



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. X ■ Issue No. 81 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ TUESDAY ■ APRIL 29, 2025 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. MEM 1.80 (10.00)



Governor attends closing ceremony of 12th Senior National Rugby 7s Championship

02

Arne Slot's coolness lies at heart of Liverpool's record-equalling title

07

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student Death

Assam Rising
Guwahati, April 28 :

A Class 8 student, Kunal Barman, tragically died after falling into a ditch in Pathsala, Assam, on April 27. Kunal, a student at Christ Jyoti School, had ventured into a remote field with four friends early in the morning. After spending some time there, Kunal fell into the ditch, and his friends fled the scene. Upon receiving information, the police and State Disaster Response Force launched a rescue operation and recovered Kunal's body. Authorities are investigating the circumstances behind the boys' presence in the secluded area, as their actions remain suspicious. The community mourns the loss of the young life under tragic and mysterious circumstances.

Power Conference

Shillong, April 28 :

Meghalaya's Power Minister, AT Mondal, raised concerns at the Regional Power Ministers' Conference in Gangtok, urging better terms for the state regarding Pump Storage Projects (PSPs). Mondal argued that current proposals were unfavorable, and Meghalaya should receive benefits akin to those from conventional hydel power. The Union Power Minister promised to revisit the modalities to ensure a fair deal for the state. Mondal also requested central government support for small hydropower projects and the extension of schemes like NERPSIP to boost transmission capacity. He highlighted Meghalaya's significant hydropower potential and improvements in the state's power sector over the past five years, noting a reduction in AT&C losses.

Ceasefire Announcement

Moscow, April 28 :

Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared a three-day ceasefire in Ukraine from May 8th to 10th, coinciding with Russia's Victory Day on May 9th. The Kremlin expects Ukraine to adhere to the ceasefire, warning that violations would prompt a "strong and effective" response from Russian forces. This announcement follows criticism of Russia's continued bombardment of Ukrainian civilian areas. Additionally, Russia's ally, North Korea, confirmed its troops' involvement in the war against Ukraine for the first time. Meanwhile, U.S. President Trump expressed disappointment over Russia's actions and suggested Ukrainian President Zelensky may be open to negotiations over Crimea in exchange for peace.

Fatal Collision

Assam Rising
Guwahati, April 28 :

A fatal road accident occurred near the Lokhra flyover, Guwahati, on the night of April 27. A moving truck collided with a stationary truck parked for wheel repairs. The handyman working on the repairs was trapped and killed instantly by the collision's force. The driver of the moving truck suffered severe injuries and was trapped in his vehicle for some time before being rescued. Authorities are working to confirm the identities of the deceased handyman and the injured driver. The incident has raised concerns about road safety and the dangers of stationary vehicles on highways.

India, France sign Rs 63,000 crore deal for 26 Rafale-M Jets for Navy



New Delhi, April 28 :

India on Monday signed a Rs 63,000 crore deal to buy 26 Rafale M fighter jets - i.e., the marine variants - from France to complete a record government-to-government deal. The signed purchase agreement is for 22 single-seater jets and four twin-

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

CM Sarma stands ground, cites 'factual basis' for allegations against Gaurav Gogoi



Assam Rising
Guwahati, April 28 :

In a fresh escalation of political tensions, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma defended his contentious remarks targeting Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, insisting that his allegations were grounded in "verifiable

facts" rather than political rhetoric. Responding to criticism from Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal — who accused Sarma of resorting to "personal attacks" to sidestep corruption

charges — the Chief Minister reaffirmed his stance through multiple posts on social media platform X. "Every statement I have made is

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Balochistan struggle reflects indigenous quest for freedom: CM Sarma

Assam Rising
Guwahati, April 28 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described the ongoing movement in Balochistan

as a profound symbol of an indigenous people's fight for dignity, rights, and self-governance. Sharing his views on social media

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Pahalgam terror attack China backs Pakistan, calls for 'swift and fair investigation'

Beijing, April 28 :

has called for a "swift and fair investigation" into the Pahalgam terror attack and expressed support for its all-weather ally Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and security

interests amid Islamabad's rising tensions with India. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday (April 27, 2025) held a telephonic conversation with Pakistani Deputy Prime

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Pakistani woman in Tinsukia under scrutiny for Citizenship status

Assam Rising
Guwahati, April 28 :

Rabia Ayush, a Pakistani woman residing in Tinsukia, Assam, since 2022, is under investigation for her

citizenship status. Rabia, who runs a shop on Rangaliya Road in Tinsukia, has been living in the area with her family since her marriage to a local resident in 2013. However, despite

her long stay, she has not applied for Indian citizenship, raising concerns. The issue came to light after the Home Ministry directed state governments to monitor the

presence of Pakistani nationals within their jurisdictions. In response, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

SC seeks Centre's response on petition to regulate explicit content on OTT, Social Media



New Delhi, April 28 :

The Supreme Court has sought a formal response from the Centre and other concerned parties regarding a petition demanding stricter controls on sexually explicit content available through OTT platforms and social media

channels. A bench comprising Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih heard the plea, which highlights growing concerns about the easy accessibility of explicit material and its broader impact on society. The

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefs PM Modi on security preparedness

New Delhi, April 28 :

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday and briefed him on the ongoing operations and security arrangements in Jammu and Kashmir following



■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Financial dispute, not politics, behind attack on MP Bordoloi: Minister Pijush Hazarika



Assam Rising
Guwahati, April 28 :

Amid growing political controversy surrounding the recent attack on Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi, minister Pijush Hazarika has strongly denied any connection



■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

After steps against Pak, Northeast seeks similar move against Bangladesh

New Delhi, April 28 :

Days after India imposed a series of severe measures against Pakistan in response to the terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam district that killed 26 tourists, key political

figures and parties in Northeast India have called for similar action against Bangladesh, amid concerns over infiltration and its increased interaction with Pakistan. The first to sound

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Tripura youths rally against border encroachment, threaten action over CHT, Cox's Bazar

Agartala, April 28 :

Over a thousand members of the Youth Tipra Federation, the youth wing of Tripura's regional Tipra Motha Party, gathered on Monday at the Bolla

Mukha area in Belonia Sub-division of South Tripura district to protest against alleged illegal activities by Bangladesh along the international border. The

■ CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

MCJ[®]
MANIK CHAND[®]
JEWELLERS
মাণিক চন্দ্র জুয়েলার্স

Happy Akshaya Tiritiya

OFFER VALID ON 29TH & 30TH APRIL, 2025

FLAT
40% OFF
on making charges of Diamond Jewellery & Platinum Jewellery

FLAT
25% OFF
On making charges of purchase of Gold Jewellery

GUWAHATI:
G.S ROAD | ZOO ROAD | H.B ROAD | K.C ROAD
☎ 9678068944 | 9678068936 | 9678068914 | 9678068905

SILCHAR: IMPERIAL MALL, CLUB ROAD ☎ 9678068943
SHILLONG: COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ☎ 9678068930

© f manikchandjewellers.mcj ☎ 9678068937 | www.manikchandjewellers.com

EXCHANGE YOUR OLD GOLD JEWELLERY WITH NEW JEWELLERY
WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS AND ALL KIND OF DIGITAL PAYMENT

Governor attends closing ceremony of 12th Senior National Rugby 7s Championship



Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28: Assam Governor Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya today attended the closing ceremony of the 12th Senior National Rugby 7s Championship 2025 held at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati today. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Governor Shri Acharya hailed the championship as more than

just a sporting event, calling it “a powerful exposition of youth energy, discipline, teamwork, and dedication.” He applauded the exceptional display of sportsmanship, dedication, and competitive spirit showcased by athletes throughout the tournament. Governor Shri Acharya emphasized the broader value of sports,

noting that games like rugby nurture qualities such as strategic thinking, team coordination, and resilience—skills that are essential in both sports and personal life. He reiterated the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who has consistently championed the transformative power of sports in building a strong and vibrant

nation. The Governor also highlighted the proactive role of the Assam Government in promoting sports across the state. Initiatives such as the Khel Maharan event, establishment of rural training centers, new stadiums, and targeted financial support for athletes are creating pathways for local talents to shine on national and international stages. He on the occasion encouraged the youth to embrace both victory and defeat as learning experiences which according to him will be a force to shine in life. Governor Shri Acharya praised Rugby India and the Assam Rugby Association for their exemplary efforts in organizing the championship and fostering the

spirit of sportsmanship. It may be mentioned that the final match was played between West Bengal and Haryana where West Bengal won. Former Judge of the Gauhati High Court, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, MLA, West Guwahati Assembly Constituency Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Commissioner of Police Dr. Partha Sarathi Mahanta, President, Rugby India Rahul Bose, Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Welfare Kaushar Hilaly, CEO Rugby India Ankush Arora, Executive President, Assam Rugby Association Bipulananda Pathak, officials of the Sports Department along with a host of other dignitaries were present in the function.

RPF Boosts Rescue Efforts for Women and Minors



Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) under Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has intensified its efforts to safeguard vulnerable passengers and combat human trafficking, achieving significant success between April 1 and 15, 2025. During this period, the RPF rescued 71 minor boys and girls along with 2 women, ensuring their safe handover to Child Line, NGOs, parents, and local police. In operations at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station,

a human trafficker was apprehended on April 9 while rescuing three minor boys. Similarly, on April 3, RPF at Kishanganj rescued 10 runaway minor boys from Bihar and West Bengal, handing them over to Child Line Kishanganj. On April 7, at North Lakhimpur Railway Station, a minor girl was rescued by the RPF team from Harmuti and reunited with her family. Additionally, on April 10, RPF and SIB teams at Alipurduar Junction rescued four runaway minors, including two girls, who

were safely transferred to Child Line Alipurduar. Under the “Meri Saheli” initiative, aimed at the safety of women passengers, RPF lady squads assisted 1,220 lone women travelers during March 2025, and rescued one minor girl and one woman. The RPF of North-east Frontier Railway continues its proactive efforts to ensure the security of passengers, focusing particularly on the protection of women and children through vigilant action and compassionate support.

China and Philippines display competing flags on disputed South China Sea sandbank

Beijing, April 28: China and the Philippines have displayed their national flags in competing photo opportunities on a disputed sandbank in the South China sea, ratcheting up longstanding regional tensions between the two countries. The dispute played out at Sandy Cay, which is part of the disputed Spratly Islands, and comes days after the US and the Philippines launched their annual joint military drills called “Balikatan”, or “shoulder to shoulder”, which this year will include an integrated air and missile defence simulation for the first time. The latest confrontation appears to have begun on Thursday, when Chinese state media reported the Coast Guard has landed on the disputed reef, unfurled a flag and “exercised sovereign

jurisdiction”. On Sunday, China’s coast guard then accused six Filipino personnel of “illegally boarding” Sandy Cay, which Beijing calls Tiexian Reef,



earlier that day despite “warnings and dissuasion” from the Chinese side. Spokesperson Liu Dejun said coast guard personnel then “boarded the reef and investigated and dealt with it in accordance with the law”. “We urge the Philippines to immediately stop its infringement,” Liu

said, adding that the actions “violated China’s territorial sovereignty”. A Chinese navy ship patrols near the China-controlled Scarborough Shoal, in

bobbed in the nearby water. The group also “cleaned up leftover plastic bottles, wooden sticks and other debris and garbage on the reef”, the broadcaster reported. Philippines Coast Guard spokesperson Jay Tarriela said on Sunday that its navy, coast guard and police personnel had deployed to Sandy Cay in four rubber boats and had “observed the illegal presence” of a Chinese Coast Guard vessel and seven China maritime militia vessels. Posting footage of their own flag being displayed, Tarriela added: “This operation reflects the unwavering dedication and commitment of the Philippine government to uphold the country’s sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea.” Beijing claims sovereignty over almost all

of the South China Sea and has waved away competing assertions from other countries in the region as well as an international ruling that its position has no legal basis. At the opening ceremony in Manila for the joint US-Philippines military drills, which began on Monday last week, US Marine Corps Lieutenant General James Glynn said the two sides would “demonstrate not just our will to uphold our mutual defence treaty in existence since 1951 but our matchless capability to do so”. “Nothing builds bonds more quickly than shared adversity,” he said, without specifying a common threat. Beijing said the military manoeuvres “undermine regional strategic stability” and accused Manila of “collusion with countries outside the region”.

Minister Jayanta Malla addresses electoral rallies in Barpeta

Assam Rising, Bhaktarduba, April 28: Cabinet Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah began his day participating in a “Mann Ki Baat” program at Bamundi in Barpeta district before attending election rallies in support of BJP-AGP alliance candidates. At Bamundi, he campaigned for BJP candidate Pranjit Kumar Ray for the 12th Paka Zila Parishad, expressing confidence in his victory. The Minister later addressed another rally at Tup in Satbaini, urging voters to elect BJP candidate Taslima Nasrin for Bagarihari Zila Parishad, AGP candidate Hasan Ali and



BJP candidate Utpala Das. Both events saw attendance from prominent party leaders including district BJP president Mahendra Das, former MLA Manoranjan Das, and district party officials. During the rallies, several Congress members joined the BJP, citing

frustration with corruption in their former party. Minister Baruah expressed confidence that the BJP-AGP alliance would secure control of Barpeta Zila Parishad, attributing this to the success of welfare schemes implemented by the central and state governments.

Gauhati High Court issues contempt notice to Bar Association President

Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28: The Gauhati High Court has issued a contempt notice to Kamal Nayan Chowdhury, the President of the Bar Association, over non-compliance with a court order related to the transfer of a judicial matter. Chowdhury’s failure to adhere to the court’s directives regarding the relocation issue prompted the legal action. In response to the notice, Chowdhury filed an appeal on Monday, seeking to have the contempt charge withdrawn. The matter was subsequently brought before the Supreme Court, where the case was discussed during a hearing led by Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjeev Mehta. During the proceedings, Advocate Kapil Sibal represented Chowdhury, while Senior Advocate Devajit Saikia appeared on

behalf of the Assam Government. The Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta, also participated in the hearing, adding his perspective to the case. The Supreme Court, after considering the arguments, agreed to hear the appeal and scheduled a subsequent hearing for May 14. The case continues to attract significant attention, particularly within legal circles, due to the high-profile nature of the Bar Association President’s involvement. The out-

come of this case could have implications for how court orders are followed, particularly in matters involving high-ranking officials or legal representatives. It will also set a precedent for future instances where non-compliance with judicial directives is brought to light. With the matter now in the hands of the Supreme Court, all eyes will be on the upcoming proceedings in mid-May, as legal experts await clarity on the issue of contempt and its potential consequences.

Awareness programme on Malaria held at Itakhola



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, April 28: An awareness programme organized by the health department, Biswanath on the auspicious occasion of World Malaria Day was held at Itakhola on Friday. Bipul Saikia, deputy inspector of the Malaria department briefly explained the objectives, importance and significance of

world malaria day and stated about some precautionary measures to prevent the spread of malaria. Nearly 100 blood samples were collected and testing was done using Rapid Diagnostic Kits (RDks). A good number of mosquito nets were distributed among the local residents and mosquito nets of the villagers were disinfected by the department.

Suspect in Vancouver ramming attack charged with eight counts of murder

Vancouver, April 28: The suspect in a car-ramming attack that killed 11 people and injured dozens at a Filipino heritage festival in the Canadian city of Vancouver has been charged with eight counts of second degree murder, prosecutors have said. More charges were possible against Kai-Ji Adam Lo, 30, the British Columbia prosecution service said. Investigators ruled out terrorism and said Lo had a history of mental health issues. Lo, a Vancouver resident, appeared in court and remains in custody, prosecutors said. Prime minister Mark Carney, who was heading to the scene on Sunday, said that attack, which came just two days ahead of a national election, had left the country “shocked, devastated and heartbroken”. Vancouver’s police chief, Steve Rai, described the carnage as “the darkest day” in the city’s history and told reporters it was “impossible to overstate how many lives have been impacted for ever” by the lone driver. People comfort each other near the scene the day after a driver killed multiple people during a Filipino community festival. Some of the injured were in critical condition. As of Sunday evening authorities had not released the names of

those killed, but said they were aged between five and 65. The attack occurred shortly after 8pm on Saturday, when a man drove a black Audi SUV down a street in the city, striking people attending the Lapu Lapu Day festival. He was arrested at the scene. Video of the aftermath showed the dead and injured along the narrow street in South Vancouver lined by food trucks. The front of the driver’s SUV was heavily damaged. The Lapu-Lapu festival, held on a warm spring day, drew nearly 100,000 people, many of whom were families with young children. The celebration is named after Datu Lapu-Lapu, an Indigenous resistance fighter in the Philippines, who orchestrated the defeat of the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in battle in 1521. Saturday’s festival was the second annual event for the city and organisers advertised a street parade, artisans, cultural activities, a basketball tournament and local food vendors. Carney, the Liberal party prime minister and former Bank of England governor who is favourite to win Monday’s election, paused campaigning to address the country on Sunday morning. “Those families are living every family’s nightmare,” said a visibly emotional Carney. “I know that I join all Canadians in



mourning with you. I know that Canadians are united with you.” Carney referenced “Bayanihan”, the Filipino value of community serving those in need. “This spirit upon which we must draw in this incredibly difficult time. We will comfort the grieving. We will care for each other. We will unite in common purpose.” Kris Pangilinan, who brought his pop-up clothing and lifestyle booth to the festival, saw the vehicle enter past the barricade slowly before the vehicle accelerated in an area that was packed with people after a concert. He said hearing the sounds of bodies hitting the vehicle will never leave him. “And all I can remember is seeing bodies flying up in the air higher than the food trucks themselves and landing on the ground and people yelling and screaming. It

looked like a bowling ball hitting bowling pins and all the pins are flying into the air.” Carayn Nulada said that she pulled her granddaughter and grandson off the street and used her body to shield them from the SUV. She said that her daughter suffered a narrow escape. Police officers, cars and emergency services vehicles can be seen at the scene where a vehicle drove into a crowd in Vancouver, Canada. “The car hit her arm and she fell down, but she got up, looking for us, because she is scared,” said Nulada, who described children screaming, and pale-faced victims lying on the ground or wedged under vehicles. “I saw people running and my daughter was shaking.” Festival attendees held the suspect until police could arrive. Video circulating on social media

showed a young man in a hoodie with his back against a chain-link fence, alongside a security guard and surrounded by bystanders screaming and swearing at him. Police set up a 24-hour assistance centre to help anyone who had been unable to contact relatives or friends who were at the festival. Carney cancelled his first campaign event and two major rallies on the final day of the election campaign before Monday’s vote, which has been heavily influenced by the spectre of Donald Trump’s threats to annex Canada and a trade war he has launched against his country’s northern neighbour. Vancouver had more than 38,600 residents of Filipino heritage in 2021, representing 5.9% of the city’s total population, according to Statistics Canada.

NAME CORRECTION

My actual and correct name is Ruhul Amin and my father’s actual and correct name is Jalal Uddin, but my name and my father’s name wrongly Recorded in my School documents as Md Ruhul Amin instead of Ruhul Amin and Md Jalal Miah instead of Jalal Uddin. I declared by an affidavit before Notary Public North Salmara on 28/04/2025, Ruhul Amin and Md Ruhul Amin & Jalal Uddin and Md Jalal Miah both are same and single person.

Ruhul Amin
Numberpara Part 2
Bongaigaon

ADVT/24-25/931

Tezpur University Launches Multidisciplinary Research Journal



Assam Rising, Tezpur, April 28 : Tezpur University today announced the release of the second issue of the first volume of its Multidisciplinary Research Journal (MRJ), a peer-reviewed quarterly publication. The launch event, held on the university campus, saw partici-

pation from researchers, academicians, principals of local colleges, and university officials. Vice-Chancellor Professor Shambhu Nath Singh, who presided over the event, emphasized the university's strong commitment to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary

education and research, especially following the National Education Policy 2020. He highlighted the establishment of the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research in 2020 and the recent launch of the School of Multidisciplinary Studies as key milestones. Launched in January 2025,

the MRJ has already achieved indexing in several global databases and has been assigned ISSN: 3049-2718. Editor-in-Chief Professor Debendra Chandra Baruah credited the editorial team, contributors, and reviewers for upholding high academic standards and ensuring the journal's

timely publication. The MRJ is the first multidisciplinary journal of its kind in Northeast India, integrating research from Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, and Business and Commerce. The current issue features 24 articles authored by 74 scholars from over 25 national and international institutions, addressing critical topics such as health and well-being, environmental protection, food diagnostics, natural resource conservation, and cultural studies. The journal aims to bridge disciplines, offering research that informs both policy and practice in tackling contemporary global challenges.

Main kingpin of the attack on MP Bordoloi identified

Assam Rising, Nagaon, April 28: Akhilesh Kumar Singh, IGP, Assam Police today rushed to the spot in Dhing assembly constituency where Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi and Congress MLA Sibamoni Bora were attacked by a gang of unidentified miscreants, coming in black dresses with masks on face on Sunday last and took stock about the sudden barbaric attack so far. During his visit to the spot, IGP Akhilesh Kumar Singh said to the local media persons here that the police got all in detail and the attackers of the Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi and Congress MLA Sibamoni Bora would be arrested soon. Meanwhile Superintendent of Police, Nagaon Swapnil Dekha said to media persons here that one of the attackers was identified and his name is Imdadul Islam, hailing from Bhuragaon in Morigaon district. The senior police official said that Imdadul Islam was a Congress worker and was expelled from the party a couple of days back. He said that the police operation was on in search of him and would be under police net soon. On the other hand, the Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi along with MLA Sibamoni Bora addressed a press conference this afternoon at Nagaon Rajiv Bhavan in which both the Congress public representatives congratulated the Superintendent of police, Nagaon Swapnil Dekha for such development. Both the opposition party leaders regretted such incidents, saying that such activities would crush the dignity of the democracy in the state or country.

3rd Foundation Day Observed at Lakhimpur Cancer Centre

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, April 28 : Lakhimpur Cancer Centre celebrated its 3rd Foundation Day with a series of events focused on cancer awareness and preventive healthcare. The programme was graced by Padma Shri awardee Dr. Uddhab Bhargal; the Principal, Vice Principal, Superintendent of LMCH and HoD of ENT; the Joint Director of Health Services, Lakhimpur; Dr. R.N. Saikia, Senior Surgeon. Key highlights of the celebration included a skit play emphasizing the importance of cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination, inspiring survivor testimonials, and a special cervical cancer screening camp organized for ASHA workers. The Centre reiterated its commitment to early detection, community engagement, and providing comprehensive cancer care services to the region.

Gauhati Press Club's Badminton Championship concludes



Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28: The Badminton Championship, organised by the Gauhati Press Club at the Kanaklata Indoor Stadium of the RG Baruah Sports Complex, concluded successfully today after two days of spirited competition. In the Men's category, Gyan Ranjan Bora of Prag News emerged as the Champion, while Shivashish Thakur of The Assam Tri-

bune finished as the runner-up. Ranjit Roy of Prag News secured the third position. In the Women's category, Hena Dey of NE-Bharat 24 clinched the Championship title. Sujata Gautam of Prag News finished as runner-up, and Barnali Saikia of Assam Talks secured the third position. The top performers were presented with the Pulin Das Memorial Awards.

427th Tirobhav Tithi of Sri Sri Deva Damodara Deva observed

Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28: The 427th Tirobhav Tithi of Sri Sri Deva Damodara Deva was celebrated with spiritual fervour today under the joint auspices of the Greater Beltola Anchalik Deva Damodara Sangha and the Krishnapur Public Namghar Managing Committee. Dr. Rabindranath Goswami, President of the Sangha, ceremoniously hoisted the Sangha's flag, followed by a floral tribute to the revered saint's portrait by Bhadrashwar Dutta Das. The celebration saw heartfelt participation from disciples of neighbouring areas, who paid homage through soulful Naam Prasanga (devotional chanting), Guru Vandana



ceremonies. A special discussion on the religious philosophy of Sri Sri Deva Damodara Deva was also held. The session was presided over by Dasrathi Goswami, with contributions from noted speakers including Nagesh Chandra

Goswami, Dr. Rabindranath Goswami, Kanakeswar Goswami, and Keshab Chandra Talukdar. The aim of the event was to rejuvenate the fading Deva Damodara culture, a treasure part of Assam's spiritual heritage.

Sivasagar rises against terrorism Citizens rally at historic Rang Ghar for national security

Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28 : In a powerful show of unity, citizens of Sivasagar gathered at the historic Rang Ghar on April 28 to protest against terrorism and demand a tougher approach towards Pakistan. The mass demonstration, organized by the Upper Assam Local Muslim Council, saw hundreds of participants march with resolute spirit, echoing strong slogans throughout the area. Protesters assembled at the iconic Rang Ghar, a symbol of Assam's rich heritage, making the protest not only a political statement but also a deeply emotional event. Loud chants condemning terrorism filled the air as the

demonstrators called for decisive action to counter cross-border threats. The participants voiced strong demands for the complete severance of diplomatic and other ties with Pakistan, blaming the neighboring country for fostering terrorism that threatens India's security. They argued that cutting off relations is a necessary step to eradicate the dangers posed by cross-border militant activities. Speakers at the rally stressed that national security must take precedence and that firm, uncompromising measures are essential to safeguard India's sovereignty and peace. "Terrorism knows no religion or boundaries. It is our collective responsibility to stand against it and protect our motherland," one of the organizers stated during the gathering. The protest highlighted growing public sen-

timent in favor of adopting a more aggressive national security policy, especially in regions like Assam, which have historically faced the impacts of militancy and unrest. The demonstrators also urged the government to remain vigilant and uncompromising in dealing with any forces that threaten the unity and safety of the nation. Their message was clear: the citizens of Assam stand firmly with India's fight against terrorism and will continue to support all actions aimed at ensuring long-term peace and stability. As the protest concluded peacefully, the call for stronger national security measures and an uncompromising stand against terrorism resonated far beyond the grounds of Rang Ghar, reflecting a broader wave of patriotism sweeping across the region.

NEHARI and Brahmaputra Board Successfully Conduct 5-Day Training on GIS & Remote Sensing for Water Resource Sector

Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28 : The Brahmaputra Board conducted a five-day training program on "GIS & Remote Sensing for Water Resource Sector" from April 22 to 26, 2025 in collaboration with the North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI) and the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH). The program commenced with an inaugural session addressed by Dr. Ranjit Deka, Director, NEHARI wherein he underlined the critical importance of adopting efficient GIS and Remote Sensing tools in modern water resources management, especially for the North Eastern region. The comprehensive training featured a mix of expert lectures and interactive hands-on sessions. Key topics covered included the fundamentals of Remote Sensing and GIS, use of open data sources, Google Earth Engine applications in the water resource (WR) sector, vector data creation, SAR data processing, river bank mi-



nistry session chaired by Dr. Ranbir Singh, Chairman, Brahmaputra Board where he reiterated the growing significance of GIS and Remote Sensing in strengthening water governance and policy planning. Dr. Ranjit Deka summarized the workshop outcomes and lauded the enthusiasm of the participants. A total of 23 officers from various units of the Brahmaputra Board and Water Resource Departments from the states of Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) were awarded certificates of successful completion.

analysis, Watershed delineation using DEM and advanced GIS operations such as interpolation, reclassification and model building. Participants gained practical exposure to tools such as USGS Earth Explorer, BHOONIDHI, and Google Earth Engine, enhancing their analytical capabilities in WR data interpretation and decision-making. Faculty from the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) and National Water Academy (NWA), Pune, led the sessions, ensuring a high-quality learning experience. The program concluded with a valedic-

SRFTI student film selected for La Cinef

Assam Rising, Nagaon, April 28: 'A doll made up of clay', a film directed by Kokob Gebrehaweria Tesfay and produced by Sahil Ingle, has been selected for La Cinef at Cannes Film Festival 2025. This film is among the 16 entries to be featured this year. A student zero budget project of SRFTI under the Producing Department, the aim of it was to make a film with no financial resources. Tesfay, hailing from Ethiopia, takes inspiration from storytelling traditions passed down by his grandfa-

ther. The basic theme of the film 'A doll made up of clay' follows Oluwaseyi, a young Nigerian footballer, who after selling his father's land to chase a football career in India, suffers a devastating injury that ends his dreams. The music for this film is done by Nagaon, Assam based music composer Himangshu Saikia. While speaking to this correspondent here, the music composer Himangshu said that it was fun working on this project. It was exciting because I was working with a genre that I've always

wanted to try out but never got the chance. Himangshu said adding that at first, it did confuse him a bit as to how the approach should be. But as I started working, the composition became fuller and went hand in hand with the film and the team loved it and finally accepted it, he added. The technical team includes Vinod Kumar (DOP), Mahmud Abu Naser (Editing) and Soham Pal (Sound Recording and Design). The 78th Cannes Film Festival is scheduled to take place from May 13 to 24.

Severe storms and torrential rains leave Guwahati in darkness, disrupt daily life

Assam Rising, Guwahati, April 28 : Guwahati faced widespread chaos early on April 28 as powerful thunderstorms and heavy rainfall swept through the city, plunging several areas into complete darkness and severely impacting daily activities. Strong gusts of wind accompanied the early morning showers, causing extensive power outages across numerous localities. Waterlogging on key roads further compounded the situation, leading to major traffic jams just as residents were setting out for work and school. Entire neighborhoods reported prolonged blackouts as the storm wreaked havoc on the city's power infrastructure. In addition to widespread electricity disruptions, several arterial roads were left flooded,

creating bottlenecks and delaying the morning rush. Local authorities struggled to manage the surge in emergency calls related to uprooted trees, damaged power lines, and waterlogged streets. Many commuters were seen stranded as vehicles moved at a snail's pace through submerged stretches. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an alert forecasting continued heavy rainfall throughout the day. Officials have urged residents to remain cautious and avoid unnecessary travel until conditions stabilize. "Further showers and thunderstorms are likely, and we are closely monitoring the situation," an IMD official said, warning of possible additional disruptions if the weather persists. Meanwhile,

the city's municipal and power departments have deployed emergency teams to clear fallen trees, drain flooded areas, and restore electricity in the affected localities. However, given the severity of the storm, full recovery could take several hours, authorities indicated. Citizens also took to social media to share images and videos of flooded streets, traffic chaos, and reports of localized damage, calling for quicker response measures from the administration. This episode marks one of the most severe early monsoon-like storms the city has witnessed in recent weeks, highlighting Guwahati's vulnerability to extreme weather events and the urgent need for better disaster preparedness.

DHSK College Hosts First Meeting of New Asom Sahitya Sabha Branch

Assam Rising, Dibrugarh, April 28 : The newly formed DHSK College branch of the Asom Sahitya Sabha held its first general meeting today. The session was chaired by Branch President Dr. Trishna Duwarh Kalita and Secretary Dr. Nitumoni Saikia. Principal of DHSK College and Convener of the Inter-State-International Friendship Subcommittee of Asom Sahitya Sabha, Dr. Sashi Kanta Saikia, addressed the gathering. Highlighting the global threat to linguistic diversity, he stated that around 40 percent of the world's 7,000 lan-

guages are endangered, with over 500 already extinct, including Eyak (Alaska), Ubykh (Turkey), Tasmanian (Australia), and Yahi (United States). He emphasized the impact of cultural oppression, economic influence, and generational neglect on language loss and stressed the urgent need to preserve the Assamese language. The meeting discussed future activities for the branch. Key decisions included publishing a complete database of Dibrugarh district authors' works and initiating a publication on translation in collaboration with faculty and stu-



dents. Joining online, Geeta Baroah, President of the Asom Sahitya Sabha Great Britain Branch, congratulated the new branch and wished it success in promoting language and culture. The meeting also

saw the presence of former Vice-Principal Dr. Priya Dev Goswami, Senior Professor Dr. Madhumita Purkayastha, along with faculty members, students, and staff. Dr.

Monmi Baruah concluded the event with a vote of thanks, marking a promising start for the DHSK College branch's journey in literary and cultural preservation.

The Assam Rising

VOL. NO. X, ISSUE NO. 81 TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

The Nuclear War Threats

The horrific terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of several innocent civilians has once again plunged South Asia into a tense and volatile atmosphere. Even more disturbing than the attack itself has been Pakistan's reckless escalation in rhetoric, with veiled — and sometimes open — threats of nuclear retaliation against India. Such posturing is not only irresponsible but dangerous for the entire region and the world at large. First and foremost, nuclear weapons are not instruments of casual intimidation. They are weapons of mass destruction, meant solely as a deterrent under the gravest of existential threats. Threatening their use over a conventional terror incident, however tragic, marks a gross deviation from the norms of responsible state behavior. It sends a chilling message: that Pakistan's leadership is willing to contemplate global catastrophe for the sake of political posturing. It must be stated unequivocally: India, as the world's largest democracy and a responsible nuclear power, has always maintained a doctrine of "No First Use" (NFU) regarding nuclear weapons. Its commitment to restraint stands in stark contrast to Pakistan's increasingly aggressive tone. While India rightly reserves the right to respond firmly to acts of terror emanating from across the border, New Delhi has consistently sought to avoid escalation to a nuclear dimension. Pakistan's nuclear threats also betray a certain desperation. Faced with growing international isolation, internal political instability, and a floundering economy, Islamabad seems eager to distract from its own failures. By invoking the specter of nuclear war, it seeks to draw global attention and internationalize what it calls the "Kashmir issue." However, the world is no longer willing to ignore the clear pattern: terror attacks on Indian soil have repeatedly been traced back to groups operating with impunity from Pakistani territory. This reckless behavior must be called out, not rewarded. The global community — including the United Nations, major powers like the United States, China, and Russia — must make it clear to Pakistan that nuclear blackmail is unacceptable. Words have consequences, and nuclear threats are not a mere diplomatic tool; they invite miscalculation, panic, and potential catastrophe. It is equally important for India to stay measured but firm. New Delhi's response must be strategic: a combination of diplomatic pressure, enhanced security measures, and targeted counterterrorism efforts. At the same time, India must continue engaging with the global community to expose the true nature of Pakistan's terror ecosystem and the dangers of its irresponsible nuclear brinkmanship. South Asia, a region that houses nearly two billion people, cannot afford the luxury of missteps. Nuclear war is not a video game or a diplomatic bluff; it is an existential threat to humanity. Pakistan must be reminded that it bears a grave responsibility to act in accordance with international norms and to exercise restraint, even in the most trying of times. The memory of the innocent lives lost in Pahalgam demands justice, but it also demands wisdom. India must act with strength and clarity — and Pakistan must step back from the precipice before it is too late.

Be a Citizen Journalist

Are you against of violence or corruption? Do you really want revolution in the social, educational, political or economic system? Do you have any questions for the Government, political or non political parties? Don't worry, be a part of The Assam Rising family. Be a citizen journalist and write to us about your problem and we will take the responsibility to publish your voice. We will give you a platform to raise your voice, because your simple voice can change society.

Editor,
The Assam Rising
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,
Guwahati, PIN 781003
E-mail Id : assamrising@gmail.com

Letter to The Editor

You can send us your self-composed article, story, poem, letter to the editor or any other creative work done by you. We are responsible for publishing it in The Assam Rising. We will also find out one best contributor/writer every week and an attractive prize will be given to encourage him/her. So, without any further delay mail us your own work with full name and address to assamrising@gmail.com.

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam



Pahalgam attack needs calculated, decisive response from India. This is not the era of war

The horrifying terrorist strike in Pahalgam has sent shockwaves across the country. Public sentiment is boiling, demanding a strong response and a decisive message to the perpetrators. For a popular leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, public expectations weigh heavily. After Pulwama, India took time to deliberate and then launched a strike on Jaish-e-Mohammad camps in Balakot. This time too, New Delhi must weigh its options carefully before proceeding. After all, as PM Modi once put it, "This is not the era of war." Calculated, precise solutions must be sought. Communal harmony is most essential at the moment. Even before the Pahalgam attack, the Waqf Act and other polarising issues sparked riots in Murshidabad, Nagpur and other locations, raising significant concerns about internal unity. Therefore, it is all the more important for the Centre to ensure support from Opposition-ruled states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and present a united front. In times of national crisis, politics must take a backseat. Encouragingly, Indian political parties seem to be on the same page. Rahul Gandhi's phone call to home minister Amit Shah and other gestures of support from Opposition leaders mark a shift from the 2019 Pulwama aftermath. An all-party meeting was convened on 24 April, notably the same day Pakistan scheduled its National Security Meeting. With major powers sending strong messages, the

international community has taken note. The key lies in how effectively India can galvanise global support. World leaders—including American President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—have already expressed solidarity with India. President Xi Jinping, however, has remained silent, even as the Chinese ambassador to India issued condolences. China and Russia are key players in the region whose support is essential. While New Delhi did not explicitly side with Moscow on the Russia-Ukraine war, its strategic neutrality was seen as a gesture of preserving long-standing ties. Therefore, President Vladimir Putin would likely support India, at least diplomatically. Beijing should also be engaged to prevent any adverse reaction, though expecting it to act firmly against Pakistan is unrealistic. China may support Pakistan quietly, as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has come under attack from Baloch insurgents, with Pakistan blaming India for destabilising Balochistan. However, international support from other major powers could neutralise China's intent to help Pakistan overtly. Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon official and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, has drawn a parallel between Osama bin Laden and Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir. He has called on the United States to designate

Pakistan as a terrorist state and has even suggested that India should carry out Israel-like action against Pakistan. The Indian government must carefully weigh its options, considering the fragile global environment. The Russia-Ukraine War and the Hamas-Israel conflict have shown that full-scale wars are prolonged, exhausting, and come at great cost. The growing Bangladesh-Pakistan-China axis must also be considered. Pakistan has been strengthening military ties with Bangladesh and has made inroads into its army

Ashok Kumar

cantonments for training—something that has not been seen since the 1971 Liberation War. Bangladesh Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus's recent visit to China, along with discussions on Bay of Bengal access, signals regional realignments. Meanwhile, the United States appears distracted by trade disputes and domestic issues—from defunding Harvard University to deporting foreign students. India must avoid being dragged into a two-front war—both east and west. Such a conflict would serve the interests of its enemies and derail its development goals, especially the mission of achieving a Viksit Bharat by 2047. An Israel-style military operation that could impact innocent civilians is against India's civilisational values. The option of "water wars" can be considered, but it requires a long-term strategy.

Diverting water and developing storage for the Indus and other rivers would require significant investment and time. The suspension of the Indus Water Treaty would be symbolic unless followed by concrete action. It is worth noting that Pakistan is already under severe water stress, especially during the summer. Visa cancellations, consular staff reductions, and border closures won't significantly impact Pakistan, but suspending water cooperation could have long-term consequences. This might force the Pakistani establishment onto the defensive. Disregarding an international treaty could also hurt India's global credibility and trigger concerns among its neighbours. Considering that Beijing and Islamabad have an "all-weather" friendship, China could deploy a similar tactic against India. Any unilateral action on the Indus Water Treaty must appear justified to avoid international backlash. As the ancient Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu said, "The best way to win a war is to never start one." India can respond decisively without triggering full-scale conflict. A surgical strike remains a viable option. However, unlike in 2019, the Pakistani military may now be better prepared. Asim Munir recently invoked the two-nation theory and the Kashmir issue—indicating a coordinated narrative. Targeted strikes against jihadi hubs such as the United Jihad Council (Muzaffarabad) and other military assets are possible. Muzaffarabad, the capital of

Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), is a strategic hub of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). It hosts Joint Intelligence North (JIN), which handles intelligence operations in Jammu and Kashmir and coordinates terrorist activities. Another viable target could be the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) headquarters in Muridke (near Lahore), led by Hafiz Muhammad Saeed. Pakistan's military is already stretched thin—engaged on the Afghan border and fighting the Balochistan Liberation Army. Severe fuel and resource shortages have even led to the suspension of exercises as recently as 2023. However, before launching any such operation, India must assess the risks posed by China and Bangladesh. China is unlikely to intervene militarily due to its economic focus, but localised unrest along the India-Bangladesh border, especially in areas like Murshidabad and Malda involving illegal migrants, could ignite further tensions. India faces a tough decision. The path forward must be carefully chosen, but it must also be resolute. Simply eliminating small-time jihadists would be too small a price for Pakistan to pay. Nailing down the ISI and LeT should now be the main objective. Isolating Pakistan diplomatically, getting ISI designated as a terrorist organisation, and executing a well-planned, larger-than-Balakot strike on strategic locations is the need of the hour. A decisive and strong message must be sent—with absolute clarity and determination.

Terror in Paradise: The Pahalgam Attack

On a serene afternoon in April 2025, the tranquil meadows of Baisaran Valley, near the picturesque town of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, became the scene of an unimaginable tragedy. Five armed militants, clad in military-style uniforms and wielding M4 carbines and AK-47s, descended upon a group of unsuspecting tourists. The idyllic landscape, often dubbed "mini Switzerland" for its lush greenery and breathtaking vistas, turned into a place of horror as gunfire shattered the peace. By the time the attackers fled into the dense pine forests, 26 people—mostly Hindu tourists, including two foreigners from the UAE and Nepal, and two locals—lay dead. More than 20 others were wounded, some critically. This was the deadliest militant attack in Indian-administered Kashmir since the 2008 Mumbai attacks, a moment that not only broke the hearts of families but also sent shockwaves through India, reigniting tensions with Pakistan and casting a dark shadow over the region's fragile sense of normalcy. We can still picture the scene through the accounts of survivors, their voices trembling as they recounted the chaos. Vinu Bai, a 65-year-old tourist from Gujarat, was sitting in a meadow chair when she heard three sharp shots. Panic erupted as people screamed and ran for cover, but the attackers were methodical. They didn't fire indiscriminately at first; they asked for names, demanded some recite Islamic verses, and, in a chilling detail,

forced men to remove their trousers to check for circumcision before shooting them at close range. The brutality was calculated, targeting Hindu men specifically, a detail that fueled outrage and fear across India. Videos from the scene, later shared widely, showed injured victims pleading for help, bodies strewn across the grass, and the haunting cries of those left behind. Abdul Waheed Wani, a local ponywalla who rushed to the meadow after a police call, described a sight he said he'd never forget—a place of beauty transformed into a graveyard. The attack was claimed initially by The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadowy offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, a UN-designated terrorist group. TRF linked the violence to India's policies allowing non-locals to settle in Kashmir, accusing them of causing a "demographic change." But four days later, they retracted their claim, alleging the initial statement was a result of a "coordinated cyber intrusion." Indian authorities, however, were quick to point fingers at Pakistan, citing digital traces to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, forensic evidence, and intelligence intercepts. The Jammu and Kashmir Police released sketches of three militants, linking them to Lashkar-e-Taiba and noting that at least two were foreigners with prior involvement in attacks in the Poonch region. Pakistan, predictably, denied any role, with its Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar demanding proof. The truth, as always in this contested region, remains murky, caught between competing narratives and a history of mistrust. For the people of Kashmir, the attack was a gut punch. Tourism is the lifeblood of the valley, a beacon of hope after decades of militancy. In recent years, Pahalgam had seen a surge in visitors, drawn to its serene rivers and majestic mountains. The region was gearing up for the peak summer season, with the Amarnath Yatra pilgrimage set to begin in July. But the attack changed everything. Tour operators in Kolkata, a key hub for travel to Kashmir, reported mass cancellations. "This is madness," said Bilolaksha Das, chairman of the eastern chapter of the Travel Agents Federation of India. He feared the incident could undo years of recovery, a sentiment echoed by

locals like Mushtaq Pahalgami, a guest house owner who spoke of a valley "numb and crying." A local chef, who'd worked in Pahalgam for 30 years, said the town had come to a standstill, his livelihood hanging by a thread. For many Kashmiris, the attack wasn't just a tragedy—it was an assault on their identity, their hospitality, and their fragile economy. The streets of Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag filled with protesters, not in anger against India, but in grief and solidarity with the victims. Shops and businesses shut down in a rare show of unity, the first such shutdown since the abrogation of

Satyabrat Borah

Article 370 in 2019. Mehbooba Mufti, former Chief Minister and leader of the Peoples Democratic Party, apologized to the nation, saying Kashmiris were "ashamed." Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, speaking at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid, declared that Kashmiris stood "shoulder to shoulder" with the victims, and a minute of silence was observed before prayers. "Not in my name," was the resounding message from the valley, a rejection of violence that sought to tarnish their culture of warmth. Yet, the attack also exposed the fault lines. In Muslim-majority Kashmir, the targeting of Hindu tourists stoked fears of sectarian division, while across India, it unleashed a wave of Islamophobic and anti-Kashmiri sentiment. In states like Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, Kashmiri students and traders faced harassment, heckling, and even eviction. Shopkeepers refused to trade with them, and far-right Hindu groups fueled the rhetoric. The BJP-led government in Haryana issued directives to protect Kashmiri students, but the damage was done. The attack had ripped open old wounds, reminding everyone that the narrative of "normalcy" in Kashmir, heavily promoted since the revocation of Article 370, was a fragile facade. Anuradha Bhasin, managing editor of Kashmir Times, called it a "mirage," pointing out that for those born in the 1990s, like lawyer Zuhar, little had changed beyond roads and footpaths. The

attack, she argued, was a stark reminder that peace remained elusive, and the government's claims of stability were hollow. Nationally, the response was swift and furious. Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut short a visit to Saudi Arabia, returning to Delhi to meet with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. He called the attack "shocking and painful," vowing that the guilty would be "brought to justice." Home Minister Amit Shah rushed to Srinagar, visiting the attack site and laying wreaths for the victims. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh labeled it an "act of cowardice," while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, despite criticizing the government's Kashmir policy, extended support in fighting terrorism.

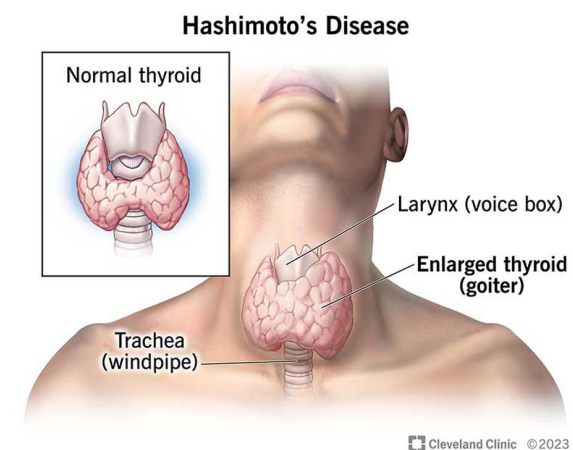
An all-party meeting, chaired by Singh, saw opposition leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge question Modi's absence but affirm unity against terrorism. The government admitted a security lapse—Baisaran meadow, accessible only by foot or pony, had been illegally opened by local authorities without clearance, a betrayal that allowed the attackers to strike with precision. India's retaliation was not just rhetorical. The government suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, a 1960 agreement critical to Pakistan's economy, citing Pakistan's alleged support for terrorism. The Attari-Wagah border was closed, Pakistani diplomats were expelled, and visas for Pakistani nationals were revoked, stranding families and disrupting cross-border ties. Punjab Police reported 191 Pakistani nationals returning home, while 287 Indians crossed back. The Border Security Force scaled down the symbolic retreat ceremony at Attari, and the Indian Army responded to Pakistani firing along the Line of Control. Pakistan called the treaty suspension an "act of war," with Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari warning of "rivers of blood" if water flows were halted. The World Bank, a mediator in the treaty, was left uninformed, adding to the diplomatic chaos. Globally, the attack drew condemnation. US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and French President Emmanuel Macron expressed solidarity. But at home, the human toll was what lingered. Among the victims was Lt. Vinay Narwal, a 26-year-old Navy officer

on his honeymoon, shot point-blank while with his wife, Himanshi. His last rites in Haryana were marked by state honors, but no ceremony could ease the pain of a life cut short. Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a Kashmiri daily-wage worker, died trying to save tourists, his bravery earning his family ₹5 lakh from Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister. In Kolkata, the National Investigation Agency visited the home of Samir Guha, one of three West Bengal victims, to piece together the tragedy. Each name—Bitan Adhikari, Manish Ranjan, Atul Mone—carried a story of dreams and futures stolen. The attack's ripple effects are still unfolding. Security has been tightened across Kashmir, with checkpoints, frisking, and quick reaction teams at tourist hotspots. A massive manhunt, involving the Army, CRPF, and police, continues, with helicopters and sniffer dogs scouring the rugged terrain. The Amarnath Yatra, a symbol of faith for millions, now faces uncertainty, with fears it could be targeted next. For Kashmiris, the economic fallout is devastating. Hotelier Abdul Wahid Malik, who opened his doors to stranded tourists, spoke of a duty to protect, but also a region "devastated." Ritika Kanjilal, a Bengal tourist who narrowly escaped, mourned not just the tragedy but the impact on Kashmir's people, whose resilience she admired. As we reflect on Pahalgam, we see a paradox—a land of breathtaking beauty scarred by violence, a people yearning for peace yet caught in a cycle of conflict. The attack was not just a massacre; it was an assault on hope, on the idea that Kashmir could move beyond its troubled past. Experts like Pravin Sawhney warn that suspending the Indus Waters Treaty risks escalation, while others, like Christopher Clary, see India's options—cross-border firing or airstrikes—carrying the threat of a wider conflict. Pakistan's counterclaims of a "false flag" operation, citing the logistical improbability of such a deep strike, only deepen the divide. For now, the meadows of Baisaran remain closed, a silent testament to lives lost and a future uncertain. The question isn't just how India will respond, but whether the cycle of violence can ever be broken, allowing Kashmir to reclaim its soul as a haven of peace.

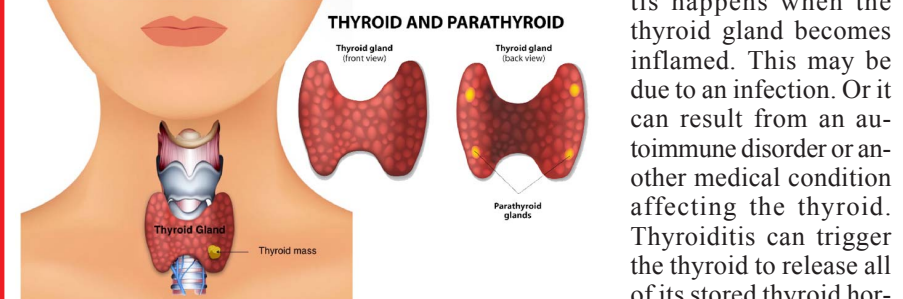


Thyroid Problems & Disease

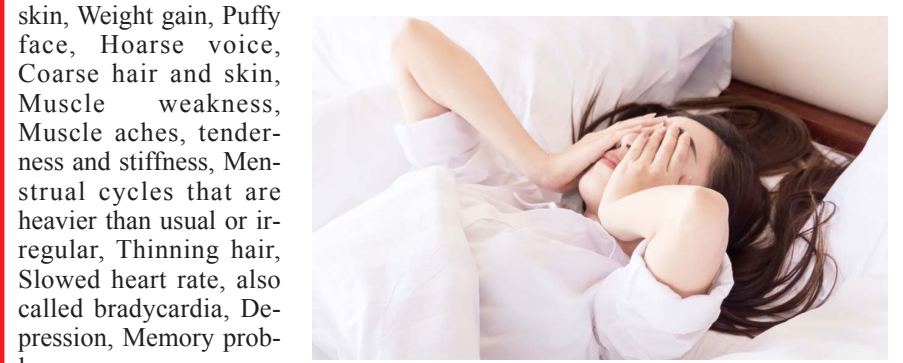
Hypothyroidism happens when the thyroid gland doesn't make enough thyroid hormone. This condition also is called underactive thyroid. Hypothyroidism may not cause noticeable symptoms in its early stages. Over time, hypothyroidism that isn't treated can lead to other health problems, such as high cholesterol and heart problems. Blood tests are used to diagnose hypothyroidism. Treatment with thyroid hormone medicine usually is simple, safe and effective once you and your health care provider find the right dosage for you. The symptoms of hypothyroidism depend on the severity of the condition. Problems tend to develop slowly, often over several years. At first, you may barely notice the symptoms of hypothyroidism, such as fa-



They have an effect on heart rate. And they help control how much protein the body makes. Hypothyroidism happens when the thyroid gland



tigue and weight gain. Or you may think they are just part of getting older. But as your metabolism continues to slow, you may develop more-obvious problems. Hypothyroidism symptoms may include: Tiredness, More sensitivity to cold, Constipation, Dry skin, Weight gain, Puffy face, Hoarse voice, Coarse hair and skin, Muscle weakness, Muscle aches, tenderness and stiffness, Menstrual cycles that are heavier than usual or irregular, Thinning hair, Slowed heart rate, also called bradycardia, Depression, Memory problems.



The thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland located at the base of the neck, just below the Adam's apple. The thy-

roid gland makes two main hormones: thyroxine (T-4) and triiodothyronine (T-3). These hormones affect every cell in the body. They support the rate at which the body uses fats and carbohydrates. They help control body temperature.

◆ Thyroid surgery. Surgery to remove all or part of the thyroid gland can lower the gland's ability to make thyroid hormones or stop it completely.

◆ Radiation therapy. Radiation used to treat cancers of the head and neck can affect the thyroid gland and lead to hypothyroidism.

◆ Thyroiditis. Thyroiditis happens when the thyroid gland becomes inflamed. This may be due to an infection. Or it can result from an autoimmune disorder or another medical condition affecting the thyroid. Thyroiditis can trigger the thyroid to release all of its stored thyroid hormone at once. That causes a spike in thyroid activity, a condition called hyperthyroidism. Afterward, the thyroid becomes underactive.

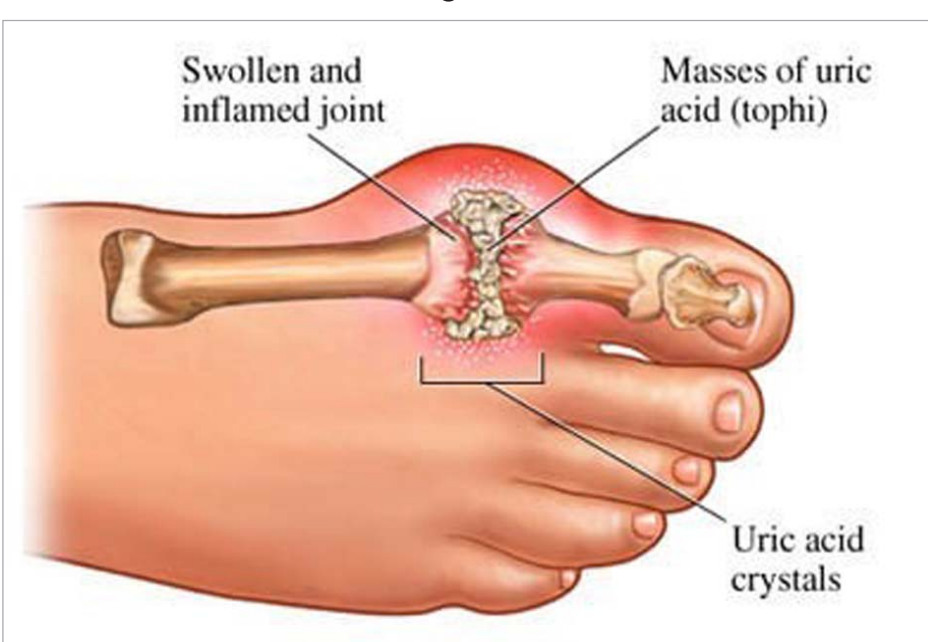
◆ Medicine. A number of medicines may lead to hypothyroidism. One such medicine is lithium, which is used to treat some psychiatric disorders. If you're taking medicine, ask your healthcare provider about its effect on the thyroid gland.

Intervention. Sleep, a fundamental pillar of health, is under siege by a myriad of factors—stress, lifestyle changes, and technological advancements. The pandemic's upheaval further exacerbated this issue, with reports indicating a

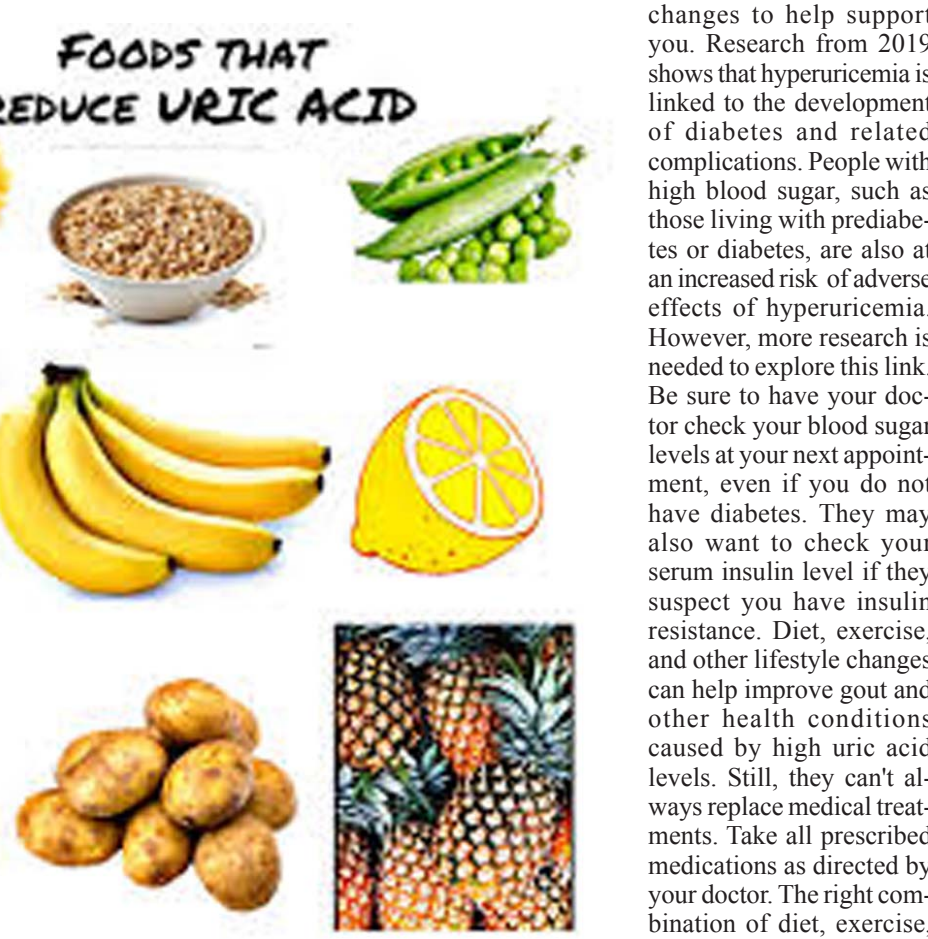
Uric Acid and natural ways to reduce

Uric acid is a chemical created when the body breaks down substances called purines. Purines are normally produced in the body and are also found in some foods and drinks. Foods with high content of purines include liver, anchovies, mackerel, dried beans and peas, and beer. Most uric acid dissolves in blood and travels to the kidneys. From there, it passes out in urine. If your body produces too much uric acid or does not remove enough of it, you can get sick. A high level of uric acid in the blood is called hyperuricemia. This test checks to see how much uric acid you have in your blood. Another test that can be used to check the level of uric acid is a test of your urine. Normal values range between 3.5 to 7.2 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL). Normal value ranges may vary slightly among different laboratories. Talk to your provider about the meaning of your specific test results. The example above shows the common measurement range for results for these tests. Some laboratories use different measurements or may test different specimens.

Certain health conditions, diet, and genetics can cause high levels of uric acid. Avoiding alcohol and limiting some foods and beverages may help lower levels. Uric acid is a natural waste product caused by the digestion of foods containing purines. Purines are found in high levels in some foods and are formed and broken down in your body. Usually, your body filters out uric acid through your kidneys and in urine. If you consume too much purine or if your body is unable to remove this by-product quickly enough, uric acid can build up in your blood. A standard uric acid level is under 6.8 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL). A high uric acid level (above 6.8 mg/dL) is considered hyperuricemia. This can lead to gout and make your blood and urine too acidic. Learn about conditions and factors that can cause uric acid to collect in your body, and



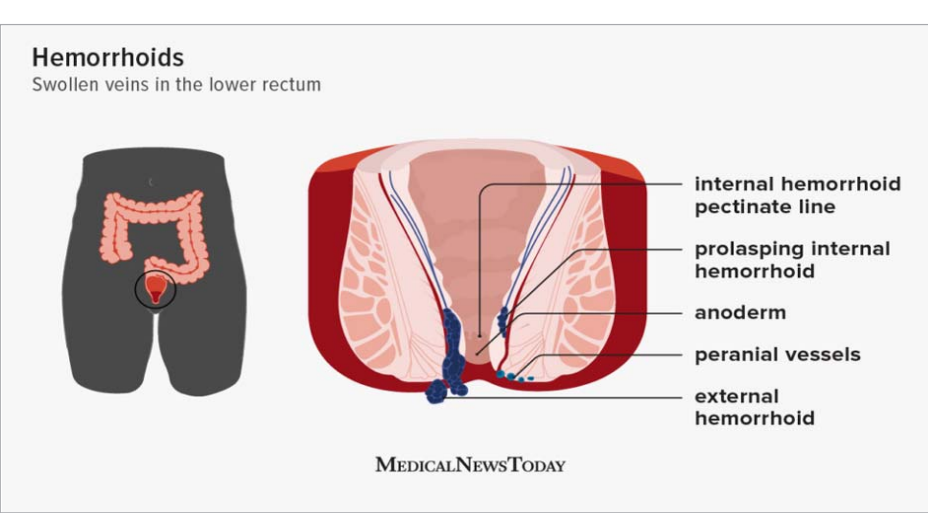
Dr. U.K. Goswami of purines that can be turned into uric acid. It also affects the rate at which uric acid is secreted, leading to increased blood levels. Excess body fat may contribute to elevated uric acid levels. More



make you more dehydrated. Research from 2021 shows it can also trigger high uric acid levels. Some types of alcohol, such as beer, contain a higher purine content than others. However, even alcohol lower in purines can increase purine production. Alcohol increases the metabolism of nucleotides, another source

What to know about hemorrhoids

Hemorrhoids, also known as piles, are swollen veins in the lower part of the anus and rectum. When the walls of these vessels stretch, they can become irritated. They can develop for many reasons, including older age, pregnancy, and constipation. Although hemorrhoids can sometimes be painful, they often get better on their own. Lifestyle changes, such as eating more fiber and exercising, can help relieve symptoms and lower the risk



of future hemorrhoids. Although doctors do not fully understand why hemorrhoids appear, they may occur for the following reasons:

◆ Pregnancy: During pregnancy, tissues in the rectum become weaker, and hormones cause veins to relax and swell. Hemorrhoids may occur in up to 35% of pregnant women.

◆ Aging: Hemorrhoids are most common among adults over age 50 years. However, young

people and children can also get them.

◆ Diarrhea: Hemorrhoids can occur after cases of chronic diarrhea.

◆ Chronic constipation: Straining to move stool puts additional pressure on the walls of the blood vessels, which may result in hemorrhoids.

◆ Sitting for too long: Spending a long time in a seated position, especially on the toilet, can cause hemorrhoids.

◆ Diet: Eating low fiber foods may contribute to hemorrhoids.

◆ Heavy lifting: Repeatedly lifting heavy objects can lead to hemorrhoids.

◆ Anal intercourse: This can cause new hemorrhoids or worsen existing ones.

◆ Weight: Research has linked being overweight to a higher chance of hemorrhoids. This may result from increased pressure within the abdomen.

◆ Genetics: Some people inherit a tendency to develop hemorrhoids.

◆ A doctor will likely ask about a person's medical history and perform a physical examination and other tests to check for hemorrhoids. They will examine the area surrounding the anus for external hemorrhoids, which involves looking for:

- ◆ lumps
- ◆ small tears in the anus
- ◆ irritated skin
- ◆ prolapsed internal hemorrhoids

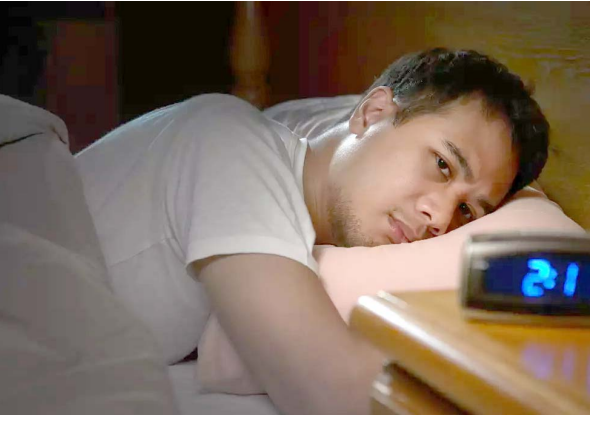
They may also perform a digital rectal exam to diagnose internal hemorrhoids. This involves manually inspecting the anus using a gloved, lubricated

The Rising Toll of Sleeping Disorders



In an increasingly fast-paced world, the silent epidemic of sleeping disorders is gaining ground, affecting millions worldwide. Recent studies reveal an alarming surge in individuals grappling with disrupted sleep patterns, highlighting the pressing need for awareness and in-

tervention. Sleep, a fundamental pillar of health, is under siege by a myriad of factors—stress, lifestyle changes, and technological advancements. The pandemic's upheaval further exacerbated this issue, with reports indicating a



Contd. From Page 1

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 that left 26 civilians dead. The closed-door meeting, which lasted around 40 minutes, came amid a series of intensified security operations across the region, where forces are carrying out raids on the homes of terrorists and their associates. Before meeting the Prime Minister, Singh visited South Block, where he was given a detailed briefing by the Army Chief on the ground situation in Kashmir, particularly in Pahalgam, which has been at the centre of the latest security efforts. The April 22 strike, which killed 25 tourists and one Kashmiri local, has triggered widespread outrage both within India and internationally. Citing "cross-border linkages" to the attack, Indian authorities have vowed a strong and decisive response. On Sunday, in his 121st 'Mann ki Baat' radio address, Prime Minister Modi assured the country that justice would be delivered. "The perpetrators and conspirators of the Pahalgam attack will be served with the harshest response," he said. "The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done." In his radio address, PM Modi condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, saying it was a desperate attempt by the enemies of Kashmir and the nation to derail the region's remarkable progress.

India, France sign Rs 63,000 crore

seater trainers, with deliveries expected to be completed by 2031. The deal also includes fleet maintenance, logistical support, and personnel training and, in a big moment for the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, indigenous manufacturing of components. The Rafale M is widely considered one of the world's most advanced naval fighter jets. At present only the French Navy has this jet. It is equipped with Safran Groups' reinforced landing gears - regarded as one of the best for carrier-compatible aircraft - and also features folding wings, and a reinforced undercarriage to withstand harsh conditions, deck landing, and tailhooks. The Navy's newest weapons will be deployed on aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya, bolstering maritime power and countering threats in the Indian Ocean. It will replace the ageing MiG-29K fleet. "We are tweaking our strategy to 'negate' any infringement in its area of operations and is 'ready to tackle threats from all neighbours", Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi said in December. The Indian Air Force already operates 36 Rafale fighters, and the acquisition of the naval variants will also enhance the IAF's capabilities, including upgrading the 'buddy-buddy' aerial refuelling system, i.e., which allows one jet, equipped with a refuelling pod, to act as a fuel tanker for another, which allows the fighters to stay airborne longer. The Navy is also planning to induce indigenous, fifth-gen fighter jets that are being developed by the Defence Research and Development Institute, or DRDO. These - styled as twin-engine, deck-based fighters - will be the naval counterpart of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, or AMCA, being developed for the Air Force. The Air Force's 36 Rafale jets - the 'C' variant - operate out of two bases in the north.

Financial dispute, not politics

between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the incident. Addressing the issue, Hazarika clarified that initial investigations point to a personal financial conflict rather than a politically motivated attack, as alleged by Bordoloi and Congress leaders. azarika emphasized that the attack took place in a region traditionally dominated by the Congress party. "The attempt to link the BJP to this unfortunate event is completely unfounded and highly irresponsible," he stated. He further suggested that internal disputes within the Congress could have been a contributing factor. The minister referenced a recent controversy where a Congress worker had accused Pradyut Bordoloi of demanding money in return for securing a party ticket. Hazarika hinted that such internal grievances might have fueled tensions leading to the assault. Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has taken the matter seriously and directed authorities to conduct a thorough investigation. Hazarika urged political parties and the public to refrain from politicizing the incident, stressing the importance of ensuring that such unfortunate occurrences are not repeated in the future. In a related development, Assam Police have made significant progress in the investigation by identifying the primary accused in the attack on the convoy of MP Pradyut Bordoloi and Shivamoni Bora. The main accused has been named as Imdadul Islam, a resident of Bhuragaon in Morigaon district. Adding another layer to the controversy, it was revealed that Islam had been expelled from the Congress party just two days before the attack. This revelation strengthens the claims that the motive behind the attack may be linked more to personal and internal party conflicts rather than any external political rivalry. Authorities continue to investigate the case, with further updates expected as the probe progresses.

China backs Pakistan, calls for 'swift

Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Mr. Dar briefed Mr. Wang — also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee — on the latest tensions between Pakistan and India "following a terrorist attack in the Kashmir region", it said in the report. For his part, Mr. Wang said China was closely following the developments, stressing that combating terrorism was a shared responsibility of the entire world while reaffirming Beijing's consistent support for Pakistan's firm counterterrorism efforts, it added. "As an ironclad friend and an all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China fully understands Pakistan's legitimate security concerns and supports Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and security interests," the report quoted Mr. Wang as saying. "China advocates for a swift and fair investigation and believes that conflict does not serve the fundamental interests of either India or Pakistan, nor does it benefit regional peace and stability," Mr. Wang noted. China hopes both sides will remain restrained, move toward each other, and work together to de-escalate the situation, he added. Mr. Dar emphasised that Pakistan had consistently and firmly fought terrorism and was against any actions that could lead to an escalation of the situation, according to the report. Pakistan is committed to managing the situation in a mature manner and will maintain communication with China and the international community, Mr. Dar said, the news agency reported. On April 23, China "strongly condemned" the brutal terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. "We strongly condemn the attack. China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun had told a media briefing. "We mourn for the lives lost and express sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured," he had said. Separately, China's Ambassador to India Xu Feihong had also condemned the attack. "Shocked by the attack in Pahalgam and condemn [it]," he had said in a post on X. "Deep condolences for the victims and sincere sympathies to the injured and the bereaved families. Oppose terrorism of all forms," he had said.

After steps against Pak, Northeast

alarm bells was Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who last week said authorities have been alerted about the close ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Days later on Sunday, Bharatiya Janata Party (MP) Nishikant Dubey called for a similar action on the eastern front. Speaking to reporters, Mr Dubey said: "Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is in constant touch with Bangladesh's interim government. To stop the terror infiltration, both India and Bangladesh's borders need to be secured. The agreement for the waters of the Ganga was wrong by the then Congress government in 1996." He added: "Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been saying it constantly. The West Bengal Chief Minister (Mamata Banerjee) opposed the Teesta Water Agreement. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is not in favour of the water of the Brahmaputra going into Bangladesh. How long will we provide water to snakes? It is time to crush the snakes. The entire nation has faith in the PM and the Home Minister. This work will be done soon..." The BJP MP from Godda in Jharkhand was referring to the Ganga Water Treaty that was signed between India and Bangladesh in 1996. His comments also came against the backdrop of India suspending the Indus Waters Treaty that it had signed with Pakistan in 1960, following the terror attack. Just like the Indus Waters Treaty lays down the mechanism for sharing water of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan, the Ganga Water Treaty is an agreement on the sharing of the waters of the Ganga river between India and Bangladesh. The treaty guarantees 35,000 cusecs of water to Bangladesh if the water flow is around 70,000-75,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs), and divides the water equally if the flow falls below 70,000 cusecs. The treaty, signed in 1996, is scheduled for renewal in 2026, after 30 years. A team from Bangladesh visited West Bengal earlier this year for a field visit to the Farakka Barrage ahead of talks on the issue. India has its own interests when it comes to the waters and often, it is because of these treaties why India was never able to make full use of the potential of the river waters. For India, the Farakka Barrage is critical for the Hooghly River system and West Bengal as it feeds the tributary of the Ganga, the Hooghly River which services the Kolkata and the Haldia ports as well. On Sunday, Mr Sarma said India must act against Bangladesh, the way it did with Pakistan, amid concerns over cross-border infiltration. "I think India should take a tough action against Bangladesh and I am sure these measures are under consideration by the Government of India. But these are strategic decisions, and we should not go beyond a point," he said. "As a Chief Minister, we can request but a decision will be taken by the Government of India after considering the entire security aspect of whether you can take on both Pakistan and Bangladesh at a time or whether you take them on one by one, that is a decision to be taken by the central government. But I also share the same sentiment of other political leaders of the Northeast region who have demanded tough action against Bangladesh," he added. Earlier, the Chief Minister said: "We are also concerned about Bangladesh and the recent hobnobbing between Bangladesh and Pakistan. So, we have alerted our security agencies and asked them to maintain strict vigil and be aware of what is going on across the border." Tipra Motha chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarman, whose party is an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura, said, "Bangladesh and Pakistan will try to surround India, one from the western side and one from the eastern side. I completely support the Government of India. A horrific incident has happened in Pahalgam, and the Government of India has reacted." He added: "'The Government of India should also react when the same thing happens in east India because we are as much Indians, proud Indians. The behaviour of Bangladesh towards India and the behaviour of Pakistan should be dealt with in the same way... we want the Government of India to be as strong with Pakistan and Bangladesh.'" In a post on X, Mr Debbarman flagged the issue of infiltration from Bangladesh to India through the Northeast Indian region. "Illegal Bangladeshis are entering every day! For every five people apprehended, 1,000 get away because of the terrain and porous border. Tripura is going through a demographic change once again! Both Assam and Tripura and parts of Meghalaya have become transit points for illegal migration to the Northeast and rest of India. The Indigenous Tribes that are asking for land rights here are doing so because we know sooner than later, we will be overrun by illegal migration. Can we expect justice and attention from the rest of India? Our boys know the area and if given the support, will defend our land and kick out illegal Bangladeshis from entering our country." Recently, Bangladesh recently called for stronger ties with Pakistan and hardline Islamic radicals and terror-accused have been released from prison. These anti-India voices have also allegedly held meetings with members of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus. Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed, highlighted one such meeting on X. The post features photographs of Harun Izhar, a hardcore militant and decades-old Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B) operative, meeting Law Adviser Nazrul reportedly in the Law Ministry's offices. Izhar has known links to Lashkar-e-Taiba, which has carried out several attacks on India, including the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai.

Tripura youths rally against border

demonstrators voiced strong opposition to what they claim is the construction of an illegal embankment by Bangladesh, reportedly extending beyond the agreed boundary lines into Indian territory. Massive deployments of security forces, including the Border Security Force (BSF) and Tripura Police, were witnessed at the protest site to prevent any escalation. Suraj Debbarma, President of the Youth Tipra Federation, accused the interim government of Bangladesh, led by Md Yunus, of violating international laws by constructing embankments beyond the 150-year boundary limit. "As indigenous people of Tripura and citizens of India, it is our fundamental right to safeguard our land and borders. If the Government of India does not act swiftly, we, the indigenous youth under the legacy of Maharaja Pradyot Kishore Manikya, will be compelled to raise this issue ourselves," Debbarma warned. He further issued a stern caution to Bangladesh, stating that if the alleged encroachment continues, the Federation's members would move to "occupy" the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and Cox's Bazar, aiming to establish a 'Greater Tipraland' in those areas. "We are the sons of this soil and will not tolerate any infringement upon our land," Debbarma asserted, emphasizing their readiness to take stronger action if needed. Tipra Motha Party founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya also weighed in on the situation. Expressing support for the youth protest, he stated, "Thousands of our young warriors gathered today at Belonia. If not for BSF intervention, the illegal construction would have been demolished by now. We are prepared to act decisively; all we require is the green signal." The situation remains tense along the border as indigenous groups continue to demand urgent government intervention.

CM Sarma stands ground

based entirely on verifiable facts and 100% authentic information," Sarma asserted, claiming that his comments followed "due diligence and careful investigation." Sarma emphasized that the questions he raised regarding Gogoi and his family were not politically motivated but stemmed from issues of public interest. "These are legitimate inquiries that arise from factual details already in the public domain," he said, further warning that "many more questions" would emerge as the probe deepens. Earlier, Venugopal launched a fierce attack on Sarma, describing his remarks as "pathetic" and "below-the-belt." He asserted that Sarma's allegations were a desperate attempt to deflect attention from corruption controversies linked to his government. "Gaurav Gogoi is an honest leader confronting the might of a police-driven state, and the Congress party firmly stands with him," Venugopal declared. The political row intensified after Sarma questioned whether Gogoi had visited Pakistan for 15 days and sought an explanation regarding the nature of the trip. He also alleged potential links between Gogoi's wife and a Pakistan-based NGO, demanding transparency about her employment and citizenship status, along with that of their children. Gogoi, in response, challenged Sarma to either substantiate his claims or resign from office. He also turned the tables by questioning whether Sarma would be willing to place his own family under similar scrutiny. Additionally, Gogoi raised concerns about alleged coal mafia operations in Assam's hill regions, demanding accountability from the Chief Minister. The political confrontation shows no signs of easing, with both sides gearing up for a prolonged battle of words and evidence.

J&K Assembly passes resolution

of the session, House members observed a two-minute silence to pay homage to the 26 people killed in the tragedy last week. "The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster an environment of peace, development, and inclusive prosperity for all its citizens, and to resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal harmony and progress of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir," the resolution stated. Concluding a discussion on the resolution, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the tourism portfolio, condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and admitted that he failed in his responsibility of ensuring a safe return for tourists. "The security in Jammu and Kashmir is not the responsibility of the elected government, but I will not not use this opportunity (terror attack) to seek statehood. How can I push for statehood using the Pahalgam terror attack?" Underlining the impact of the ghastly attack on the entire country, he said, "From north to south and from east to west... from Arunachal to Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir to Kerala... the entire country has been affected by this attack." Abdullah said the Baisaran attack took place after a gap of 21 years. "We thought such attacks were a story of the past. Unfortunately, this (Pahalgam) attack has recreated a situation we hoped had been left behind. We never know when another such attack might take place. I do not have the words to seek forgiveness from the families who lost their dear ones," he said. The chief minister, however, noted that even in the face of this inhuman and dastardly attack, a new ray of hope has emerged from Kashmir. "For the first time in many years, I witnessed protests that were truly unified. No political party or leader orchestrated them, and no organised banners or candlelight marches were planned. The outrage and grief were spontaneous, coming straight from the hearts of the people. Every mosque observed silence" he said. Abdullah emphasised that this change must be encouraged and strengthened. "We must boost and nurture this spirit of unity, compassion, and resilience that has emerged from among the people themselves," he added. Addressing the Assembly earlier while moving the resolution, Deputy CM Choudhary said, "This House expresses its profound shock and anguish at the barbaric and inhumane attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025." He reiterated the House's unequivocal condemnation of the heinous and cowardly act that resulted in the loss of innocent lives. Quoting the resolution, Choudhary said, "Such acts of terror are a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat, the values enshrined in our Constitution, and the spirit of unity, peace, and harmony that have long characterized Jammu and Kashmir and our nation. This House stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families, the document stated. "We extend our deepest condolences to those who have suffered irreparable loss and affirm our collective resolve to share in their grief and support them in their hour of need." It mentioned the supreme sacrifice of pony ride operator Syed Adil Hussain Shah who laid down his life while trying to save the tourists from the terrorist attack. "His courage and selflessness embody the true spirit of Kashmir and shall serve as an enduring inspiration for future generations." "This House commends the people of Kashmir and Jammu for their extraordinary display of unity, compassion, and resilience in the aftermath of the attack." "The peaceful demonstrations across towns and villages, and the spontaneous outpouring of moral and material support towards tourists, reaffirm people's steadfast commitment to peace, communal harmony, and the rule of law," the resolution stated. It also mentioned the Assembly's endorsement of diplomatic measures announced by the Centre following a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security a day after the tragedy. "This House is mindful of the sinister design behind the selective targeting of the victims of this attack. It appeals to all sections of society, and in particular the media, to not fall victim to this sinister plot by irresponsibly inflaming passions. The need to remain united in the face of this attempted division cannot be overemphasised." It appealed to all states and Union territories to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of Kashmiri students and citizens residing or travelling there, and to take all necessary measures to prevent their harassment, discrimination or intimidation. "This House calls upon all political parties, religious and community leaders, youth organizations, civil society groups, and media houses across the nation to maintain calm, reject violence and divisive rhetoric, and work collectively to uphold peace, unity, and constitutional values," the resolution stated.

India blocks 16 Pakistan-based

General, and Superintendent of Police — overseeing the investigation directly at the site. Eyewitnesses to the April 22 attack are being extensively questioned, while forensic teams work to piece together evidence critical to identifying the perpetrators. The Indian Army, meanwhile, has ramped up security across the region, conducting sweeping search operations to track down and eliminate the militants involved. Officials stated that the banned YouTube channels were actively involved in spreading misinformation, inciting communal discord, and attempting to destabilize the country during a period of heightened sensitivity. Authorities stressed that swift action was necessary to prevent the spread of false narratives that could inflame public sentiment and pose a threat to national security. Public outrage over the Pahalgam tragedy continues to surge, with protests erupting in several cities demanding firm diplomatic and strategic measures against Pakistan. Citizens and political leaders alike have called for enhanced counterterrorism initiatives and stronger international pressure on Islamabad. This latest move to block online platforms reflects India's broader strategy to clamp down on digital propaganda emerging from hostile territories, especially during national crises. Officials have indicated that monitoring of online content will continue aggressively to ensure that malicious elements cannot exploit the internet to fuel unrest.

Balochistan struggle reflects

platform X, Sarma highlighted the resilience and sacrifices made by the Baloch community in their pursuit of freedom. "The Balochistan movement today represents the unwavering spirit of a people determined to reclaim control over their destiny," Sarma posted. He praised the community's enduring commitment to justice, despite decades of adversity and repression. Tracing the historical roots of the conflict, Sarma noted that tensions began around the time of the Partition of British India. The princely state of Kalat, which covered a major portion of present-day Balochistan, initially sought to remain independent after 1947. However, Pakistan forcibly annexed the region in March 1948, sparking deep and lasting resentment among the Baloch people. According to Sarma, the decades that followed were marked by political marginalization, economic neglect, and cultural suppression. These grievances triggered several major uprisings — in 1958, 1962, 1973, and the early 2000s — each time reaffirming the Baloch people's desire for autonomy. Despite the region's rich reserves of natural resources, Balochistan remains one of Pakistan's most underdeveloped areas. Sarma pointed out allegations of systemic exploitation by the Pakistani central government, which have fueled further anger and unrest among the local population. Reflecting on a significant turning point, Sarma mentioned the assassination of Nawab Akbar Bugti, a prominent Baloch tribal leader, in 2006. He described it as a moment that reignited widespread demands for self-determination and amplified calls for justice. Sarma's remarks come amid growing global focus on indigenous rights and self-rule movements. His comments not only bring attention to the historical injustices faced by the Baloch people but also highlight the broader relevance of indigenous struggles in today's world.

Pakistani woman in Tinsukia under

confirmed that Rabia is the only Pakistani citizen currently residing in the state. CM Sarma provided further details, stating, "There is only one Pakistani national in Tinsukia district. She is married to an Assamese man, but she is originally from Pakistan. She has applied for a long-term visa, and we have sought verification from the Government of India regarding her status and whether she should be deported." The Assam government has initiated an investigation into Rabia's case, and authorities are coordinating with the central government to confirm the details of her legal status. While the investigation is ongoing, Sarma reassured the public that, beyond Rabia, no other Pakistani nationals are residing in Assam. The case has sparked renewed attention around the issue of foreign nationals living in India without proper documentation or citizenship status. It also highlights the importance of verifying the residency and citizenship of individuals from countries like Pakistan, as part of the government's broader security and regulatory efforts. The investigation is set to continue as authorities seek clarity on whether Rabia Ayush's residency complies with Indian immigration laws or whether further action will be taken.

SC seeks Centre's response

petitioners argue that the unregulated spread of such content could have damaging consequences, particularly on younger audiences. During the hearing, Justice Gavai observed that the regulation of content on digital platforms primarily falls under the responsibility of the executive and legislature. He also cautioned about the dangers of judicial overreach, emphasizing that issues of this nature should ideally be managed by governmental authorities or lawmakers. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, acknowledged that certain regulatory mechanisms are already in place to address explicit content. However, he assured the court that additional measures are currently under consideration to strengthen oversight in the digital space. The petition, filed by five citizens, calls for the creation of a National Content Control Authority — a specialized body tasked with monitoring and restricting the distribution of sexually explicit material across OTT platforms and social media. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain represented the petitioners, arguing for immediate intervention to safeguard societal values and protect vulnerable groups. The Court's notice signals the beginning of a wider discussion on the regulation of digital content in India, as concerns continue to rise over the lack of stringent guidelines in the fast-evolving OTT and social media landscape. The case is expected to trigger fresh debates on balancing freedom of expression with the need for content regulation in the digital age.

Book Your Ads in **The Assam Rising**

Text Classified Ad

Classified Display Ad

Display Ad

Special Offer!

www.dainandinbartargroup.in

assamrising@gmail.com

94010-33823

Arne Slot’s coolness lies at heart of Liverpool’s record-equalling title

British Paralympian Sam Ruddock reported missing in Las Vegas



London, April 28 :Liverpool players were looking for signs last summer as to how their new boss would succeed a club legend and turn his rich inheritance into Premier League champions. Arne Slot made sure they were unmissable from the start.At the plush Fairmont hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, first port of call on Liverpool’s pre-season tour of the US and their first bonding trip abroad last July, names would be written on a board giving advance notice of that day’s meeting schedule. There were one-on-one meetings for players with a member of Slot’s coaching team, squad meetings with all of

the new backroom staff, meetings to analyse individual performances within them. There had been two meetings a day at Liverpool’s Axa Training Centre before the trip but this was another level.“I remember he showed a lot of clips from training,” recalled Ibrahima Konaté, one of several players to step up a level this season. “He showed one player who didn’t run well or stopped running and said: ‘He didn’t run now. Why, because I give you a compliment?’ He said the truth to everyone. Mo [Salah], Virgil [van Dijk], every player if something is

wrong. Every player was like: ‘Oh, he looks at me every day, he looks at me every training session. I have to give 2,000% always.’”Jürgen Klopp won hearts during nine transformative years as Liverpool’s manager. Slot, with his more educationist approach, absolute trust in the players bequeathed by Klopp and his own methods, sought to win over minds. The buy-in from a squad blessed with leaders and a mentality to match its talent, the strongest that Slot has encountered in both aspects, ensured it was possible. A record-equalling 20th league title is the reward.Liverpool

appointed a football nerd when Richard Hughes, their sporting director, met Slot at his home in Zwolle 12 months ago and presented the data analysis and character references that made him the club’s preferred choice to succeed Klopp. The timing of the German’s departure, announced in private to Liverpool’s owners in November 2023 and to a stunned public in January 2024, offered the rare luxury of time in the search for a replacement and it was not squandered.Meetings that have become an established part of daily life at the training ground helped ingrain Slot’s tactical ideas into players during a pre-season disrupted by the European Championship. The head coach had his entire squad together for only 13 days before the Premier League opener at Ipswich but, in another sign of how things were changing, there were no complaints.“It is a disadvantage,” said the phlegmatic Dutchman of the schedule. “But not an excuse.” Impromptu tactical discussions form part of Slot’s approach too. If the head coach bumps into a player in the corridors of the training ground he will grab a nearby tactics board and outline his thoughts. Rather than lambast below-par first-half

performances, and there have been several, Slot heads for the tactics board during the interval and calmly explains the changes required. Immediate and vast improvements in the second half have been a feature of Liverpool’s campaign. Southampton at home in March was an exception. Slot slaughtered his players before talking tactics. It had a similar effect. A 1-0 half-time deficit became a 2-1 lead by the 55th minute and Liverpool won 3-1.The 46-year-old has lived alone since moving to England. With his two children in exam years, he and his wife, Mirjam, agreed they should continue their schooling in the Netherlands. The separation has been a wrench but has enabled Slot to devote even more time to watching matches and opponents. His family visit whenever possible, as do his parents. Slot’s father, Arend, was portrayed as his harshest critic for bemoaning Liverpool’s performance in victory against Lille in January. The reality is different. Arend will accompany his son on post-match media rounds when he visits, standing in the background and beaming the smile of the proudest dad as Slot takes another victory in his stride. Slot’s reaction is not much different after a rare defeat, level-headed and refreshingly honest.

London, April 28 :A British Paralympian has been reported missing in Las Vegas after not being seen for more than a week.Sam Ruddock, from Warwickshire, who has cerebral palsy and has competed in cycling and shot put, travelled to the US on 13 April while planning to attend WrestleMania, his friend Lucy Earl said.Earl, who has been friends with Ruddock for more than 10 years, said the 35-year-old stayed with her the night before his flight, and she last heard from him on 16 April.She said she contacted police and tracked down the hostel Ruddock was staying in, and was told he did not check out when he should have or collect his belongings.The Paralympian has since been reported missing to police in the UK and US. Earl described him as a “big character with

lots of energy”.She said: “Sam is very, very present on social media, he’s such a passionate person about sports.”He flew on the 13th, I’ve got confirmation that he landed, I absolutely know Sam was in Vegas. The concerning part is he went silent from the 16th and, because he is such a big presence on social media, people were quite fast to notice.”Earl said Ruddock was an “infectious” person and a “phenomenal” human being. She said she has started a social media campaign to try to get information.A spokesperson for British Cycling said: “British Cycling understands that para-cyclist Sam Ruddock was reported missing to UK and US police and Interpol after not being heard from since Wednesday 16 April 2025, while visiting Las Vegas, USA.”We



urge anyone who has been in contact with Sam since 16 April or may have any information of his whereabouts to contact their local police department as soon as possible.”Lincolnshire police confirmed it has an active missing person investigation for Ruddock.A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson said: “We are supporting the family of a British man reported missing in Las Vegas and are in contact with the local authorities.”

Chinese basketball rising star Yang announces entry into NBA Draft 2025

Beijing, April 28 : China’s teenage center Yang Hansen announced his decision to enter the NBA Draft 2025 on Saturday.“This is the most important decision in my life. I want to showcase myself on a bigger stage,” said the 19-year-old in an interview.“Two years ago, I competed against the best players of my age worldwide at the FIBA U19 Men’s Basketball World Cup, which boosted my confidence and fueled my determination to reach new heights,” Yang

reflected on his earlier experiences.“I also attended the NBA Summer League together with our national team last year. It was a vital opportunity for me to gain experience.”In the ongoing Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) playoffs, Yang has demonstrated his talent by leading the Qingdao Eagles to the quarterfinals, despite a narrow loss to the top-seeded Zhejiang Lions in a 3-2 best-of-five series.“Now, I believe it’s time to improve myself and learn more at a higher level. I want

to express my gratitude to my club and our fans for their unwavering support,” noted the 2.18-meter center.In January, Yang’s domestic agency announced that he had signed with Klutch Sports Group, a prominent agency founded by Rich Paul, known for representing NBA stars like LeBron James, Anthony Davis, and De’Aaron Fox.“Klutch Sports Group recommended experienced coaches coming to China to provide guidance in basketball skills, tactics, and living habits.

‘My chance for revenge’: Daniel Dubois to fight Oleksandr Usyk at Wembley

London, April 28 : Daniel Dubois has revenge on his mind after landing a heavyweight unification bout against Oleksandr Usyk at Wembley Stadium on 19 July. The British fighter, who holds the IBF belt, has been angling for a rematch against the WBA, WBO and WBC champion, who stopped him in the ninth round of their previous meeting in August 2023.Now the pair have agreed to a sequel at the national stadium and will meet face-to-face at a press conference on Tuesday.Dubois’ camp, led by promoter Frank Warren, were

unhappy about the circumstances of the 27-year-old’s previous defeat in Poland. Referee Luis Pabon ruled that a fifth-round knockdown of Usyk was a low blow, allowing him a lengthy recovery period, and his call was strongly contested in the aftermath.Since then Dubois has bounced back by defeating Jarrell Miller, claiming the vacant IBF belt with a win over Filip Hrgovic, and knocking out Anthony Joshua at Wembley. Usyk has not boxed since beating Tyson Fury in Saudi Arabia in December.“This is the fight I

wanted and demanded and now I get my chance for revenge against Oleksandr Usyk,” said Dubois. “I should have won the first fight and was denied by the judgment of the referee, so I will make no mistake this time around in front of my people at the national stadium in my home city.”I am a superior and more dangerous fighter now and Usyk will find this out for himself on July 19. I would like to thank my promoter Frank for making this happen for me and I intend to repay him by becoming the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.”Usyk,

who won his previous unification bout against Fury last May on a split decision and beat him again seven months later, is eager to put his full collection together again. “I’m grateful to God for the opportunity to once again fight for the undisputed championship,” he said. “Thank you, Daniel, for taking care of my IBF belt – now I want it back.”The prospect of getting the two men back in the ring together rose last month amid reports that a request has been lodged with the WBO to sanction the Dubois-Usyk clash ahead of a scheduled mandatory defence against Joseph Parker.

IPL 2025: Brevis has the potential to be long-term asset for CSK, feels Kumble


New Delhi, April 28 :Former India head coach Anil Kumble feels that South African youngster Dewald Brevis has the potential to be a long-term asset for the struggling Chennai Super Kings.CSK lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad by five wickets in Chennai, marking their fourth straight home defeat. However, debutant Brevis scored 25-ball 42 studded with four sixes and a four to take the side to a respectable total of 154 after another batting collapse in the season.Brevis came in as a replacement for injured uncapped left-arm fast-bowler Gurjapneet Singh for the rest of the ongoing 2025 season.“His ability to play spin really stood out. Chennai isn’t easy – it’s a two-paced wicket where the odd ball holds up. He’s done it before in South Africa, first-class cricket, and in the U-19s, which is how he came into the IPL. He came in as a replacement, wasn’t even part of the squad originally – and that reminds me of how one ‘Universe Boss’ (Chris Gayle) too walked in as a replacement for RCB in 2011 and became an icon. Brevis has all the shots. With Rachin Ravindra, Mhatre, and Pathirana, CSK has a young core to build on.



Brevis has the potential to be a long-term asset for the franchise,” Kumble said .The legendary spinner further shared his thoughts on Chennai’s team combinations and the potential direction they need to take moving forward.“I felt Ruturaj and Devon Conway – despite Conway not being in the best of form – should’ve started together. That pair won CSK the title a couple of years ago. Rachin Ravindra is a fantastic young talent, but in this format, he seems rushed – perhaps number three would’ve suited him

better,” he said.“The middle order lacked power outside of Shivam Dube. With Brevis and Mhatre now getting games, that’s a positive. But they need to start thinking beyond Pathirana. Nathan Ellis is an experienced death bowler who has delivered before, yet hasn’t found a place after the first match. With five games left, it’s the perfect time to give youngsters a decent run and start building for the future.” Kumble added.Sunrisers Hyderabad Pacer Harshel Patel was the catalyst of CSK’s collapse as he returned with figures of

4-28 to bag the Player of the Match accolade.Reflecting on Patel’s performance, Kumble highlighted his experience and understanding of the format. “Having played this format for a long time, Harshal brings that invaluable experience – especially in bowling tough overs. He’s been a Purple Cap holder a couple of times, and that knowledge shows. What stood out was his ability to hit the right lengths, particularly at venues like Chennai and Chinnaswamy. If you miss your length there, it’s easy runs. His natural ability to vary pace came through well today – I thought he bowled really smartly.”



**MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE &
EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Inviting Online Applications for National Entrance Test for Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Higher Classes in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA (NETS))-2025

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has entrusted the responsibility of conducting National Entrance Test for Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Higher Classes in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA (NETS))- 2025. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Higher Classes in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) provides for high quality education for meritorious Scheduled Castes (SCs) students only, in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools. Approximately 3,000 seats would be provided in class 9th and 11th fully funded by the Central Government.

The National Entrance Test for SHRESTHA (NETS) will be conducted in offline mode by National Testing agency (NTA) towards the admission for class 9th and 11th for Schedule caste Students.

The schedule of Examination activities is as follows:

Submission of Application online	15 April 2025 to 05 May 2025 (Upto 05:00 PM)
Correction in Particulars	06 May 2025 to 07 May 2025
Pattern of Test	Multiple Choice Question (MCQ)
Duration of Test	03 Hours (180 minutes)
Mode of Test	Pen & Paper on the OMR
Question Paper Medium	Bilingual (Hindi and English)
Date of Examination	01 st June 2025 (Sunday)
Exam Fee	NIL
Timing of Examination	02.00 PM to 05.00 PM (3 Hours)
Downloading of Admit Cards from NTA website	25th May 2025
Website (s)	https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/
Declaration of Result	With in 04 to 06 weeks after exam

The candidates are requested to fill the application form carefully. Information about the eligibility, scheme of examination, examination centers, examination timings, procedure for applying etc. are contained in the Information Bulletin hosted on the website of NTA: <https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/>.

Candidates who are desirous of applying for the exam may go through the Information Bulletin and apply online at <https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/>, only during the period between **15.04.2025 to 05.05.2025**.

The candidates and their parents are advised to keep visiting the NTA website for latest updates.

For any queries or /clarifications, candidates can call NTA Help Desk at 011 40759000 (Call) or write to NTA at shreshta@nta.ac.in (Email).

CBC 38101/11/0003/2526

Rivers at Risk: Climate-Induced Pressure, Conservation and Water Security in the Eastern Himalaya



A bird's eye view of the Eastern Himalayan Region (EHR) is no less than magic. Lofty mountains and giant glaciers crown the region while a complex web of rivers traverse through the region ending in the Bay of Bengal. These rivers are fed by glacial melt, seasonal rainfalls and forest watersheds - acting as a lifeline for the millions of people living in the region. But ecological degradation and climate induced crises pose a severe threat to the region's river systems, exacerbating both - ecological and human vulnerabilities across the region.

Melting Glaciers, Shifting Systems

The EHR is part of the Hindu Kush Himalayas, home to the "Third Pole", which holds the largest volume of fresh water outside of the polar caps. It provides water for drinking and agriculture to almost one-seventh of the global population. But this feat is less to be celebrated and more to be concerned about given how fragile this ecosystem is to the impacts of a warming planet.

According to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the region is amongst the hardest hit by a changing climate as the glaciers continue to retreat

rapidly, losing nearly one-third of its ice between 1980 and 2010. But melting glaciers are just the tip of the problem here. They set off a chain reaction, leading to unusual river swells, increased river volumes downstream and changing river courses. As a result, downstream communities face heightened vulnerability to seasonal variability i.e. greater risk of water scarcity during dry seasons and flood risks during monsoons. In recent years, the risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) have also increased in the region. A stark example is the 2023, Sikkim GLOF which claimed many lives, triggered about 45 landslides and destroyed the Teesta III dam thus disrupting life in the region. Such incidents further compound the region's vulnerability to climate risks.

David vs Goliath - River Islands in a raging Brahmaputra

Nestled between the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley, Assam has a very extensive and diverse river system with major rivers like the Barak, Dibang, Manas, Lohit, Kishiyara etc. flowing through the state. The Brahmaputra, largest of all of them, cuts through the entire state and holds immense significance for people whose lives and live-

lihoods completely depend on the flow of this river. Majuli, the world's largest riverine island, lies in the midst of the Brahmaputra River and plays a key role in shaping the socio-economic and cultural fabric of the island communities.

Among the clusters of smaller islands around Majuli is Kartick Chapori where life revolves around agriculture and fishing - both activities relying on historically predictable water cycles. However, in the face of climate change, er-

Rabijeeta Lahkar

atic floods have begun to affect crop productivity as standing crops get washed away while dry spells result have led to a reduced fish catch as erratic currents and temperatures disrupt breeding cycles. Additionally, soil erosion is slowly eating away the landmass thus threatening the livelihoods of the people. Recent studies have suggested that there is an increase in the frequency and duration of floods in the Brahmaputra basin as a result of changing rainfall patterns and glacial melt. For river-dependent communities, these changes have slowly become the "new normal", increasing their risk exposure and compounding

their vulnerabilities. Shown below is a historical imagery of Kartik Chapori for the years 2005, 2015 and 2025 suggesting how over the years, Brahmaputra river has changed course and inundated the island in its might. This has led to loss of agricultural land and depriving the communities of water which again led them to change their habitation over the years.

Rivers - EHR's Lifeblood

The region's extensive river system not just caters to human life but also helps sustain the rich and diverse ecosystems. From grasslands of Kaziranga National Park to the swamp forests of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, the Brahmaputra nurtures vibrant habitats - home to many endemic and endangered species such as the Gangetic Dolphin and the Golden Mahseer etc. However, the riverine ecosystem faces threats from unchecked infrastructure development in the form of dams, roads and highways along with sand mining, deforestation and pollution. These anthropogenic pressures weaken the river's ability to self-regulate leading to shrinking biodiversity. For instance -

Assam's wetlands have played a critical role in acting as a strong buffer during floods by absorbing excessive water and containing it away from human civilization. But due to rampant extraction, illegal encroachment and pollution, wetlands are slowly dying, throwing the region's local ecology off-balance. Deepor Beel - a popular Ramsar site located on the outskirts of Guwahati stands as a case study for us to urgently rethink how we look at wetlands - not as a standalone water body but as an extension of the river itself.

Redemption through Nature based Solutions

We are faced with a layered crisis - climate change, environmental degradation, glacial melt, erratic rainfalls - all of which are taking a toll on our river systems. This requires us to move away from traditional responses like relying on grey infrastructure - think dams and embankments to more ingenious solutions based in nature itself. Deploying Nature based solutions (NbS) like restoring forests and reviving wetlands have proven to be highly effective in building ecological resilience. Restoring forests stabilizes the soil, reducing sediment loads and minimizing the risk of erosion and downstream flooding. Similarly, wetland restoration aids aquifer recharge and improves flood water absorption. Community led reforestation in Assam has demonstrated encouraging results against the unpredictable forces of nature and offer a great opportunity to build long-term resilience strategies.

Conclusion

Today, rivers of the EHR are changing, and changing with them the region's geography, ecology, economy and society. Climate impacts and ecological degradation are the two major drivers of this change. But with a proactive approach, the impacts can be mitigated.

It is only imperative that we start thinking of rivers as the "veins of regional ecology". We must invest heavily in NbS as core ecological infrastructure. Since rivers follow their own rhythm, we must strategically think about strengthening transboundary water governance while planning for flood management. The security of the EHR is intrinsically linked to the hydrological future of South Asia and it will require a concerted effort from the policymakers, scientific fraternity while appreciating deep-rooted traditional community wisdom.

Operations Architect, Balipara Foundation, Assam

National Memento Awards Presented to Mrs. Brown Thounaojam Bimola Devi and Ms. Kaneka Nongmaithem

Imphal, April 28 : Mrs. Brown Thounaojam Bimola Devi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Culture Studies at the Manipur University of Culture, and her daughter Ms. Kaneka Nongmaithem, a B.A. 6th Semester student at MCM#DAV College for #Women, were honored with National Memento Awards during the Yearlong Observance of the 134th Birth Anniversary of #Bharat_Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The ceremony was held today at the Loktak Hall, Manipur Press Club, Imphal. Mrs. Bimola Devi received the prestigious award for her contribution in the field of academia, while her daughter, Ms. Kaneka Nongmaithem, was recognized for her #academic excellence in higher #education. The awards were presented to various personalities from across #Manipur, both from within the state and outside, in



recognition of their significant contributions to society. The event, which commemorates the life and legacy of Dr. B.R. #Ambedkar, saw the gath-

ering of distinguished guests and participants who celebrated the ideals of equality and justice championed by the esteemed leader.

Slegers 'so proud' as Arsenal book WCL final place after stunning comeback

London, April 28 : Arsenal stunned Lyon to reach their first Women's Champions League final since 2007, as Renée Slegers's side produced a mature display full of desire, resilience and attacking brilliance to secure an impressive comeback in France. They beat the last season's runners-up 4-1 thanks to an own goal from Christiane Endler and strikes from Mariona Caldentey, Alessia Russo and Caitlin Foord. The final in May will be the first of Slegers's fledgling management career. The 36-year-old was delighted with her team's success as they reached a European final at her first attempt. "I'm so proud of the whole team," she said. "I am so happy for everyone that we have achieved this. It's a team performance and I don't take myself out of the team ... There is so much work that has been done before both to qualify this season and also all the work the

club has done through many years to get us into this position. It is so good as an organisation to be able to compete in this final." On a balmy day in the south-east of France, there was a discernible buzz surrounding the stadium. The local bars were awash with fans, enjoying the afternoon sun in nervous anticipation for the match ahead. Among them the several hundred travelling Arsenal fans, decked out in their customary red and white, seemed in a jubilant if wary mood as they contemplated their side's chances. The 2-



1 defeat at the Emirates Stadium in the first leg had been frustrating but these fans have witnessed this side come back from the brink on more than one occasion and there was optimism that they could do it once more. There had been clear belief emanating from the Arsenal camp since the final whistle on 19 April. They had been disappointed with the result but clearly felt that they had produced a performance to merit coming away with more. The Arsenal manager had spoken about her faith in her team's ability to continue to exploit Lyon but stressed their need to "remain humble" throughout. Slegers made two alterations to the side that started in the first leg. The big surprise was the return of Daphne van Domselaar in goal. The Dutch international had picked up an ankle injury during the last international break which was meant to keep her out for about five weeks, but she appeared to have made a remarkable recovery. Chloe Kelly, meanwhile, came into attack in place of Beth Mead. Joe Montemurro also made two changes as he opted to bring in a wealth of experi-

ence. The imperious Wendie Renard had recovered to full fitness to take a place at the heart of the Lyon defence, making her 500th appearance for the club. Ada Hegerberg, the all-time record goalscorer in the Women's Champions League, also returned to lead the line, with the exciting Melchie Dumornay dropping into midfield. Arsenal had been criticised for their slow start in the first leg but there were no such issues on Sunday. The Gunners seem to enjoy playing on this expansive pitch - on their last

Gloucester dismantle Exeter in record-breaking West Country derby victory

Kingsholm, April 28 : Premiership beatings do not come much heavier than this record-breaking West Country derby annihilation. There was nowhere for Exeter to hide on this bright but brutal Sunday in Gloucestershire as a rampant home side rattled up 13 tries to revitalise their ambitions of making the playoffs and inflict the heaviest defeat in the visitors' top-division history. It would have been a proper cricket score had Gloucester not missed half a dozen conversions and it was all but inevitable from an early stage that Exeter's previous widest losing margin of 43 points would be blown away. Being booed by the Shed is one thing, hearing laughter ring around the ground is another level of embarrassment. The club's chairman, Tony Rowe, could be seen laying down the law in the away dressing room after the game, clearly stung by this non-performance from a team theoretically building for next season. "That was my worst day as a coach," said the head coach, Rob Hunter, part of the backroom staff who helped Exeter win the European and



domestic double just five years ago. "It's in no way acceptable for us to perform like that and we haven't tried to hide away from that in the changing room." Tony's entirely entitled to come in and fire in to everybody. He's put a lot of time and effort into the club and everyone's expectations should be way, way higher than that. Fair play to Gloucester but we gifted them momentum at almost every opportunity." While defeat at Saracens last weekend put a

dent in Gloucester's top-four aspirations, no one will be in a rush to face George Skivington's side on this kind of form. With three games still to play - away at Harlequins and Newcastle, and at home against Northampton - they sit one point behind fourth-placed Bristol and two points ahead of sixth-placed Saracens. In addition to the outstanding Wales scrum-half Tomos Williams and the deadly duo of Jack Singleton and Seb

Atkinson, who contributed five tries between them, the watching England head coach, Steve Borthwick, will also have taken note of several hardworking England-qualified forwards who must be pushing hard for loftier recognition. The hooker Seb Blake has been a handful all season while the back-rowers Jack Clement and Lewis Ludlow and the prop Afolabi Fasogbon also caught the eye in a vibrant team performance. To say nothing

went right for Exeter would be to put it politely. They had apparently enjoyed an upbeat training week but any semblance of confidence was vicerated by six Gloucester tries inside the first half-hour. Two powerful driven mauls brought scores for Clement and Seb Blake before the floodgates truly opened and some extravagant offloading delivered a smashing try for a delighted Ludlow. The Shed was soon purring again in the sunshine as Chris Harris, Seb Atkinson and Gareth Anscombe added further tries to extend the margin to 36-0. Exeter did belatedly string together a few attacking phases in the opposing 22, which allowed Josh Hodge to put his side on the board, but the sickness of Gloucester's handling, the inability of Exeter to slow down the ball and some ineffectual tackling all combined to ensure a lopsided contest. Perhaps the most outrageous assist of the lot was a 30-yard pass over the top from Williams to his left wing, Jake Morris, which sailed over the heads of multiple opponents and ended with Santiago

Carreras sending Williams over. Gloucester are not perfect but their attack coach, James Lightfoot-Brown, has clearly been doing some excellent work. It was much the same story after the interval as Jamal Ford-Robinson and Christian Wade, via an unselfish assist from Carreras, brought up Gloucester's half-century inside 50 minutes. Wade is off to play rugby league in Wigan where he will find life a whole lot tougher. Even the cavalry off the bench made little difference for the visitors, the defence melting away faster than left-over Easter eggs in the sun to permit a second try for Seb Atkinson and more easy pickings for Singleton, who collected a hat-trick of tries inside 12 minutes. Even the most exhausted London Marathon runners will feel less shattered than the Chiefs when they limp back to work this week. "The reality is that good vibes are not enough," Hunter said. "We definitely went a little bit missing. Not having a game next week is probably a good thing for us. We're not going to brush past this."