025-26 season, Granit Xhaka reflected on his decision to join Sunderland, expressing his excitement for the new challenge and belief in the club’s future plans.

The midfielder joined Sunderland from Bayer 04 Leverkusen for an undisclosed fee and signed a three-year contract at the Stadium of Light.

“I felt I needed a new and big challenge. When I spoke with the club, I was very excited to come here—to feel the energy, the mentality, the

people, the players, and overall atmosphere around the club. It was exactly what I wanted, and that’s why I decided to join,” Xhaka said on JioHotstar.

He also discussed the unique pressures of his role, the experience and mentality he brings, his commitment to energising both teammates and fans, and much more.

“It’s definitely a different kind of pressure, and that’s why I said before—it’s a big challenge for me, the club, and my teammates. But I have a good feeling. I see the potential for a big change, and I want to be part of it, to be part of this

football club and write our own history. I’m really looking forward to it,” he said.

“I’ve been in the UK for seven years, so I understand the mentality here and the league well. What you can expect from me is a wealth of experience from different types of European football I’ve played, along with a strong mentality. I believe in working hard every day to achieve the team’s goals, and also supporting the club and each other. I want to bring a positive feeling and the belief that we can succeed—that’s

who I am,” Xhaka added.

On Sunderland’s rise and what it means to be part of the club’s journey, the midfielder said, “When you start talking with the club, you begin to understand its history. I know where they’ve been and where they were, which makes the challenge bigger than ever. It’s great to have that background, but now we’re back where the club needs to be. We want to stay here and write our own history. I have a very good feeling about this, and that’s why I decided to make this step.”

Namchi observes World Breastfeeding Week, inaugurates breastfeeding pod

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 6: Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare department observed World Breastfeeding Week in Namchi today. On the occasion, a breastfeeding pod was also inaugurated at Kisan Bazar, Namchi.

The event was held under the theme “Priorities Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support System,” highlighting the importance of supporting and promoting breastfeeding for the health and well-being of both mothers and children, informs a press release.

The breastfeeding pod was inaugurated by zilla adhakshya Anjeeta Rajalim, who was present as the chief guest for the programme.

In her address, she appreciated the efforts of the department and highlighted the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding for ensuring optimal health in infants.

She congratulated the team on the inauguration of the pod, which provides a safe and hygienic space for mothers to breastfeed.

She further emphasised the need for proper nutrition, protein intake, and hygiene for infant development and stated, “Every child is also a child of the State, and their well-being is our collective responsibility, which is being taken care of through various government schemes and programmes.”

Sonam Bhutia, joint director, Nutrition, WCSC&DWD, spoke on the origin and significance of World Breastfeeding Week, which began in 1992. She highlighted that breast milk acts as the first immunisation for a new-born and is rich in essential vitamins and minerals.

She informed that breastfeeding pods are being established in every district to provide mothers a safe and private space for breastfeeding.

Further, she emphasised the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, encouraging mothers to avoid artificial feeding and instead gradually introduce complementary foods thereafter to support healthy growth and development.

She also informed that two “breastfeeding angels” are assigned in every district hospital to assist new mothers.



Horticulture deputy director Saroja Tamang briefed on nutrition garden, where one can grow different herbs, vegetables and fruits for daily household use in the space around their house. She underlined that these gardens can help meet the family’s nutritional needs and enhance physical and social well-being through gardening activities.

Dietitian and nutrition inspector Diksha Rai conducted a live demonstration on complementary feeding, where she showcased how to prepare homemade Cerelac using oats, pulses, rice flakes, and other local ingredients

suitable for infants post six months of age.

DHEO Roshni Thapa informed on a locally sourced balanced diet for new mothers. She also spoke about the importance of skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby immediately after birth to prevent hypothermia and sepsis.

The event also featured a quiz competition, where new mothers and Anganwadi workers actively participated.

The programme was also attended by CMO Dr. S.N. Adhikari, SDM (HQ) Nim Pintso Bhutia, Namchi SDM Saran Kalikotey and CDPOs.

The hunger to prove showed

SUDIPTACHANDA

SILIGURI, August 6: Remember the nursery rhyme ‘Humpty Dumpty’?

The rhyme goes like this:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;
“All the king’s horses and all the king’s men
Couldn’t put Humpty together again”.

That is exactly what happened this summer of 2025 to ‘Bazball cricket’ - the style of play of the England cricket team in Test matches.

Bazball cricket had a great fall and all of King Charles’s men just couldn’t put it together again.

The Indian team saw to it.

So, James Anderson will remain in England and Sachin Tendulkar in India.

The just-concluded cricket Test series between the two countries for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy ended thus – a draw, the honours split midway.

Draws are usually dull affairs. But, no draw, as the current one, probably tasted so sweet.

It almost tasted like victory. There are reasons why.

Every series has its takeaways. Most expose the chinks in the armour and tell which all holes are to be plugged for better performance in future.

But, the biggest take-away from the current series is probably on the psychological side.

This young Indian cricket team is now set – prepared for national duty.

Plenty of anxiety accompanied this team as

it left for England in June.

The big guns – Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin had fallen silent.

The big worry was how the team would perform without the big three.

The experience they brought to the arena was invaluable. And, that experience would be missing against a set English side.

Thrown into the deep, the Indian team minus the big three but had its chin up – the ‘bring it on’ mindset reflecting in everything it did on field.

It tackled whatever a strong opponent threw at it, handled some gamesmanship maturely and leveled the series riding a ‘won’t give up’ attitude.

And, let us not forget all of it was done on away conditions.

It will go down as baptism in fire for the new-look Indian cricket team in which it came up trumps minus the big three.

No opponent will enjoy psychological advantage over this team for the next decade or so.

And then there were the brilliant individual performances to talk about.

All those who made the team as batsmen performed on the high side, those as all-rounders multitasked resourcefully and those as bowlers sweated profusely.

The collective effort allowed the young team to earn the opponent’s respect and the spectators’ accolades every time it went out on the field.

Yes, this team is now all set.

Independence Day celebration kicks off at Namchi



SE Report

GANGTOK, August 5: An open knockout football tournament kicked off at Bhaichung Stadium today marking the commencement of district-level Independence

Day celebration at Namchi.

The tournament, held to commemorate 50 years of Sikkim’s Statehood, aims to promote the message of “Nasha Mukut Sikkim” through the unifying spirit of sports, informs a press release.

The opening match was played between Hetera FC (Nepal) and Sinolchu FC. Local side Sinolchu FC comfortably won the match with six goals to two.

Namchi-Singithang MLA Satish Chandra Rai was the chief guest.

No 28012/92/2024-LRD -LRD

Government of India

Ministry of Rural Development

Department of Land resources

Inviting Research Proposals for undertaking Research from reputed National/International Institutions and Individuals

Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development invites research proposals from individuals/ institutions for “Land Administration”. Accordingly, research proposals are invited on following topics from relevant and experienced National/International Institutions and Individuals:-

i. Land administration

ii. Land policies, laws and regulations

iii. Monitoring land governance and land tenure security

iv. Land and socio-economic development

v. Land use management

vi. Land markets, land value, land transactions

vii. Geospatial technology in land governance

viii. Innovative land management tools and techniques

2. The detailed guidelines for Institutional and Individual Research Grant for Land Administration Domain including eligibility criteria, selection process and prescribed application formats etc., are given at the official website of this Department i.e. <https://dofr.gov.in/>. Interested experienced National/International Institutions and Individuals may send their proposals duly signed (scanned / PDF) through e-mail at navalesingh.meena@nic.in & neebha.2002@gov.in only. The last day of receiving research proposals is one month from the date of publication of the Advertisement.

Sd/-

Deputy Director (LR)

Department of Land Resources,

Ministry of Rural Development

Government of India, New Delhi

CBC 35201/11/0004/2526

Pre-celebration of Tendong Lho Rum Faat at sacred Tendong Hill

Staff Reporter

GANGTOK, August 6: A vibrant pre-celebration of Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2025 was held on Wednesday at Tendong Hill, South Sikkim, with enthusiastic participation from the local community and cultural enthusiasts.

Forest minister Pintso Namgyal Lepcha was the chief guest for the event organised by RMRT South District, highlighting the cultural significance of the festival and promoting the rich heritage of the Lepcha community.

Minister Pintso Namgyal is also the president of Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2025 celebration committee. He visited the sacred site for the Lepcha community at Tendong Hill in South Sikkim.

Among the highest altitude places in South Sikkim, the Tendong Dichhen Salhun

Gumpa, commonly known as Tendong Gumpa, is a Buddhist monastery situated at an altitude of 8,530 feet above mean sea level.

During his visit, the minister offered prayers at the sacred Tendong Hill for the well-being of Sikkim and the Sikkimese people. He then inquired about and thoroughly inspected the monastery premises and the sacred worship site for the Lepchas.

Throughout the visit, the minister expressed the need for beautification efforts in the area surrounding the monastery to attract tourists and visitors. He mentioned the need to address the construction of waiting sheds every 300 meters along the trek, which is approximately 6 km long, starting from Damthang Bazar.

The proposals and concerns raised for the welfare of the Lepcha community,



devotees, and tourists visiting the sacred Tendong Hill will enhance the trekking experience in the days to come, expressed the minister. He informed that the matter will be directly communicated to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang-Golay.

The minister was accompanied by the ACF

Namchi Bhuan Subba, RO Namchi John Rai, officials from the Forest department, and representatives from the Lepcha community.

Minister Pintso Namgyal Lepcha also visited the under-construction cafeteria site at Damthang to review the progress of the ongoing work. The visit was aimed at ensuring timely completion and maintaining quality standards of the infrastructure being developed to promote eco-tourism and public convenience in the region.

During the inspection, the team assessed the



structural progress and discussed key aspects related to landscaping, sustainability, and future functionality of the site.

SKM culture wing seeks public support for Sikkim contestants in Nepali reality shows

KUNALRAI

GANGTOK, August 6: The SKM Culture Wing has called upon the people of Sikkim to extend support and encouragement to six young Sikkimese contestants currently participating in popular Nepali reality shows, urging collective efforts to help them win and bring laurels to the State.

The six contestants representing Sikkim in various reality show platforms in Nepal are Babita Thapa Mangar (Nepal Idol Season 6), Amrita Rai (Mero Dance Universe), Aicen Rai (The Voice Kids Nepal), Narceen Loye Chettri (The Voice Kids Nepal), Milan Bishwakarma (Nepal Idol), and Deepraj Rai (Mero Voice Universe).

Addressing a press conference in Gangtok Wednesday, Tashi Tshering Bhutia, vice president (in-charge) of the SKM Culture Wing and chairman of the State

Dance, Drama, Music & Film Board, emphasized that under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), the artistic community in Sikkim has flourished, with the State government providing consistent support for their holistic development.

“Numerous artists from Sikkim, across various disciplines, have received active support from the Chief Minister, and many are doing exceptionally well today. However, government support alone is not enough. As the creative sector continues to expand, public involvement is crucial,” said Bhutia.

He shared that, following the Chief Minister’s directive, the Culture Wing has begun developing a structured support mechanism to ensure timely assistance to budding and established artists. “The groundwork has begun, and we hope the results will be visible



soon,” he added.

Highlighting the growing influence of reality shows among Sikkimese youth, Bhutia noted that several artists have successfully carved out a name for themselves through such platforms. He described this as a “testament to the Chief Minister’s faith in Sikkim’s talent,” and an affirmation of the State’s

cultural vibrancy.

Bhutia also informed that a team from the SKM Culture Wing will be travelling to Kathmandu, Nepal, to accompany Team Sikkim, a group of 34 dancers, competing in the finals of ‘Clash of Dancers’ on August 7, 2025. While in Nepal, the Culture Wing representatives will also meet with other Sikkimese

contestants performing in the various ongoing reality shows and extend necessary assistance on behalf of the Chief Minister and the State government.

An appeal was issued to the public to support the contestants generously through voting, sharing, and spreading awareness, so they may fulfil their dreams and

bring pride to Sikkim.

Manoj Rai, vice president of the SKM Culture Wing, also highlighted how numerous Sikkimese artists have previously found success in reality shows and built careers in the creative field. “The State government, led by the Chief Minister, has been closely monitoring the contestants’ progress and providing every required support. It’s now time for the people to join hands and support them as well,” he said.

Parents of the contestants also expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister, SKM Culture Wing, and the citizens of Sikkim for their continuous encouragement, blessings, and help in nurturing the dreams of their children.

The press meet was attended by SKM Culture Wing president Uttam Pradhan, along with executive members of the wing.

SALE NOTICE UNDER THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016 EPTITOME PETROCHEMICAL PVT LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION) CIN: U24249WB2007PTC117196; Registered Office: 7 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Kolkata, WB-700013, India (A company under liquidation process pursuant to an order dated 2nd August, 2023 passed by Hon'ble NCLT, Kolkata Bench) Office of the Liquidator: 16/2, Temple Gardens, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053, India Eptitome Petrochemical Pvt Limited ("Eptitome" or "Corporate Debtor") is currently undergoing liquidation process in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ("IBC") pursuant to Order of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Kolkata Bench, dated 2nd August, 2023 and Mr. Anubrata Ganguly has been appointed as its liquidator. Notice of sale is hereby given under IBC and Regulations made thereunder pursuant to consultation and advice of the stakeholders' consultation committee, as constituted under Reg. 31A of the IBC (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016, at its meeting held on 28th July, 2025 inviting EOI, Bid Application Form and Annexures together with relevant documents from prospective bidders interested in participating in E-Auction for purchase of the following stand alone Block(s) of assets of the corporate debtor on "as on where on basis", "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis". Bids to be sent at enp-app@banknet.com before date of auction and the highest eligible bidder therefrom will be chosen as the "firm bidder". The E-Auction will be conducted through the service provider, BankNet via website https://banknet.com as per the details stated hereunder. SALE OF SET OF ASSETS COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTING LAND & BUILDING AND PLANT & MACHINERY UNDER REGULATION 32(a) OF THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA (LIQUIDATION PROCESS) REGULATIONS, 2016 BY E-AUCTION ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2025 BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 1:00 PM				
Set no.	Set of assets to be sold collectively	Reserve Price (Rs in lacs)	EMD (Rs in lacs) [at 10% of Reserve Price]	Incremental bidding value during E-Auction (Rs in Lacs)
1	99 years leasehold land (lease commencing 27.11.2007) measuring 3.24 acres situated at Plot 163, Namli, Tumriabang, Ranipool, East Sikkim-737135. Land consisting of 14000 sq ft prefabricated factory shed, 2000 sq ft furnished Admin block, 6000 sq ft RCC construction accommodation, 5000 sq ft RCC construction godown, internal roads, walls etc. Machinery including 3 sets of Husky Hypet 120 (P65/95), 2 sets of 415/332KVA Volvo Generator, ABB 1000KVA Transformer, Electric Distribution panel and 300KVA Emerson UPS	585.00	58.5	1.00
Relevant Due Dates for E-Auction of the Blocks of Assets as updated on 31st July 2025				
Type of Event				Timeline
Site/Plant Inspection by Qualified Prospective Bidders up to				29th August, 2025
Last Date for furnishing Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), declaration of eligibility u/s 23A and eligibility documents in support thereof				4th September, 2025
Date of E-Auction				8th September, 2025
The major terms and conditions of the E-Auction are as follows:- a) The sale will be subject to orders of the Hon'ble NCLT, Hon'ble NCLAT, Hon'ble High Courts, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 along with Regulations framed thereunder including guidelines released by the IBI. Interested parties should regularly email at support.banknet@psbfinance.com for access to E-Auction Process Information Document and other relevant information including updates required for participation in the E-Auction. All terms and conditions of the E-Auction Process Information Document including all addendums, corrigenda and clarifications provided thereto shall be deemed to have been incorporated in this Sale Notice. For any further information, please contact the Liquidator at +91 9836888828. b) It is clarified that this is not an offer document. c) E-Auction will be conducted on "As on where on basis", "As is where is basis", "As is what is basis", "Whatever there is basis" and "No recourse basis". Such sale would be without any kind of warranties and indemnities from the Liquidator. d) Details of E-Auction Platform: https://banknet.com e) Interested parties are requested to submit their EOI, application, affidavit, undertaking, etc. in the prescribed format electronically through the auction platform (https://banknet.com). The E-Auction Process Information Document in this regard providing detailed terms and conditions applicable to the E-Auction process along with Bid application and other forms can be downloaded from the website https://banknet.com/ f) The E-Auction will be conducted on the scheduled date between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM with unlimited extension of five minutes each. g) The Liquidator reserves the right to modify the E-Auction process terms and shall have the absolute right to accept or reject any or all bids or abandon/adjourn / postpone / extend/cancel the E-Auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the E-Auction process or disqualify any prospective applicant at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and without any notice or liability. h) All applicable taxes and other levies will be borne by the successful bidder. i) Prospective bidders are required to furnish EMD in terms of the E-Auction Process Information Document after completion of Due Diligence to their satisfaction. The prospective bidders are also required to submit a declaration that they are eligible u/s 23A of The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and that if they are found ineligible at any later date, their EMD will stand forfeited. EMD of all bidders, except the bidder declared successful and/or the bidder found ineligible u/s 23A, would be refundable without any interest after completion of E-Auction subject to all other terms and conditions, specified in the E-Auction Process Information Document. The successful bidder will be required to make his balance payment in terms of IBI (Liquidation Process Regulations), 2016, failing which his EMD will be forfeited. j) EMD to be furnished to the wallet of the of the auction portal through the registered account of bidder. k) Sale Notice published by the undersigned dated 4th August, 2025 stands cancelled. Sd/- Anubrata Ganguly Liquidator Eptitome Petrochemical Pvt. Limited (in liquidation) IBBI: IP-A-001/IP-P-02662/22-23/14072 Place : Kolkata Date : 7th August, 2025 AFA: AA/1/14072/02/300626/103555 valid upto 30.06.2026				

“It is the constant endeavor of the Government to make the weavers’ work easier, increase their productivity & improve the quality and designs”

- Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

WEAVING PROSPERITY, PRESERVING TRADITIONS

FROM TRADITION TO TRANSFORMATION

11 YEARS OF EMPOWERING HANDLOOMS

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₹21,000 crore+ worth of exports of handloom products to **20+ countries**, taking Indian handloom from local pride to global presence.

1.6 lakh weavers across **10 handloom clusters** empowered with improved infrastructure and tools.

1.2 lakh weavers benefited from improved looms, enabling better output and quality.

90,000 weavers upskilled through specialised training, improving workmanship and earning potential.

104 handloom products and **6 product logos** secured under the GI Act, 1999, preserving their unique identity & heritage.

Greetings on **NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY** **7th August 2025**

#vocalforlocal
#MyHandloomMyPride

CBC 41102/13/0003/2526

Message on the 11th National Handloom Day on 7th August 2025

Shri Prem Singh Tamang,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Sikkim

Shri. T.T Bhutia,
Hon'ble Minister,
Commerce & Industries Department,
Government of Sikkim

National Handloom Day is celebrated on 7 th August every year all across the country to honor the Swadeshi Movement, celebrate our rich fabric and to empower our weavers. This day also serves to generate awareness about the importance of Handloom Industry, being an integral part of our rich heritage and culture. Since the Industry serves a large section of the rural population, the State Government is committed to provide all required support for development of this industry and common facilities for clusters. While complimenting the weavers of the State for preserving and promoting our rich culture and heritage through their hard work and perseverance, it is our collective responsibility to buy and use Swadeshi products as part of our service to the nation.

Jai Hind

Jai Sikkim
