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PERSPECTIVE

A recent study showed that the more selfies you share on social media, the less likeable you become.

Journalist assaulted, media office vandalised in Assam's Silchar; one detained

SILCHAR

A 25-year-old journalist was allegedly assaulted by a group of unidentified miscreants in Assam's Silchar on Wednesday evening, while the office of local media house Barak Bani was also vandalised during the attack.

According to reports, the incident took place around 7:30 pm when several youths allegedly attacked the journalist and damaged property inside the media office premises, triggering panic in the locality.

Police said an FIR has been registered in connection with the incident. The complaint includes charges related to unlawful trespass, attempt to murder, robbery and vandalism.

Investigators have detained one youth so far in connection with the case, while efforts are underway to identify the remaining accused.

Officials said CCTV footage from the area is being examined as part of the investigation to trace others allegedly involved in the assault and vandalism.

Police added that further investigation into the incident is currently in progress.

WHO SAID WHAT



जो कहा, वो किया।
#UCCAssam
~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

Manipur State Film Awards honour filmmakers, artists at Imphal ceremony

IMPHAL

The 16th edition of the Manipur State Film Awards was held on Thursday at the Palace Auditorium of the Manipur State Film Development Society in Imphal, celebrating achievements and contributions to Manipuri cinema.

The ceremony was attended by Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh and Art & Culture and Tourism Minister Kh. Loken Singh, along with filmmakers, artists, technicians and members of the film fraternity.

Organised by the MSFDS, the awards are considered the highest state recognition in the Manipuri film industry and honour excellence in feature films, non-feature films and contributions to cinema and the arts.

One of the key highlights of the event was the presentation of the MSFDS Lifetime Achievement Award to Ngangbam Swarnajit Singh in recognition of his pioneering contribution as Manipur's first professional artist in cinema. Governor Bhalla presented the honour during the ceremony.

Awards across multiple feature and non-feature film categories were also distributed to winners during the pro-



gramme. The official catalogue of the 16th Manipur State Film Awards was released on the occasion.

The event additionally featured a demonstration of the traditional Manipuri martial art form Thang-Ta by the

Huyen Lallong Manipur Thang-Ta Cultural Association, showcasing the state's cultural heritage.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Bhalla described Manipuri cinema as an important medium of storytelling and cul-

Meghalaya Rajya Sabha poll on June 18; nomination filing to begin from June 1



SHILLONG

Election Commission of India has announced that the biennial election to the Rajya Sabha seat from Meghalaya will be held on June 18, with the nomination process set to begin on June 1.

Chief Electoral Officer B.D.R. Tiwari said the official notification for the election will be issued on June 1, while candidates can file their nomination papers until June 8.

Scrutiny of nomination papers is scheduled for June 9, and candidates will be allowed to withdraw their nominations until June 11.

Polling for the Rajya Sabha election will take place from 9 am to 4 pm on June 18, with counting of votes scheduled to begin at 5 pm the same day. The entire election process is expected to conclude by June 20.

Ahead of the election, Tiwari chaired a meeting with representatives

of political parties in Shillong to brief them on the election schedule, nomination procedures and voting rules.

Officials explained the proportional representation system through a single transferable vote, which is followed in Rajya Sabha elections.

Political parties were also reminded about the mandatory disclosure of criminal antecedents of candidates in accordance with directions issued by the Supreme Court and the Election Commission.

Election authorities clarified that MLAs belonging to recognised political parties may display their marked ballot papers only to authorised party agents, while independent legislators are prohibited from showing their ballots to any agent.

During the meeting, officials additionally briefed political parties on procedures related to recording voter preferences, ballot validity, counting methods and calculation of the winning quota. Information regarding nomination documents, affidavits, party authorisation forms and security deposits was also shared.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer, all necessary preparations, including venue inspections and coordination with stakeholders, have been completed to ensure smooth and transparent polling.

The Election Commission also announced that Rajya Sabha elections will be held for one seat each in the northeastern states of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram alongside Meghalaya.

Outside the Northeast, polls are scheduled for four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, three seats each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and two seats in Jharkhand.

IMPHAL

A truck driver was killed after suspected militants opened fire on a convoy of commercial vehicles travelling under security escort in Ukhrul district on Thursday, triggering an exchange of fire with security personnel.

According to police, a joint team comprising personnel from the Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force and Manipur Police was escorting around 15 to 20 trucks carrying essential supplies towards Ukhrul when the convoy came under attack near TM Kasom.

Officials said the truck driver sustained critical injuries in the firing and died on the spot. His identity had not been established at the time of reporting.

Security forces immediately retaliated, leading to a brief gunfight with the attackers. Authorities said the situation remained tense, with



further firing reported along the Imphal-Ukhrul road after the ambush.

The attack occurred hours after unrest broke out at Shangkai village, where protesters allegedly attempted to block the movement of supply vehicles by burning tyres on the road.

Security personnel used tear gas shells and smoke bombs to disperse the crowd and clear the route for the convoy. Reports indicated that at least five civilians were injured during the confrontation.

The ambush site was located around six kilometres from Shangkai village, underlining continuing security concerns along the route. Authorities had deployed security escorts to ensure the transportation of essential commodities to Ukhrul district amid prevailing tensions in the region.

The latest incident has renewed concerns over the safety of transport operators and the uninterrupted movement of goods in Manipur.

Earlier this week, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh met representatives of the Manipur Truck Owners' Welfare Association and reiterated the state government's commitment to ensuring safe highway movement.

The killing follows another attack reported on April 18 near TM Kasom village, in which two civilians, including a retired Army soldier, were allegedly shot dead by suspected militants.

GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said the Assam government has set an ambitious goal of bringing the state's Below Poverty Line (BPL) population down to less than three per cent over the next five years, asserting that the vision of a "Viksit Assam" can only be realised through inclusive and sustained economic growth. Sharing his views in a post on X, the Chief Minister said development must move beyond announcements and policy promises and should translate into meaningful improvements in the lives of ordinary people across the state.

"Our vision is clear to reduce Assam's BPL population to below 3% in the next five years by expanding opportunities and ensuring growth touches every family across the state," Sarma wrote.

The Chief Minister emphasised that Assam's development journey must be people-centric, with economic progress reaching both urban and rural households. He said the idea of a developed Assam depends not only on infrastructure growth but also on improving income levels, access to employment, social welfare coverage and quality of life for citizens. Sarma's remarks come

at a time when the state government has been intensifying its focus on poverty alleviation measures, employment generation, welfare delivery and large-scale infrastructure expansion under various flagship schemes. Over the past few years, the Assam government has launched and expanded several welfare initiatives related to housing assistance, healthcare, women's empowerment, education support, rural connectivity and livelihood generation. The administration has also prioritised investments in roads, bridges, industrial development and digital infrastructure as part of its broader economic agenda.

The Chief Minister has repeatedly stressed that Assam's long-term growth strategy aims to create employment opportunities for youth, strengthen rural economies and ensure that government benefits reach vulnerable and economically weaker sections of society.

Officials have also highlighted improvements in social indicators in recent years, including healthcare access, maternal and infant welfare, and financial inclusion, as part of the government's efforts to reduce poverty levels across Assam.

Assam, Northeast likely to receive normal monsoon

GUWAHATI

India Meteorological Department has forecast normal monsoon rainfall for Assam and the Northeast during the June-September southwest monsoon season, even as the country as a whole is expected to witness below-normal rainfall this year.

According to the IMD's latest Long Range Forecast for the Southwest Monsoon Seasonal Rainfall 2026, India is likely to receive 90 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall during the monsoon season, with a model error margin of plus or minus four per cent. The projection places the national monsoon outlook in the below-normal category.

Despite the weaker all-India forecast, the weather agency said Northeast India is expected to receive rainfall between 94 per cent and 106 per cent of the LPA, which falls within the normal rainfall category. The forecast offers some relief for Assam and other northeastern states amid concerns over rainfall variability and its impact on agriculture, water resources and rural livelihoods.

In contrast, Central India, South Peninsular India and Northwest India are expected to receive below-normal seasonal rainfall during the monsoon period. The IMD further stated that while most parts of the country are likely to witness below-normal rainfall, some regions in Northwest India and Northeast India could experience normal to above-normal precipitation. Similar rainfall patterns are also expected in parts of the eastern South Peninsula, adjoining east-central India and isolated pockets of East India.

For June 2026, the first month of the monsoon season, the IMD has projected below-normal rainfall for the country as a whole, estimating precipitation at less than 92 per cent of the LPA. However, parts of Northeast India are likely to record normal to above-normal rainfall during the month.

Mandaviya to Review Meghalaya's National Games Readiness During Three-Day Visit



SHILLONG

Union Sports Minister Manukh Mandaviya will begin a three-day visit to Meghalaya from May 29, during which he will review the state's preparedness for hosting the 39th National Games in 2026 and participate in a series of programmes related to sports infrastructure and youth development.

Officials said the Union minister will inaugurate an integrated multipurpose indoor sports complex in Shillong and assess the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes during his visit.

On May 30, Mandaviya, accompanied by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sang-

ma, will inaugurate the indoor sports complex in the state capital, constructed at a cost of ₹132.9 crore.

During the visit, Meghalaya will also formally sign the host state contract for the 39th National Games 2026 in the presence of representatives from the Indian Olympic Association and other dignitaries.

Officials said the signing of the agreement marks a significant step in Meghalaya's preparations to host the prestigious multi-sport event.

The Union minister is also scheduled to attend a brainstorming session organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, where discussions are expected to focus on youth engagement and sports development initiatives in the Northeast. Meghalaya Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Shakliar Warji, along with senior state officials, is expected to participate in the programmes.

On May 31, Mandaviya will visit Ri-Bhoi district to review the implementation and progress of centrally sponsored schemes under the Poorvottar Sampark Setu initiative.

Officials said the visit reflects the Centre's continued emphasis on strengthening sports infrastructure, promoting youth participation and accelerating holistic development across the Northeastern region.

Manik Saha invites national leaders to visit Tripura Sundari Temple to boost spiritual tourism

AGARTALA

Manik Saha has invited Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Cabinet ministers, Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from across the country to visit the historic Tripura Sundari Temple in an effort to promote Tripura's spiritual tourism and cultural heritage.

In a letter addressed to national leaders, the Tripura Chief Minister highlighted the religious, historical and cultural importance of the temple, which is recognised as one of India's 51 Shakti Peethas.

Saha said the over 500-year-old shrine stood as a symbol of Tripura's rich traditions, faith and communal harmony. He noted that devotees and pilgrims from different parts of India and abroad visit the temple every year to seek blessings of Goddess Tripura Sundari. The Chief Minister also referred to the annual Diwali Fair organised at the temple premises, describing it as one of the state's largest religious and cultural gatherings that draws lakhs of devotees

and tourists each year. Highlighting recent developments around the shrine, Saha said the area had witnessed significant infrastructural and beautification work under the Government of India's PRASAD Scheme during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He expressed hope that visits by prominent national leaders would further strengthen Tripura's visibility on India's tourism and cultural map while helping expand the state's growing spiritual tourism sector. In meeting at the Chief Minister's Office to expedite the proposed Tuivai Hydroelectric Project, Power Minister F. Rodingliana and senior officials of the Power and Electricity Department were also present during the meeting.

Officials said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project has already been completed and the proposal is now ready for the tendering stage. The state government is considering implementing the project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.



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DEGREES WITHOUT DIRECTION

India proudly celebrates its demographic dividend. Every year, millions of young students graduate from universities carrying degrees, certificates, medals, and aspirations. Convocation ceremonies are filled with applause, photographs, and promises of a brighter future. Yet beneath this optimism lies an uncomfortable reality: a growing number of educated young Indians feel uncertain, anxious, unemployable, and directionless.

The crisis facing India today is not merely unemployment. It is the deeper crisis of education without direction.

For decades, Indian society has treated education primarily as a ladder to economic security. Children are taught from an early age that good marks guarantee a good college, a good college guarantees a good job, and a good job guarantees a successful life. In this race, education has gradually lost its philosophical and human purpose. Learning is no longer seen as a process of intellectual growth or self-discovery; it has become a competitive survival mechanism.

The result is visible everywhere. Students spend years memorising information for examinations while receiving little training in creativity, communication, emotional resilience, or critical thinking. Many graduate with impressive degrees but remain unsure about what they truly want to do with their lives. A certificate may open the doors of a classroom, but it does not automatically open the doors of meaning, confidence, or employment.

This disconnect between education and employability has become sharper in the age of artificial intelligence and automation. Repetitive and routine jobs are increasingly being replaced by technology, while universities continue producing graduates trained for outdated systems. The world now demands adaptability, problem-solving, and innovation, yet much of Indian education still rewards memorisation and conformity.

At the same time, social media has intensified the psychological burden on young people. Success is constantly displayed, compared, and celebrated online, creating an atmosphere where students feel pressured to achieve quickly and visibly. Many young graduates today carry silent anxiety—the fear of falling behind, disappointing families, or becoming socially irrelevant.

Recent public discourse surrounding unemployment has further exposed this tension. The controversy surrounding remarks attributed to Justice Surya Kant, where unemployed youth were compared to “cockroaches” and “parasites,” triggered widespread criticism and emotional backlash across the country. Later, the Chief Justice clarified that his observations were misquoted and were specifically directed towards individuals using fake degrees and attacking institutions irresponsibly.

Nevertheless, the controversy revealed something important about contemporary India: educated unemployment is no longer merely an economic issue; it has become a question of dignity, identity, and social frustration.

A generation that has spent years studying does not simply seek salaries. It seeks respect, relevance, and purpose. When society reduces unemployed youth to stereotypes, it risks ignoring the structural failures that produced the crisis in the first place.

The problem is not that Indian youth lack intelligence or ambition. In fact, this may be one of the most educated and ambitious generations India has ever produced. The real problem is that the education system often prepares students for examinations instead of life itself.

True education must do more than produce employees; it must produce thoughtful human beings. Universities should cultivate curiosity, ethics, emotional intelligence, civic awareness, and independent thinking alongside professional skills. Students must be encouraged not only to ask, “What job will I get?” but also, “What kind of person am I becoming?”

There is also an urgent need to restore dignity to skill-based and vocational professions. For too long, Indian society has divided occupations into artificial hierarchies where degrees are celebrated while practical abilities are undervalued. This mindset has created unrealistic expectations and deepened frustration among graduates who discover that a degree alone no longer guarantees economic stability.

The larger danger is psychological. A society that continuously produces educated but directionless youth risks creating widespread alienation. Anxiety, burnout, resentment, and social anger do not emerge in isolation; they grow when individuals feel unseen, unheard, and uncertain about their future. India undoubtedly needs economic growth and technological advancement. But it also needs an educational philosophy rooted in human development. Information alone cannot build a civilization. Wisdom, purpose, and self-awareness are equally essential.

The true measure of education is not merely how many students graduate each year, but how many emerge capable of thinking independently, living meaningfully, and contributing responsibly to society.

India does not merely need more degrees. It needs direction.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Better to have loved and lost,
than to have never loved at all. -
Alfred Lord Tennyson

INDIA'S RESPONSE TO HEAT CRISIS WILL DEFINE ITS FUTURE



SANJAY K SRIVASTAVA

Let's start with two numbers—48.2°C in Banda, Uttar Pradesh and 46.5°C in Sirpur, Telangana. Nearly 850 km apart, but bound by brutal, extreme heat. In Bundelkhand, hot winds blowing in from Pakistan's Balochistan and the Thar Desert turned Banda into India's hottest city for four days, with the temperatures edging towards 50°C on cracked black-cotton soil with barely a tree in sight. In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, over 40 heat-stroke-related deaths were reported over just two days.

This is not a story about two states or one season. It is a national emergency running from the Himalayas to the shoreline. And it has been building for years.

The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) seasonal outlook for April-June 2026 warned us plainly: above-normal heatwave days were coming for east, central, northwest India, and the southeast of the peninsula. Red and orange alerts were flying across Telangana before summer officially began. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, which has been tracking this for decades, said heatwave frequency in India's core zone has risen by 2.5 days every decade since 1961, and the trend is getting steeper.

This year, there's a double blow. While long-term warming has raised India's temperature floor year after year, a super El Niño is developing this year in the equatorial Pacific, a phenomenon that has historically made Indian summers worse. It weakens monsoon winds, strips cloud cover, bakes the soil dry. The chance of a deficient monsoon this year sits at 35 percent, more than double the long-term average. For a country where nearly half of all farmland depends on rain, not pipes, that figure isn't just a weather stat. It is a food security warning.

Here is what the headlines often miss: the same summer is killing people in completely different ways depending on where they live and how much money they have. In landlocked Bundelkhand, it is the raw, scorching dry heat. Cities like Banda, Jhansi, and Hamirpur have no sea breeze, no relief. Entire agricultural divisions are recording temperatures 5°C above the seasonal norm. Farmers, who cannot afford to stop working, are out there in it from sunrise. For them, heatstroke is not an abstract risk—it's a Tuesday.

On the coasts, the story is quieter but in some ways more dangerous. Kerala, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh—the thermometers here read lower than Banda. But the humidity changes everything. What scientists call the ‘wet-bulb temperature’—the measure that combines heat and moisture—can push coastal conditions beyond what the human body can safely handle, even when the raw number on the thermometer looks manageable. An IMD study spanning four decades confirmed that wet-bulb temperatures have been steadily rising across India's coasts, accelerating sharply since the early 2000s.

The reason is physics. When the air is saturated with moisture, sweat simply cannot evaporate. That's the body's only real cooling mechanism, and in high humidity, it stops working. Researchers at Penn State found that even healthy young people start losing the ability to regulate body temperature at around 31°C wet-bulb. Anjal Prakash, an author of a UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, has put it starkly: a 40°C day with high humidity can feel like 50°C. For an elderly person in a poorly ventilated home, a fisher returning from sea, or a construction worker in a coastal city, that is not a figure of speech. It is a physiological reality.

In Alappuzha, fishers talk about nights that no longer cool down. In Odisha's coastal districts, labourers say they are dehydrated within an hour of starting work. Moist heat kills quietly, without the drama of a north Indian heatwave, and so it goes largely unreported.

There is something India's heat conversation rarely talks about: what happens between midnight and 5 am.

Night is when the body is supposed to repair itself. Heart rate drops, core temperature falls, and cells recover from the stress of a hot day. But India's average

night-time temperature has been rising by 0.21°C every decade. Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) data shows 35 of India's 36 states and Union territories are getting warmer nights. Climate change has added somewhere between 50 and 80 nights a year above the 25°C threshold—the level beyond which quality sleep and physiological recovery become genuinely difficult.

When nights stay hot, the damage from daytime heat accumulates. Exhaustion doesn't lift. Organs don't fully repair. For people already weakened—the elderly, the chronically ill, small children—this is how heat kills without ever being recorded as a heatstroke death. A 2024 Climate Trends study in Chennai found indoor night temperatures in many homes sitting above 32°C, sometimes crossing 35°C. These are homes without air conditioning, with thin walls and metal roofs, where the heat that came in during the day has nowhere to go.

A government that issues heatwave alerts for the afternoon but ignores what is happening to a 72-year-old sleeping in a tin-roofed room at midnight is governing only half the crisis.

CEEW's district-level heat risk assessment is the most comprehensive picture we have of who is most at risk. Across 734 districts, using 35 indicators of hazard, exposure and vulnerability, it found that over 57 percent of India's districts—home to 76 percent of the population—face high to very high heat risk.

But averages hide the real story. The people most exposed are the ones with the least ability to protect themselves: construction workers, street vendors, gig delivery riders, slum dwellers, agricultural labourers. None of them can work from home. None of them have air conditioning. A CEEW-linked study that followed 3,000 outdoor workers found that a single degree rise in mean temperature cut their daily earnings by 16 percent. During a bad heatwave, earnings fell by 40 percent. A worker averaging ₹268 a day lost over ₹100—not because they chose to, but because the heat made it impossible to keep going.

The damage cascades further. Heat speeds up evaporation from reservoirs already running low. CEEW estimates that water scarcity driven by climate change could cost India over \$2.5 trillion by 2050 if irrigation infrastructure isn't overhauled. Wheat yields fall by more than 5 percent for every degree of warming—a quiet threat to the food security that India spent generations building. And as demand for electricity surges across the summer, grids overload and cut power—most reliably in the areas that can least afford it, trapping people in homes that by then have become ovens.

India's political class rarely frames this as an economic emergency. It should. The McKinsey Global Institute estimated that heat-related productivity losses could cost India up to \$250 billion—around 4.5 percent of GDP—by 2030. The International Labour Organization projects the loss of the equivalent of 34 million full-time jobs to heat stress by the end of this decade. For 2026 specifically, economists are warning that this summer alone—combined with a possible El Niño monsoon failure—could clip off significant GDP growth.

These numbers have faces. Every labourer who rests in the shade instead of working is lost output. Every hospitalisation for heatstroke is a medical bill that wipes out a week's wages. India's average humidity has already climbed from 67.1-71.2 percent in just five years, and the number of hot-humid days has jumped from 14,086 to nearly 17,000 in the past decade. The heat isn't just uncomfortable. It is slowly draining the economy from the bottom up.

India deserves credit for what it has built. Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan, one of the first in Asia, is estimated to have prevented nearly 2,380 deaths between 2014 and 2015. Several states now have early warning systems, cooling shelters and ORS distribution networks. These things save lives. But they are not saving enough lives, and they are not addressing the root cause.

Cooling centres help once the emergency has arrived. They do not stop cities from becoming furnaces in the first place. CEEW has pointed to a fundamental problem: most Heat Action Plans are

not grounded in granular, district-level vulnerability data, which means resources don't reliably reach the people who need them most. The plans manage a crisis. What India needs is to prevent one.

That means transformative adaptation—changing how cities are designed, how workers are protected, and how ecosystems are managed. Not incremental tweaks. Real change.

Trees, water, and green cover are some of the most cost-effective heat mitigation tools we have. A well-placed tree canopy can cut local surface temperatures by 3-8°C. Restored urban wetlands create natural cooling corridors. But India's urban local bodies still treat green cover as an aesthetic choice rather than critical infrastructure. That has to change, with enforceable targets, not aspirational ones.

Cool roofs and reflective surfaces can reduce indoor temperatures by 2-4°C at relatively low cost—a realistic retrofit even for low-income housing. Spain's Murcia city implemented 61 urban heat measures including resurfacing roads with lighter materials, measurably cooling the streets. Phoenix, Arizona, treated 58 kilometres of residential roads with reflective pavement sealant. The Netherlands' Arnhem is redesigning underused road lanes into shaded green corridors. These are not exotic experiments—they are proven, practical interventions. India has no shortage of heat-stressed cities in which to deploy them.

Protect workers before it is too late. Mandatory midday work stoppages between noon and 3 pm during heatwave alerts exist in several states, but not enough to protect the vulnerable. They need to be enforced, not suggested. Athens, gave its chief heat officer the authority to make guidance binding. Something similar—a dedicated heat governance role with real teeth—deserves serious consideration at the state level here.

What AI and other tech can do Technology cannot replace shade or a cool roof, but it can help us act faster and smarter.

ARTPARK at IISc Bengaluru has built an AI-driven heat forecasting system that uses deep learning and downscaling to generate sub-district heat forecasts up to ten days ahead. That lead time lets hospitals stock up, municipalities open cooling centres proactively, and construction firms adjust shift timings before workers are in danger—not after.

SEEDS, working with Microsoft's AI for Good Lab, has developed a model that maps heat vulnerability at the neighbourhood level in urban slums, identifying the specific homes most at risk so outreach workers know exactly where to go. In Delhi's Vivekananda Camp, women community leaders used AI-powered climate risk tools and a weather station to build their own early warning system, issuing household-level alerts during heatwaves. It is a small project. But it is proof that you do not need a large government programme to protect a community—you need the right tools and the right people.

There is more to do here. India needs heat advisory apps that work in regional languages and speak directly to the street vendor and the construction contractor, not just the educated smartphone user. Urban planners should be required to run heat island simulations before any major development is approved—not as a formality, but as a genuine design constraint. And India's insurance sector has an opportunity to create heat-linked income protection products for informal workers, so that a heatwave does not also mean bankruptcy.

What others have learned and India can borrow

India does not have to figure this out alone. Several countries have been grappling with extreme heat for longer, and some of their lessons are directly transplantable. Ahmedabad is India's own proof of concept—it showed that a structured early warning system with community outreach actually works. The question is why, fifteen years later, it is still the exception and not the standard.

Athens appointed a chief heat officer—a dedicated role that sits above the usual departmental silos and can actually coordinate across health, urban

planning and emergency services. The officer's guidance on cooling spaces, hydration and outdoor activity timing was made operationally binding. India's national and state disaster management authorities would do well to create equivalent roles with real authority.

Murcia, Spain tackled urban overheating with a package of 61 measures, including resurfacing dark asphalt with reflective materials, which significantly cut surface temperatures—a simple intervention with a large impact.

Jodhpur's RAHAT project, a collaboration between the University of Cambridge and the Mahila Housing Trust, is testing cool roofs in informal urban settlements using a women-led community model—with randomised trials to measure what actually works. This kind of rigorous, ground-up, evidence-based adaptation is exactly what Indian cities need funded and scaled.

Arnhem in the Netherlands is redesigning its streets—converting underused car lanes into shaded, tree-lined corridors and mapping which open spaces must be protected to keep

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

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~ Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations



temperatures from rising further. City planning as climate adaptation, built into the process from the beginning rather than retrofitted at great expense later.

By the end of this century, projections suggest 70 percent of Indians could face wet-bulb temperatures above 32°C. Around 2 percent could face conditions above 35°C—the rough limit of human survivability. That is not destiny. But it is the road we are currently on. The people dying in Telangana's fields and Bundelkhand's farms this week are not a data point. They are the farmer who sat on his paddy heap in Nizamabad waiting to sell his grain and never came home. They are the labourers in Alappuzha who say the sea breeze doesn't feel cool anymore.

India has science. It has the institutions. And it has pockets of brilliant innovation. What it has lacked, consistently, is a sense of urgency that matches the scale of what is happening.

Every summer that passes without structural change is a summer that sets a new baseline for the next one. The crisis is not coming. It has arrived. And the people bearing the heaviest burden are the ones who did the least to cause it. Sanjay K Srivastava | S Radhakrishnan Chair Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; former Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction at UNESCAP

Delhi Court Issues Notice to Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma in 'Miya' Remarks Case

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has issued a notice to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on a plea filed by activist Harsh Mander seeking the registration of an FIR over allegedly provocative remarks made by the BJP leader against "Miya Muslims".

Additional Sessions Judge Sonu Agnihotri issued the notice while hearing a revision petition filed by Mander challenging an April 20 order of a magisterial court that had declined to direct the registration of an FIR against the Assam chief minister.

In an order dated May 26, the sessions court directed the re-



spondents to file an appropriate reply and fixed July 15, 2026, as the next date of hearing.

"The counsel for the petitioner further drew my attention to the standard operating procedure (SOP) for Zero FIR and E-FIR issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs filed by the petitioner on record with the revision petition. In view of the submissions made by the counsel for the petitioner, issue a notice of revision petition to the respondents on filing of appropriate reply for July 15, 2026," the court observed.

The case relates to alleged remarks made by Sarma during an event held at Digboi in Assam's Tinsukia district on January 27.

According to Mander's plea, the chief minister had allegedly stated that "four to five lakh Miya voters" would be removed from electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Assam.

The plea further alleged that Sarma made statements suggesting that "only if they face troubles will they leave Assam" and that "we are ensuring that they cannot vote in Assam".

"Miya" is a term commonly used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam and is often viewed as derogatory by sections of the community, though some activists have reclaimed the term as an expression of

identity and resistance.

Before the sessions court, counsel appearing for Mander argued that the trial court had erred in dismissing the application on the grounds of lack of territorial jurisdiction.

The petitioner's counsel contended that information regarding a cognisable offence can be lodged at any police station irrespective of the place of occurrence under the concept of Zero FIR.

Taking note of the submissions, the court issued notice to the respondents and sought their replies in the matter.

The case is expected to come up for further hearing on July 15.

NEC Invests Rs.339 Crore in Mizoram During 2022-26 to Boost Infrastructure, Connectivity and Livelihoods

AIZAWL

The North Eastern Council (NEC) has invested ₹339.06 crore in Mizoram during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2022 to 2026, supporting a wide range of infrastructure, connectivity, agriculture, tourism and livelihood projects across the state. According to an official statement issued on Thursday, the expenditure was made under the Schemes of NEC (SoNEC) and the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)-Roads programme. Out of the total allocation, ₹123.83 crore was spent under the SoNEC programme for developmental projects aimed at improving public infrastructure and socio-economic conditions in Mizoram.

The projects covered sectors such as healthcare, veterinary services, education, market infrastructure, sports facilities, cultural centres and community development works.

The NEC also extended support to agriculture and allied sectors through initiatives focused on wet rice cultivation, potato seed production, piggery, poultry farming, fisheries, livestock development, arecanut cultivation and passion fruit processing.

Officials said the initiatives are expected to strengthen rural livelihoods and generate sustainable income opportunities for farmers and local communities.

In the tourism and cultural sectors, the Council supported projects related to ecological parks, tourism circuits and cultural heritage centres to promote Mizoram's cultural identity and eco-tourism potential.

Connectivity infrastructure emerged as another major focus area under the NESIDS-Roads programme.

During the 2022-26 period, six road projects worth ₹277.99 crore were implemented in Mizoram, of which two projects valued at ₹25.19 crore have already been completed.

Meghalaya Puts Fresh Official Foreign Trips on Hold Amid Global Fuel Concerns

SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government has suspended all new official foreign travel proposals following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to avoid non-essential overseas visits amid rising global uncertainty linked to the ongoing West Asia crisis and concerns over fuel prices. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the state government had decided to put on hold all fresh proposals for official foreign trips received after the Prime Minister's call for austerity measures.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Sangma also said he had cancelled his own planned overseas visits in view of the prevailing global situation.

"Seven to eight proposals for official foreign trips were received after the Prime Minister's appeal, and all of them have been kept on hold," the Chief Minister said.

The decision, however, comes at a time when several Meghalaya officials, including Assembly Speaker Thomas A. Sangma,

are currently abroad on official assignments, prompting questions over the timing and optics of overseas travel during a period of economic caution. Responding to the issue, the Chief Minister clarified that the ongoing visits had received administrative and financial approvals several months before the Prime Minister's advisory. "Some of these trips had received clearance three to four months before the Prime Minister's appeal," Sangma said, adding that travel bookings, expenditures and diplomatic arrangements had already been finalised.

Assembly Speaker Thomas A. Sangma is currently attending the 16th Canadian Parliamentary Seminar in Ottawa, Canada, being held from May 25 to 29.

Describing the current international situation as a "difficult time", the Chief Minister said the Meghalaya government was acting in the "larger interest of the nation" by suspending fresh foreign travel proposals.

Assam Marks Peaceful Bakrid with Calls for Harmony and Civic Responsibility

GUWAHATI/JORHAT/NALBARI

Assam observed Eid-ul-Adha peacefully on Thursday, with thousands of devotees across the state gathering at mosques and Eidgah grounds to offer prayers amid renewed calls for communal harmony, unity and responsible celebrations.

From Guwahati to Jorhat and Nalbari, members of the Muslim community came together to celebrate Bakrid, also known as Qurbani Eid, with prayers for peace, prosperity and brotherhood.

This year's celebrations also reflected a broader public appeal to avoid cow sacrifice in keeping with state laws and calls issued earlier by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

In Guwahati, large numbers of devotees assembled at major mosques and Eidgahs across the city from early morning to offer namaz.

Prominent places of worship,

including Burha Jame Masjid in Ambari, Lakhtokia Masjid, Rajdhani Masjid in Hatigaon and Katabari Masjid, witnessed heavy gatherings of worshippers.

Religious leaders and Eidgah committee members urged devotees to observe the festival peacefully while following government-issued standard operating procedures and maintaining civic responsibility.

"I extend my best wishes to the people of Assam on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. Today is the day of Qurbani and I hope people will take note of the SOP issued by the Assam Government and follow it," the General Secretary of Burha Jame Masjid said.

In Nalbari, thousands gathered at the Nalbari Eidgah Maidan and other prayer grounds across the district to offer prayers for global peace, harmony and communal unity.

People exchanged Eid greetings warmly, reflecting the

spirit of togetherness associated with the festival.

"Eid Mubarak to all. People of many religions reside in our state, and I wish everyone stays united and peaceful so that together we can take Assam forward," said Hazrat Maulana Qari Maqbir Hussain.

Despite unfavourable weather conditions, devotees in Jorhat also turned out in large numbers at mosques and Eidgahs to participate in the special prayers.

People of all age groups, including children and senior citizens, attended the prayers amid intermittent rainfall.

"Even though the weather was not favourable, people of Jorhat came together to offer Namaz. On behalf of the Jorhat Eidgah Committee and the Muslim community of Jorhat, I extend Eid greetings to everyone. I hope our days become more prosperous and brotherhood among people continues to grow," a representative of the

Jorhat Eidgah Committee said.

Ahead of the festival, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had appealed to Eid committees and residents across Assam to refrain from cow sacrifice during Bakrid, citing the provisions of the Assam Cattle Preservation Act.

Responding to the appeal, several Eidgah committees across the state reportedly urged devotees to avoid cow sacrifice and issued formal appeals promoting peaceful and law-abiding celebrations.

"Everyone supported the Chief Minister's appeal. Assam has always been a peaceful state and I believe it will remain so in the coming days. In Assam, our identity as people comes first, and religion comes second," the Jorhat Eidgah Committee representative added.

Officials said Bakrid celebrations across the state remained peaceful, with no major untoward incidents reported.

Arunachal Pradesh Targets Operationalisation of Indo-Myanmar Trade Route Within Three Years

ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Trade and Commerce Minister Nyato Dukam on Wednesday said the state government is working towards operationalising the Indo-Myanmar border trade route and related port infrastructure within the next three years.

The minister made the announcement during a visit to the Land Customs Station (LCS) near Helligate Bridge, where he reviewed existing facilities and assessed the potential for expanding border trade in the region.

Dukam was accompanied by MLA Laisam Simai and other officials during the official inspection tour along the Indo-Myanmar border.

As part of the visit, the delegation also inspected the Border



Haat at Pangsau Pass, which is considered a strategically important location for promoting cross-border trade and regional

cooperation between India and Myanmar.

Officials said the proposed activation of the trade corridor

is expected to improve connectivity and create employment opportunities in border areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

The initiative has generated optimism among local residents and traders, who believe that enhanced border trade could significantly boost economic activity and open new avenues for business and regional development.

According to officials, the project is also expected to strengthen commercial engagement and improve economic ties along the India-Myanmar border region.

The state government has been exploring ways to expand trade infrastructure and connectivity in frontier districts as part of broader efforts to promote economic growth and integration in the Northeast.

Gauhati High Court Chief Justice to hear Barak Valley bench demand on July 16



GUWAHATI

The long-standing demand for a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High

Quest!

Your body is as old as the universe because matter is never created or destroyed.

Court in Barak Valley has gained renewed momentum after the Chief Justice agreed to meet representatives of the High Court Bench Establishment Demand Implementation Committee on July 16.

The meeting is scheduled for 4:45 pm, during which a 12-member delegation is expected to place detailed legal submissions, public concerns and supporting documents before the

Chief Justice in support of establishing a permanent High Court Bench in the Barak Valley region.

Addressing a press conference in Silchar on Friday, advocate Dhruvakumar Saha said the movement, which began in the 1980s under the leadership of the Silchar District Bar Association, has now evolved into a broader public movement across Barak Valley and South Assam.

"This is no longer merely a lawyers' demand. It has become a people's movement across Barak Valley and South Assam," Saha said.

Committee members argued that the absence of a permanent High Court Bench in the valley continues to create significant difficulties for litigants, particularly those from remote districts who must travel to Guwahati for High Court-related matters.

They maintained that the demand is based on principles of judicial decentralisation, administrative convenience and equal access to justice for residents of southern Assam.

Executive committee member advocate Dharmananda Deb announced that a constituency-wise signature campaign would begin across Barak Valley and South Assam from May 30 to mobilise wider public support.

The campaign is set to begin at the Kachakanti Temple premises in Udharbond, with organisers aiming to

collect at least 15,000 signatures from each Assembly constituency before the July 16 meeting.

According to the committee, a detailed "Vision Document" outlining the geographical, infrastructural, administrative and public-interest reasons for setting up the Bench will also be submitted.

Additional signature campaign programmes are scheduled at Badarpur NC College on June 6 and at the Pailapool Multipurpose Hall in Lakhimpur on June 14.

Advocate Shantanu Nayek said Dima Hasao has joined the movement for the first time, expanding the regional support base for the demand.

Committee members further stated that the Governor has already forwarded the matter to the High Court for its opinion, which they described as a positive administrative development.

Although the demand for a permanent Bench was rejected earlier in 2014, the committee claimed that recent observations made by the Supreme Court of India in 2025 have reopened the possibility for reconsideration of such demands in the larger public interest.

According to the committee, more than 110 organisations have extended support to the movement seeking a permanent Gauhati High Court Bench in Barak Valley.

Assam TMC chief Abhijit Majumdar resigns, alleges party functioning centred around Muslims



GUWAHATI

Abhijit Majumdar, the Assam unit chief of the All India Trinamool Congress, resigned from the party on Friday, alleging that the organisation had increasingly become focused solely on Muslim politics in both Assam and West Bengal.

Majumdar submitted his resignation to former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee through email, amid growing internal unrest within the party following its heavy defeat in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

In his resignation letter, Majumdar claimed that the TMC's image in Assam had evolved into that of a party functioning exclusively for Muslims. He further alleged that a similar political approach had been adopted in West Bengal as well.

Stating that he could no longer continue under such circumstances, Majumdar said the party's political direction and functioning had made it impossible for him to remain associated with the organisation.

His resignation comes at a time when the TMC is facing a series of high-profile exits and internal disagreements after its electoral setback in West Bengal.

Earlier, senior TMC leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen resigned as the party's national spokesperson, citing corruption allegations and dissatisfaction over the handling of the RG Kar rape-murder case.

In his resignation letter to Mamata Banerjee, Sen said he found it difficult to continue defending the party over what he described as "immoral acts" and corruption-related controversies.

He referred to issues including the RG Kar rape-murder case, the Abhya case and the alleged cash-for-jobs scam, while acknowledging the public verdict delivered in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Sastidar also resigned as head of the party's women's wing and stepped down from several organisational responsibilities.

In her resignation letter, Sastidar alleged that the party failed to protect her from alleged misconduct and verbal abuse by a fellow MP, reportedly referring to senior TMC leader Kalyan Banerjee.

The resignations have exposed widening cracks within the TMC after the party's defeat in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

The Bharatiya Janata Party secured a sweeping victory in the polls by winning 207 out of 293 Assembly seats on May 4, ending the TMC's long-standing rule in West Bengal.

The BJP later strengthened its position further by winning the Falta Assembly constituency during the poll conducted on May 21, intensifying pressure on the Mamata Banerjee-led party amid continuing internal dissent.

India, China hold 'constructive' talks on LAC, link border peace to normalising ties



NEW DELHI

India and China held "constructive" and "forward looking" talks on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, with both sides noting that maintaining border peace and tranquillity had enabled progress in the normalisation of overall relations.

The discussions took place during a meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) in Beijing on Wednesday.

"The discussions were constructive and forward looking," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said a day after the talks.

According to the MEA, the two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas and expressed satisfaction over recent developments.

"The two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas. They expressed satisfaction with the progress made in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which has enabled progress towards gradual normalisation of bilateral relations," the ministry said.

India and China also agreed

to work together to make "substantive preparation" for the next meeting of the Special Representatives (SR), which is scheduled to be held in China. During the WMCC meeting, the two sides discussed issues related to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation.

"The two sides discussed issues pertaining to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation," the MEA said.

The Indian side also stressed the need for an early meeting of the next expert-level mechanism on trans-border rivers.

"Both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts at the diplomatic and military levels through mechanisms including those that were agreed as part of outcomes of 24th Special Representative talks," the ministry added.

The Indian delegation was led by Sujit Ghosh, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the MEA, while the Chinese delegation was headed by Hou Yanqi, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese foreign ministry.

Ghosh also met Liu Jinsong, Director of the Department of Asian Affairs at the Chinese foreign ministry, and paid a courtesy call on Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei.

The meeting comes as both countries continue efforts to stabilise ties after relations deteriorated sharply following the Galwan Valley clashes in 2020 and the prolonged military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides disengaged troops from multiple friction points along the LAC. In October 2024, India and China finalised a disengagement pact for Dopsang and Demchok, the last remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Subsequently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan, where both sides agreed on measures to improve bilateral relations. During another meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin last year, Modi reiterated that India was committed to taking forward ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.

Amit Shah says infiltration from Bangladesh declined after political change in West Bengal

AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for projects worth nearly Rs 340 crore in Gandhinagar North, claimed the BJP had expanded Gujarat's "development model" across the country and asserted that infiltration from Bangladesh had started declining after the political change in Bengal.

Shah also announced that the Centre would form a high-powered Demographic Change Commission to study "artificial demographic changes" and recommend legal measures if required.

"The Prime Minister's vision is clear every village should become self-reliant, every village should have every basic facility, and every citizen should have the right to live a better life. This is the foundation of the development journey being implemented across the country," Shah said while addressing the gathering.

He also claimed that the BJP had expanded Gujarat's development model across India over the last 12 years.

Linking the party's electoral rise directly to Modi's governance narrative, Shah asserted that the BJP now governs nearly 80 per cent of the country.

"The development journey that began in Gujarat has now reached from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gangasagar to Somnath," Shah declared.

"The BJP has strengthened its presence across the nation and has now succeeded in raising the saffron flag across the entire Ganga belt." Sharpening his political attack further, Shah turned his focus toward West Bengal and illegal infiltration from Bangladesh an issue the BJP has aggressively pushed in eastern India.

Referring to the recent Bengal elections, Shah claimed the BJP-led administration had moved rapidly to strengthen border security after



coming to power.

"We had promised during the elections that border fencing would begin if people trusted us with governance," Shah said.

"Within seven days, 600 hectares of land were handed over to the BSF, while 121 hectares in the strategically important Chicken Neck region were also transferred to the Government of India."

Escalating his rhetoric on infiltration, Shah alleged that illegal entries from Bangladesh had declined drastically after the political change in Bengal.

"Earlier, infiltration used to happen every single day during Mamata Banerjee's rule," he said. "Now, infiltrators have started leaving the country on their own. Detention centres are being built, and our government's resolve is clear: every infiltrator who entered India illegally must leave the country."

Shah said the high-powered panel would study what he described as "artificial demographic changes" caused by population growth patterns

and recommend both policy and legal measures.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to form a Demographic Change Commission," Shah announced.

"The committee will examine the causes behind demographic imbalance, study possible solutions and also review whether new laws are required. The commission will submit its report within one year."

"Savarkar did not need recognition from any government because the country itself honoured him as Veer Savarkar," Shah said.

"He devoted his entire life to India's independence and became the only freedom fighter to receive two life imprisonment sentences." Recounting Savarkar's years in colonial prisons, Shah narrated how the revolutionary leader remained defiant despite being told he would spend 120 years behind bars.

"When the jailor told Savarkar that India would never become free during his lifetime, Savarkar replied that India would soon

become independent," Shah said.

"That spirit and determination inspired generations." The Home Minister also praised Savarkar's literary and social contributions, particularly his interpretation of the 1857 uprising.

"The British called 1857 a rebellion, but Savarkar called it India's First War of Independence," Shah said. "His book on 1857 frightened the British so much that it was banned even before publication." Shah further credited Savarkar for fighting untouchability and supporting social reform movements, saying the freedom fighter had worked to empower Dalits and strengthen Indian languages during a deeply divided era.

"Savarkar worked against untouchability, promoted Indian languages and even helped build temples for the Dalit community," Shah added, wrapping up a speech that moved seamlessly from development politics to nationalism, border security and ideological mobilisation.

INTERNATIONAL

Brazil is set to join other Latin American countries with a 40-hour, 5-day workweek



SAO PAULO

Brazil was set to join other Latin American countries that have shortened working hours as the lower house approved a constitutional amendment Wednesday establishing a 40-hour, five-day workweek.

The proposal is widely popular in Brazil ahead of presidential elections in October, and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva sponsored the move and has repeatedly promoted it. The amendment is also part of a push

within the region has been lauded by labor rights groups but highly criticized by the business sector.

Currently, Brazilians work five eight-hour days and four hours on a sixth day for 44 hours total. The amendment ends the six-day workweek without reducing pay for at least 37 million people and establishes a 40-hour weekly work limit. It guarantees two consecutive 24-hour rest days each week, preferably Saturdays and Sundays.

"People who have this workweek

from Monday to Saturday are the ones that have to work the hardest and are paid the least," lawmaker Paulo Pimenta, Brazil's government whip in the lower house, told his peers as they voted. "We need to be brave and do justice." Many opposition lawmakers voted for it after months of pressure from their constituents, but some continued to criticize the initiative.

"I don't care this is an election year. I think we need to be responsible. This will be a problem for many companies," lawmaker Kim Kataguiri

said. "We are doing this in a rush and workers should know they might end up worse than they are now if business leaders stop hiring."

The amendment gives businesses 14 months to adapt, which was a key point in negotiations. Many business leaders and lawmakers wanted the changes to be made gradually over 10 years.

"This was built with a lot of responsibility, thinking about workers and families in Brazil," said lawmaker Leo Prates, who drafted the amendment in the lower house. "We need to accomplish this for the Brazilian people."

The lower house votes late Wednesday sent the amendment to the upper house. Brazil's Senate has not set a date for its vote and could make changes before Lula's approval for the constitution to be amended.

Lula's main rival in the election, Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, wants to replace the current workweek system with a more flexible payment-by-the-hour strategy, which so far seems to be popular only among some business leaders. Other Latin American nations have also recently shortened the workweek. In February, Mexican lawmakers approved a proposal by President Claudia Sheinbaum to trim the 48-hour workweek. Working hours will be shortened gradually to a 40-hour workweek by 2030.

Chile in 2023 passed the so-called 40-Hour Law, which reduced its workweek to 40 hours as of last year. It applies to all workers under Chile's Labor Code, without reducing pay.

But Argentina has bucked that trend under libertarian President Javier Milei and may extend its 48-hour workweek. A labor overhaul package passed earlier this year extends the maximum workday from eight to 12 hours and scraps overtime pay, among other measures that Argentine labor unions say favor companies over employees.

Kuwait says it faces a missile and drone attack as shaky ceasefire in Iran war again challenged



DUBAI

Kuwait said it faced a missile and drone attack Thursday as the shaky ceasefire in the Iran war was again challenged after the United States conducted strikes targeting Iran and Tehran said it responded with an attack of its own.

Kuwait's military made the announcement, without providing further details on what had been targeted.

Kuwait repeatedly came under fire from Iran and Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq during the war. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The announcement by Kuwait's military comes as the Middle East remains on the edge over the cease-

fire and ongoing negotiations between Tehran and Washington which as of yet have not reopened the Strait of Hormuz. The strait is the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which about a fifth of all oil and natural gas traded once passed. Its closure has sparked a global energy shortage that experts warn only will intensify in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the U.S. is trying to get Iran to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium while the Islamic Republic seeks the lifting of economic sanctions and the release of frozen assets to aid its shattered economy.

Earlier Thursday morning, U.S. officials said that U.S. Central Command forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that

posed a threat around the Strait of Hormuz, according to U.S. officials who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The U.S. military also struck an Iranian ground control station in Bandar Abbas that was about to launch a fifth drone, the officials said.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard via the state-run IRNA news agency acknowledged the attack around Bandar Abbas International Airport, a dual-use airport on the strait, and said it launched its own retaliatory attack on the air base that launched the assault. It did not elaborate on the target and it wasn't clear whether the attack on Kuwait was directly related.

ASSAMESE FILM 'MOI ETI NIXHASOR' WINS TWO AWARDS AT HOUSTON WORLDFEST



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

GUWAHATI: Assamese feature film *Moi Eti Nixhasor* has brought international recognition to Assam by winning two prestigious honours at the Houston International Film Festival in Texas, USA.

The film received the Platinum Remi Award for Best Film, while editor Pallavi Kotoky won the Gold Remi Award for Best Editor at the globally recognised Houston WorldFest. The film was also the only Indian feature film among entries from 22 countries at the festival.

Directed by acclaimed Assamese filmmaker Bidyut Kotoky, the film had its world premiere at the festival and received appreciation from audiences and critics alike. Co-screenwriter Josh Rafelson was also present during the screening.

Speaking after receiving the awards, Bidyut Kotoky described the film as a dark Assamese comedy about a village thief trying to earn an honest living. He said the response at Houston showed that the character had "stolen the hearts of the audience".

The film is based on a true story written by noted Assamese author Anuradha Sarma Pujari and produced by the National Film Development Corporation along with Red River and Blue Hills. The story explores themes of resilience, prejudice and moral conflict against the backdrop of rural Assam.

Houston WorldFest, founded in 1961, is regarded as one of the world's oldest independent film festivals. Over the years, it has recognised filmmakers such as Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Ang Lee.



Being a gentleman never goes out of style.

Earlier, *Moi Eti Nixhasor* had also won the Award of Excellence - Special Mention at the Accolade Global Film Competition and was officially selected



for the Covellite International Film Festival in Montana, USA.

The film stars Pranjal Saikia, Arun Nath, Gunamoni Baruah, Dorothy Bharadwaj and several other actors from Assam.

KRC Foundation Launches 'Writing Star Contest' to Promote North East Integration

Our Correspondent
Silchar: The KRC Foundation has announced the North East Integration Rally (NEIR) Writing Star Contest, a unique writing competition aimed at fostering ideas on peace, progress, and prosperity in India's North Eastern Region.

The contest, which opened for entries on 9th May 2026 and will continue till November 2026, invites participants from across the eight north eastern states (including people of north east residing in outside) to share their thoughts on key issues concerning the North East.

Open to All Age Groups
The competition is open to students from Class VI to senior citizens, making it one of the most inclusive writing contests in the region. Participants are divided into five categories aligned with the five broad topics.

Five Key Themes
Participants can submit articles on any of the following topics:

- Infrastructure Development of NER (Roads, Rails, Aviation, Hydropower & Security)
- Promoting Tourism, MSME, Agro & Horticulture, Act East Diplomacy
- Disaster Management, Adventure Sports & Climate Change

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Participants can submit multiple entries on these topics.

All articles must be written in English.

Exciting Incentives

- Every participant will receive a digital participation certificate.

- There is no entry fee.

- Selected articles will be published on www.krcimes.com, giving writers a valuable platform for recognition.

How to Participate

Interested writers can email their articles to info@krcfoundation.org. For detailed rules and guidelines, participants can visit:

<https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest>

The initiative is part of the North East Integration Rally, which aims to strengthen emotional, cultural, and developmental bonds across the eight North Eastern states while promoting national integration.

For more information, visit: www.krcfoundation.org

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- Anne Frank

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- PROMOTING TOURISM, MSME, AGRO & HORTICULTURE, ACT EAST DIPLOMACY
- DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ADVENTURE SPORTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
- ART & CULTURE, THEATRE, CINEMA, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT
- 5E FOR SUCCESS- PROMOTING EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYABILITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Open to Students from Class VI to Senior Citizens, divided into 5 categories+topics
Each entry will receive a digital participation certificate
There is NO fee for participation
The selected entry will be published on www.krcimes.com
email articles: info@krcfoundation.org

5 categories: A- Class- VI, VII, VIII | B- Class- IX, X, XI, XII | C-College & PG Students | D- Working Class & Homemaker | E- Retired & Senior Citizen (60+)

FOR RULES AND DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT www.krcfoundation.org
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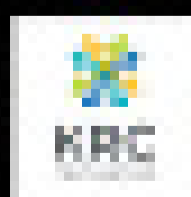


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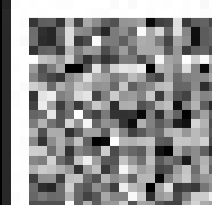


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