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PERSPECTIVE

Psychology says: You don't really need someone to complete you. You only need someone to accept you completely.

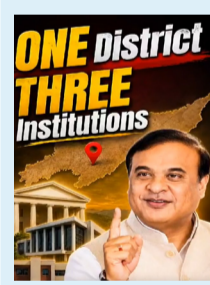
Rs 18-crore Yaba haul in Cachar puts Northeast drug trafficking corridor under renewed scrutiny

SILCHAR
In a major anti-narcotics operation, police in Assam's Cachar district seized 60,000 suspected Yaba tablets valued at around Rs 18 crore and arrested one person, exposing the scale of drug trafficking networks operating along the Northeast's porous border corridors. The seizure was made late on Thursday night near the Lailapur patrol post after police acted on specific intelligence inputs indicating that a consignment of narcotics was being transported into Cachar from the Mizoram side. According to officials, law enforcement agencies tracked the suspect vehicle with technical assistance before establishing a checkpoint near Lailapur. A black SUV bearing registration number AS-12U-7746 was intercepted between 11 pm and midnight. The vehicle's lone occupant, identified as Gamlen, a resident of Churachandpur, was detained and later arrested in connection with the case. During a search of the vehicle, police recovered six black packets concealed beneath a seat. Upon examination, the packets were found to contain 60,000 suspected Yaba tablets. A preliminary field test conducted using a drug detection kit reportedly returned a positive result for methamphetamine.

Addressing the media, Additional Superintendent of Police Rajat Kumar Pal confirmed the seizure and said the accused had been taken into custody. Police are expected to seek his remand for further interrogation to trace the origin of the consignment, identify its intended destination and uncover the wider trafficking network involved.

Investigators believe the seizure is linked to a larger narcotics supply chain operating through the Myanmar-Mizoram corridor, one of the Northeast's most active drug trafficking routes. The corridor has witnessed several major Yaba and methamphetamine seizures in recent months, highlighting the growing challenge posed by transnational drug syndicates.

WHO SAID WHAT



Assam is fast moving up the development ladder with new industries and opportunities opening up for the people but without proper training our youth won't be able to make best use of the opportunities. The 'One District, Three Institutions' plan aims to exactly address this issue.
~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

Northeast Witnessed Sharp Rise in Air Pollution Over 25 Years

GUWAHATI

Air pollution levels across Northeast India have increased dramatically over the past 25 years, largely driven by biomass burning and the spread of smoke-related particulate matter, according to a new scientific study published in the journal Atmospheric Environment.

The research, conducted by scientists from the Bose Institute, analysed satellite observations from 2000 to 2024 and found that pollution levels in the region rose by more than 20 per cent to nearly 50 per cent, depending on the pollutant measured.

Led by researchers Abhijit Chatterjee and Soumen Raul, the study examined long-term pollution trends across the Indo-Gangetic Plain, the Himalayan region and Northeast India.

The findings indicate that concentrations of particulate matter increased significantly during 2010-2019, exceeding levels recorded in the previous decade by more than one-fifth. Researchers also documented a nearly 50 per cent increase in organic

carbon aerosols-particles commonly associated with smoke and biomass combustion-compared to levels observed between 2000 and 2009.

According to the study, organic carbon pollution continued to intensify after 2020, rising by an additional 30 to 40 per cent by 2024. As a result, large parts of Northeast India now fall within categories associated with high levels of air pollution.

Researchers found that areas experiencing severe pollution expanded steadily over the study period. What were once isolated hotspots in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura gradually spread across wider regions, eventually linking with pollution corridors extending into Bangladesh and the lower Indo-Gangetic Plain.

Urban centres such as Guwahati were found to have PM2.5 concentrations well above national air quality standards. However, the study noted that pollution is no longer confined to cities and has increasingly spread to rural and previously less-affected areas.

Unlike northern India, where in-

dustrial emissions and vehicular pollution are dominant contributors, the study identified different drivers behind the Northeast's deteriorating air quality.

Researchers highlighted the continued reliance on biomass fuels-including firewood, dung and other organic materials-for household cooking and heating. They also pointed to intensified jhum or slash-and-burn cultivation practices as a major source of seasonal smoke and carbon-based particulate emissions.

The report further found that atmospheric currents transport sulphate and carbon emissions from neighbouring states such as West Bengal and Bihar through the Brahmaputra Valley into Northeast India and the eastern Himalayan region, adding to the pollution burden.

The researchers argued that existing clean-air policies have limited effectiveness in addressing these challenges because they are largely focused on urban centres. Pollution generated across extensive rural landscapes remains outside the

scope of many current interventions.

The study noted that much of Northeast India falls outside the coverage of the National Clean Air Programme despite recording pollution levels associated with significant health and environmental risks.

Researchers recommended expanding the programme beyond its current focus on 131 non-attainment cities to include rural and ecologically sensitive regions such as Northeast India, the Himalayan belt and the Sundarbans.

The study also highlighted evidence of pollution transfer between different Himalayan regions and the Northeast, suggesting that the region functions both as a source of emissions and a recipient of pollutants transported over long distances.

Warning that existing policies may fail to address a substantial share of particulate pollution, the researchers stressed the need for broader, region-specific strategies that account for biomass burning, rural emissions and transboundary pollution transport.

Counter-Insurgency Expert Mukesh Singh Takes Over as Manipur DGP

IMPHAL

Senior IPS officer Mukesh Singh arrived in Imphal on Saturday to assume charge as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Manipur, bringing with him nearly three decades of experience in counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism and internal security operations.

Singh was received at Imphal International Airport by Imphal West Superintendent of Police Shivkanta Singh.

He succeeds Rajiv Singh, who has been appointed Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat by the Central government.

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently approved Mukesh Singh's inter-cadre deputation to Manipur for a three-year tenure in public interest. Prior to his transfer, the 1996-batch IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre was serving as the Director General of Police in Ladakh.

Inter-cadre deputation under the All India Services framework is generally undertaken in exceptional situations where experienced officers are required to address specific administrative or security challenges.



An alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Delhi with a degree in Civil Engineering, Mukesh Singh is widely recognised for his expertise in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

During his career, he has held several key assignments in militancy-affected regions of Jammu and Kashmir, including postings in Pulwama, Poonch, Reasi and Jammu.

He has also served in senior roles within the National Investigation Agency, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, gaining extensive experience in intelligence-led operations, border security and law-enforcement coordination.

His appointment comes at a critical juncture for Manipur, which continues efforts to restore stability following the ethnic violence that erupted in May 2023. Security agencies remain engaged in operations against armed groups, the recovery of illegally held weapons and initiatives aimed at rebuilding confidence among communities affected by the conflict.

Officials expect Mukesh Singh's experience in handling insurgency, terrorism and complex law-and-order situations to strengthen coordination among security forces and support ongoing efforts to restore peace and normalcy across the state.

His arrival marks a new phase in Manipur's security administration as the government seeks to address long-standing security challenges and advance the process of reconciliation and stability.

Manipur Cabinet Cuts VIP Convoys, Freezes Foreign Travel

IMPHAL

The Manipur government has approved a series of austerity measures, including reducing the size of VIP convoys, suspending government-funded foreign travel, introducing work-from-home arrangements and restricting non-essential expenditure in response to prevailing global challenges.

The decisions were taken during a Cabinet meeting held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Mantripukhri, located in Imphal East district, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

The Cabinet said the measures were adopted in line with an appeal made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed at promoting fiscal prudence and efficient use of government resources.

Alongside the cost-cutting initiatives, the Cabinet approved the recruitment of 173 Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM) personnel under the Family Welfare Department. The posts will be filled with financial support from the Central government to strengthen healthcare

services in the state. In a move expected to benefit job aspirants, the Cabinet also granted a two-year age relaxation for all government recruitments that have not yet been officially notified by departments.

The government further approved compensation rates for land acquisition required for the expansion of the Imphal-Jiribam National Highway and Imphal-Dimapur National Highway. Officials said the decision would expedite implementation of the highway projects and improve connectivity in the region.

To address administrative concerns within the power sector, the Cabinet cleared a proposal for rationalisation of posts under the Manipur State Power Company Limited, a move aimed at improving career progression opportunities for employees.

The Cabinet also approved an extension of the New Development Bank-funded Manipur Water Supply Project, which is expected to enhance water infrastructure and service delivery across the state.

Speaker Ranjeet Dass Initiates Assam Assembly Shake-Up, 12 Staff Removed



GUWAHATI

The Assam Legislative Assembly Secretary has discontinued the services of 12 retired officers and employees who had been re-employed on contractual assignments, signalling the start of a major administrative overhaul under newly elected Speaker Ranjeet Kumar Dass.

According to an official order issued by the Secretary on May 29, the contractual engagements of the retired personnel were terminated with immediate effect. The affected employees had been serving in a range of positions, including Officers on Special Duty (OSDs), coordinators, attendants and support staff across various departments of the Assembly Secretariat.

The order, issued under the authority of the Speaker, stated that all concerned officers and staff stood relieved from their assignments from May 29, 2026.

Those relieved include retired officials posted in key sections such as the Public Undertakings Committee, MLA Hostel, Issue Branch, Legislation Branch, Establishment Branch, Security Branch and other administrative units of the Assembly Secretariat.

The move comes at a time when the functioning of the Assembly Secretariat is under increasing scrutiny over alleged irregularities in appointments and service extensions.

Earlier this month, the All Assam Unemployed Association moved the Gauhati High Court through a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), seeking an investigation into nearly 50 appointments made within the Secretariat. The petition alleged that around 34 candidates were recruited to Grade III and Grade IV posts without public advertisement or a transparent selection process. The PIL further claimed that several of these appointments were later regularised despite alleged procedural violations, raising questions about compliance with established recruitment norms. The petition also highlighted alleged irregularities in service extensions granted during the tenure of former Speaker Biswajit Daimary. Among the concerns raised were multiple extensions reportedly given to former Secretary Dulal Pegu and the continuation of another official beyond the prescribed retirement age.

Although the latest order does not explicitly connect the termination of contractual appointments with the allegations outlined in the PIL, the development is widely being viewed as part of a broader administrative review initiated under the new Assembly leadership.

Assembly officials have not yet indicated whether additional corrective measures or an internal inquiry into past recruitment and appointment practices will be undertaken.

Centre Ready to Deport 2,680 Suspected Bangladeshi Nationals, Awaits Verification from Dhaka

NEW DELHI

The Centre has said it is prepared to deport more than 2,680 individuals suspected to be Bangladeshi nationals once their citizenship is verified by Bangladesh, a development that is likely to draw significant attention in Assam and other northeastern states where illegal migration remains a key concern.

Addressing a press briefing in New Delhi, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said India has already forwarded over 2,680 cases to Bangladeshi authorities for nationality verification.

He stated that individuals found to be residing illegally in India would be dealt with in accordance with existing legal provisions. In cases involving suspected Bangladeshi nationals, deportation proceedings would commence after Bangladesh confirms their citizenship.

Jaiswal noted that responses from Dhaka have remained pending in several cases for more than five years. He said India expects the verification process to be expedited so that deportations can be carried out under existing bilateral arrangements between the two countries. The issue is particularly significant for Assam and other northeastern states sharing borders with Bangladesh, where concerns over illegal migration have shaped political discourse and public policy for decades.

In Assam, debates surrounding demographic change, pressure on land and resources, and the protection of indigenous communities have played a central role in major political developments, including the Assam Agitation and the updating of the National Register of Citizens.

Centre Releases First Rs 75.6 Crore Tranche of Rs 252 Crore Flood Recovery Package for Tripura



AGARTALA

The Central government has released the first instalment of Rs 75.60 crore from a sanctioned Rs 252 crore recovery and reconstruction package for Tripura to support rehabilitation efforts following the devastating floods that struck the state in August 2024.

Announcing the development, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said the floods had caused widespread damage to infrastructure, public assets and livelihoods across several parts of the state.

In a post on social media platform X, the chief minister said the state government had conducted a comprehensive Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and subsequently submitted a detailed memorandum to the Centre seeking financial assistance for

recovery and reconstruction. "Following a comprehensive Post Disaster Needs Assessment, the State Government submitted a detailed memorandum to the Government of India seeking support for recovery and reconstruction efforts," Saha stated.

He said the Centre had approved a total assistance package of Rs 252 crore to facilitate rebuilding and rehabilitation measures in the flood-affected areas.

According to the chief minister, the first instalment of Rs 75.60 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund was released on May 26, 2026. Saha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for extending support to Tripura during the aftermath of the disaster.

The floods of August 2024 affected multiple districts across the state, damaging roads, embankments, public infrastructure and thousands of residential properties. The recovery package is expected to strengthen reconstruction efforts and help restore essential services in the affected regions.

State officials said the funds would be utilised for rebuilding damaged infrastructure and supporting long-term rehabilitation initiatives aimed at enhancing resilience against future disasters.

Nagaland Governor Steps In to Expedite Disability ID Cards for Peren Beneficiaries

KOHIMA

Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav has directed concerned departments to ensure the timely delivery of services for persons with disabilities, following reports of delays in the issuance of Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards in the state.

According to a statement issued by Raj Bhavan on Friday, the Governor intervened after taking cognisance of a media report highlighting procedural delays affecting applicants in Peren district.

Acting on the Governor's instructions, the Departments of Social Welfare and Health and Family Welfare processed and issued pending UDID cards to three beneficiaries-Kerehunglung, Nchayi Kuame and Keligumbe Hairangbung-by Friday.

The Governor stressed the importance of ensuring

that specially abled persons receive essential government services without unnecessary delays and directed officials to address bottlenecks in the system.

Authorities are also working in coordination with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India to provide assistive devices and other support services to the beneficiaries based on their individual needs.

Raj Bhavan said the Governor appreciated the prompt response and coordinated efforts of the Social Welfare and Health departments in resolving the issue within the stipulated timeframe. The intervention underscores the state government's focus on improving access to welfare schemes and ensuring that eligible persons with disabilities receive benefits and support services without administrative hurdles.



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CHINA IS KEY TO CHANGING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

For nearly four decades, Beijing and Tehran have both been seriously reflecting on Washington's dangerous move of imposing sanctions on countries that Washington thinks pose an obstruction to America's global hegemony and unipolarity.

Russia (Soviet era and after) has been a long-time victim of American sanctions. The other country that has been bearing the brunt of sanctions for decades is Iran. Iran's economy depends on oil exports to major consumers such as China, India, Japan, Australia and many more. The American sanctions not only hurt the Iranian economy but also the economies of the countries that dare to override American sanctions on Iran and continue buying Iranian oil.

China and Iran share a 25-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2021, theoretically pledging up to US \$ 400 billion in Chinese investment across Iranian energy, infrastructure, and transportation sectors. In return, China receives a steady, heavily discounted supply of Iranian crude oil.

President Xi has a strong argument that disarmed President Trump during their recent meeting in Beijing. President Xi said the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to international trade and commerce. Iran-Israel-US war is running its 85th day of missile, drone, air strikes, B2 bombardment, killing of the Iranian supreme leader and his associates, blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and everything, including threats of civilizational annihilations. The world's number one superpower asked Iran to surrender, but Iran reinforced counterattacks, rebellious activities and forceful retaliation. Imagine to what depths of humiliation the so-called superpower is reduced. While this holds true, the core of Iran's potent retaliatory capacity resides elsewhere - a reality that Washington has consistently shied away from confronting. It is the reorientation of the fabulous Central Asian Silk Route, recast not in sand or mud but in an iron and steel freight railway line of 10,400 kms length originating in the Chinese town of Xian and passing through the Gobi desert, chugging across five Central Asian States of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and ending up in Tehran (Iran). The Chinese vessels carrying Iranian oil via Hormuz, the Indian Ocean, and the Strait of Malacca to the Chinese seaports normally take 40 days. But the oil containers carrying Iranian oil from Iran to China via the aforementioned freight railway line take just 14 days.

While Washington was thrusting sanctions upon sanctions on Iran and also the countries that wanted to conduct trade with Iran, the regime in Tehran quietly and without even giving the slightest clue, cooperated with China over many years and also socialised with the crucial Central Asian States including Afghanistan, to bring about a drastic change in cross-country overland rail connectivity that would not only blunt the hitherto lethal American sanctions but also immensely reduce the strategic importance of both Hormuz and Malacca to the transportation of oil and goods between the two countries.

China-Iran oil supply freight railway line bypasses US maritime blockades by utilising land corridors through Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan).

It evades sanctions via covert barter agreements (disguising oil sales as Iranian infrastructure investments), uses non-dollar-denominated payment mechanisms, and leverages private Chinese refineries to bypass international banking networks. The integration of a China-Iran railway link to supply oil circumvents maritime blockades and threats in several targeted ways: Trade is decoupled from the U.S. dollar, settling in Chinese Yuan through non-SWIFT financial messaging frameworks. Oil shipments are sometimes recorded as "construction projects" to obscure the true nature of the trade. The crude is primarily routed to small, independent Chinese refineries ("teapots") that have minimal exposure to Western financial systems, making them largely immune to standard global sanctions.

By routing freight via trains through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan directly to Iran (such as the Aparin Dry Port near Tehran), the oil supply avoids vulnerable maritime chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Malacca. Using inland routes prevents international naval forces from enforcing port blockades or intercepting tankers. While overland rail transit is more expensive than sea transport, it relies on bilateral or trilateral transit agreements that entirely avoid disputed international maritime tolls or naval blockades.

Moving energy across friendly Central Asian states and through heavily patrolled, land-based zones offers a militarised security blanket. Conventional sea-based "shadow fleets" carrying Iranian oil have faced tracking disruptions and cargo seizures. The rail supply avoids open-water maritime sabotage and piracy. While rail transport cannot completely replace the sheer volume of seaborne shadow fleets, it guarantees a foundational level of energy security for China. Despite the higher logistical and transport costs, both nations are willing to absorb the premium as a necessary price to blunt Western pressure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us. - Voltaire

INDIA'S ENERGY FUTURE IMPORT SUBSTITUTION & RENEWABLES



DHURJATI MUKHERJEE

India's energy future is challenging with fuel prices quite high and availability a matter of concern. If oil prices stay at around \$95-\$100 a barrel, over last year's average of \$70 a barrel, the impact would be a little above \$40 billion or above 1.5% of GDP. The government's economic stabilisation fund of \$1 trillion should last not more than three months at the current pace.

In this backdrop, it's heartening to hear that India's crude capacity is all set to get a boost with its reserve likely to increase by nearly 70% from 3.3 million tonnes to as much as 30 million barrels as the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has agreed to ramp up crude oil storage. Ramping up the storage to 30 million barrels will add over four million tonnes of crude to India's overall strategic reserves. The Abu Dhabi-based energy giant's agreement with Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. comes at this time when India faces disruption in energy supplies amid the West Asia crisis.

Notably, India has a refining surplus and given that refining margins are up sharply as the Strait's blockade has affected not just crude oil supply but also refining capacity, Indian refiners are able to source crude and sell the product locally. In fertilisers, farmers most impacted will be from countries that do not subsidise like the US.

It is pertinent to refer to Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari's caution that there's no future of petrol and diesel vehicles as concerns around air pollution and country's heavy dependence on fossil fuel imports continue to rise. Amid the widespread debate on whether alternative fuels will gain a significant share in auto supply chains, he said that Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) must mull switching from fossil fuels towards cleaner alternatives.

"If you (OEMs) are planning to expand only in that direction, then as a friend, I can say your future is not good," Gadkari stated at the Busworld India 2026 summit, urging manufacturers and fleet operators to accelerate the shift towards the cleaner fuels such as hydrogen, ethanol, CNG, LNG and electric-powered fleet. "We import fossil fuels worth ₹22 lakh crore. This is not only an economic challenge, but also a major pollution problem. Our policy is: import substitute, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous," Gadkari noted.

He also highlighted that hydrogen is the "fuel of the future" and the ministry has started pilot projects with hydrogen trucks and hydrogen buses, in collaboration with Tata Motors, Volvo, Indian Oil, BPCL and NTPC across 10 routes. Additionally, the minister asserted the use of ethanol is a key alternative fuel, noting that India is producing ethanol from broken rice, corn, bamboo, rice straw, sugarcane and molasses.

Gadkari's comments come at a time when the Centre has proposed to cut dependence on imported petroleum but, on the other hand, rating agency, ICRA indicated that power demand will rise by 5 to 5.5% in the

current fiscal against a tepid 1% growth in 2025-26 due to continued momentum in industrial and commercial activity. The power demand growth in the current fiscal is likely to be supported by agricultural and household sectors, given the expectation of sub-par rainfall amidst a potential El Nino along with demand from industries as well as from emerging sources like electric vehicles and data centres, ICRA stated in a statement.

Thus, it is good to note that India's renewable energy capacity has expanded sharply over the past five years with several states accelerating installations to meet rising clean energy targets. This is indeed encouraging in the present geopolitical situation with oil and gas imports being badly affected, not just for India but many other countries. Data from FY22 to FY26 highlighted a strong ramp-up led by western states while some early leaders in the south showed signs of moderation. Experts have been championing a radical shift in energy consumption towards renewable sources through more focus on solar, wind, and nuclear.

Rajasthan and Gujarat continued to dominate India's renewable landscape (excluding large hydro), accounting for the largest absolute capacity additions over the past five years. Rajasthan now leads the country with 46.6GW of installed capacity in FY26, up from 17 GW in FY22, an addition of nearly 30 GW, largely driven by solar. Its solar capacity surged from 12.6 GW to over 41 GW, reinforcing the position as India's solar powerhouse. Gujarat followed closely with total renewable capacity rising from 16.6 GW to 45.2 GW. Its solar capacity more than tripled from 7.2 GW to 29.3 GW, with strong acceleration in the past two years supported by large solar parks and policy backing. India has, no doubt made rapid

progress in installed solar capacity of barely 3GW in 2014 to over 135GW mark today. This growth has been successful due to political resolve and sustained capital investment. Undeniably, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, cutting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening energy security are all necessary goals tied to the expansion of solar capacity.

While efforts towards gearing up renewable energy needs to be encouraged, coal gasification which happens to be a thermos-nuclear process converting coal into synthetic gas is a viable option for India as it has enough resources of this black diamond. For a country like ours, which imports over 88 percent of crude oil, being the third largest importer in this sector, such alternatives are strategically significant for generation of electricity. The Centre launched the Coal Gasification Mission in 2020, aiming to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030. But six years on, the commercial output remains tardy.

Strikingly, in this respect at least, the constraints cannot be attributed to the lack of funding. The government allocated Rs 300 crore to the project in the 2025-26 budget estimates. But, according to unofficial records, much of this fund remained unspent as no progress was made in this direction. In the present fiscal, the Centre raised the budget for the mission by over Rs 1075 to Rs 3525. The NITI Aayog has flagged the issue of incompatible gasification technology for the high ash-content coal available in the country. Keeping in view the present situation, the government must make gasification a priority measure.

Besides, funds are a vital necessity for India and many other such countries and though at the Baku summit, the UN process had set the annual climate finance goal at \$1.3 trillion,

developed countries agreed to only one-third of it. Though climate fund support for new adaptation projects rose in 2024, this was much below actual needs and emerging financial constraints make the future unclear. Both public and private finance must step up to increase adaptation, taking care not to increase the proportion of debt instruments used by vulnerable nations. However, the amount agreed at COP29 at Baku last year, developed countries, including India, expressed strong objections to it as they wanted it to be raised to \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035. Even the agreed amount has not reached the developing nations.

Energy requirements for a country like India has been expanding and this trend will obviously continue in the foreseeable future due to rapid industrialisation and increasing urbanisation. The need for energy security is crucial for the country as the finance minister recently pointed out, reiterating that India would continue to source crude, fertiliser etc. pragmatically to protect domestic needs.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

"In the next 6 to 12 months, we'll be doing our first implants for vision, where even if somebody is completely blind, we can write directly to the visual cortex."

"Long term, you would have very high resolution and be able to see multispectral wavelengths... you could see in infrared, ultraviolet, radar. It's like a superpower situation." ~ Elon Musk, American Entrepreneur



Assam govt announces 'Mission 2 Lakh Govt Jobs' to boost employment in next five years

GUWAHATI

The Assam government, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has launched a major employment initiative called "Mission 2 Lakh Govt Jobs", aiming to fulfil its commitment of providing two lakh government jobs over the next five years.

Under this campaign, the Assam government has planned to provide 2 lakh government jobs to the unemployed youths of the state across various departments, autonomous institutions, semi-government bodies, Missions, and societies in the next five years.

In the first cabinet meeting of the current government, it was decided to constitute a task force under the Chief Secretary of the Assam Government to examine all aspects and prepare a report



in order to fulfil the electoral promise of providing government employment to two lakh youths in the state within the next five years.

The task force will submit its report within three months.

"There's no time to rest in our quest to deliver on our promises. My team is already at work to identify vacancies, create the roadmap, map out departments and bodies and chalk out the time frame to deliver on the commitment of 2 lakh Govt jobs," Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Earlier on May 27, Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota chaired a detailed review meeting on the operationalisation of the Task Force constituted for the creation of 2 lakh government jobs in Assam over the next five years, in line with the spirit of the Sankalp Patra and

the decision of the State Cabinet.

During the meeting, discussions were held on mapping existing and anticipated vacancies across departments, field offices, autonomous bodies, colleges, universities, missions and societies; assessment of year-wise retirement projections and grade-wise vacancies in field offices; identification of direct recruitment vacancies across departments; rationalisation and streamlining of recruitment processes to ensure transparency and timely appointments; and measures to improve manpower availability in remote and difficult areas through suitable policy interventions and incentives.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the promotion of entrepreneurship and self-employment initiatives through schemes such as Chief

Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan (CMAAA) and allied programmes alongside direct government recruitment.

Further deliberations covered preparation of annual employment targets, department-wise projections, and the establishment of robust implementation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure a structured, transparent and future-oriented approach towards public employment in Assam.

According to official data, over 1.64 lakh recruitments have already been undertaken during the previous tenure of the government through ADRE and departmental recruitment processes.

The Chief Secretary has directed all concerned departments to undertake detailed internal assessments and furnish actionable inputs for the preparation of the five-year roadmap.

Manipur CM Condemns NH-202 Ambush in Ukhrul That Killed Truck Driver

IMPHAL

Y Khemchand Singh on Friday strongly condemned the ambush on a convoy transporting essential commodities along National Highway-202 in Ukhrul district that left a truck driver dead and a police constable injured. The attack took place between Leingangching and TM Kasom under Litan Police Station when suspected militants allegedly opened fire on vehicles carrying rice supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) along the Imphal-Ukhrul route.

Expressing condolences over the death of the truck driver, reportedly a resident of West Bengal, the Chief Minister described the ambush as a "cowardly act" intended to disrupt the supply of essential goods and worsen the already fragile security situation in the area.

Singh said drivers transporting essential commodities play a critical role in maintaining uninterrupted supplies across the state and that targeting them was an attempt to spread fear and instability.

The Chief Minister further alleged that vested interest groups could be behind the attack with the intention of undermining the government's efforts to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur. He also wished a speedy recovery to the police constable who sustained bullet injuries during the incident.

Following the ambush, security forces launched search and cordon operations in nearby areas to identify and apprehend those responsible. Authorities have assured that the perpetrators will be brought to justice in accordance with the law.

The incident has once again raised concerns over the safety of transport operators and security of key supply routes in the hill districts, prompting heightened vigilance along the highway corridor.

Arunachal Govt to Set Up Four Panels on APST Certificates, ILP and Infiltration Issues

ITANAGAR

Pema Khandu announced that the Arunachal Pradesh government will constitute four high-powered committees to examine issues related to APST certificates, non-APST offspring, strengthening of the ILP system and infiltration concerns in the state.

The decision was taken following consultations with the Arunachal Indigenous Tribes Forum (AITF), All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU), the ST Bachao Andolan Committee, community-based organisations, government officials and legal experts. "Formation of four high-powered committees has been agreed upon today," Khandu said in a post on X after the meeting.

According to the Chief Minister, the committees will study the issues in detail and recommend appropriate measures. Official notifications constituting the panels are expected to be issued by Monday. The committees will separately fo-

cus on re-verification of Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST) certificates, issues concerning non-APST offspring, strengthening of the ILP mechanism including a review of the ILP Guidelines 2026, and matters related to infiltration.

Khandu said each committee would be headed by a cabinet minister and include representatives from AITF, AAPSU, the ST Bachao Andolan Committee, legal experts, research scholars and women representatives to ensure an inclusive and action-oriented process. The move follows a series of consultations between the state government and stakeholders, including a high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on May 27 and another consultative session held at the civil secretariat on Friday.

The committees have been directed to submit their recommendations within six months, although the timeline may be extended depending on field studies and consultations with stakeholders.

Nagaland CM Reviews Monsoon Preparedness, Calls for Better Coordination and Swift Response



KOHIMA

Neiphiu Rio chaired a high-level meeting to review monsoon preparedness in Nagaland, stressing the importance of coordinated action and timely response to potential weather-related disruptions during the rainy

season.

The meeting brought together officials from multiple government departments along with representatives of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to assess the readiness of critical infrastruc-

ture and essential public services across the state.

Discussions focused on infrastructure preparedness, emergency response systems, healthcare support mechanisms and the availability of essential commodities during periods of heavy rainfall and possible disruptions.

The Chief Minister reviewed measures being undertaken to address monsoon-related risks, including road blockages, landslides, flooding and disruptions to transportation and supply chains. Officials also examined contingency plans and emergency response strategies aimed at minimising the impact of adverse weather conditions on communities across the state.

Rio emphasised the need for stronger coordination among government departments, infrastructure agencies and emergency response authorities to ensure prompt action during crises. He underlined the importance of maintaining road con-

nectivity, safeguarding public health and ensuring uninterrupted access to essential services and supplies during the monsoon season. The Chief Minister said preparedness ahead of the monsoon remains a priority for the government, particularly in a hilly state like Nagaland where heavy rainfall frequently affects highways and public infrastructure. Representatives of NHIDCL briefed the meeting on the condition of highway infrastructure and ongoing efforts to improve road safety and maintain connectivity during the rainy season.

The review also covered healthcare preparedness and the availability of emergency support systems in vulnerable districts.

The state government reiterated its commitment to proactive planning and inter-departmental coordination to mitigate the impact of monsoon-related challenges and ensure public safety throughout the season.

Assam Targets Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate, Plans MBBS Doctor Deployment in Tea Garden Hospitals

GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health and Family Welfare Department at Lok Sewa Bhawan in Guwahati, with a focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving access to quality medical services across Assam.

One of the key issues discussed during the meeting was the state government's target of reducing Assam's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) below the national average by 2029.

The Chief Minister reviewed ongoing maternal and child healthcare initiatives and directed officials to intensify efforts aimed at improving healthcare outcomes throughout the state. Special emphasis was also placed on enhancing healthcare services in tea garden areas. Sarma instructed officials to strengthen Tea Garden Hospitals through the



deployment of MBBS doctors and by upgrading medical infrastructure and facilities to improve healthcare access for tea garden workers and their families.

The meeting also reviewed the status of healthcare manpower across the state, including discussions on streamlining promotions and addressing workforce shortag-

es in the health sector to improve efficiency and service delivery. Officials further reviewed initiatives related to vaccination drives, expansion of free diagnostic services and strengthening of the state's 108 emergency ambulance network, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The Chief Minister also assessed the progress of several flagship health programmes, including Sheshparsha for children with congenital heart diseases, TB Mukta Bharat, and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), which aims to digitise healthcare records and improve integration of health services. Officials said the review meeting formed part of the Assam government's broader strategy to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure, reduce mortality rates and ensure accessible healthcare services for vulnerable and underserved communities across the state.

Manipur CM Yumnam Khemchand inaugurates State Police Museum



IMPHAL

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand on Friday inaugurated the State Police Museum at the 1st Manipur Rifles Battalion Complex, marking a significant milestone in the history of the local force.

The inaugural function was attended by Director General of Police (DGP) Rajiv Singh alongside senior police officials and personnel of the state.

The museum was established to preserve and showcase the rich legacy, evolution, and service history of the Manipur Police. It houses a remarkable collection of antique firearms, historical police uniforms, rare photographs, archival records, and other valuable artefacts reflecting the journey of the force over the years.

Several exhibits on display date back to the time when the force was known as the State Military Police. The museum also features pistols, arms, and other equipment believed to have been used during World War II, offering visitors a glimpse into the historical and security heritage of the state.

Later, in a post on X, Chief Minister Khemchand hailed the development as a proud milestone in safeguarding the state's policing

heritage for future generations.

"Honoured to inaugurate the Manipur Police Museum at the 1st MR Battalion Complex today in the presence of DGP Manipur Shri Rajiv Singh Ji and senior police officials. The Museum preserves the rich history, legacy, and evolution of the Manipur Police through rare artefacts, historical records, photographs, and uniforms. A proud milestone in safeguarding our policing heritage for future generations," the Chief Minister stated. Additionally, CM Khemchand mentioned that the modern complex will play a crucial role in strengthening administrative efficiency, security coordination, and policing operations across the state.

"Visited the new Manipur Police Headquarters at Mantripukhri today with DGP Shri Rajiv Singh and senior police officials. Reviewed the state-of-the-art facility, held a meeting with senior officers, and inaugurated a new Crche Room for police personnel and their families. The modern complex will strengthen administrative efficiency, security coordination, and policing operations across the State. We remain committed to further strengthening the Manipur Police Department," added CM Khemchand.

Sikkim Sets July 15 Deadline to Restore Lachen Road, Mulls Tunnel for Permanent Connectivity

GANGTOK

The Sikkim government has set a July 15 target for restoring the temporary road link to Lachen in North Sikkim and initiated efforts to find a permanent solution to the region's recurring connectivity problems.

The decision was taken during a high-level meeting held at Samman Bhawan to address disruptions affecting the strategically important border village near the India-China frontier.

The meeting was attended by Pibons, representatives of the Lachen Dzumsa, local residents, senior state government officials, Army authorities and representatives of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Senior officials from BRO Project Swatik, the 27 Mountain Division, district administration and police authorities from Mangan and Chungthang, along with heads of departments and concerned agencies, also participated in the discussions.



During the meeting, stakeholders highlighted the prolonged hardships faced by residents due to repeated road disruptions. Issues relating to transportation, emergency services, supply shortages and long-term infrastructure planning were discussed before a consensus was reached on immediate and future measures.

Following the deliberations, the government requested Army authorities and the BRO to continue temporary restoration and repair works to make the route operational by July 15.

Authorities have also been directed to constitute a high-level committee to conduct site inspections and recommend a sustainable long-term solution to the persistent connectivity crisis.

Officials said the possibility of constructing a tunnel may also be explored, subject to technical feasibility and expert assessment, to ensure all-weather connectivity to the remote Himalayan region.

The government said the issue was being monitored closely and confirmed that communication had already been sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting the long-pending concerns. Efforts are also underway to seek a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to discuss the matter further.

Officials noted that the connectivity issue has implications beyond local transportation, affecting national security, tourism and the welfare of residents living in one of the country's most sensitive border re-

gions. Public concern over the condition of the Chungthang-Lachen road has intensified in recent days, with residents alleging that repeated disruptions continue despite the Centre's Vibrant Villages Programme aimed at improving infrastructure in border areas.

The issue drew wider attention after local resident Tamding Chewang shared a social media post detailing the daily struggles faced by residents due to poor connectivity and unsafe travel conditions.

Chewang said many families have avoided bringing children home during school holidays because of the dangerous road conditions, while elderly and sick residents continue to face severe difficulties accessing medical care and essential supplies.

Lachen remains heavily dependent on the Chungthang-Lachen road for access to the rest of the state. However, repeated landslides and extensive damage following natural disasters in 2023 have repeatedly cut off the region for extended periods.

Although restoration work has been carried out by the BRO and the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF), officials said progress has been slowed by fragile Himalayan terrain, environmental conditions and logistical challenges.

Quest!

Elephants are scared of bees.

NEET paper leak: SC questions lapses, seeks accountability; Centre says PM personally supervising situation

Centre asks state-run fuel retailers to build 30-day LPG reserves amid West Asia supply concerns



NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court called for accountability over the lapses that led to the NEET-UG paper leak, saying it was "actually very traumatic" not only for students but also for their families.

"We should not disappoint our youngsters," a bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said while hearing pleas on the matter, including one seeking a direction to replace or restructure the National Testing Agency (NTA) with a robust and autonomous body to conduct the medical entrance examination.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that the

government was seriously concerned about the anxieties of young people and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was personally supervising the situation to ensure there were no lacunae.

"The real problem won't stop till actual accountability arises," the bench observed, adding, "It is actually very traumatic if something like this happens, not just for the students, but also their families and everybody... They invest so much emotion."

Mehta told the bench that some new mechanisms have been put in place for the NEET-UG re-test scheduled for June 21.

The bench asked the Centre to file an affidavit in

the matter and posted the matter for hearing in the second week of July.

On May 12, the NTA cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET, held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak.

A re-examination has been scheduled for June 21.

The paper leak allegations are under investigation by the CBI.

To recall, after the questions of NEET-UG were allegedly leaked in 2024, SC had refused to cancel the test but passed various directions aimed at tackling paper leaks and also a criterion for cancelling public exams.

NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked state-run fuel retailers to expand liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage capacity to maintain reserves sufficient for at least 30 days of demand amid concerns over possible supply disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict.

The directive was issued to state-run oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited - to prepare plans for creating additional storage capacity beyond their regular commercial inventories.

"We are working on the strategic reserves. Oil marketing companies have been asked to work out a plan to have LPG reserves for a minimum of 30 days with them, and they are working on it," Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma told reporters on Friday.

The war in West Asia disrupted global energy supplies, including those to India. India's 40 per cent of crude imports, 65 per cent of natural gas and 90 per cent LPG supplies, that came from countries in the Gulf region, was disrupted due to the three-month long conflict.

While it has been able to source crude oil (raw material for making petrol and diesel) and natural gas (used to generate electricity, make fertiliser and turned into CNG to run automobiles as well as piped to household kitchens for cooking), the disruption in LPG supplies to be regulating supplies to commercial users.

Sharma said India was also working to increase crude oil storage capacity.

She did not give details. The government said the country



has sufficient stocks of petrol, diesel, LPG, crude oil and natural gas, adding that refineries were operating at optimum levels and LPG production was at an all-time high of around 52,000 tonnes per day.

The war in West Asia disrupted global energy supplies, including those to India.

"No dry out reported at any LPG distributorship," Sharma said, while adding that "abnormal sale is being observed at many petrol pumps".

She said higher retail fuel sales were being driven partly by agricultural demand and by a shift in purchases from bulk buyers and private

fuel retailers to state-run outlets due to the price difference.

More than 150 districts have recorded over 30 per cent growth in petrol sales, with 14 districts seeing sales double, Sharma said.

Diesel sales rose more than 30 per cent in 156 districts, while six districts reported growth of over 100 per cent.

Sales by private fuel retailers have fallen 38 per cent for diesel, while state-run oil marketing companies have seen bulk diesel sales decline 29 per cent, she added.

While petrol and diesel sold through petrol pumps of state-owned firms continues to be below cost, bulk

users such as telecom towers are charged market rates. Also private retailers have hiked petrol and diesel prices much more than their PSU counterparts.

IOC, BPCL, and HPCL, who control 90 per cent of the market, have raised petrol and diesel prices by about Rs 7.50 per litre since May 15.

The government is reviewing the situation and has advised states and Union territories to form special squads to curb hoarding and black marketing. Consumers have also been urged to avoid panic buying and procure fuel only through authorised channels.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump says Iran deal possible only if all conditions met amid conflicting claims over negotiations

Israel plan to seize more of Gaza means 'more children will suffer': UN

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump will only make a peace deal with Iran if it meets all of his conditions, a White House official told AFP on Friday, as questions swirled about the state of negotiations to end the war.

The White House had indicated Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, even as Tehran insisted there was still "no final agreement" on ending the Middle East conflict.

An Iranian state media report also rebutted several key elements of Trump's characterization of the deal, with sources calling his remarks a "mixture of truth and lies."

US sources had told AFP the deal was waiting on Trump's sign-off following weeks of halting negotiations over a conflict that has engulfed the Middle East and shaken the global economy.

Trump attended a two-hour meeting in the White House Situation Room on Friday but did not reach a decision.

"President Trump will only make a deal that is good for America and satisfies his red lines," a White House official told AFP afterward.

"Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon," the official added.

Trump insists Iran deal hinges on US conditions; Tehran pushes back on reported agreement terms

Iran disputes Trump's claims on ceasefire deal as US awaits final sign-off

Trump had announced the meeting in a lengthy social media post, reiterating long-held demands that Iran agree never to develop nuclear weapons and reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz shipping lane.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei pushed back, telling state media that the Islamic republic "said goodbye to the language of 'must' 47 years ago."



Exchanges of messages were continuing, he added, but "no final agreement has been reached yet."

In a phone call with the Emir of Qatar, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran was ready to achieve a "dignified framework" to end the war, according to state news agency IRNA.

In his post, Trump said Tehran would remove mines from the Strait of Hormuz and end its blockade of the waterway with "no tolls," while the US would lift its parallel blockade of Iranian ports.

The two countries would also coordinate on removing and destroying Iran's enriched uranium, he said, adding that "no money will be exchanged, until further notice."

Iran's Fars news agency, however, cited sources as saying Tehran was demanding "the immediate release of \$12 billion in frozen Iranian assets" before moving to the next phase of negotiations.

On the toll-free reopening of Hormuz, the sources said "no such clause appears in the text of the agree-

ment," while Trump's comment on destroying Iran's nuclear material "is fundamentally baseless."

Baqaei also told state TV there were currently "no negotiations" taking place on Iran's nuclear program, as Iran's top diplomat suggested the US was holding up a deal with its approach to the talks.

Trump insists Iran deal hinges on US conditions; Tehran pushes back on reported agreement terms

Ali, a resident of the city of Tonekabon north of Tehran, said that whatever the deal was, there would likely be more strife to come.

"Both sides are speaking in a way that keeps their supporters satisfied. It's not clear who is telling the truth," the 49-year-old said.

Hopes of an agreement had risen on Thursday after US officials voiced optimism about the diplomatic progress.

Energy markets have whipsawed this week as investors parse the chances of an agreement that could potentially resume normal shipping through the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

Washington and Tehran have accused each other of violating the truce in and around the strait as recently as this week, with US strikes on the southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas countered by retaliatory Iranian fire.

Iranian state TV said Friday that 24 ships had transited the strait in the past 24 hours, in coordination with the Revolutionary Guards and the foreign ministry.

But it warned that "ships from hostile countries face a severe response" from Iran's military.

On the war's Lebanon front, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that his country's forces had pushed deeper inside Lebanon, while Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah claimed responsibility for a series of drone attacks on military targets in northern Israel, including troop gatherings and barracks.

It also said its forces were attacking Israeli troops trying to advance in the area of the medieval Beaufort fortress, near the city of Nabatieh.

The attacks came as Israeli and Lebanese military delegations held security talks in Washington, which were called "productive" by Elbridge Colby, the Pentagon's second-in-command.

Israel kept up its heavy bombardment of southern Lebanon, where the Lebanese health ministry said a rescuer was among the 11 killed.

A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah was supposed to have taken effect on April 17, but has never been observed.

Both sides accuse each other of violating it and justify their attacks by the other camp's alleged breaches.

Lebanon was drawn into the war in early March when Hezbollah launched rockets at Israel over the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli attacks, prompting Israeli strikes and a ground invasion.



GENEVA

The UN warned an Israeli plan to take control of 70 percent of Gaza is sure to increase suffering among children already hit by the impacts of severe overcrowding.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that he had ordered the military to take control of more territory in the Gaza Strip, in defiance of the terms of a fragile ceasefire that took effect in October.

He said the military had controlled 50 percent of the territory under the terms of the ceasefire, then advanced to take over 60 percent.

"My directive is to move to... 70 percent," he said.

But the United Nations children's agency warned that such a move would deepen the health crisis among children in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory, already suffering from a lack of food, water and access to hygiene.

Even before Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel triggered the war in Gaza, it was "already one of the most densely populated places in the

world", UNICEF spokesman Salim Oweis told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Gaza.

Today, "people have been crammed into around 40 percent of the space left to them, sheltering among broken buildings, rubble and mounting solid waste", he said, adding "there is no accessible space left to clear" the waste.

"The effects of this are now widely apparent: children with respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhoea, and more than half of all households reporting skin diseases."

"Fleas, lice and scabies are commonplace," Oweis said, also pointing to numerous cases of rats biting young children and even babies after getting into tents and other shelters for Gaza's hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

Oweis told the story of a woman named Hind, who "hasn't slept since her four-year-old daughter, Masa, was bitten by a rat during the night". "Like many families, they sheltered wherever they could, in their case, the second floor of a building block where sewage water leaks through the ceilings, and rodents crawl

through the cracks in the building and climb the exposed pipes," he said.

"Increasing numbers of children are requiring hospitalisation, all without a single fully functioning hospital across Gaza."

Oweis described the situation as "dire", noting the overcrowding was "creating more spread of diseases, straining the systems and of course cutting... services".

If Israel takes control of even more land, that "means that we will lose access to some of the service points, but also (to) some hard to reach places (where) children and families are living," he said.

"This will just mean that more children will suffer."

"Honestly, we can't afford that at the moment."

Despite an October 10 ceasefire, Gaza remains gripped by daily violence.

Israel has killed more than 900 people in the territory since the ceasefire, according to Gaza's health ministry, which operates under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

IIT Guwahati Develops '4D' Nano Security Technology to Combat Counterfeiting and Fraud



ables the nanocrystals to maintain stability under environmental stress conditions that would normally destroy conventional perovskite systems.

The improved durability makes the technology far more suitable for practical implementation in high-security applications such as banknotes, passports, legal documents, pharmaceutical packaging, and secure product authentication systems.

Laser-Written Security Patterns
The research team also integrated advanced laser fabrication techniques into the system.

Using a direct laser writing process, scientists created microscopic patterns from the nanocrystal materials without relying on conventional lithographic masks.

The technique enables extremely fine patterning with resolutions between 10 and 40 micrometres.

To put this into perspective, these structures are often smaller than the width of a human hair.

Such precision allows the creation of highly intricate security features capable of storing encoded information at microscopic scales.

The laser-patterning process also enables rapid customisation and flexible design generation, which could be useful for industrial-scale deployment.

Researchers say the method can produce invisible or hidden fluorescent signatures that can only be authenticated through specific environmental or optical treatments.

This adds another sophisticated layer of protection against duplication.

Unlike standard printed labels that display fixed security markings, the new system introduces dynamic optical behaviour.

The Concept of '4D Anti-Counterfeiting'

One of the most innovative aspects of the research is what the scientists describe as "4D anti-counterfeiting."

According to Prof Saikat Bhaumik, the developed materials behave differently under different external conditions.

For example, a fluorescent security pattern generated by the nanocrystals can disappear when exposed to heat and then reappear after undergoing a specific chemical treatment.

This means the authentication feature is not static.

Instead, it evolves predictably depending on environmental interactions.

A counterfeiter attempting to duplicate the security label would therefore face multiple layers of complexity.

Not only would they need to reproduce the visible design itself, but they would also need to mimic the exact thermal and chemical response behaviour of the nanocrystals.

That requirement dramatically increases the difficulty of reverse engineering the system.

Prof Bhaumik explained that unlike conventional security tags that always display identical optical signatures, the newly developed materials exhibit highly controlled changes in emission intensity and spectral behaviour depending on environmental stimuli.

This dynamic response mechanism forms the basis of the "fourth dimension" in the anti-counterfeiting strategy.

The technology therefore combines spatial patterning, spectral uniqueness, environmental responsiveness, and temporal behaviour into a single integrated security architecture.

Researchers believe this multidimensional behaviour could establish a new benchmark in secure authentication technologies.

Potential Applications Across Industries
The implications of the research extend far beyond currency protection.

Scientists believe the technology could be adapted for numerous industries vulnerable to counterfeit operations.

Banking and Currency Security
One of the most immediate applications lies in banknote authentication.

Modern currencies already incorporate advanced security systems including microprinting, embedded threads, UV-reactive inks, holographic strips, and colour-shifting elements.

However, counterfeit networks continue to evolve alongside these technologies.

The IIT Guwahati-developed nanocrystal system could introduce dynamic optical signatures that are far more difficult to duplicate.

Banknotes embedded with responsive nano-patterns could require specific environmental or optical conditions for verification, making counterfeiting substantially more challenging.

Government Documents and Identification Systems

Passports, visas, national identity cards, driving licences, and educational certificates could also benefit from the technology.

Governments worldwide face increasing risks associated with forged documents and identity fraud.

Microscopic laser-written security patterns with responsive optical properties could provide stronger authentication mechanisms for official records and identity documents.

Pharmaceutical Industry
Counterfeit medicines remain a major public health concern globally.

Fake drugs often enter supply chains through fraudulent packaging and forged authentication labels.

The new nanocrystal-based system could enable pharmaceutical companies to embed advanced verification signatures into packaging materials,

improving product traceability and authenticity checks.

Luxury Goods and Consumer Electronics
Luxury fashion brands, electronics manufacturers, and premium consumer product companies also lose billions annually due to counterfeit products.

Dynamic nano-optical authentication systems could offer brands stronger protection against product cloning and grey-market duplication.

Defence and Strategic Applications

Because counterfeit electronic components can compromise defence systems and critical infrastructure, secure authentication technologies are increasingly important for national security.

The new material system may eventually find applications in strategic equipment verification and secure information storage systems.

Information Storage and Retrieval

Beyond anti-counterfeiting, researchers say the materials may also be capable of storing encoded information.

Because the optical behaviour of the nanocrystals changes under controlled conditions, the system can potentially be used for secure information retrieval mechanisms.

This could open possibilities in encrypted optical storage systems, hidden information encoding, and secure tagging applications.

The ability to create microscopic patterns with high precision further enhances the material's suitability for advanced information technologies.

Potential Role in Future Display Technologies
Interestingly, the research may also influence future display systems.

Prof Bhaumik noted that the laser patterning method developed during the project could be useful in the fabrication of next-generation micro-LED displays.

Micro-LEDs are widely considered one of the most promising emerging display technologies for smartphones, wearable devices, augmented reality systems, and advanced imaging platforms.

Compared to traditional display technologies, micro-LED systems offer higher brightness, lower power consumption, improved durability, and superior colour performance.

The ability to pattern light-emitting nanocrystals with microscopic precision could contribute to the development of ultra-high-resolution display architectures.

This means the research may eventually have implications not only in security science but also in consumer electronics and immersive digital technologies.

Growing Importance of Nanotechnology in Security Science
The IIT Guwahati breakthrough also reflects the expanding role of nanotechnology in modern security systems.

Nanomaterials possess unique physical and chemical properties that often differ dramatically from bulk materials.

These properties enable the design of systems

with highly specialised optical, electrical, and thermal behaviour.

As global threats involving counterfeiting, cyber-physical fraud, and document forgery become more sophisticated, scientists are increasingly turning to nanoscale engineering to create smarter authentication systems.

The integration of responsive nanomaterials with optical technologies, laser engineering, and data encoding techniques is rapidly emerging as a critical area of research worldwide.

India's growing contributions in this field signal the country's expanding scientific capabilities in advanced materials research and applied nanotechnology.

IIT Guwahati's Expanding Research Profile
Over the past several years, IIT Guwahati has emerged as one of India's leading centres for advanced interdisciplinary research.

The institute has increasingly gained recognition for work in nanotechnology, energy systems, materials science, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and environmental engineering.

Researchers from the institute have contributed to developments ranging from sustainable energy storage systems and healthcare technologies to water purification solutions and smart materials.

The latest breakthrough further strengthens the institute's profile in frontier scientific research with practical industrial applications.

It also highlights the growing importance of collaborative academic research in addressing real-world technological and security challenges.

Challenges Before Commercial Deployment
While the research represents a major scientific advance, large-scale commercial implementation may still require additional development and industrial validation.

Manufacturing scalability, long-term environmental stability, cost optimisation, integration into existing production systems, and regulatory approval processes will likely determine how quickly the technology can move from laboratory research to real-world deployment.

Industry partnerships may also be necessary for adapting the materials to commercial printing, packaging, and authentication infrastructures.

However, researchers remain optimistic that the foundational technology demonstrates strong potential for practical adoption.

A New Frontier in Authentication Technology

As counterfeit networks continue to exploit advancements in digital replication technologies, conventional security systems are increasingly under pressure.

Static authentication methods alone may not longer be sufficient in the coming decades.

The IIT Guwahati-developed nanocrystal system points toward a future where security labels become dynamic, intelligent, and environmentally responsive.

By combining nanoscale materials engineering with precision laser fabrication and optical responsiveness, the research introduces a multi-dimensional authentication strategy that significantly raises the barrier for counterfeiters.

The "4D anti-counterfeiting" concept may ultimately represent an important shift in how industries and governments approach secure authentication technologies in the future.

For India's scientific community, the achievement also underlines the growing capability of domestic institutions to contribute cutting-edge innovations with global relevance.

As research into smart materials and nanotechnology accelerates worldwide, developments such as these could play an increasingly important role in safeguarding economies, industries, and national security systems against the rapidly evolving threat of counterfeiting.

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In a significant breakthrough that could reshape the future of anti-counterfeiting technologies, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a new class of smart light-emitting nanomaterials capable of generating highly secure optical patterns that are extremely difficult to replicate using conventional techniques.

The innovation, led by scientists from the Department of Physics at IIT Guwahati, introduces what researchers describe as a "4D anti-counterfeiting" approach - a next-generation security mechanism that combines advanced nanotechnology, optical engineering, and responsive material science to create dynamic authentication systems for currency notes, government documents, branded products, and digital security applications.

At a time when counterfeit products, forged identity documents, fake currency, and cloned packaging continue to threaten economies and national security systems worldwide, the new technology offers a sophisticated solution that goes far beyond traditional holograms, watermarks, QR codes, and barcodes.

The research team has developed highly stable perovskite nanocrystals - tiny crystalline materials measured at the nanometre scale - that can emit exceptionally pure and intense colours while responding uniquely to external conditions such as heat and chemical exposure. The work has been published in the internationally reputed journal Advanced Optical Materials.

The project was led by Prof Saikat Bhaumik and Prof PK Giri of IIT Guwahati, along with research scholars Latika Juneja and Garima Choudhary.

Rising Global Threat of Counterfeiting

Counterfeiting has evolved into a massive international challenge affecting almost every major industry. From fake pharmaceuticals and forged passports to counterfeit electronics, luxury products, banknotes, and industrial components, illegal duplication technologies have become increasingly advanced over the last decade.

The rapid growth of high-resolution printing, digital imaging systems, machine vision tools, and precision manufacturing technologies has made it easier for counterfeiters to imitate many conventional security systems with alarming accuracy.

Security labels that once appeared highly sophisticated - including holograms, fluorescent inks, QR-based verification systems, invisible ultraviolet markings, and watermarks - are now frequently copied using commercially available equipment.

This growing technological sophistication among counterfeit networks has raised concerns not only among businesses but also among governments and security agencies.

Counterfeit medicines can endanger lives. Forged identification documents can compromise border security and law enforcement systems. Fake electronic components can affect defence and aerospace industries. Counterfeit currency can destabilise financial systems and fuel organised criminal activity.

Against this backdrop, researchers across the world have been searching for anti-counterfeiting solutions that are dynamic, responsive, and nearly impossible to reverse engineer.

The IIT Guwahati research team believes its newly developed nanocrystal-based security system could represent a major step in that direction.

What Makes the New Technology Different

At the heart of the innovation are perovskite nanocrystals - a category of advanced crystalline materials known for their remarkable optical and electronic properties.

Perovskites have attracted immense scientific interest globally over the past decade because of their potential applications in solar cells, LEDs, sensors, imaging systems, and quantum technologies.

The IIT Guwahati researchers focused on exploiting the material's unique light-emitting capabilities for security applications.

These nanocrystals are extraordinarily small - thousands of times thinner than a strand of human hair - yet they possess the ability to emit highly precise and vivid colours with extremely narrow emission spectra.

This characteristic is critical for authentication technologies because it enables the generation of unique optical signatures that are far more difficult to reproduce than ordinary fluorescent materials.

Traditional fluorescent substances typically produce broader emission patterns that can often be imitated with commercially available pigments or dyes. In contrast, the newly developed perovskite nanocrystals produce highly controlled optical responses, enabling more sophisticated and accurate verification systems.

Researchers say this allows the creation of security patterns with greater colour tunability, sharper spectral identity, and improved information encoding capability.

The nanocrystals can also be engineered into microscopic patterns that are invisible under normal viewing conditions but become detectable under carefully controlled environments.

This introduces multiple layers of security into a single authentication label.

Overcoming a Major Limitation
Despite their impressive optical properties, perovskite materials have historically faced one major challenge - instability.

Exposure to moisture, oxygen, heat, and environmental chemicals often causes perovskite nanomaterials to degrade rapidly, limiting their practical use in real-world applications.

For years, this instability remained one of the biggest obstacles preventing widespread commercial deployment of perovskite-based technologies.

The IIT Guwahati team addressed this challenge by developing a specialised double-layer protective coating around the nanocrystals.

This coating significantly improves the material's resistance to heat, moisture, and chemical degradation while preserving its light-emitting behaviour.

According to the researchers, the protective architecture en-



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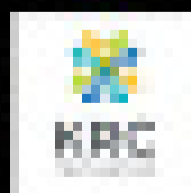


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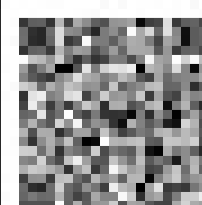


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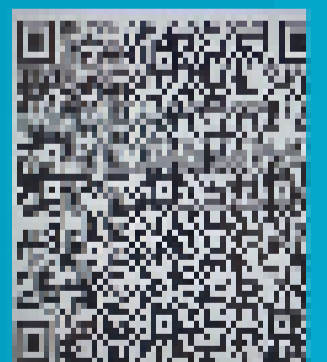
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