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## PERSPECTIVE

We fear rejection, want attention, crave affection, and dream of perfection.

**Cabinet approves Rs 8,970 crore Guwahati-Tezpur express corridor with IAF emergency landing strip**

**NEW DELHI**

The Union Cabinet on August 6 approved the construction of a 135.87-km four-lane access-controlled corridor between Guwahati and Tezpur along National Highway-15 (NH-15) in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs 8,970.20 crore, marking a major boost to connectivity and strategic infrastructure in the Northeast. According to an official statement, the project will be developed under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Toll model and is expected to significantly improve connectivity between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh while easing traffic congestion on existing highways.

One of the key features of the project is a 4.9-km emergency landing facility on the Tezpur bypass, planned in coordination with the Indian Air Force (IAF). The dual-use infrastructure is expected to enhance the region's strategic preparedness while serving civilian transportation needs.

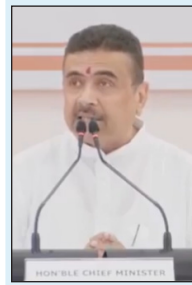
The new corridor, which will run along the north bank of the Brahmaputra, is designed to reduce traffic pressure on the existing NH-27, part of the East-West Corridor on the river's southern bank.

To ensure smoother traffic flow, the project includes the construction of five major bypasses at Baihata Chariali, Sipajhar, Kharupetia, Dekiajuli and Tezpur.

The corridor will also comprise 15 major bridges, 30 minor bridges, 19 flyovers, 46 underpasses, and an elephant underpass on the Tezpur bypass to facilitate wildlife movement and minimise human-animal conflict.

The government said the access-controlled highway is expected to double average travel speeds and reduce travel time by nearly half, while improving road safety, fuel efficiency and lowering vehicle operating costs.

### WHO SAID WHAT



**There is a long history attached with the name 'West Bengal', we shall not erase it. Had it not been for Shyamprasad Mookerjee, we would not be sitting here today. We would have been part of Bangladesh ~ Suwendu Adhikari, CM, West Bengal**

# No timeline for restoring Lumding-Badarpur rail line as rain damage disrupts Northeast connectivity

**HAFLONG**

Rail connectivity between southern Assam and the rest of the Northeast remains severely disrupted, with the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) yet to announce a timeline for restoring the rain-damaged Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section, the region's only rail link to Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.

The disruption, which has continued for more than two weeks, follows heavy rainfall that triggered major subsidence near New Harangajao station in Assam's Dima Hasao district, damaging railway infrastructure and affecting train operations along the strategically important corridor.

According to a senior NFR official, continuous moderate to heavy rainfall caused the ground beneath two of the three railway tracks to subside, damaging a stretch of nearly 300 metres near New Harangajao.

Railway authorities said restoration work is underway but has been slowed by persistent rainfall and difficult weather conditions, preventing engineers from carrying out repairs at the desired pace.

"We are unable to say when normal train services will resume. Regular operations will restart only after the res-



toration work is completed safely," the official said.

The NFR has deployed engineering

teams, railway personnel, heavy machinery and a large workforce on a war footing to restore the damaged section

# KRC TIMES

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## Assam receives highest fresh allocation under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 with Rs 669.92 crore

**NEW DELHI**

Assam has received the largest fresh fund allocation under the Centre's revamped Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, with the Union government releasing Rs 669.92 crore through the SNA SPARSH platform to support rural drinking water projects. Tripura received Rs 5.98 crore under the latest tranche.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti on Thursday said it has reimbursed Rs 5,289.09 crore to 10 states during the 2026-27 financial year for rural drinking water schemes executed during the transition from Jal Jeevan Mission 1.0 to JJM 2.0. In addition, Rs 865.87 crore has been released across 13 states through the SNA SPARSH platform for ongoing projects.

According to the ministry, several states continued implementing approved rural water supply schemes using their own resources while awaiting approval of JJM 2.0 to ensure that work was not disrupted. The Centre has now reimbursed its share of expenditure incurred during the transition period.The



reimbursement was led by Uttar Pradesh (Rs 2,711.52 crore), followed by Karnataka (Rs 795.74 crore), Maharashtra (Rs 594.44 crore), Rajasthan (Rs 537.72 crore), Odisha (Rs 221.44 crore), Chhattisgarh (Rs 149.50 crore), Kerala (Rs 144.66 crore), Tamil Nadu (Rs 96.52 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs 23.25 crore) and Madhya Pradesh (Rs 14.10 crore).

Under the latest SNA SPARSH releases for ongoing works, Assam accounted for the highest allocation with Rs 669.92 crore. Other allocations included Uttar Pradesh (Rs 90.98 crore), Karnataka (Rs

47.30 crore), West Bengal (Rs 30.45 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs 10.58 crore) and Tripura (Rs 5.98 crore). Smaller amounts were released to Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.The Union Cabinet approved Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 on March 10 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, extending the rural drinking water programme until December 2028. The mission has a total outlay of Rs 8.69 lakh crore, including Central assistance of Rs 3.59 lakh crore, to ensure reliable,

adequate and safe drinking water supply to every rural household.

The ministry said the second phase of the mission shifts its focus from infrastructure creation to sustained service delivery. Key priorities include gram panchayat-led operation and maintenance of water supply systems, source sustainability, water quality monitoring, community participation and digital governance.

A major reform under JJM 2.0 is the adoption of the SNA SPARSH platform, which enables scheme-wise fund releases, expenditure tracking and real-time monitoring of financial progress.

The ministry also said Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil has begun consultations with Members of Parliament from various states to strengthen implementation and address constituency-specific issues. Meetings have already been held with MPs from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal, while consultations with MPs from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are scheduled later this month.



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## Debabrata Saikia raises doubts over Assam's flood EMI moratorium

**GUWAHATI**

Assam Congress leader and former MLA Debabrata Saikia on Friday questioned the implementation of the state government's announced six-month EMI moratorium for flood-affected borrowers, alleging that banks and financial institutions continue to attempt loan recoveries, resulting in bounce charges and penalty notices.In a social media post, Saikia claimed that despite the government's announcement to suspend equated monthly instalments (EMIs) as a relief measure for flood-affected families, borrowers are still receiving debit requests from lenders.

According to Saikia, many people who suffered heavy losses in the recent floods have exhausted their savings after losing homes, livelihoods, agricultural land and other assets. He alleged that insufficient balances in their bank accounts have led to failed EMI transactions, triggering bounce charges and penalty messages from banks and financial institutions.Questioning the effectiveness of the government's relief announcement, Saikia asked Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma why borrowers continue to receive recovery-related notifications if the EMI moratorium has been implemented.

"If the government has genuinely suspended EMIs, then why are people receiving such harassment messages?" Saikia said, urging the government to clarify how the moratorium is being enforced.

## IIT Guwahati develops low-cost portable device for instant detection of water contaminants

**GUWAHATI**

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a low-cost portable optical sensing device capable of instantly detecting multiple toxic contaminants in water and other biological samples, offering a significant boost to on-site water quality monitoring.

Named E-Eye, the device has been designed to support the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission by enabling rapid detection of contaminants at the source while wirelessly transmitting test results to water treatment facilities. According to the institute, the technology removes the need for expensive laboratory-based testing and allows real-time monitoring in the field.

The research has been published in the IEEE Sensors Journal. The study was co-authored by IIT Guwahati professors Tapas K. Mandal and Harshal B. Nemade, along with research scholars Shrikant Kashyap, Smriti Sachan and Neha Majee, Maitrayee Bhuyan of KIIT Bhubaneswar, and Humayun Kabir of Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Kolkata.

The device functions by initiating a chemical reaction that produces a coloured compound, with the colour intensity corresponding to the concentration of toxic substances. An optical sensing system then analyses the sample, converts the readings into digital data and displays the contaminant levels instantly.

According to IIT Guwahati, laboratory evaluations showed that E-Eye delivers results comparable to conventional UV-Visible Spectrophotometers and Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometers, while offering the added advantage of digital integration and wireless data transmission.

"Our device operates on the Beer-Lambert law by integrating optical sensing with digital electronics to generate accurate quantitative measurements. It has successfully detected toxicants including arsenic, lead, iron, chromium, fluoride and Escherichia coli bacteria," said Prof. Tapas K. Mandal of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The prototype has been developed at a cost of around Rs 3,500, with each test costing approximately Rs 2. Researchers said the manufacturing cost could be reduced further through large-scale production, making it suitable for widespread deployment.

Beyond water quality testing, the device can also detect contaminants in environmental and biological samples, including vegetables, food products, tea, herbal products, soil and milk. The research team has already tested more than 2,700 samples, reporting high levels of accuracy across different applications.

Prof. Harshal B. Nemade of the Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering said the technology has the potential to benefit government agencies, industries and private enterprises.He said the device could support agencies under the Ministry of Jal Shakti in water quality monitoring, assist food and herbal product manufacturers in quality assurance, and help industries monitor liquid effluents containing heavy metals, bacteria and other pollutants.

## PM Modi welcomes Cabinet approval of GOBARdhan scheme, Guwahati-Tezpur corridor

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the Union Cabinet's approval of the GOBARdhan Scheme to boost compressed biogas (CBG) production and the construction of the Guwahati-Tezpur four-lane access-controlled corridor, saying the decisions would strengthen clean energy, rural livelihoods and connectivity in Assam.The Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan Scheme with an outlay of Rs 23,731 crore to accelerate domestic production of compressed biogas using agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal waste.The initiative aims to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels while promoting sustainable waste management and clean energy.

In a post on X, Modi described the scheme as a significant step towards strengthening India's green energy ecosystem and rural economy.He said the initiative is expected to increase domestic compressed biogas production nearly tenfold while creating new opportunities for investment, innovation and employment.

According to the Prime Minister, the scheme will benefit farmers,

cooperatives, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), women entrepreneurs and rural businesses by creating new income streams through scientific utilisation of agricultural and organic waste.Modi also said the programme would contribute to India's energy security by reducing reliance on imported fuels and promoting environmentally sustainable waste management practices. The Cabinet also approved the construction of a 135.87-km, four-lane access-controlled Guwahati-Tezpur corridor on National Highway-15 in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs 8,970.20 crore.Welcoming the project, Modi termed it a major infrastructure boost for Assam and the Northeast, saying it would significantly improve regional connectivity, reduce travel time and enhance road safety.

The proposed highway will feature bypasses at key urban centres to decongest traffic and facilitate faster movement of passenger and commercial vehicles. It will also include an emergency landing facility at Tezpur, along with bridges, flyovers, underpasses and service roads.



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### YOUNG VOTERS, OLD POLITICS

India's political class may be confronting a challenge far greater than the outcome of any by-election or protest. A profound generational shift is underway, and most political parties appear strikingly ill-equipped to understand it. While young Indians grapple with shrinking employment opportunities, repeated examination controversies, mounting mental health pressures and uncertainty about the future, much of mainstream politics continues to fight yesterday's ideological battles. The recent wave of student protests and the political conversations surrounding them suggest that the disconnect between India's youth and its political leadership is widening. Whether or not these protests reshape electoral politics immediately, they have exposed a deeper crisis of representation. India's youngest voters are demanding accountability in the present, while politicians remain preoccupied with explaining the past.

Every generation experiences defining moments that shape its political consciousness. The freedom movement forged one generation, the JP movement inspired another, while the Mandal Commission debates, the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and economic liberalisation transformed the political imagination of those who came of age during the late twentieth century. Each of these moments created enduring political identities and influenced electoral outcomes for decades. Today's Generation Z and increasingly the older members of Generation Alpha is witnessing its own defining experience. Unlike previous generations, however, their concerns are remarkably practical rather than ideological. Their politics is less about grand narratives and more about everyday survival. For millions of young Indians, the immediate questions are painfully simple. Will examinations be conducted fairly? Will degrees translate into employment? Can they afford higher education? Will they find secure jobs? Can they build independent lives amid rising costs and economic uncertainty?

These are not abstract policy debates. They determine whether aspirations survive or collapse.

The student protests that emerged over examination failures and recruitment irregularities reflected this anxiety. They were notable precisely because they resisted conventional political categorisation. Participants came from diverse ideological, social and economic backgrounds. Many refused to align themselves permanently with established political parties. Their mobilisation centred on specific demands rather than sweeping ideological programmes.

Unlike many historic mass movements, these protests did not seek comprehensive political transformation. They did not advocate a "total revolution" or attempt to redefine the constitutional order. Instead, they focused on institutional accountability. Their message was straightforward: public institutions responsible for examinations, recruitment and educational governance must function competently and transparently. Such issue-based mobilisation reflects the political temperament of a generation raised in an era of digital communication and constant information flows. Young citizens today often organise around concrete grievances rather than fixed ideological identities. They are willing to support or criticise governments depending on performance rather than inherited loyalties.

This evolution presents a significant challenge to India's established political parties.

For decades, electoral politics has been driven by historical memory. Governments justify themselves by contrasting their performance with previous administrations. Opposition parties invoke past failures to criticise incumbents. Campaigns frequently revolve around ideological identity, historical grievances and symbolic issues that resonate with older political constituencies.

Yet many first-time voters possess little emotional connection to these narratives.

A twenty-year-old entering the workforce today has no lived memory of the political upheavals of the 1990s. Debates that dominate television studios may carry limited relevance for someone anxious about examination cancellations, delayed recruitment, rising education costs or uncertain career prospects.

This does not mean that ideology has disappeared. Rather, ideology alone no longer guarantees political engagement among younger voters. Credibility increasingly depends upon governance.

That is perhaps the most significant lesson emerging from recent student mobilisation. Young Indians appear less interested in hearing why problems exist than in seeing evidence that governments can solve them.

Economic anxiety lies at the centre of this transformation. India enjoys one of the world's youngest populations, a demographic advantage often celebrated as a source of future growth. But demographics become an asset only when accompanied by quality education, employment opportunities and institutional trust.

Repeated controversies surrounding competitive examinations have therefore generated frustration far beyond individual candidates. For many families, these examinations represent the primary pathway to social mobility. Every cancelled paper, recruitment delay or allegation of irregularity weakens confidence in that pathway.

When institutional credibility erodes, so does public trust. The consequences extend beyond education. They shape perceptions of governance itself. Young people increasingly judge governments not by rhetoric but by administrative competence. Efficient public services, transparent recruitment, timely examinations and responsive institutions become political issues in their own right. Another important feature distinguishing today's youth is the range of issues they consider politically relevant. Mental health, environmental sustainability, gender equality, digital privacy and work-life balance increasingly occupy public conversations among younger Indians. These concerns rarely fit neatly into traditional ideological frameworks. Yet they profoundly influence how young citizens evaluate public policy. Unfortunately, mainstream political discourse often sidelines these subjects. Instead, parties across the political spectrum frequently return to familiar ideological disputes, historical controversies or symbolic cultural issues. While such debates continue to mobilise established voter bases, they risk appearing disconnected from the everyday realities confronting younger generations. Political success increasingly depends not only on organisational strength or ideological consistency but also on relatability. Young voters expect authenticity. They respond poorly to lectures, patronising rhetoric or attempts to dismiss their concerns as temporary discontent.

The age of one-way political messaging is fading. Digital platforms have fundamentally altered expectations. Citizens now engage with leaders directly, scrutinise official claims instantly and organise independently when dissatisfied.

Traditional political communication struggles to adapt to this environment. Recent electoral developments in different parts of the country—including surprising by-election outcomes—should therefore be interpreted cautiously. Individual contests are influenced by numerous local factors and cannot automatically be attributed to broader national trends. Nevertheless, they may signal changing attitudes among younger voters who are increasingly willing to disengage, abstain or shift support when governments fail to address immediate concerns.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

What is any ocean but a multitude of drops?

- David Mitchell

# MOROCCAN MIGRANTS IN SPAIN SHOULD INDIA BE CONCERNED?



DR. D.K. GIRI

A small Spanish town with a population of just 84,000 suddenly found itself facing the challenge of accommodating 60,000 new arrivals from Morocco. This was not merely migration—it was a human tide.

The town's schools, hospitals, water supply, housing, and policing—its entire civic infrastructure—came under immense pressure almost overnight. Many migrants had to be sent back. During the ordeal, 67 people lost their lives. Some died in overcrowded boats, others on roads, and still others succumbed to exhaustion and despair. Spain took time to comprehend the scale of the crisis and formulate a response. Meanwhile, reports suggested that more Moroccans were preparing to make the journey. However, images of migrants being turned back without food, shelter, or dignity may have discouraged subsequent waves from attempting the crossing.

This is not merely a European story. It is a profoundly human story, one that has unfolded in many parts of the world. India, too, has often confronted similar situations.

Illegal migration is not a new phenomenon. Human beings have crossed borders since time immemorial. Broadly speaking, migration is driven by two sets of factors. Pull factors are linked to aspiration—people move abroad for better employment, higher education, intellectual exchange, or opportunities that match their skills. Such migration is generally planned and regulated.

By contrast, push factors arise from compulsion—economic collapse, war, political repression, natural disasters, or climate shocks. These force people to leave in order to survive.

What Spain witnessed was crisis-induced migration. Poverty, deprivation, and exclusion lay at its core. People reached a point where remaining at home seemed more dangerous than leaving. The Mediterranean has witnessed countless such stories: overcrowded fishing boats, long treks on foot, border crossings on pack animals, and families handing over their life savings to smugglers. The suffering endured during these journeys is unimaginable. The deaths of 67 people in a single episode illustrate just how perilous these routes have become.

I was reminded of this while attending a seminar on migration at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom. I stayed as a paying guest with a single mother who lived near the university. When she learned why I was visiting, she said with visible frustration, "I have no objection to people coming to my country, but this is a small island. How many more people can we realistically accommodate?"

It was an honest question. It is the same question heard in Spain, Italy, and France—and increasingly, in India as well.

I replied, "People do not willingly abandon their homes. They leave because poverty and hunger leave them with no choice. If Europe—including your country—invested more seriously in the development of poorer nations, fewer people would feel compelled to migrate toward the relative prosperity of Europe."

I also reminded her that Europe's colonial past had contributed to the impoverishment of many of its former colonies through the extraction of wealth and resources. She fell silent.

That is because the real question is not simply how to stop migration at the border, but how to prevent the conditions that make migration inevitable.

The Moroccan migration surge into Spain offers three important lessons.

First, speed matters. When governments take too long to process asylum claims, make policy decisions, or communicate clearly, an information vacuum emerges. Smugglers quickly exploit that vacuum, telling desperate people, "Leave now before the door closes."

Second, the conditions under which people are returned matter. Images of Moroccans being sent back without food or shelter served as a powerful deterrent. It may sound harsh, but migration often operates on such calculations. People watch these images and reassess the risks.

Third, carrying capacity is real. A town of 84,000 cannot absorb an additional 60,000 people overnight without overwhelming its infrastructure. This is not about xenophobia; it is about the availability of water, food, housing, and hospital beds. Any democracy that ignores these realities risks losing public trust.

Spain is now tightening its policies, coordinating more closely with Morocco, and trying to create legal pathways for migration. Yet much of the damage—both in terms of lost lives and public confidence—has already been done.

India is not as wealthy as Europe. But it is a functioning democracy with political stability and comparatively better economic opportunities than many of its neighbours. That is why India, too, experiences illegal migration from Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. People cross borders in search of work, safety, and food.

Therefore, Spain's dilemma is also India's dilemma: How do we balance humanitarian compassion with our own capacity?

An even more important question follows: Should India be concerned? Yes. Because migration is not merely a border issue. It is also a development issue.

If Bangladesh struggles with climate change and unemployment, West Bengal will inevitably feel the pres-

sure. If Myanmar remains engulfed in civil conflict, Mizoram and Manipur will experience the consequences. If Sri Lanka suffers another economic or ethnic crisis, boats will once again head toward Tamil Nadu. Geography cannot be fenced away. Long-term solutions require investment where the problems originate.

The international community, including India, must therefore seriously consider how to reduce crisis-driven migration toward countries offering better opportunities.

For Europe, the long-term answer to migration from North Africa is not merely more Frontex patrol boats. The real solution lies in creating jobs and opportunities in Tangier, Casablanca, and Rabat.

The same principle applies to India. Our most effective border management strategy would be a stable and prosperous Bangladesh, a peaceful Myanmar, and a steadily developing Nepal. That requires deeper trade ties, integrated energy grids, digital payment systems, healthcare cooperation, and expanded educational scholarships.

This is not charity. It is enlightened self-interest.

Human mobility will never cease. The real choice is whether migration is managed or chaotic.

Europe is gradually learning this through skill-based visas and seasonal worker programmes. India can pursue similar regional initiatives by expanding work permits, student exchanges, and medical visas. Such legal pathways would make migration documented, safer, and economically productive.

The Spanish experience also underscores another reality. When people witnessed migrants being turned back empty-handed, the next wave slowed. Governments should never glorify human suffering, but they should communicate the truth: these journeys are dangerous, smugglers lie, and arrival does not guarantee acceptance or a better life.

Some may ask why India should care about what is happening between Morocco and Spain.

The answer is simple. Tomorrow, similar arguments could be applied to Indians seeking entry else-

where—whether students facing visa restrictions or workers encountering tighter immigration controls.

Migration is also becoming an instrument of geopolitics. Countries that fail to create jobs often export their people. Countries that fail to manage

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

**Raising slogans and creating ruckus has become a habit for the Opposition. Even extremists & terrorists tremble at the mere mention of the Home Minister, Shri @AmitShah Ji. The day Home Minister delivers his statement in the House, the Opposition will have a tough time!**

~ Kiren Rijiju, Parliamentary Affairs Minister

their borders import instability. Neither situation is sustainable.

Promoting political stability, economic growth, and social harmony across our neighbourhood is therefore not an act of charity; it is an investment in India's own future. It reduces pressure on our borders, expands markets for Indian goods, and strengthens India's moral standing in the world.

The images from Spain are heart-breaking: a small town overwhelmed by an enormous influx of migrants, 67 lives lost, and thousands forced to return hungry and exhausted.

Yet behind those images lies a simple truth.

People do not risk their lives for adventure. They do so because they no longer see hope at home.

Barbed wire alone cannot stop such migration. The only lasting solution is to make life safer and more prosperous where people already live.

For Europe, that means investing in Africa.

For India, it means investing in South Asia.

So, should New Delhi be worried about Moroccan migrants in Spain? Directly—no. Indirectly—yes.

Because the same forces driving migration in North Africa—poverty, climate change, conflict, and lack of opportunity—are also present in our own neighbourhood. Sooner or later, India too will face the same difficult questions: How many people can we accommodate? And how can we ensure that as few people as possible are forced to leave their homes?

The answer must be: "Let us build a world in which as few people as possible are compelled to abandon their homes."

That is not merely a question of migration policy. It is a question of foreign policy. It is a question of development policy. Above all, it is a question of humanity.



# Gaurav Gogoi questions Assam flood alert system after Centre details ISRO’s near real-time monitoring



GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi on Friday questioned the effectiveness of Assam’s flood warning and disaster response system after the Centre informed Parliament that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) provides near real-time flood monitoring for the Brahmaputra basin, with inundation maps reaching the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) within five to six hours of satellite data acquisition.

The issue was raised following a written reply by the Department of Space to an unstarred question submitted by Gogoi in the Lok Sabha on August 5.

In its response, the Centre said ISRO disseminates satellite-based flood inundation maps and value-added products

to disaster management authorities within five to six hours of acquiring satellite data. The monitoring covers the Brahmaputra basin through a Near Real-Time (NRT) flood monitoring system.

According to the reply, ISRO supplied 45 flood inundation maps and value-added products to ASDMA during the 2025 monsoon season. During the ongoing 2026 monsoon season, 33 such products had been shared with the state disaster management authority up to July 28.

The flood maps are generated using data from EOS-04 (RISAT-1A), Resourcesat-2/2A, Cartosat-2E and Cartosat-3 satellites. The products are disseminated through the National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM), the Bhuvan platform and directly to ASDMA.

The Centre also informed Parliament that ISRO has strengthened its flood monitoring capabilities through semi-automated flood mapping workflows, district-level flood reports and high-resolution satellite imagery for damage assessment, subject to the availability of cloud-free satellite data.

Reacting to the government’s reply, Gogoi questioned why the availability of near real-time flood data had not translated into timely warnings and preparedness for districts affected by the July 19 flash floods.

“The Government has confirmed, in response to my question, that ISRO provides near-real-time flood monitoring for the Brahmaputra basin, with flood data reaching ASDMA within 5-6 hours. Yet, the District Commissioner of Sivasagar has stated that the district had barely three hours to respond to

the flash floods of July 19, with no prior warning issued. The Government must explain why available flood monitoring data did not result in timely alerts and preparedness on the ground,” Gogoi said in a post on X.

His remarks refer to the flash floods that hit parts of Upper Assam on July 19, affecting districts including Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat and Charaideo and causing widespread damage to infrastructure, agriculture and residential areas.

The Congress leader’s comments come amid continued scrutiny of flood forecasting, early warning dissemination and disaster preparedness mechanisms in Assam, where authorities have increasingly relied on satellite-based monitoring and technological interventions to improve flood response.

## Ajmal urges PM Modi to visit Assam, seeks Rs 10,000 crore flood relief package

GUWAHATI

AIUDF president Badruddin Ajmal on August 6 urged the Centre to declare Assam’s flood situation a national disaster and sanction a Rs 10,000 crore relief package, while calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the flood-affected areas of the state. Addressing a gathering at Jogighopa in Bongaigaon district, Ajmal said the recent floods, particularly in Sivasagar, had brought people of different communities together during the crisis.

“The Sivasagar floods have united the people of Assam. Hindus and Muslims have stood together. Even now, some people are trying to divide Hindus and Muslims, but I will not allow that to happen,” he said. Criticising the Centre’s response to the flood situation, Ajmal said visits by Union ministers alone were not sufficient to address the scale of the disaster.

“Ministers should not come to Assam just to witness the floods. Their visit alone will not help. Assam needs a Rs 10,000 crore package, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi must visit the flood-hit areas,” he said.

The AIUDF chief also demanded that the Centre officially classify the floods as a national disaster and sought Rs 10 lakh compensation for every flood-affected family to help rebuild damaged homes and restore livelihoods.

Taking a political swipe ahead of the upcoming Assam Assembly elections, Ajmal remarked, “Hum tuihe yaad rakhenge, election toh phir aayega.” Highlighting his party’s relief initiatives, Ajmal claimed that the AIUDF would assist in constructing 50,000 houses for flood-affected families, distribute five lakh mekhela chadors to women, provide financial assistance of up to Rs 50 lakh for students, and continue medical support in affected areas.

He further claimed that medicines worth Rs 3 crore had already been distributed in flood-hit regions as part of the party’s ongoing relief efforts.

## Assam schools in flood-hit districts to reopen from August 10; relief camp classes for affected students

GUWAHATI

The Assam government has decided to resume regular classes in schools across flood-affected districts, including Sivasagar and Charaideo, from August 10, while making alternative arrangements for institutions that remain unfit for reopening due to flood damage.

Education Minister Ranaj Pegu said the decision was taken to minimise disruption to the academic calendar and ensure that students in flood-affected areas can continue their education.

Speaking to Asomiya Pratidin Digital, Pegu said schools that are still submerged or covered with mud will not be able to resume normal operations immediately. In such cases, classes will be conducted at relief camps until the affected school buildings are restored and made functional.

He added that students from schools unable to reopen will

be accommodated in nearby institutions that are ready to resume classes, wherever feasible, to ensure continuity in learning.

The minister acknowledged that not all schools in the worst-affected districts, particularly Sivasagar and Charaideo, would be in a position to reopen on August 10, as several campuses continue to undergo cleaning and restoration after the floods.

Pegu said the state government is working to gradually prepare all affected educational institutions for the safe resumption of classroom teaching while prioritising the academic interests of students.

The phased reopening plan aims to restore normal educational activities across flood-hit districts, with temporary learning arrangements, including classes at relief camps and shared school facilities, ensuring that students do not lose valuable instructional time.

## Manipur groups renew NRC demand before Census, JFD warns of statewide protests



IMPHAL

Several civil society organisations in Manipur have renewed their demand for updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before the proposed Census exercise, with the Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation (JFD) warning of statewide protests if the government proceeds without addressing their concerns.

The demand was reiterated at a public meeting held at Palle Market in Kakching district on Thursday, where participants discussed the ongoing crisis in the state and the need to identify alleged illegal immigrants before conducting the Census.

The meeting was jointly organised by the Native Peoples’ Committee, Manipur (NPCM), the United Committee for Protection (UCP), Meira Paibi and NPLKTLP. Organisers claimed that more than 400 members of the Meitei and Naga indigenous communities attended the gathering.

Participants resolved to strengthen cooperation among indigenous communities and continue joint efforts to safeguard their land, identity, constitutional rights and the interests of future generations. The meeting followed a separate consultative session held on August 5 at

Thoubal Keithel, where civil society groups discussed the demand for updating the NRC before the Census. The event was organised under the aegis of the Thoubal Keithel Phambi Mathak Makha Apumba, the Meitei Community Joint Coordinating Committee, representing 18 clubs, and the JFD. The JFD reiterated its demand that the state government ensure Census operations begin only after the identification of alleged illegal immigrants through an NRC update. Addressing the gathering, JFD Finance Secretary Sunil Karam said the organisation would launch a series of protests if the government proceeded with the Census without first updating the NRC. “If the government overlooks public sentiment demanding an initial NRC update and forcibly conducts the scheduled Census, the public will resist,” Karam said, adding that the government would be responsible for any consequences arising from such a decision. He also alleged that the government had remained silent on the issue of identifying alleged illegal

immigrants. JFD Convenor Jeetendra Ningomba echoed the warning, saying statewide protests would be announced if the government did not make an NRC update a prerequisite for the Census. Appealing for public support, Ningomba urged all sections of society to back the JFD Task Force. Referring to the ongoing ethnic unrest in Manipur, he claimed the conflict was not an inter-community dispute between the Meitei and Kuki communities but was linked to attempts to undermine the state’s territorial integrity.

He further alleged that illegal cross-border infiltration had contributed to illicit poppy cultivation and the proliferation of sophisticated weapons, while accusing the authorities of failing to act.

The JFD also questioned the government’s decision to begin Census operations on August 17 without first addressing the demand for an NRC update and warned that it would intensify its agitation if the concerns raised by civil society groups remained unaddressed.

## Central Silk Board, Meghalaya Sericulture Department promote scientific Muga cultivation in East Garo Hills

NEW DELHI

The Central Silk Board, in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Sericulture Department, conducted an awareness programme on scientific host plant management in East Garo Hills to promote sustainable Muga sericulture and improve cocoon productivity through modern cultivation practices.

The programme, organised on August 5 at Somango village, was held under the Mera Resham Mera Abhimaan (MRMA) 2.0 initiative by the Central Silk Board’s Silkworm Seed Production Centre (Muga), Kaliabari, in coordination with the District Sericulture Office (DSO), Williamnagar.

The initiative aimed to equip Muga farmers with scientific methods for host plant management, including plantation establishment, pruning, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and other improved cultivation practices to enhance leaf



quality and cocoon yield.

Addressing the gathering, Dharavath Saicharan, Scientist-B at the Central Silk Board’s Silkworm Seed Production Centre (Muga), highlighted the importance of adopting scientific cultivation techniques to improve productivity and ensure the long-term sustainability of Muga sericulture.

He encouraged farmers to adopt the latest recommended technologies to increase cocoon production, improve quality and strengthen their livelihoods through more efficient farming practices. Charnenko Sangma, Manager of the District Sericulture Office, Williamnagar, reaffirmed the Meghalaya Sericulture Department’s commitment to supporting farmers and expanding Muga cultivation across East Garo Hills through technical assistance and extension services.

During the programme, Nameswar Das, Senior Technical

Assistant with the Central Silk Board, provided practical demonstrations on scientific field management, while sericulture demonstrators from different parts of the district interacted with farmers on various aspects of host plant cultivation and maintenance.

The awareness programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of Muga farmers and beneficiaries, who engaged with technical experts during an interactive session. Farmers’ queries on cultivation practices, disease management and productivity enhancement were addressed in detail. Officials said the outreach programme forms part of the broader MRMA 2.0 initiative aimed at strengthening India’s Muga silk sector through scientific interventions, capacity building and farmer-centric extension activities, while encouraging sustainable sericulture practices across the Northeast.

## Mediation drive launched in Cachar for settlement of pending cases

SILCHAR

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Cachar has launched the “Mediation for Nation 3.0” campaign, a special mediation drive aimed at facilitating the settlement of pending court cases through mediation.

Notably, the initiative is being implemented under the guidance of the Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) and the Hon’ble Gauhati High Court Mediation Centre. It’s worth mentioning that it is part of a nationwide campaign approved by the Mediation and Conciliation Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India to promote the amicable settlement of suitable pending cases through mediation.

Under the campaign, pending cases suitable for mediation will be identified and screened before being referred to the Mediation Centre. Awareness programmes will also be organised to encourage litigants to opt for mediation as a speedy, confidential, cost-effective and mutually acceptable mode of dispute resolution. The mediation drive covers a wide range of disputes including matrimonial matters, motor accident claim

cases, cheque dishonour cases, criminal compoundable offences, consumer disputes, debt recovery matters, arbitration and commercial disputes, service matters, partition and eviction suits, land acquisition cases, labour disputes and other suitable civil matters. Meanwhile, the District Legal Services Authority has appealed to litigants, advocates and members of the public to extend their support to the campaign by participating in the mediation process and availing themselves of its benefits for the peaceful and expeditious resolution of disputes. Parties receiving Notices of Mediation have been requested to appear before the concerned courts or the Mediation Centre as scheduled.

According to the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Cachar the initiative seeks to strengthen the culture of consensual dispute resolution by encouraging parties to resolve conflicts through dialogue thereby reducing litigation and contributing to a more efficient justice delivery system. This is stated in a press release issued by the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations Barak valley Zone Silchar Assam.

## Coal mining in Nagaland under renewed scrutiny after Assam floods; reports flag environmental damage

GUWAHATI

Alleged links between insurgent groups and coal mining operations in Nagaland have come under renewed scrutiny following the devastating floods that struck upper Assam in July, with studies and official reports highlighting the environmental impact of unchecked mining and stone quarrying in the Dikhow river basin.

Coal mining activity is concentrated beyond Naginimora in Nagaland, around 20 km from Bihubar in Assam’s Sivasagar district. According to local residents, mining operations extend for nearly 10 km along the upstream stretch of the Dikhow river, while coal is stockpiled and traded through Naginimora.

Residents said coal transportation from the area has declined significantly over the years. A local businessman claimed that while nearly 100 trucks carrying coal entered Assam daily during the peak season in 2010-11, the number has now reduced to around six to 10 trucks a day.

Security sources alleged that some insurgent groups have financial interests in the coal trade, making regulation and enforcement more challenging. According to the sources, some militant elements are allegedly involved in mining operations in collaboration with private operators from



different states.

The sources further claimed that such involvement has become less visible following a fatal mining accident in Nagaland’s Wokha district two years ago, when six workers were killed after a landslide trapped them inside a mine. These allegations have not been independently verified.

Nagaland is estimated to possess coal reserves ranging between 315 million and 492 million tonnes, primarily located in Mon, Mokokchung, Tuensang and Wokha districts. Coal extraction in several areas continues through rathole mining, a method that has repeatedly drawn criticism over environmental degradation and

worker safety.

A study conducted in Tiru and Naginimora (Mon district), Yonglok (Longleng district) and Bhandari (Wokha district) documented widespread rathole and open-cast mining near the Assam border, highlighting serious ecological and occupational concerns.

The study found that mining activities have resulted in extensive deforestation, removal of topsoil, severe land degradation, soil erosion, landslides, destruction of agricultural land and significant loss of forest cover. It also noted that indiscriminate dumping of mining waste has altered natural landforms and reduced soil fertility.

The Nagaland Department of Soil and Water Conservation, in its Annual Administrative Report 2024-25, also flagged the rapid expansion of rathole and open-cast coal mining across Wokha, Mon, Mokokchung, Longleng and Tuensang districts.

The report warned that acid mine drainage (AMD) from abandoned mines has severely contaminated water bodies and damaged surrounding ecosystems, stressing the need for urgent remedial measures to prevent further environmental degradation and safeguard water resources.

Apart from coal extraction, extensive stone quarrying is also being carried out along the Dikhow river in Nagaland. Residents alleged that these activities have accelerated riverbank degradation and altered the river’s natural course.

Around 60 stone-crushing units are currently operating in the Bihubar area of Assam, with much of the raw material reportedly sourced from quarries in and around Naginimora.

During his recent visit to the flood-affected areas of upper Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said residents had urged him to intervene and stop coal mining and stone quarrying in neighbouring Nagaland, alleging that the activities had aggravated the July floods.

The chief minister, however, stated that the Assam government has limited jurisdiction over mining activities inside Nagaland and said any effective intervention would require coordination and action by the Central government.

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Parliament logjam continues  
as both Houses adjourned  
over Opposition’s demand  
for Amit Shah’s statement



NEW DELHI

Proceedings in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha were adjourned for the day on Friday as persistent protests by Opposition members over the NEET paper leak issue, alleged police excesses against student protesters and the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya continued to disrupt the Monsoon Session.

In the Rajya Sabha, the House was first adjourned till noon shortly after it convened at 11 am as Opposition members, led by the Congress, demanded the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and sought a statement from him on the July 20 police action against students marching towards Parliament over the NEET paper leak.

When the House reassembled at noon, slogan-shouting resumed, with Opposition members also raising the Ayodhya donation theft issue. Despite repeated appeals from Chairman CP Radhakrishnan, the disruptions continued, forcing the House to be adjourned for the day.

Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge ques-

tioned Shah’s continued absence from the Upper House during the ongoing session. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, however, said the Home Minister was present in Parliament throughout the day and that ministers attended proceedings based on the business related to their respective ministries.

He asserted that the Opposition could not decide which minister should attend the House or when, and accused Opposition parties of raising slogans before walking out of Parliament.

Amid the din, the Chair proceeded with listed business, including the laying of papers and Zero Hour mentions by a few members, before adjourning proceedings.

The Lok Sabha also witnessed repeated disruptions over the same issues. Opposition members continued sloganeering, demanding a statement from Amit Shah on the alleged police excesses against students and raising the Ram temple donation theft issue.

Despite the protests, the House passed the Micro, Small and Medium

Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 without a debate. Papers listed for the day and reports of various Parliamentary committees were also tabled.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju defended the government’s position, saying Shah attended Parliament every day and remained there till late in the evening. He maintained that the Opposition had no authority to dictate which minister should reply in the House and criticised the protests, urging members to stop disrupting proceedings.

Presiding officer Dilip Saikia repeatedly appealed to Opposition MPs to return to their seats and allow the House to function. However, with the slogan-shouting continuing, Zero Hour was adjourned within 16 minutes, and the Lok Sabha was also adjourned for the day.

The Monsoon Session, which began on July 20, has seen repeated disruptions amid continuing differences between the government and the Opposition over the NEET paper leak, the police crackdown on student protesters and other issues.

After RSS chief Mohan  
Bhagwat backs Gen Z, Dipke  
urges him to make BJP stop  
‘anti-national’ jibes

NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Friday welcomed RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat’s remarks in support of Gen Z and urged him to ensure that the BJP leadership and Prime Minister Narendra Modi stop branding protesting students as “anti-nationals”.

His remarks came a day after Bhagwat, during an interaction with members of Gen Z and Gen Alpha at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai, said young people had a right to protest over genuine issues and should not be labelled anti-national.

Dipke said Bhagwat’s statement that Gen Z protesters should not be called anti-national was the most significant takeaway from the interaction.

“The most significant statement made by Mohan Bhagwat yesterday was that Gen Z should not be called anti-nationals. He stated that protesting is their right and their issues are genuine. I completely agree with this,” Dipke said.

Calling Bhagwat a mentor to the BJP, Dipke urged him to carry the same message to the party leadership.

“Since Mohan Bhagwat is, in a way, a mentor to the BJP and a godfather-like figure to Narendra Modi ji, I want him to convey this same message to the BJP leaders and Narendra Modi ji—that they should stop labelling these students and the youth as anti-nationals,” he said.

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke speaks to the media after arriving at his residence in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar district, Maharashtra.

Dipke further alleged that several BJP leaders had used derogatory language against students during the protests.

“It is the BJP members themselves who are calling them anti-nationals.



Dharmendra Pradhan had called them the ‘B-team of terrorists,’ and Nitin Nabin called them a ‘virus.’ I hope they will now listen to Mohan Bhagwat ji and heed his words, as it is unlikely that the BJP would go against the RSS and say anything contrary. If they did, the RSS would have to reflect on the fact that the BJP is ignoring even Mohan Bhagwat,” he added. Responding to Bhagwat’s concerns over the circulation of misleading videos on social media, Dipke backed the demand for an investigation into fake content.

“This should definitely be investigated. If you look closely, the maximum number of fake videos originate from the IT Cell. So, I want Mohan Bhagwat’s suggestion to be accepted; an investigation should be conducted to determine

which videos are genuine and which are fake,” he said.

Dipke also expressed solidarity with the ongoing students’ agitation in Jharkhand over alleged recruitment examination irregularities.

“We extend our full support to the protest. Our delegation has already reached there; our people are distributing food to the protesters. We stand firmly with them and support all their demands,” he said.

He added that he also intended to visit the protest site but was currently dealing with health issues. Dipke said the movement should be led by students themselves rather than revolving around the CJP leadership.

“Many students are stepping forward to protest. I believe they are leaders

in their own right and deserve visibility. It isn’t necessary for Abhijeet to be at the forefront everywhere. They are doing the work, too, and deserve equal recognition. We don’t want the credit to go solely to CJP.

We want students to step up and protest themselves. We want them to fight for their rights and for the country’s education system,” he said.

Reiterating the party’s role as a pressure group, Dipke said the CJP would continue to push for accountability.

“We will continue to operate as a pressure group because the greatest need in this country is to demand accountability. When the citizens of this country come together to demand accountability, then they will surely get it, as they got the resignation,” he said.

INTERNATIONAL

US President Trump  
signs new orders to limit  
birthright citizenship



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has signed two executive orders to crack down on birth tourism and limit the number of people eligible for birthright citizenship, weeks after the Supreme Court struck down his directive in this regard.

One order signed by Trump on Thursday targets people who engage in commercial “birth tourism” by seeking to deny them access to the country.

The other expands the definitions of people that it states are ineligible for birthright citizenship, such as children of foreign citizens who lobby on behalf of foreign governments.

On June 30, the US Supreme Court struck down Trump’s executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship, reaffirming the more than 100-year-old understanding that nearly all of those born in the United States are citizens.

Talking to reporters at the Oval

Office after signing the executive orders, Trump lashed out at the Supreme Court for its June 30 order and asserted that the fresh move was aimed at “making adjustments”.

“We had a very unfortunate decision in the Supreme Court concerning birthright, it was close, but a very, very unfortunate decision. So we’re making adjustments,” the president said.

He was flanked by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and White House Staff Secretary Will Scharf.

Ratified on July 9, 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalised in the US, including former slaves.

“This was done right after the Civil War. This was for the babies of slaves, and what’s happening now? People are building businesses around it,” Trump said.

Miller, considered the architect of Trump’s anti-immigration agenda, said people come to the US pretending to be a tourist, but the real reason they’re here is to have a child, to make that child an automatic citizen.

“It gives them access, under this broken system, to welfare benefits, ultimately to the voting booth, and all the other rights and privileges that belong solely to Americans,” Miller said.

One of the orders lists several categories of people who should not be granted citizenship documents, including the children of people who engaged “in a commercial transaction to ensure that the per-

son’s mother is present in the United States, or a territory of the United States, to give birth.”

Also listed are children whose parents belong to terrorist groups, children of foreign government employees and children who were born in a US territory “where citizenship is not conferred by Federal statute”.

Immigration experts lashed out at the new executive orders signed by Trump contending that they were unconstitutional.

“Trump’s new EO on birthright citizenship is also blatantly unconstitutional when it precludes citizenship if the parents of the person engages in a commercial transaction to ensure that the person’s mother is present in the United States, or a territory of the United States to give birth,” Cyrus Mehta, a New York-based Immigration attorney said in a post on X.

“The meaning of commercial transaction is too vague and violates the 14th Amendment. It should be struck down,” he added.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, the most expansive census-based estimate puts birth tourism at 22,000 to 26,000 babies born annually on US soil, although government data show just 9,600 births to mothers with foreign addresses in 2024.

“The Supreme Court already decided this issue: Birthright citizenship is guaranteed by the Constitution. Any executive order that tries to attack birthright citizenship will meet the same fate as President Trump’s last one,” the American Civil Liberties Union said in a statement.

‘Islamic NATO’  
speculation grows as  
Turkiye, Saudi Arabia  
and Pakistan eye  
defence pact



ISLAMABAD

Speculation over the emergence of an “Islamic NATO” has intensified after Reuters reported that Turkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are set to sign a joint defence agreement in Saudi Arabia on Friday, citing two regional sources with direct knowledge of the development. The reported agreement follows Pakistan’s efforts to expand its existing defence partnership with Saudi Arabia. Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had earlier indicated that the current defence and economic cooperation framework between Islamabad and Riyadh could eventually be expanded to include Turkiye and Qatar. Speaking to Pakistani broadcaster Hum News in May, Asif said discussions on such an arrangement were at various stages of completion.

“The arrangement that has been finalised, or has been partially finalised, or is being finalised, is in process. This is an arrangement for the future, which obviously includes the

present as well,” Asif had said.

“And if this already existing pact between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, if Qatar and Turkiye also join it, then it will be welcoming that such an economic and defence arrangement among countries comes to our region here so that dependence on outside the region is minimised,” he added.

Asif had also maintained that the proposed arrangement was not directed against any country but was aimed at strengthening regional stability and reducing dependence on external powers. Last year, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to Riyadh at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. According to the joint statement issued after the visit, the agreement built on nearly eight decades of bilateral ties, shared strategic interests and close defence cooperation.

Following the signing of that pact, India said it would closely study its implications

for national security and regional stability.

“We have seen reports of the signing of a strategic mutual defence pact between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The Government was aware that this development, which formalises a long-standing arrangement between the two countries, had been under consideration. We will study the implications of this development for our national security as well as for regional and global stability. The Government remains committed to protecting India’s national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said.

Neither Saudi Arabia, Pakistan nor Turkiye has officially announced the reported trilateral agreement or disclosed its provisions. However, if signed, it would mark a significant expansion of defence cooperation among the three countries and is likely to draw attention in regional strategic circles.

# IMD Forecasts Week of Heavy Rain Across Assam, Fresh Flood Threat Looms Over Northeast

## FRESH FLOOD THREAT LOOMS OVER NORTHEAST



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of an extended spell of heavy rainfall across Assam and the wider Northeast until August 12, raising concerns over renewed flooding, waterlogging, landslides and disruptions to transport and agriculture at a time when several districts are still recovering from the season's devastating floods.

According to the IMD's latest weather bulletin, isolated heavy rainfall is likely over Assam every day through August 12, with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall expected on August 6-7 and again on August 12. Between August 8 and 11, the state is expected to receive scattered rainfall, although isolated heavy showers are likely to continue during the period.

The weather office has also forecast thunderstorms accompanied by lightning over Assam and Meghalaya until August 10, urging residents to remain cautious during periods of intense rainfall and adverse weather.

The latest warning comes as the southwest monsoon remains active over the Northeast under the influence of multiple weather systems, increasing the likelihood of heavy precipitation across the region. The forecast has heightened concerns of fresh flooding in low-lying areas, particularly in Assam, where recurring floods have already affected thousands of families this monsoon.

The IMD has cautioned that persistent rainfall could lead to waterlogging in urban centres, flash floods in vulnerable pockets and a rise in river levels across Assam. Localised landslides are also possible in the hill districts and adjoining states, while road connectivity may be disrupted due to heavy downpours.

Authorities have been advised to remain vigilant, especially in flood-prone districts where saturated soil conditions and swollen rivers could worsen the impact of additional rainfall.

The warning assumes significance as Assam has witnessed one of its most challenging monsoon seasons in recent years. Successive waves of flooding since April have affected lakhs of people, damaged homes, roads, embankments and standing crops, while several districts continue rehabilitation and relief efforts.

Disaster management agencies are expected to closely monitor river levels, embankments and vulnerable locations over the coming days as fresh rainfall may reverse recent improvements in the flood situation.

The IMD's forecast extends beyond Assam, indicating widespread rainfall across all northeastern states over the next several days.

Arunachal Pradesh is likely to receive isolated heavy rainfall during August 7-8 and again on August 11-12. Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are expected to experience widespread rainfall throughout August 6-12, with isolated heavy rainfall from August 7 onwards.

The department had also forecast very heavy rainfall over these states on August 6, increasing the possibility of localised flooding, landslides and disruptions to transport services. Mountainous areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram remain particularly vulnerable to landslides due to prolonged rainfall and unstable slopes, while low-lying districts in Assam and Tripura could witness waterlogging and overflowing streams.

The IMD has advised people living in vulnerable areas to remain alert and regularly monitor official weather updates issued by the department and state disaster management authorities.

Residents have been urged to avoid unnecessary travel during periods of intense rainfall, especially in landslide-prone hill regions. Waterlogging in urban areas could also affect traffic movement, while intermittent thunderstorms accompanied by lightning may pose additional risks.

Emergency response agencies are expected to remain on standby as the active monsoon conditions persist over the coming week. Alongside the weather warning, the IMD has issued detailed agrometeorological advisories for farmers across the Northeast to minimise crop losses from excessive rainfall.

In Assam, farmers have been advised to keep field drainage channels clear to prevent prolonged waterlogging in agricultural fields. Proper drainage has been recommended for rice nurseries as well as crops such as jute, sugarcane, soybean, pigeon pea, sesame and vegetables, which are particularly vulnerable to excess moisture.

Agricultural experts have warned that stagnant water can damage crop roots, reduce yields and increase the incidence of fungal diseases if drainage is not maintained effectively.

Farmers have also been advised to monitor their fields regularly and take preventive measures against pest infestations that often increase during prolonged wet weather.

In neighbouring Meghalaya, the IMD has advised farmers to immediately remove excess water from rice nurseries and fields cultivating maize, cowpea, okra and ginger.

The department has also recommended opening drainage channels to facilitate quick runoff of rainwater.

Additionally, banana plantations and other heavily laden crops should be supported using appropriate staking methods to minimise damage caused by strong winds accompanying thunderstorms.

Precautions for Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

Farmers across Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura have also been advised to ensure efficient drainage in fields growing soybean, black gram, ginger, turmeric, cole crops and vegetables.

The IMD has recommended bamboo staking for banana plants and other vulnerable crops susceptible to wind damage.

Rice and groundnut fields should be protected from prolonged water stagnation to prevent crop loss and soil degradation.

The advisory is intended to help farmers safeguard standing crops during the active phase of the southwest monsoon.

The latest forecast follows significant rainfall recorded across parts of the Northeast during the 24-hour period ending at 8:30 am on Thursday.

According to the IMD, Assam reported heavy rainfall, while Mizoram experienced very heavy rainfall during the period.

The continued wet spell indicates that the southwest monsoon remains vigorous across the region and is likely to remain active over the coming days.

Meteorologists say repeated episodes of rainfall over already saturated catchment areas could contribute to rising river levels, particularly in Assam's major river systems and their tributaries.

In anticipation of fresh rainfall, authorities across Assam and other northeastern states have intensified monitoring of river levels, embankments and flood-prone areas.

District administrations and disaster management agencies are keeping a close watch on vulnerable locations while coordinating with meteorological authorities for real-time weather updates.

Officials have urged residents to rely only on official forecasts and advisories, avoid spreading rumours, and take necessary precautions in areas susceptible to flooding, waterlogging and landslides.

With heavy rainfall expected to persist until at least August 12, the coming week is likely to test the preparedness of state agencies as well as communities still recovering from earlier flood damage. Continuous monitoring of weather conditions, timely warnings and preventive measures will be crucial in minimising the impact of another spell of intense monsoon activity across Assam and the Northeast.

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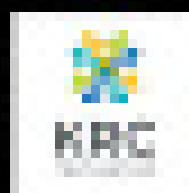


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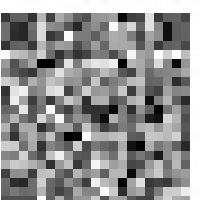


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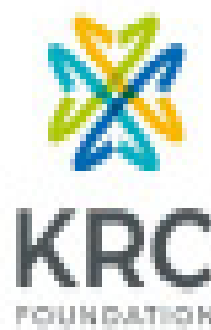
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