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PERSPECTIVE

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." ~ Unknown

Meghalaya Seeks Changes to 125th Constitutional Amendment Bill, Raises ADC Representation Concerns

SHILLONG
Meghalaya has urged the Centre to review key provisions of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019, proposing several modifications aimed at addressing concerns related to tribal representation, the structure of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and constitutional safeguards for indigenous communities. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma presented the state's recommendations to Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the 73rd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) held in Shillong.

The recommendations were incorporated in a memorandum prepared after consultations with stakeholders and Meghalaya's three Autonomous District Councils—the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and Garo Hills Autonomous District Council.

One of the principal concerns raised by the state relates to the Bill's provision for nominating representatives from tribes that fail to secure elected seats in district council elections. Meghalaya argued that implementing such a mechanism could prove difficult given the large number of tribes and sub-tribes in the state, potentially triggering competing demands for representation from multiple communities.

Instead of community-based nominations, the state proposed that nominated seats be filled by individuals with distinguished contributions in areas such as education, sports, business, administration and social service, while ensuring adequate representation for women.

The state government also expressed support for the proposed expansion of ADCs but recommended changes to the composition of individual councils.

WHO SAID WHAT

Coforge Library is a welcome addition to Delhi's learning ecosystem. A strong reading culture nurtures informed minds, encourages innovation and helps build the leaders of tomorrow.

~ Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi

JP Nadda inaugurates ARHI Hospital in Meghalaya's Jorabat

ARHI HOSPITAL PROMISES ADVANCED AND AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR NORTHEAST

BISWADEEP GUPTA
ARHI Hospital was officially inaugurated on Thursday at Jorabat, marking a major development in the healthcare sector of Meghalaya and the Northeast region. The new healthcare facility aims to provide advanced medical services, modern treatment options, and affordable healthcare to people across the region.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several dignitaries from the Centre and the states of Meghalaya and Assam. The event was graced by Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, as the Chief Guest.

Among the distinguished guests were Wailladmiki Shylla, Health and Family Welfare Minister of Megha-



laya, who attended as the Guest of Honour, and Sosthenes Sohtun, Minister of Community and Rural Development, General Administration Department and Secretariat Administration Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Also present were Rameswar Teli, Minister for Transformation and Development, Labour Welfare, Tea Tribes and Adivasi Welfare, Government of Assam; A. L. Hek, MLA,

Shillong and Chairman of ARHI Hospital; and Dr. Mahamaya Prasad Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the hospital. Addressing the gathering, Nadda highlighted the transformation of India's healthcare sector under the National Health Policy 2017. He said the policy has strengthened the healthcare delivery system at every level, from sub-centres and health and wellness centres in rural areas to advanced tertiary care institutions across the country. This comprehensive approach has significantly improved access to quality healthcare and enhanced health outcomes for people in both urban and rural regions. Praising the establishment of ARHI Hospital, Nadda said the institution would bring advanced medical services closer to the people of Meghalaya and neighbouring Northeastern states. He also reaffirmed the Central Government's commitment to the development of the Northeast, stating that several initiatives have been undertaken to ensure inclusive growth and better public services across the region. He said it was a remarkable day and a truly significant moment for everyone associated with the project. The inauguration marks the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream and the beginning of a new chapter in healthcare. He expressed immense pride in the establishment of the hos-

pital, noting that it will serve the people of Meghalaya as well as the wider Northeastern region. With advanced medical facilities and modern healthcare services now available, the region has taken a major step forward towards better treatment and improved healthcare access for all.

Established with the vision of delivering world-class healthcare services at affordable costs, ARHI Hospital is equipped with modern medical technology, advanced diagnostic facilities, critical care units, modular operation theatres, and emergency and trauma care services. The hospital also boasts a team of qualified medical professionals and specialists dedicated to providing comprehensive patient care. Hospital authorities stated that ARHI Hospital aims to emerge as a centre of excellence in healthcare, medical research, and innovation while addressing the growing demand for quality healthcare services in Meghalaya and the wider Northeast region. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the participation of government officials, healthcare professionals, community leaders, industry representatives, and members of the public. The launch of the hospital is expected to significantly strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the region and improve access to advanced medical treatment for thousands of people.

TEZPUR LITCHI FESTIVAL 2026

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CRPF Chief Reviews Manipur Security with Governor Amid Fresh Violence in Kangpokpi

IMPHAL
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh on Friday reviewed the security situation in Manipur with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, outlining a comprehensive strategy aimed at curbing insurgency and restoring long-term peace in the violence-hit state.

The high-level meeting at Raj Bhavan came amid renewed security concerns following a deadly attack in Kangpokpi district that left three people dead, including a woman, and resulted in several houses being set ablaze.

Singh, who is on a three-day visit to Manipur, held detailed discussions with the Governor on the prevailing law-and-order situation and ongoing measures to strengthen security across the state.

According to a statement issued by the CRPF, the deliberations focused on enhancing operational preparedness, strengthening strategic planning and implementing the force's roadmap to tackle insurgent



activities and restore normalcy. "Discussions focused on enhancing operational preparedness, strategic planning and the CRPF's comprehensive roadmap to eliminate insurgency and restore lasting peace in Manipur," the force said in a social media post.

Senior CRPF officials also briefed the Governor on current security challenges, deployment patterns and ongoing operations being carried out in sensitive areas.

The meeting underscored the

need for robust security arrangements to protect civilian lives and property while ensuring swift responses to emerging threats in vulnerable regions.

The review assumes significance as it took place just hours after an armed attack in Loibol Khullen village under the Saitu-Gamphazol subdivision of Kangpokpi district. The assault claimed three lives and left at least seven houses gutted by fire.

Security forces have since intensified search and combing operations in the area to identify and apprehend those responsible for the attack.

The Centre has also moved to reinforce the security apparatus in the state by deploying two additional battalions of the elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), a specialised wing of the CRPF trained in counter-insurgency, jungle warfare and guerrilla operations.

Officials said the CoBRA units will support ongoing counter-insurgency operations, area domination

exercises and targeted missions against armed groups involved in violence, particularly in difficult and remote terrain.

"The two CoBRA battalions will undertake specific operations against armed groups responsible for violence in Manipur," a senior security official had said earlier.

The deployment adds to the substantial presence of central security forces already stationed in the state as authorities continue efforts to stabilise the situation and prevent further outbreaks of violence.

Despite a series of security measures and peace-building initiatives, Manipur has continued to witness sporadic incidents of unrest, prompting the Centre and state authorities to maintain a heightened security posture.

Officials said the latest review reflects the government's continued focus on strengthening coordination among security agencies, improving operational effectiveness and creating conditions conducive to lasting peace in the conflict-affected state.

Manipur CM Orders Crackdown After Three Civilians Killed in Kangpokpi Attack



IMPHAL
Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh strongly condemned the killing of three civilians in Kangpokpi district, directing security agencies to launch an immediate operation to identify and apprehend those responsible for the attack.

The Chief Minister described the incident at Loibol Khullen village as a "heinous" and "cowardly" act, asserting that violence against unarmed civilians would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

"I strongly condemn the heinous attack at Loibol Khullen, Kangpokpi District, which claimed the lives of three innocent civilians. Such cowardly acts against unarmed civilians are unacceptable," Singh said in a statement posted on social media platform X.

The attack, which occurred amid continuing security concerns in parts of the state, left three villagers dead and triggered fresh anxiety among local residents.

Condemning the deliberate targeting of civilians, the Chief Minister said he had instructed both state police and central security agencies to intensify

efforts to track down the perpetrators and strengthen security arrangements in vulnerable areas.

"I have directed security agencies to swiftly apprehend those responsible and strengthen security in vulnerable areas. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he said.

Officials said security forces have been asked to enhance surveillance and maintain heightened vigilance in sensitive locations to prevent further incidents.

The Chief Minister also directed authorities to extend all necessary assistance and relief to the affected families.

In a separate statement, Singh expressed grief over the death of Havildar Kh. Suresh Singh of the 4th India Reserve Battalion (IRB), who was allegedly stabbed to death while on duty on the night of June 3.

Paying tribute to the slain security personnel, the Chief Minister commended the prompt response of the Thoubal District Police, which led to the arrest of the principal accused within a day of the incident.

"I also deeply mourn the loss of Havildar Kh. Suresh Singh of the 4th IRB, who was killed while on duty. I commend Thoubal District Police for the prompt arrest of the main accused and extend my sincere condolences to his family," he said.

The twin incidents have once again underscored the security challenges facing Manipur, where authorities continue to grapple with sporadic violence and law-and-order concerns in several districts.

Security agencies are continuing investigations into the Kangpokpi killings, while additional deployments have reportedly been made in vulnerable areas as a precautionary measure.

Flood Response Takes Priority as Assam Delays Portfolio Allocation for New Ministers

GUWAHATI
The Assam government will prioritise flood management over portfolio distribution for newly inducted ministers, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announcing that members of the expanded cabinet will first be assigned to oversee flood-affected districts before departmental responsibilities are finalised.

Addressing reporters after the first meeting of the newly expanded 16-member cabinet on Friday, Sarma said portfolio allocation would require a detailed review of administrative needs and the strengths of individual ministers.

"I will take a little time. We need to review the work carried out by ministers who previously handled various departments and assess where the new ministers can contribute most effectively," the Chief Minister said. "Instead of rushing the process, we will conduct a proper evaluation before allotting portfolios." While departmental assignments may take time, Sarma said guardian minister responsibilities would be announced within a day in view of the emerging flood situation in several parts of the state. The newly inducted ministers will be deputed to different districts to monitor relief and preparedness measures, coordinate with local administrations and ensure that flood response mechanisms remain active.

"We will assign guardian minister responsibilities so that ministers can travel to various districts, understand the flood-related challenges and ensure that district administrations remain fully responsive in handling the situation," Sarma said. The cabinet also decided to convene the Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly from July 6, a move that will enable the government to present and pass a full-fledged state budget for the financial year.

Manipur Plans Extensive Security Operations Across Hills and Valley Amid Hostage Crisis

IMPHAL
The Manipur government has announced plans for extensive security operations across both hill and valley districts as authorities intensify efforts to curb violence, dismantle unlawful activities and secure the release of hostages caught in ongoing ethnic tensions.

The decision was reviewed during the second Monthly Review Meeting chaired by Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konhoujam at the New Secretariat in Imphal, where officials assessed the state's security situation and the progress of the Indo-Myanmar border fencing project.

Addressing the meeting, Konhoujam said the government was actively engaged in negotiations to resolve a hostage crisis involving members of the Naga and Kuki communities. According to officials, six Naga men are currently being held captive by Kuki groups, while 14 Kuki individuals are reportedly in the custody of Naga groups.

"The government is making every effort to ensure their safe release, and we are hopeful of positive developments within the next two to three days," the minister said.

As part of broader security measures, law enforcement agencies are preparing to launch large-scale search and combing operations in sensitive areas across the state. The proposed drives will target illegal activities, armed groups and individuals involved in acts that threaten public order.

The review meeting also dis-

cussed concerns surrounding the investigation into the abduction of Naga individuals. Responding to reports that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had not received relevant case documents from the state government, Konhoujam asserted that the necessary paperwork had already been forwarded.

"I personally signed the official document transferring the case to the NIA," he said, describing the reported discrepancy as a communication gap and reiterating the government's commitment to ensuring a thorough investigation.

The security review comes amid heightened efforts by both the state and central governments to stabilise the situation in Manipur. Earlier, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla met Gyanendra Pratap Singh at Lok Bhavan in Imphal to assess the prevailing law-and-order situation and review deployment strategies.

Officials said the discussions focused on strengthening operational readiness, enhancing civilian security and addressing emerging threats in vulnerable areas.

In a significant reinforcement of security forces, the Ministry of Home Affairs has deployed two additional battalions of the elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) to Manipur. The specialised units, trained in jungle warfare and counter-insurgency operations, have been tasked with conducting targeted operations against armed groups operating in volatile and mixed-population districts.

CBSE'S DIGITAL DEBACLE

There is a particular cruelty in failing students—not through the rigour of examinations but through the recklessness of Administration. The unfolding crisis surrounding CBSE's on-screen marking system for Class 12 board examinations is precisely such a failure — one that strikes at the heart of a system millions of young Indians trust with their futures. What was billed as a progressive leap into digital evaluation has proved a nightmare of the board's own making. The errors reported by students are not routine technical glitches — they represent a systemic collapse. Scanned answer sheets mismatched with students' own handwriting, blurred and illegible copies uploaded for evaluation, totalling mistakes: the list is as staggering as it is damning. What makes this crisis especially significant is that the provision allowing students to view their answer sheets — a rare transparency measure — exposed the rot. Had this window not existed, countless errors would have silently altered careers without a soul being any the wiser.

The shift from physical to digital evaluation was, in principle, sound. Done properly, OSM offers consistency, speed, and auditability. The failure lay entirely in execution. Allegations that a relatively small and untested firm was awarded the contract — bypassing experienced organisations such as TCS — raise grave questions about the tendering process. It is a damning commentary on institutional accountability that a seventeen-year-old student from Jharkhand, Sarthak Sidhant himself affected by the very system he was scrutinising—presented a more rigorous seven-page analysis to the Parliamentary Committee on Education than anything the board could offer in its defence. That a teenager's blog became the most credible source of scrutiny in a national examination controversy shows how exposed the prevalent system is.

Class 12 results are not mere scores — they are the foundation upon which admissions, scholarships, and life choices are built. Students who should be focusing on competitive entrance examinations are instead battling portal glitches and anxiously awaiting corrected marks. For many students, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or smaller towns, a good board result represents years of sacrifice, both personal and familial. To have those results compromised by an untested digital system adopted without adequate safeguards is an injustice of the gravest order. The mental toll on young people cannot be captured in any official report. Adding insult to injury is the requirement to pay re-evaluation fees, a burden that is simply not affordable for many families. It is perverse logic to ask a student to pay for the privilege of correcting a mistake that was never theirs to make. This is unjust. All such charges must be waived immediately, and if every affected answer sheet must be re-evaluated manually, so be it — the cost must be borne by the institution, not the student. The CBSE must set up a dedicated, glitch-free helpline and portal specifically for OSM-related grievances. More broadly, the board must commit to a thorough and independent audit of the OSM system before it is used in any future examination — or reconsider its use entirely until it can be implemented with full reliability and security.

The board's initial response to student grievances — one of denial and deflection — only deepened the crisis. The cybersecurity failures further illustrate how woefully unprepared the entire infrastructure was for a task of this magnitude. Institutions in positions of public trust cannot afford the luxury of opacity when things go wrong. Every day of stonewalling erodes confidence further. The Government has now acted rightly in transferring the two senior CBSE officials and constituting an inquiry committee under S. Radha Chauhan. However, transfers after prolonged denial carry limited moral weight. The committee must operate with full independence, unrestricted access to procurement records, and the mandate to pursue accountability at every level. Its findings must be placed in the public domain without euphemism or omission.

Denial and opacity are not options at this juncture. India's students prepare for years, trusting that the examination system will evaluate them fairly. That trust, once broken, is not easily restored. The path back to credibility runs through complete transparency, genuine accountability, and an unequivocal commitment that no student's future will be diminished by the failures of those who were entrusted to protect it.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you want to get richer quicker, then solve bigger problems!"

- Robert Kiyosaki

SIR QUERIES THAT KEEP BLOWING IN THE WIND



K F WILFRED

The voters' list forms the base document for polling in all electoral democracies, irrespective of the overall quality and integrity of the process. There are multiple global models for creating the electoral roll, such as compiling it from a national civil register or through enumerators. There are also countries where the onus is shifted onto the citizens, requiring them to approach registration officials.

In India, the universal adult suffrage provision of Article 326 gives constitutional protection for enrolment to adult citizens. This right is subject to certain statutory limitations by way of disqualification on the grounds of unsound mind, conviction for a few specified offences and disqualification for a person found guilty of corrupt practice in elections, apart from the disqualification for non-citizens. Under Article 324, the responsibility of enabling and empowering the citizens in availing of this sacred right is entrusted to the Election Commission.

The Constituent Assembly reposed faith in one Central Election Commission to protect the interest of people of all backgrounds. When the framing of the Constitution was under consideration, the initial proposal was to have one central election commission handling elections to the central legislature and separate commissions for elections in each province or state. The main argument for changing to a single Election Commission for

all elections was that, in many places, there were people who hailed from other provinces and under a provincial election commission, such people—who did not belong to a place racially, culturally or linguistically—could face discrimination for registration on the list.

Let's look at the legal provisions under this framework. Section 21(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 mandates revision of the electoral roll of each constituency before every election. The same section also enables the commission to carry out annual revision of rolls even when there is no election. These revisions are to be conducted in the manner specified in the Rules (The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960).

The Rules provide that the revision of rolls under Section 21(2) shall either be an intensive revision or a summary revision. The former effectively means a de novo preparation of rolls with enumerators visiting every household and collecting names and particulars of all adult members ordinarily residing there. For collecting such details, the electoral registration officer (ERO) is to send a letter (through enumerators) addressed to an occupant of the house (the head of the family or a senior member) whose responsibility it then becomes to provide the details. The ERO's letter, for which there is a statutory format in Form 4, also clearly specifies that only names of persons who are Indian citizens and ordinarily resident there should be furnished. The

list so provided is signed by the person giving the details, thereby owning responsibility for the data furnished.

Penal provisions in Section 31 of the 1950 Act providing for imprisonment up to a year is a deterrence and remedy for any false information. With the details so collected, a draft roll is published for claims and objections. What emerges from the Rules, therefore, is that for making the draft roll in an intensive revision, the details provided by the head of family form the basis; they do not specify any particular set of documents for establishing citizenship or tracing link to any previous roll.

On the other hand, a summary revision of the roll is primarily for updating and purifying an existing roll with additions, deletions and corrections. Claims and objections are invited on the current roll, using it as the basic draft. In both the intensive and summary revisions, the ERO is required to publish details of claims and objections through a notice at his office, and may either accept a claim or objection if there is no demand for a hearing from any person and the ERO is satisfied about the validity of the claim or objection. Similarly, the ERO may upfront reject a claim or objection if it is not made within the specified period, or is not made in the prescribed format and manner.

In other cases, the ERO decides claims and objections after affording the opportunity of a hearing to the persons concerned and the final roll is brought out thereafter.

Sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the 1950 Act empowers the Election Commission to order a special revision of the roll of any constituency or part of a constituency after recording the reasons. This special revision can be done at any time and conducted in the manner as the Election Commission may deem fit. For the 'special intensive revision' conducted in Bihar in the second half of last year, and subsequently in a dozen other states, the Election Commission invoked this special provision to specify new measures such as linkage to the rolls of 2002/2003 and supporting documentary evidence.

The question whether the special revision for specific reasons envisaged under sub-section (3) can be ordered across the board in all constituencies was one of the several issues raised by the petitioners in the Bihar SIR-related petitions before the Supreme Court. In the judgement delivered last week, the apex court held that it can be done. The other contentions challenging the constitutionality of the SIR directions, specifying partic-

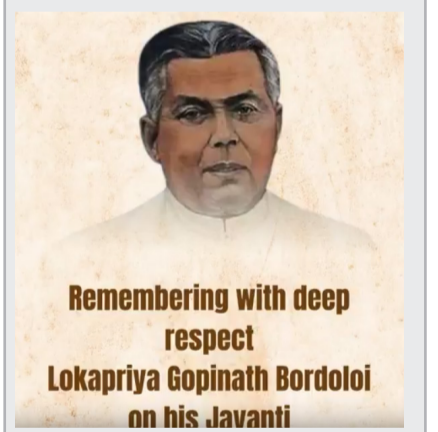
ular supporting documents for enrolment, and relying on linkage to 2003 rolls were all rejected while upholding the SIR undertaken.

Prior to the recent SIRs, the Election Commission has conducted summary revisions on an annual basis and brought out revised rolls in the first half of every January. Each of

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Remembering Bharat Ratna Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi on his Jayanti.

The architect of modern Assam, his leadership came at a defining moment in our history. Through his courage & vision, he safeguarded Assam's interests and played a pivotal role in ensuring that Assam remains an integral part of India. ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam



these revisions was known to be an extensive exercise, with the active participation of the political parties accompanied by well-orchestrated public awareness campaigns. In the last round of summary revisions concluded in January 2025, an electorate of 99 crore within a population of more than 140 crore appeared to be a reasonably fair representation of the adult population on the rolls.

Now that new standards have been set for enrolment, it is more than likely that future revisions will follow a similar path. When the new Census figures are released and SIR is completed in all states, it will be interesting to study the electorate strength against the adult population. If shifting of electors is indeed a primary cause for removing names in a state, there should be a corresponding increase in another state. The question whether the new measures form a headwind for potentially genuine electors may continue to seek answers.



Assam Crosses One-Crore Sapling Mark in Massive World Environment Day Plantation Drive

GUWAHATI

Assam achieved a major environmental milestone by planting more than 1.02 crore saplings within just over eight hours as part of a statewide World Environment Day campaign led by women Self-Help Group (SHG) members.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma hailed the achievement as a landmark moment in the state's afforestation efforts, crediting Assam's women-led community network for driving the record-setting plantation exercise.

"In just over eight hours, more than 1.02 crore saplings have been planted by the people, in an effort led by Assam's enterprising Nari Shakti, setting a new record in our greening efforts," Sarma said in a social media post.



According to official figures released by the Chief Minister, a total of 1,02,35,632 saplings were planted across the state by 35,34,746 registered Self-Help Group members, making it one of the largest coordinated planta-

tion campaigns undertaken in Assam. Barpeta district emerged as the top performer with 5,54,666 saplings planted, followed closely by Golaghat with 5,36,590 saplings, Biswanath with 5,36,000, Nagaon with 5,25,493 and Dhubri with 5,12,193 saplings.

Dima Hasao recorded the lowest plantation count among districts, with 30,981 saplings planted during the campaign.

In Kamrup district, 2,10,895 SHG members planted 4,46,968 saplings, while Kamrup Metro registered the plantation of 69,248 saplings by 33,729 SHG members.

Earlier in the day, Sarma launched the drive by planting a Rudraksh sapling at his residence in Guwahati as part of the state's ambitious target to plant one crore saplings on a single day.

"Powered by our Nari Shakti, this movement will help build a greener and more sustainable Assam," the Chief Minister said while inaugurating the campaign.

The mass plantation programme was accompanied by a series of World Environment Day events across different districts aimed at promoting environmental awareness and conservation. In Nalbari, the Regional Forest Office distributed more than 1,500 saplings among schools, government institutions and local organisations. Officials urged recipients to ensure proper care and maintenance of the plants to maximise long-term ecological benefits.

In Hajo, voluntary organisations organised plantation and sapling distribution programmes at Hajo Higher Secondary School, where nearly 1,000

saplings were distributed and planted. The event also featured awareness campaigns focusing on environmental conservation, sustainable living and the dangers of plastic pollution.

Further west, a central World Environment Day programme was held at Deosri in Raipur along the India-Bhutan border in Chirang district.

Speaking at the event, Chirang Divisional Forest Officer Kunjan Basumatary announced an ambitious target of planting one million saplings across the Bijnai and Sidli subdivisions between June 5 and September 17.

Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Chief Hagrama Mohilary also participated in the programme and called for stronger public involvement in forest conservation efforts.

Emphasising the need to protect remaining forest resources, Mohilary

said no further destruction of forest land would be permitted.

"What has happened in the past has happened, but no further destruction of forests will be allowed. We have been directed to protect forest areas by all possible means," he said.

He urged residents to actively participate in plantation drives and support ongoing efforts to preserve forests and biodiversity across the region.

The statewide campaign formed part of Assam's broader environmental agenda aimed at increasing green cover, combating climate change and promoting community-led conservation initiatives. Officials said the success of the drive demonstrated the growing role of grassroots participation, particularly by women, in advancing environmental sustainability across the state.

Assam Extends Service of Award-Winning Retired Teacher by One Year

DHUBRI

The Assam government has granted a one-year service extension to a retired state award-winning educator under a special provision designed to utilise the expertise and experience of distinguished teachers beyond their retirement.

Dr. Mizanur Rahman, who retired as headmaster of Kaldoba High School in Agomani, Dhubri district, on April 30, 2026, has been re-engaged under the state's policy for select award-winning teachers. Education department officials said the initiative allows outstanding educators who have received state recognition to continue contributing to the school education system for a limited period after superannuation. Under the extension, Dr. Rahman will be eligible to serve in any educational institution within Dhubri district during the additional one-year tenure.

Dr. Rahman was conferred a state award by the Assam government in 2017 in recognition of his contributions to teaching and educational leadership. In the same year, he also received national-level recognition for promoting transparency, accountability and good governance practices within the school system. Officials said the programme seeks to strengthen institutional management and provide professional guidance to younger teachers by drawing on the experience of veteran educators. The government believes that retaining accomplished teachers for a limited period after retirement can help bridge gaps in educational leadership while ensuring that valuable institutional knowledge is passed on to the next generation of educators. Reacting to the decision, Dr. Rahman expressed his gratitude to the state government and said he was eager to continue serving students and the education sector.

"Teaching has always been more than a profession for me; it is a lifelong commitment," he said, adding that he looked forward to contributing to classrooms and educational institutions once again.

Meghalaya Tightens Rules on Official Vehicle Name Boards, Restricts Unauthorised Use

SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government has introduced a new regulatory framework governing the display of official name boards on motor vehicles, specifying eligible users, display standards and restrictions aimed at preventing misuse of official designations.

The Transport Department has notified the Display of Name Boards on Motor Vehicles Regulations, 2026, which came into force upon publication in the official gazette. The new regulations prohibit the display of boards bearing the name of the government, any government department, or the designation of a public functionary on vehicles unless expressly permitted under the rules or approved by the department.

According to the notification, only a defined category of constitutional authorities, elected representatives, senior civil servants, police officers and judicial officers will be authorised to display official designation plates on their vehicles.

Those eligible include the Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Members of Parliament, MLAs, Chief Executive Members of Autonomous District Councils, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and other designated officials.

The regulations prescribe uniform specifications for the display of official boards. In most cases, name boards must be installed at both the front and rear of the vehicle adjacent to the registration number. Standard dimensions have been fixed at 50 cm by 15 cm, while colour combinations will vary depending on the office or rank of the occupant.

A key provision mandates that the designation board must be removed or appropriately covered whenever the authorised dignitary or officer is not travelling in the vehicle, a measure intended to curb misuse of official identification.

SC Halts Deportation of Two Assam Detainees Declared Foreigners, Seeks Responses from Centre and State

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court stayed the possible deportation of two women detained in Assam after being declared foreigners by Foreigners Tribunals, providing temporary relief while their legal challenge against the citizenship determinations remains pending.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and V. Mohan issued notices to the Assam Government, the Union Government and the Election Commission of India (ECI), directing them to file their responses within four weeks.

The court also ordered that the two women, currently lodged at the Goalpara Detention Centre, should not be deported as long as they remain in custody.

"If they are in detention, they will not be deported till next date," the bench observed while granting interim protection.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on July 16.

The case arises from separate petitions filed by four women challenging orders of Foreigners



Tribunals in Assam that declared their foreigners under the state's citizenship verification mechanism.

Among them, Saleha Khatun and Sarbanu Begum have been in detention since March this year. The other two petitioners, Basiran Nessa and Musst Nuzera Begum, have also approached the apex court, expressing apprehension that they may face deportation proceedings.

According to court records, Saleha Khatun was declared a foreigner by the 5th Foreigners Tribunal at Mangaldai in Dar-

rang district on August 30, 2018. The order was later upheld by the Gauhati High Court on December 5, 2025.

In a separate proceeding, Sarbanu Begum was declared a foreigner by a tribunal order dated December 13, 2018, which was subsequently affirmed by the Gauhati High Court on December 9, 2025. Her petition contends that the adverse finding stemmed from discrepancies in the spelling of her name across official documents.

The petitioners have argued before the Supreme Court that they produced both documentary

and oral evidence linking their ancestry to Indian citizens whose names appeared in electoral rolls and other legacy records predating March 24, 1971 - the cut-off date used in Assam's citizenship determination process.

They further contended that the tribunals failed to properly evaluate the evidence placed on record and rejected their claims on the basis of minor inconsistencies in names and supporting documents.

Appearing for the detained women, advocate Fuzal Ahmad Ayyubi submitted that the petitioners faced an imminent risk of deportation, particularly as two of them had already been placed in detention centres following the tribunal and High Court orders.

The Supreme Court's interim order ensures that no deportation action will be taken against the two detained women until the next hearing, while the court examines the legality of the Foreigners Tribunal findings and the subsequent judgments affirming them.

Centre Reconstitutes Nagaland's Environmental Clearance Panels for Three-Year Term

KOHIMA

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has reconstituted Nagaland's two key environmental regulatory bodies responsible for evaluating and approving development projects, renewing their mandate for a fresh three-year term.

According to a notification issued by the ministry on June 4, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) have been reconstituted to oversee the environmental clearance process for projects falling under the state's jurisdiction.

The move is aimed at ensuring the continued functioning of the state's environmental approval mechanism while strengthening transparency and accountability in project appraisal procedures.

The SEIAA serves as the statutory authority responsible for granting environmental clearances to eligible projects, while the SEAC functions as an expert advisory body that examines project proposals and provides technical recommendations before approvals are issued.

As per the notification, the chairman and members of both bodies will hold office for a period of three years from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Under the revised structure, the SEIAA will comprise a chairman, one member and a member secretary. The SEAC will consist of a chairman, a member secretary and four expert members drawn from relevant fields.

The ministry has also incorporated safeguards aimed at preventing conflicts of interest during the environmental appraisal process.

According to the notification,

any chairman or member who has provided consultancy services or undertaken Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for a project proponent within the previous five years will be required to recuse themselves from discussions and decision-making related to proposals submitted by that entity.

The provision seeks to ensure impartiality and maintain the credibility of the environmental clearance mechanism by preventing individuals with prior professional associations from participating in the evaluation of related projects.

Officials said the reconstitution of the two bodies is part of the Centre's periodic review and renewal of state-level environmental institutions responsible for implementing provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment framework.

The SEIAA and SEAC play a

critical role in scrutinising projects with potential environmental implications, including infrastructure, industrial, mining and construction proposals. Their assessments help determine whether projects comply with environmental safeguards and sustainability requirements before receiving statutory approvals.

Environmental experts note that effective functioning of the two bodies is essential for balancing developmental needs with ecological protection, particularly in ecologically sensitive states such as Nagaland, where infrastructure expansion often intersects with fragile ecosystems and biodiversity-rich landscapes.

The latest reconstitution is expected to facilitate the timely appraisal of development proposals while ensuring that environmental concerns remain an integral part of the decision-making process.

Manipur University Marks 46th Foundation Day, Felicitates Faculty for Academic Achievements

IMPHAL

Manipur University celebrated its 46th Foundation-cum-Commendation Day, commemorating the institution's academic journey while recognising outstanding contributions by faculty members, staff and departments that have played a key role in its growth and development.

The programme, held at the University Court Hall, brought together faculty members, administrative officials, students and staff to mark the occasion and reflect on the institution's achievements over the past four decades.

Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sumitra Phanjoubam highlighted the collective efforts of the university community in advancing academic excellence and ensuring the holistic development of students despite various challenges.

She said the institution's progress had been made possible through the dedication and teamwork of teaching, administrative and support staff across departments.

"The achievements of the University are the result of collective commitment and coordinated efforts from



all sections of the institution," she observed while acknowledging the contributions of various wings of the university. The Vice-Chancellor particularly commended the Examination Section for conducting examinations in accordance with the academic calendar, helping maintain academic discipline and timely evaluation processes.

She also praised the Finance and Academic Sections for ensuring the smooth functioning of administrative and academic activities and acknowledged the role of Heads of Departments in effectively implementing university

regulations and academic policies.

Prof. Phanjoubam urged members of the university community to continue working together to strengthen the institution's academic standing and pursue higher standards of excellence in teaching, research and innovation.

Delivering the presidential address, Prof. N. Basanta Singh congratulated faculty members who were honoured during the programme for their achievements in research, innovation, patents and academic excellence.

He also paid tribute to retiring teaching and non-teaching staff, ex-

pressing gratitude for their years of dedicated service and contributions to the development of the university.

As part of the celebrations, a commemorative brochure published by the University's Public Relations Office was officially released.

The publication documents major milestones, achievements and institutional developments over the years.

The brochure also highlights Manipur University's early adoption of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which was implemented from the 2021-22 academic session, making it one of the institutions to take early steps towards aligning higher education with the new policy framework.

A major highlight of the Foundation Day programme was the felicitation of six faculty members in recognition of their significant contributions and accomplishments in their respective academic and research fields. University officials said the commendation awards were intended to encourage excellence in teaching, research, innovation and institutional service while inspiring faculty members to continue contributing to the university's academic advancement. The celebration underscored Manipur University's continued commitment to academic excellence, research-driven growth and institutional development as it enters its 47th year of service to higher education in the Northeast.

Quest!

Red roses symbolize love. Yellow, friendship. Dark pink, gratitude. Orange, desire. Peach, appreciation. White, purity.

Putin offers Russia's Su-57 stealth fighter to India, pitches co-production deal



NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered India the Sukhoi Su-57, Russia's fifth-generation stealth fighter, and proposed joint production of the aircraft in India, underscoring the long-standing strategic partnership between the two countries.

Moscow has been New Delhi's principal defence supplier for decades. However, supply chain disruptions and delivery delays linked to the war in Ukraine have prompted India to diversify its military procurement and reduce its dependence on any single source.

Against this backdrop, India has launched the Advanced Multirole Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, an ambitious indigenous project aimed at developing the country's own fifth-generation fighter jet.

In an interaction with heads of leading global news agencies on Thursday night, Putin delved into various aspects of India-Russia defence and military ties and said Moscow is still keen to involve New Delhi in the Su-57 aircraft

programme.

"As for the Su-57, we offered our friends from India to jointly develop this machine, a fifth-generation aircraft. I think it's the best to date. But our Indian friends said, 'well, let's see'," he said.

"In principle, this could have been our (Russia-India) product. We made it independently. And we are ready to work with India. To work and develop. There will be no restrictions whatsoever," he said.

Notably, New Delhi has not yet completely closed its doors on the Russian offer, as state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is in touch with the Sukhoi Design Bureau, the manufacturer of the jet, for possible collaboration.

In this photo from Feb. 14, 2025, Russia's Sukhoi Su-57 stealth fighter aircraft hits the skies during the 'Aero India 2025' airshow at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru.

As the aircraft under the AMCA project is unlikely to join the Indian Air Force (IAF) before 2035, the government is considering the procurement of at least two squadrons (around 36) of Su-57s, provided they fulfil

the technical specifications.

India and Russia were in talks for joint development and production of a fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) for close to 15 years.

However, in 2021, India conveyed to Russia its unwillingness to go ahead with it primarily due to the high cost involved in the project. The cost was estimated at around USD 30 billion or Rs 2 lakh crore.

In his remarks, Putin also expressed Russia's willingness to join hands with India in development of other critical platforms including integrated air defence systems. "The same goes for the air defence system," he said, explaining that Russia is ready to work with India on air defence systems and related hardware.

India is developing an indigenous air defence system called "Sudarshan Chakra" and Russian-origin S-400 missile systems are set to be its one of the key components.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). The fifth squadron is yet to be delivered.

The S-400 systems played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor.

In March, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a fresh batch of five S-400 missile systems from Russia that will take the total number to 10.

Leading military think-tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in March said India was the world's second largest importer of arms and military hardware from 2021 to 25 and the largest chunk of the imports came from Russia.

'You can delete our posts, but cannot erase us': CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke at Jantar Mantar protest gathering

NEW DELHI

Hundreds of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) supporters, mostly school, college students and youth, gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, responding to a protest call by the group demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET-UG question paper leak and other exam irregularities.

Addressing the gathering, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, who landed in Delhi on Saturday morning, slammed the Union Government for cracking down on the group's social media activities instead of addressing their demands.

"My friends, this is a long struggle. It has been a month since we started demanding Pradhan's resignation on social media, but these individuals are so shameless that instead of taking action, they have been focused on other distractions, like hacking our accounts and getting our posts deleted. You may be able to delete our posts, but you cannot erase us from this space," Dipke said.

Recalling his arrival in India from the US earlier in the day, Dipke said just before his flight was about to land in Delhi, he felt as though he was living his last moments of freedom. "I was fully prepared to sacrifice my freedom for this cause," he said.

The CJP founder claimed that many people have compromised themselves and 'sold out' due to the fear of imprisonment.

"Lekin is desh ka chatra, yuva nahi bika hai (The youth and students of this country have not sold themselves)," he said amid loud cheers from the crowd.

Many of the protesters were seen wearing cockroach masks and holding flowers. School students were also seen attending the protest along with their parents. The protestors chanted slogans demanding the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.

Upon landing in Delhi, in a message posted on his X handle, Dipke expressed excitement to meet his supporters while also urging them to lead the agitation with "love and peace."

He also urged them to carry a book and the tricolour.

"Landed. Looking forward to meet you all at Jantar Mantar. Do not forget



to carry a book and our Tiranga! Offer flowers to policemen as a gesture of compassion & gratitude. We have to lead this movement with love and peace!" he wrote in a post on X.

Earlier, the CJP supporters were urged to come to Parliament Street Police Station to jointly seek permission for the protest. However, later the CJP informed that the Delhi Police had granted permission for the protest, and asked the supporters to gather at Jantar Mantar.

"Delhi Police has granted permission for the protest at Jantar Mantar. We can now assemble directly at Jantar Mantar, and no longer need to go to the Parliament Street Police Station, as originally planned," the CJP said in a post on X.

"Cockroaches aa rahe hain, Dharmendra Pradhan jaa rahe hain (cockroaches are coming, Dharmendra Pradhan is leaving)" it added.

Meanwhile, police personnel have been deployed at the residence of Abhijeet Dipke in Waluj MIDC area

of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar city in Maharashtra.

Police said the security cover has been expanded to avoid unnecessary crowding at the residence.

Security arrangements have also been strengthened across Delhi, including at the IGI Airport, major railway stations, inter-state bus terminals, and border points connecting the national capital with neighbouring states.

Around 40 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed to assist the Delhi Police in maintaining law and order, sources said.

Senior officers, including Joint Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners of Police, Additional DCPs and ACPs from various districts, have been assigned field duties to supervise security arrangements.

The CJP, a digital platform launched by Dipke in response to the NEET-UG question paper leak, has garnered significant support online, mainly from the country's youth.

The group aims to step up from a

satirical online platform to an organised campaign with the proposed protest at the Jantar Mantar, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, over alleged irregularities in NEET, CBSE, CUET, and SSC examinations.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has expressed support for the protest and stated that he would undertake a six-week fast if Dipke is arrested.

More than 1,000 police personnel have been earmarked for deployment across the New Delhi district and other strategic locations as part of preventive security measures, sources said.

Multiple layers of barricading were put in place at sensitive locations, while vehicle-checking drives were intensified on routes leading to central Delhi and other strategic points in the city.

Officials said that security was also strengthened outside the residence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as a precautionary measure.

According to police sources, senior officers reviewed the security situation and directed field units to remain vigilant.

Reserve forces have been kept on standby to deal with any contingency.

The Special Branch is monitoring developments across all districts to ensure that no one attempts to disturb public order under the guise of the protest, officials said.

Social media activity linked to the gathering is also being closely monitored.

Police are also in touch with private cab aggregators to assess movement patterns and monitor any unusual surge in bookings towards Jantar Mantar and nearby areas, sources said.

Officials informed that metro services would continue to operate normally, while adequate arrangements had been made to ensure smooth movement of commuters and prevent any disruption to public life.

Police maintained that sufficient security arrangements were in place and that the situation remained under control.

The Delhi High Court had on Friday declined to urgently hear a plea flagging law and order concerns over the protest.

INTERNATIONAL

Employers added 172,000 jobs last month as US job market shows resilience despite Iran war

WASHINGTON

The American job market continues to show surprising strength, shrugging off the high costs of the Iran war.

Employers added 172,000 jobs in May—roughly double what forecasters had expected—and the unemployment rate remained at a low 4.3%.

The Labor Department reported Friday that job growth was down slightly last month from a revised 179,000 in April. The unemployment rate stayed at a low 4.3%.

Hiring has bounced back this year from a miserable 2025, showing resilience in the face of economic uncertainty and painfully high energy prices caused by the Iran war.

The job gains last month were broad-based. Local governments added 55,000 workers, restaurants and bars 48,000, healthcare companies 35,000.

In another sign of job market strength, Labor Department revisions added a combined 93,000 jobs in March and April. Job growth averaged 188,000 a month from March through May, marking the best three months of hiring since early 2024.

"The hiring recession is over. American firms are hiring again," said Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union. "The job rebound is happening in almost every industry... This is encouraging news for job seekers and for the U.S. economy. The labor market has stabilized and is showing early signs of a genuine rebound."

Despite the pickup in hiring, wage gains were modest, which could reassure the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve. Average hourly wages rose 0.3% from April and 3.4% from May 2025, consistent with the Fed's 2% inflation target.

Financial markets retreated after the report came in, likely reflecting expectations that the Fed won't see



a need to cut interest rates this year because hiring is so healthy.

Workers, jobseekers and employers have been stuck in an awkward "no-hire, no-fire" labor market. "Those who have jobs are clinging to them, while those without are left wanting," Diane Swonk, chief economist at the tax and consulting firm KPMG, wrote in a commentary ahead of the jobs report. "The result is a sense of being frozen or left in a sort of labor market purgatory."

Many young people are finding it tough to break into a stagnant job market. And workers who have been laid off struggle to get back to work. Nearly 28% of the unemployed in April had been jobless for more than six months, biggest share since December 2021.

Seeing their prospects diminished, Americans are reluctant to leave their

jobs and seek something better elsewhere. In April, the number of people who quit dropped to the lowest level since the frightening days of August 2020, when the COVID-19 was running rampant.

Last year, employers added 9,700 jobs a month, fewest outside a recession since 2002.

This year, hiring has rebounded, averaging 114,000 new jobs a month from January through May. Big tax refunds—the product of President Donald Trump's 2025 tax cuts—have given the economy a lift, offsetting the impact of higher energy prices since the United States and Israel attacked Iran in late February. But the refunds have mostly been pocketed, and gasoline prices remain above \$4 per gallon.

Healthcare companies have been driving much of hiring over the past

year.

Martha Gimbel and Ryan Nunn of Yale University's Budget Lab note that strong healthcare hiring isn't surprising as Americans age and need more prescriptions and trips to the doctor. In fact, the industry's job growth is in line with Labor Department predictions from a decade ago. "The question is not why healthcare has kept hiring—it is why other industries have not," they wrote in a report published Tuesday, suggesting that one explanation might be an immigration crackdown that has reduced the supply of foreign-born workers.

At least the United States doesn't need as many new jobs as it used to. The drop in immigrants and rising Baby Boomer retirements mean that fewer people are competing for work. As a result, the so-called breakeven point—the number of new jobs required to keep the unemployment rate stable—has likely dropped to near zero, from the 155,000 new jobs per month that was typical two or three years ago, according to a Federal Reserve report.

Some analysts fear that artificial intelligence will wipe out entry-level jobs. But economists Gregory Daco and Lydia Boussoir of the tax and consulting firm EY-Parthenon wrote in a commentary Tuesday that AI "adoption is proving more gradual and costly than many anticipated. Firms are increasingly using AI to enhance productivity and control labor costs." But AI, they wrote, has reduced hiring rather than "triggering broad-based layoffs."

And a new study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York identified a different culprit for young people's struggle to land jobs after college: the rise of remote work. Businesses, it seems, are reluctant to hire new grads for work-at-home jobs because it is harder to train and mentor them when they aren't coming into the office.

Feared global hunger crisis 'coming to pass' as West Asia conflict lingers: UN



GENEVA

"Pessimistic" predictions that the Middle East war could push tens of millions more people into acute hunger if drawn out are being proven right, the United Nations said Friday.

A few weeks after the US-Israeli strikes against Iran on February 28 sparked the conflict and plunged world energy markets into turmoil, the UN's World Food Programme warned that soaring oil prices were devastating global food security. If oil prices were to remain around \$100 per barrel until the end of June, an estimated 45 million more people worldwide would face acute hunger, the WFP warned in March.

They would come in addition to the nearly 320 million people considered acutely food insecure at the start of the year, it said.

Weeks of complicated talks marked by sharp rhetoric and flare-ups of violence have not managed to reach a deal to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which is critical to oil supplies.

And now, nearly three months into the conflict, "the negative scenario is unfortunately materialising", Jean-Martin Bauer, the director of WFP's food

and nutrition analysis service, told AFP. "The closure of Hormuz is translating into increased hunger," he said, pointing to soaring costs for staples like rice and wheat. "Unfortunately, the pessimistic projections that were made earlier this year are coming to pass, and we need to act."

According to the WFP's analysis, "the crisis is generating significant spillovers, particularly through fuel, food price and income shocks and trade disruptions."

"As these factors interact with pre-existing vulnerabilities they quickly translate into visible impacts on food security and livelihoods."

The analysis looked at the situations in several countries with different levels of exposure to the crisis, including Somalia, where it projected that 2.5 million more people would be unable to afford basic foodstuffs by the end of the year.

And nearly 60 percent of households in the unstable Horn of Africa nation would be unable to afford essential needs, up from 47 percent in 2025, the agency said. "What's shaping up is the return of a global cost of living crisis of the likes that we experienced in 2022," after the start

of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Bauer warned.

But this time, the humanitarian system that jumped into action back then has been hard-hit by dramatic cuts to global aid funding, especially since US President Donald Trump's return to the White House.

In 2022, "humanitarian programmes were better funded. Humanitarians were in places where they are no longer", Bauer said.

On top of that, logistical challenges and price inflation linked to the Middle East war have put a strain on aid efforts worldwide.

"The humanitarian system faces a double squeeze: rising needs and rising delivery costs, implying coverage gaps," the WFP analysis warned.

The agency estimated that it would now serve 1.5 million fewer people in 2026 than originally planned. It cautioned that if the conflict lasted six months, more than nine million people could lose assistance.

For instance, the WFP risks basically running "out of food" to distribute in Somalia in a few months, Bauer said.

"Clouds are accumulating when you look at the food security horizon."

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inate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on soil health and water quality. He stressed the need for adopting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and preserving Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability and conservation of natural resources. The programme was also attended by Dr. P. K. Bora and Dr. Vishram Ram, Professors of the School of Natural Resource Management (SNRM), who interacted with farmers and shared insights on sustainable farming techniques and climate-resilient agriculture. During the programme, discussions were held on environmental conservation, responsible farm-

ing practices and the importance of protecting natural resources. Participants actively engaged in the interactive sessions and expressed their commitment to promoting eco-friendly agricultural methods in their communities. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Amit Mishra, Associate Professor, while the programme was coordinated and hosted by Dr. Vinay Kumar Gautam, Assistant Professor, CPGSAS, Umiam. Organisers stated that the initiative helped raise awareness about sustainable agriculture and reinforced the importance of collective efforts to safeguard the environment for future generations.

UMIAM

The College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences (CPGSAS), Umiam, observed World Environment Day 2026 on Friday in association with the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a flagship campaign of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govern-

ment of India. The programme was held at Sohkhwai Village in Meghalaya under the guidance and presence of Dean Dr. Dwipendra Thakuria. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers of Sohkhwai and nearby villages, including Nongtralaw and Umden-la-ang. A total of 56 participants, comprising farmers, faculty members and students, attended the awareness programme. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Thakuria highlighted the harmful effects of excessive and indiscrim-

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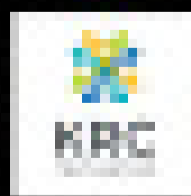


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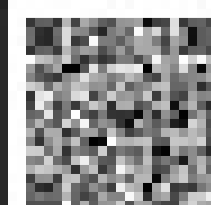


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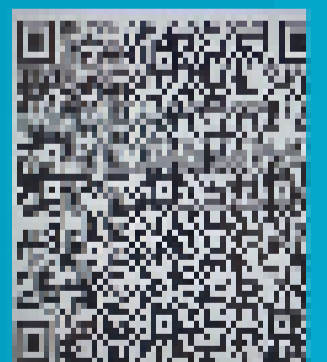
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