

News Impact

Dukam advocates sustainable investment in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: "If you wish to build in India, Arunachal Pradesh is your launch pad. If you seek to invest in sustainability, we offer the greenest canvas. If you dream of bridging tradition with innovation, we welcome you with both hands," said Industries Minister Nyato Dukam, addressing an investment and entrepreneurship workshop on the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI-2024) and other industrial investment schemes at the state banquet hall here on Saturday.

He added, "Let us come together to script the next chapter of (Contd. on P-3)

Landowners donate land for schools

DOLLUNGUMUKH, 28 Jun: Landowners here on Saturday agreed to voluntarily donate land for establishing schools - a significant step towards securing land possession certificates for the institutions.

This initiative marks a pioneering community-led effort in Dollungumukh to formalize school land ownership for the betterment of students' education.

The development came after following a meeting convened here on Saturday under the chairmanship of Dollungumukh SDO Nabam Tarang, in the presence of Raga MLA Rotom Tebin, to (Contd. on P-3)

Locals restore damaged road

DAPORJO, 28 Jun: A portion of the Sippi-Chetam-Upper PMGSY road in Nipper Subansiri district, which had been washed away near the Mali Maji stream between Soki and Chetia villages on 12 June, was restored by the people of the area without waiting for government help.

The road had remained cut off for 16 days, causing disruptions in transportation of ration items and hardship to school-goers, patients and the general public, social activist Dosh Dasi from Dasi village in Chetam circle informed in a release. (Contd. on P-3)

Man on a mission to showcase Tawang's heritage

Prem Chetry

TAWANG, 28 Jun: Meet Jambey Dondu from Tawang district - a nature enthusiast and keen observer, who has documented several unexplored landscapes, trek routes, and Himalayan flora and fauna to showcase the natural heritage of Tawang district.

Dondu, director of Shangri La Calling, started it in 2021. "Tawang is nothing less than a living museum of nature. My core objective is to raise awareness and pride in the natural heritage we are blessed with," he says.

He mainly wants to inspire the younger genera-

Tax evasion by Arunachal Pradesh State Lottery distributor, one arrested

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: The Central Goods and Services Tax's (CGST) Itanagar Commissionerate has unearthed a massive GST evasion of Rs 98.43 crore by M/S Future Gaming and Hotel Services Pvt Ltd, the sole distributor of the Arunachal Pradesh State Lottery, the CGST Itanagar Commissionerate said.

Ayush Agarwal, a chartered accountant, was arrested on 27 June for his central role in the GST scam, it said.

"Investigations have revealed that the said company, in active connivance with the chartered accountant, was involved in clandestine removal of taxable supplies and suppression of actual turnover, thereby evading GST liability on a substantial scale," the commissionerate said.

The supply value received from the State Lottery Department was grossly underreported, and manipulated returns were filed to conceal the true extent of

taxable transactions.

"Agarwal was instrumental in advising and structuring the fraudulent scheme, despite being fully aware of the statutory provisions under the CGST Act, 2017," the CGST Itanagar Commissionerate said.

Accordingly, he was arrested under Section 132 of the CGST Act, 2017.

While Agarwal has been apprehended, other individuals involved in the evasion are absconding.

The department is vigorously pursuing the investigation to identify and bring all perpetrators of the fraud to justice, it said.

This fraudulent scheme has caused a direct revenue loss of approximately Rs 98.42 crore (Rs 49.21 crore CGST and Rs 49.21 crore SGST).

"The CGST Itanagar Commissionerate reaffirms its resolve to take strict action against tax evaders and uphold the integrity of the GST regime," it added.

Tagung, Duchok to represent India at Kudo World Cup

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: Tech Tagung and Taro Duchok from Arunachal Pradesh have been selected to represent India at the Kudo World Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in Bulgaria from 3 to 10 July.

Tagung, who hails from Rissi in Kra Daadi district, will be leaving here for Bulgaria on 29 June.

A BTech (civil) graduate and an LLB student at Jorhom Gamin Government



Taro Duchok



Tech Tagung

Law College, Itanagar, Tagung has been practicing

kudo - a Japanese hybrid martial art that blends karate, judo, BJJ, and kickbox-

ing - for over seven years.

His selection comes on the heels of an impressive bronze medal win in the (-270) PI category at the National Kudo Championship held in Surat in November 2024, where the participants had to compete for a spot to represent India at the international level.

"This is a dream come true. I'm honoured and excited (Contd. on P-3)

Guv advises OMS students to set high goals, remain focused



PAPU NALLAH, 28 Jun: Governor KT Parnaik advised the students of Oju Mission School (OMS) here to set high goals, remain focused, and never fear failure, while stressing that each setback is an opportunity to grow stronger.

The governor said this while on his maiden visit to the school, run by the Oju Welfare Association (OWA), on Saturday, in the company of his wife Anagha Parnaik. (Contd. on P-3)

Tamin-Tagu win bronze at All India Badminton Ranking tournament



ITANAGAR, 29 Jun: Budding shuttlers Kyon Tamin and Debia Tagu from Arunachal Pradesh secured a bronze medal in the U-13 category of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Badminton Ranking Tournament held in Goa.

"We are thrilled to see our young players excel at the national level. Kyon and Debia's bronze medal win is a testament to their hard work and the quality coaching they have received. (Contd. on P-3)

APFA grants rights to SYDSAP to conduct Indrajit Namchoom Arunachal League

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: The Arunachal Pradesh Football Association (APFA) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sports & Youth Development Society of Arunachal Pradesh (SYDSAP), granting the latter the rights to organize the Indrajit Namchoom Arunachal League (INAL) under the new professional framework.

The MoU has been



signed for the 6th season of INAL, to be held in October-November this year. This was informed by APFA general secretary Kipa Ajay. (Contd. on P-3)

TRIHMS graduation ceremony

Guv urges graduating docs to uphold principle of 'service before self'

NAHARLAGUN, 28 Jun: Governor KT Parnaik advised the graduating doctors of the Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHMS) to uphold the principle of 'service before self', stating that medicine is a moral calling as much as it is a profession.

Attending the graduation ceremony of the 2019 MBBS batch of the TRIHMS here on Saturday, the governor presented graduating certificates to 46 students, including 29 from Arunachal Pradesh.

Congratulating the graduates, the governor urged them to serve where they are needed the most, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and to remain lifelong learners, grounded in humility and guided by ethics. (Contd. on P-3)

Ronie Chowpoo becomes first Arunachali to command Indian naval warship



Courtesy: FB @PernaKhanduBJP

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: Commander Ronie Chowpoo from Namsai district has become the first officer from Arunachal Pradesh to command a frontline Indian naval warship in the Eastern Fleet, an official statement said on Saturday.

His appointment marks an important milestone and serves as an inspiration to the youths of Arunachal, it said.

Commander Chowpoo, a first-generation Indian Navy officer, was commissioned into the executive branch of the Navy in 2008. A specialist in communica-

tion and electronic warfare, he has served on various frontline warships, including guided missile destroy-

ers and frigates, the statement said.

Over the course of his distinguished career, he has held key operational and staff appointments at naval headquarters, fleet headquarters, and other strategic institutions, it added.

An alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) Dehradun, and the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA) Khadakwasla, Commander Chowpoo's professional journey reflects determination and excellence. (Contd. on P-3)

Minister advisory after ICAR-NIVEDI forecasts disease outbreak risk in state

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: Agriculture and Allied Minister Gabriel D Wangsu has issued an advisory to farmers across the state, following forecasts of potential disease outbreaks by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology (ICAR-NIVEDI) through their National Animal Disease Referral Expert System (NADRES v2).

The advisory identifies Papum Pare district as facing a 'very high risk' of African swine fever (ASF) outbreak.

Wangsu outlined comprehensive preventive measures for pig farmers in order to help them safeguard their livestock and livelihoods. "Strict biosecurity measures are the most effective way to prevent and control the disease," the minister said, and urged farmers to implement controlled access to farms with mandatory disinfection of all equipment and vehicles entering farm premises.

The advisory specifically warns against feeding swill or kitchen waste to

pigs, a common practice that significantly increases disease transmission risk. Farmers have been instructed to dispose of any carcasses "through deep burial with lime treatment or incineration, following proper protocols."

Movement restrictions within and outside affected zones have been mandated, with farmers required to maintain regular monitoring systems and to report any unusual pig mortality to veterinary authorities immediately. (Contd. on P-3)

Nocte freedom fighters get official recognition

KHONSA, 28 Jun: Tirap Deputy Commissioner Techu Aran has formally acknowledged and recorded the heroic acts of Nocte freedom fighters Wangto Lowang and Wangmaan Lowangdong in recognition of their invaluable contributions made in resisting colonial forces and defending their homeland.

Lowang, the then chief of Kheti village, valiantly led his people during the Anglo-Nocte War of 1842, resisting British colonial expansion in the region.

The war began on 25 November, 1842, when Cap-



Portrait of Wangmaan Lowangdong, a freedom fighter who led his people during the Anglo-Nocte War of 1842.

tain J Brodie, then sub-assistant of Sibsagar, Assam, and his soldiers marched towards Kheti to challenge Lowang's sovereign rule.

During the confrontation, one British soldier was killed and four others were injured, forcing the detachment to retreat. (Contd. on P-3)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Kajol-starrer 'Maa' collects Rs 4.93 crore at box office

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: 'Maa', a mythological horror film featuring Kajol, has earned Rs 4.93 crore nett on its opening day at the domestic box office, the makers announced on Saturday.

"Maa" is written by Saiwyn Quadras and directed by Vishal Furia, known for 'Lapachhapi', 'Criminal Justice' and 'Chhorh'.

It is presented by Jio Studios and Devgn Films, and is produced by Jyoti Deshpande and co-produced by Kumar Mangat Pathak and released in theatres on Friday.

The production banner shelled the box office collection on its official X handle. The post had 'Fear Finds Faith 4.93 crore day 1 NBOC India' written over it.

The caption read, "Your love has been unstopable for this mythohorror tale! #MaaTheFilm - in cinemas NOW". The film also stars Imranai Sengupta, Kherin Sharma and Ronit Roy.

It narrates the story of a mother who becomes Goddess Kali to end a demonic curse rooted in fear, blood, and betrayal. (PTI)

Jaideep Ahlawat, Nimrat Kaur join action thriller series 'The Family Man 3'

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: Actors Jaideep Ahlawat and Nimrat Kaur are the new nemesis of Manoj Bajpayee's spy Srikant Tiwari in the upcoming third season of 'The Family Man'.

The OTT platform on Friday shared the first glimpse of the new season of the series, which will see Bajpayee reprise his character of Tiwari, a middle-class guy and a world-class spy.

"The wait is over. New season. New mission. #TheFamilyManOnPrime, coming soon in 2025," Prime Video posted on its official social media handles along with the teaser.

Created and directed by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK, the action thriller series will also bring back original cast members, including

Priyamani, Sharh Hashmi, Ashlesha Thakur, and Vedant Sinha.

The third season is written by Suman Kumar in collaboration with Raj & DK. "With each season, we challenge ourselves to elevate the story, scale, and performances, making them even more entertaining than the last. We're grateful for our fans' patience. Season 3 will push Srikant and his team to their limits, plunging them into a world of intense danger and personal challenges that will profoundly shake their bonds, all while Srikant simultaneously grapples with a new family dynamic."

"They'll face off against formidable new nemeses, and we're thrilled to announce that Jaideep and Nimrat will be joining our cast as these exciting antagonists. The Prime Video

team has been a fantastic collaborator in bringing this new season to life," Raj & DK said in a joint statement.

In the third season, Srikant will expertly confront the looming threat to national security, while balancing the demands of family life and desperately working to mend his relationship with his wife, Suchitra, played by Priyamani.

The details of the characters being played by "Pastal Lok" star Ahlawat and Kaur, known for movies "The Lunchbox" and "Airlift", have been kept under wraps.

The first season of "The Family Man", which debuted on the streamer in late 2019, received glowing reviews. The second season, also starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu, premiered in 2021 and was also praised by the critics. (PTI)

Nani begins shooting for 'The Paradise' from Srikanth Odela

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: Telugu actor Nani has started shooting for his upcoming film "The Paradise".

"The movie reunites the actor with filmmaker Srikanth Odela since their 2023 film "Dasara". Odela is directing the movie from his own script.

According to a press release, Nani joined the set on Saturday, while shooting for

the film commenced on June 21. The 40-day schedule is underway in Hyderabad, and key scenes featuring the lead cast will be filmed in this schedule.

The makers also shared a post on Instagram on Saturday, "Dhagad Aagaa. 26-03-26. #TheParadise, for the caption.

Anirudh Ravichander will compose the music for "The Paradise", which is produced by Sudhakar Chentururi under his banner SLV Cinemas.

The film will release in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, English, and Spanish languages.

Nani, also known for films such as "Jersey", "Hi Nanna", and "Shyam Singhha Roy", most recently appeared in "HT: The Third Case". (PTI)

'Sholay is back': Restored version of 1975 classic screened at II Cinema Ritrovato Festival

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: Restored and uncut version of 'Sholay', one of India's most celebrated films of all time, was showcased in front of a packed audience at the prestigious II Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna, Italy.

The screening, which happened at the open-air Piazza Maggiore on Friday night, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the film, which featured an ensemble cast of Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Sanjeev Kumar, Jaya Bachchan and Amjad Khan.

"Sholay" was written by Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar and directed by Ramesh Sippy.

Shivendra Singh Durgapur, director of Film Heritage Foundation, shared photos from the screening on social media platform X.

"What an incredible feeling to see restored 'Sholay' with the original ending on the big screen at Piazza Maggiore in Bologna with so many people under the stars as they stayed awake till lam for me it was my childhood memory come alive 50 years later 'Sholay' is back," he wrote in the caption.

The film is considered an inalienable part of Indian pop culture due to its popular characters like Jai, Veeru and Thakur as well as Gabbar Singh, one of the iconic villains of Hindi cinema, and plenty of dialogues and action sequences.

Its restoration process was spearheaded by Film Heritage Foundation and Sippy Films Pvt Ltd and took more than three years.

The restored version features six minutes of extra footage, including its original ending where Gabbar is killed. (PTI)

TV actor Shefali Jariwala of 'Kaanta Laga' fame dies at 42

MUMBAI, 28 Jun: Actor Shefali Jariwala, best known for her iconic single "Kaanta Laga", passed away Friday night. She was 42.

Jariwala was rushed to Bellevue Multispecialty Hospital in suburban Mumbai by her husband, actor Parag Tyagi.

"She was brought to the hospital around 11:15 pm. The on-duty doctor declared her dead on arrival," a hospital source said.

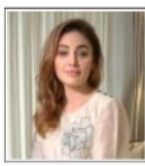
The cause of her death is yet to be ascertained. Earlier, her body was taken to the Cooper hospital for postmortem, the Mumbai Police said. Many media reports claimed that Jariwala died of a heart attack.

Celebrities including playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan, Aarti Singh, Mahira Khan, Rashmi Desai, Vikas Gupta among others, arrived at the residence of Jariwala in suburban Andheri to offer their condolences to the family.

Her last rites will be performed in the evening.

Jariwala rose to prominence in 2002 with the massive popularity of "Kaanta Laga", a remix of an old Lata Mangeshkar song from the 1972 movie "Samadhi".

In the music video, di-



convicted my father. And that song turned out to be such a hit that it was like a fairy tale for me. It changed my life completely," she said.

After the success of the track, which also earned her title of "Kaanta Laga girl", Zariwala had a cameo appearance in 2004 hit romantic comedy "Mujhse Shaadi Karongi", starring Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

She gained further popularity through her participation in reality shows like "Nach Baliye", a dance-based show series, with her husband.

She also featured in popular Salman Khan-hosted reality show "Bigg Boss 13", alongside winner Sidhant Shukla, who died in 2021.

A week before her death, actor Jariwala shared a video of herself getting ready for a shoot, with the caption that read, "It's time for us to start living life. Like everything is working out in our favour."

The sudden demise of Jariwala has shocked many industry friends and colleagues, who expressed grief.

Singer Mika Singh said he is unable to fathom the news about the death of his

dearest friend, Jariwala.

"I'm deeply shocked, saddened, and feeling a heavy heart... Our beloved star and my dearest friend @shefalijariwala has left us. Still can't believe it. You will always be remembered for your grace, smile, and spirit. Om Shanti," Singh wrote.

"I can't get over this news...my heart is sinking. Shefali," actor Kamya Punjabi wrote.

Actor Divyanka Tripathi was shocked to learn about Shefali's demise.

"Still can't process the news about Shefali. Gone too soon. Deeply sad for her husband and the family," Tripathi said on X.

Actor-comedian Kiku Sharda fondly recalled his experience of working with Jariwala, who he said was "full of life".

"This is shocking!!!! worked with her on a couple of web shows, she was full of energy, full of life, always greeted all with a big, bright smile. Will miss you, Shefali, you were a beautiful soul. Rest in Peace. Om Shanti," Sharda said.

Actor Himanshi Khurana posted a photo with Jariwala and wrote, "Bigg Boss that place is cursed it here."

Actor Aly Goni wrote, "RIP Shefali." (PTI)

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Help - Line

| Sl No | Route | Day Service | Night Service | Service Day | Fare |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------|
| 1 | ITANAGAR - TEZU | 6:00 AM | 7:00 PM | DAILY | 820 |
| 2 | TEZU - ITANAGAR | 6:00 AM | 7:00 PM | DAILY | 820 |
| 3 | ITANAGAR - NAMSAI | 6:00 AM | 7:00 PM | DAILY | 660 |
| 4 | NAMSAI - ITANAGAR | 6:00 AM | 7:00 PM | DAILY | 660 |
| 5 | ITANAGAR - GUWAHATI | 6:00 AM | 6:00 PM | DAILY | 780 |
| 6 | GUWAHATI - ITANAGAR | 6:00 AM | 7:00 PM | DAILY | 780 |
| 7 | ITANAGAR - ROING | 7:00 AM | * | DAILY | 680 |
| 8 | ROING - ITANAGAR | 6:00 AM | * | DAILY | 680 |
| 9 | ITANAGAR - SHILLONG | * | 5:00 PM | DAILY | 1035 |
| 10 | SHILLONG - ITANAGAR | * | 4:30 PM | DAILY | 1035 |
| 11 | TEZU-GUWAHATI (VICE-VERSA) | * | 3:00 PM | MON,WED,FR | 1290 |
| 12 | NAMSAI-GUWAHATI (VICE-VERSA) | * | 4:00 PM | MON,WED,FR | 1150 |

OTHER NORMAL SERVICES

| S/NO | ROUTES | DEPARTURE TIME | SERVICE DAY | FARE |
|------|---|-------------------|------------------|------|
| 1 | ITANAGAR - CAOPUR (VIA ZIRO) (VICE-VERSA) | 5:00 AM | SUN, TUE, THURS | 660 |
| 2 | ITANAGAR - BASGA (VICE-VERSA) | 5:00 AM | SUN, TUE, THURS | 370 |
| 3 | ITANAGAR - DUMPAOR (VIA TRIBINI) (VICE-VERSA) | 5:00 AM | MON, THURS, SAT | 710 |
| 4 | ITANAGAR - TRIBINI (VICE-VERSA) | 5:00 AM | MON, THURS, SAT | 615 |
| 5 | ITANAGAR - BARROU (VIA TRIBINI) | 5:00 AM | SUN | 685 |
| 6 | ITANAGAR - KOLCHANG (VICE-VERSA) | 5:00 AM | MON, WED, FR | 600 |
| 7 | ITANAGAR - PASIGHAT | 5:00 AM | DAILY | 540 |
| 8 | PASIGHAT - ITANAGAR | 12:00 PM | DAILY | 540 |
| 9 | ITANAGAR - TALI (VICE-VERSA) | 5:30 AM | TUE, THURS, SAT | 600 |
| 11 | ITANAGAR - TAWANGI (VICE-VERSA) | 5:00 AM | MON, WED, FR | 1875 |
| 12 | ITANAGAR - NYARIN (VICE-VERSA) | 5:30 AM | SUN, TUE, THURS | 485 |
| 13 | ITANAGAR - LUKHABALI | 5:30 AM | SUN, TUE, THURS | 620 |
| 14 | LUKHABALI - ITANAGAR | 5:30 PM | MON, WED, FR | 1310 |
| 15 | ITANAGAR - KHONDA (VICE-VERSA) | 5:30 AM & 6:00 AM | DAILY | 710 |
| 16 | ITANAGAR - WAKRA (VIA LONGJONG) | 5:30 AM | TUESDAY & FRIDAY | 740 |
| 17 | ITANAGAR - KAYING (VIA AALO) (VICE-VERSA) | 5:30 AM | DAILY | 780 |
| 18 | ITANAGAR - AALO | 5:30 AM | DAILY | 630 |
| 19 | ITANAGAR - CHANGLANG (FORCE CRUISER) | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 1375 |
| 20 | ITANAGAR - CHANGLANG (FORCE TRAVELLER) | 5:30 AM | DAILY | 780 |
| 21 | ITANAGAR - AALO | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 620 |
| 22 | ITANAGAR - AALO | 6:00 PM | DAILY | 620 |
| 23 | ITANAGAR - SEPPA | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 615 |
| 24 | ITANAGAR - MAO | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 710 |
| 25 | ITANAGAR - WINGJONG | 6:00 AM | TUESDAY & FRIDAY | 800 |
| 26 | ITANAGAR - ROING | 6:00 AM | MON, WED, FRI | 1350 |
| 27 | ITANAGAR - LONGJONG | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 700 |
| 28 | ITANAGAR - ZIRO (VICE-VERSA) | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 230 |
| 29 | ITANAGAR - PASIGHAT | 6:00 AM | DAILY | 540 |
| 30 | PASIGHAT - ITANAGAR | 6:00 PM | DAILY | 540 |
| 31 | ITANAGAR - NAMSAGI | 7:00 AM | DAILY | 660 |
| 32 | NRIBET - KALARTANG | 6:00 AM | MON, WED, FR | 1175 |
| 33 | NRIBET - BOMDILA (VIA) (V) | 6:00 AM | TUE, THURS, SUN | 900 |
| 34 | NRIBET - BOMDILA (VIA) (V) | 6:00 PM | DAILY | 710 |

Ticket can be booked online at www.apssb.arunachal.gov.in
Booking Counter/ Enquiry Nos.: Itanagar - 9774034571, NRIBST- 879427203, 8796075557

EMERGENCY

PHONE NUMBERS

RAMA KRISHNA MISSION HOSPITAL, ITANAGAR
Emergency : 0360 3519664
Office : 9436631237

NIBA HOSPITAL, PAPU NALLAH
Admission / Reception : 7628078933
Emergency : 8099871783

HORMIN HOSPITAL, NAHARLAGUN
Reception : 7640887371

HEEMA HOSPITAL, ITANAGAR
8794236321

TRIHS, NAHARLAGUN
Emergency Medicine & Trauma centre : 6909936141
Cabin:7629902541, Chief Medical Superintendent: 9436041290
Dy. Medical Superintendent -9436041972, Ambulance Service : 9862709467
Free Ambulance Service : 108

POLICE
Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Medical: 112, Police and Fire Capital Police Control Room : 6009909795

FIRE SERVICE
Naharlagun : 0360-2244399, Itanagar : 0360-2212640

NARCOTICS HELPLINE CELL : 9362812717

EMERGENCY MEDICAL HELPLINE NUMBER
104

CYBER CRIME REPORTING HELPLINE
Toll Free Number: 1930 (Time 9 AM to 6 PM)

CHILD LINE : 1098

WOMAN HELPLINE : 181

PUROIK HELPLINE NUMBER : 7085721317

CMAAY GRIEVANCE CELL : 9402914555

AYUSHMAN BHARAT : 8956084805
PMJAY : 14555

VIGILANCE BRANCH, CIVIL SECRETARIAT, ITANAGAR
HELPLINE NUMBERS: 0360-2218710 (LANDLINE), 700575266 (MOBILE)

ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU, CIVIL SECRETARIAT, ITANAGAR
HELPLINE NUMBER: 9436040040
Twitter / X : @ACB_Arunachal
Email ID: apsic-vig-am@gov.in

For e-waste disposal, please contact
Madee Green Solutions at madeegreensolutions@gmail.com
985680078 / 8798076591

Ronie Chowpoo becomes...

(From P-1) His rise from the 'Land of the Rising Sun' to commanding a warship in the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet, also called the 'Sunrise Fleet', underscores a powerful story of perseverance and commitment, it said.

Tagung, Duchok to...

(From P-1) to represent my country," Tagung said in a press release, expressing gratitude to the Kudo International Federation India, the Arunachal Kudo Association, his family, and Abrasmeo Academy, where he trains.

"Your support has shaped me into the athlete I am today," he added. The Kudo World Cup 2025 will witness elite fighters from over 50 countries in a gruelling full-contact competition that tests skill, endurance, and discipline.

Tagung, who previously bagged a gold medal at the 10th Kudo National Tournament (Khadala, 2019), and multiple bronzes, including at the Akshay Kumar Kudo International Tournament, has proven himself among the best in the sport.

Commending his selection, Tichi Tabang, chairman of the Nyishi Elite Society (NES) Kru Daadi district unit and vice-president of the Gerchi Welfare Society, wished him all the best for the upcoming event.

"Your dedication and passion have brought immense pride to our community, state, and country," said Tabang.

"You are an inspiration to countless young minds. We urge the state government to recognize and support athletes like you who bring glory to the nation," he added.

Duchok's selection is a result of his years of hard work, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the sport.

Under the guidance of the Kudo International Federation India and the Arunachal Kudo Association, and with the constant support of his family, friends, and the local community, Duchok has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship.

He is known for his achievements at Kudo National Championships, including a silver medal in 2021, and bronze medals in 2022 and 2023, and a silver medal.

Minister advisory after...

(From P-1) West Siang district faces an equally serious threat from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), with risk levels assessed as 'very high' by ICAR-NIVEDI forecasting systems. The minister has called for immediate vaccination campaigns to protect cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals in the region.

The comprehensive FMD control strategy includes ring vaccination within an 8-kilometre radius of any suspected cases, using vaccines appropriate for circulating serotypes O, A, and Asia-1. Livestock movement controls will be strictly enforced during outbreak situations, with quarantine measures mandatory for newly introduced animals.

"Animals aged four months and older should receive biannual vaccinations to maintain immunity," stated Wangsu. The advisory emphasizes immediate isolation of infected animals, as their excretions and secretions contain active virus particles capable of rapid transmission.

All feed and fodder that comes into contact with infected animals must be discarded immediately to prevent further contamination, according to the guidelines.

Speaking about the advisory, the minister highlighted that farmers in the state have previously suffered significant losses due to minor negligence in disease prevention protocols. "We cannot afford to take these warnings lightly. Prevention is always better and more cost-effective than dealing with full-scale outbreaks," he stated.

Guv advises OMS...

(From P-1) The governor and his wife toured the newly constructed academic block, inspected the smart classroom facilities, viewed student projects, and appreciated the photo gallery chronicling the OWA's impactful journey in social service and education.

In keeping with tradition, the governor celebrated his 72nd birthday in the midst of the children and teachers of the institute. He and his wife were warmly received and treated to an array of cultural performances presented by the children.

The governor's presence, grace, and spirit, and encouraged them to continue nurturing their curiosity and love for learning, emphasizing that "education is not just about acquiring knowledge but about shaping character and discovering one's true potential."

Emphasizing holistic development of individuals, the governor shared the core principle of the National Defence Academy, which says that the cadets must be physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. He encouraged the students to adopt this mantra in their own lives.

To mark the occasion, the governor and his wife also took part in a plantation programme under the theme 'Ek Doodh Maat Ke Naam' within the school campus.

Oju Mission School stands as a beacon of hope for underprivileged children, offering inclusive and quality education in a caring and value-based environment. (Raj Bhavan)

Tamin-Tagu win...

(From P-1) We are confident that they will continue to make the state proud with their future endeavours," Arunachal State Badminton Association (ASBA) secretary-general Bambang Tago said.

The Yonex Sunrise All India Badminton Ranking Tournament is a prestigious event that attracts top talents from across the country.

The Arunachal State Badminton Association is committed to nurturing young talent and providing them with the necessary support to excel in the sport. ASBA will continue to work towards creating opportunities for its players to shine at national and international levels" assured the ASBA secretary-general.

The ASBA congratulated the young shuttler duo on their well-deserved success and wished them all the best for their future endeavours in badminton.

Nocte freedom fighters...

(From P-1) In retaliation, a British force was assembled, consisting of detachments from the Assam Light Infantry Battalion, the 2nd Sebundies, and the local artillery company, led by captain Brodie, captain SF Huanney, lieutenant Rowlatt, and lieutenant Reid. The combined British forces then launched a punitive expedition against Kheti on 23 December, 1842.

Lowang and his people valiantly resisted the heavily armed British troops, but were ultimately forced to retreat and abandon their village.

The British forces burned down Kheti and established an Army outpost in the neighbouring village of Khelato to deter future acts of resistance. This marked the end of the first Anglo-Nocte War on 29 December, 1842.

Lowangdong, the then chief of Borduria village, stood at the forefront of the Nocte Resistance of 1875, opposing colonial incursions and asserting the sovereignty of his people. The event took place on 18 May.

The resistance began in August 1874, when colonel RH Keatinge, the first chief commissioner of British Assam, issued a notice through lieutenant Holcombe, then assistant commissioner of Jeypure, Assam. The notice stated that the Government of British India intended to annex the Namsang and Hukanjuri tea gardens, along with the tract of land between them. Lieutenant Holcombe further warned Lowangdong that any act of aggression would be met with swift military retaliation, as Borduria village occupied an exposed position, vulnerable from Assam. Although Lowangdong wished to retaliate, he did not want his people to suffer at the hands of the superior British forces.

Therefore, he coerced the chief of Ninu village and its allies into killing lieutenant Holcombe and his survey team by threatening to cut off vital salt supplies and block the strategic trade route to Assam.

This incident triggered the Anglo-Wancho War of 1875. Following an investigation, CU Aitchison, secretary to the Government of British India, concluded that Wangman had orchestrated the attack and directed the course of the war. As a result, on 18 May, 1875, the British formally annexed the tea gardens and the tract between them.

Additionally, Lowangdong was ordered to retrieve and surrender all arms lost at Ninu and capture one of the fugitives involved in the conflict.

The recognition is based on authentic documentation retrieved from the National Archives of India, New Delhi, and presented by Wangtum H Lowang, director of 'Nocte Digest'.

"These two events represent not only courage and leadership of the Nocte people, but also a broader narrative of indigenous resistance that has long remained underappreciated in mainstream history," the DC said.

Their legacy shall now be formally recorded, honoured, and shared," he said.

The names and contributions of these two chiefs will be archived officially in the district records and may be referenced to in future commemorative events, educational materials and cultural initiatives, the DC said.

All government departments and educational institutions have been advised to extend support in preserving and disseminating this vital chapter of regional history. (DIPRO)

APFA grants rights...

(From P-1) The INAL started in 2017, named after the state's football legend Indrajit Namchong, who was the first Arunachali to represent India on an international stage.

Signed in late 2023, the MoU marks the beginning of a strategic overhaul to develop INAL into one of the most competitive and professionally run state-level football leagues in India.

The year 2024 was dedicated to preparation and infrastructure planning, while the revamped league is scheduled to go live in 2025.

As per the new format, ten franchise-based clubs (accepted on a first come, first served basis with 12 July, 2025 as deadline) from various zones of the state will compete for the title.

The organisers said that the initiative aims to build a "self-sustaining model for club owners and a career-oriented platform for aspiring footballers."

"From now on, the league will focus on professionalising, technology infusion, live streaming and enhanced fan engagement," Okit Palfing, the chairman of the SDSAP said.

The league will be held from 2 October to 2 November at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia.

Future editions are planned to expand to multiple venues across the state, eventually incorporating a home-and-away fixture format to build strong local fan bases.

The SDSAP, a non-profit body, has assured that the league will maintain high standards and work towards creating the best state-level football league in the country.

Guv urges graduating...

(From P-1) "Real education begins now, beyond textbooks in hospital wards, health camps, and patient interactions," he said, and encouraged the young doctors to "wield knowledge with humility, balance science with compassion, and let empathy be the foundation of your healing journey."

Commending the TRIHMS for its role as a vital pillar of healthcare in Arunachal, the governor expressed appreciation for TRIHMS Director Dr Moji Jini and the faculty members for their dedication in shaping the next generation of medical professionals.

Highlighting the Government of India's healthcare vision under Vksit Bharat@2047, Parnaik stressed the need to align with national priorities by augmenting infrastructure, expanding rural outreach, and embracing technology in education.

Addressing the TRIHMS faculty members, the governor urged them to have a dual focus, i.e., upgrading teaching infrastructure while nurturing compassionate, community-minded doctors. He also called for "mandatory rural rotations and stronger partnerships with local health systems to address the healthcare gap in remote areas."

TRIHMS Principal Dr Shyamal Bhattacharya administered the oath to the graduating students of the 29 MBBS students of the 2024 batch.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Biryum Wahge, Rajiv Gandhi University Vice-Chancellor Prof SK Nayak, TRIHMS Director Dr Moji Jini, and Dr Mika Umro also spoke.

As toppers in the batch, Ghee Sonya (2020-21), Tiering Pema (2021-22), Prem Lata (2022-23), Smile (2023-24) and Dr Badal Kumar Pandit (2024-25) received the Minoti Riba Memorial Gold Medal in Anatomy as topper of their batch in their respective years from the governor on the occasion. Resum Kamli (2020-21), Dibyadarshi Suman (2021-22), and Dr Phancha Wangsu (2024-25) received the Nirmali Taba Memorial Gold Medal in ENT. Dr Indira Moyong of the 2019-20 MBBS batch received the award as the topper in final year MBBS examination held in 2024.

Dr Angellie Kahmei and Dr Sushamanka Das received their diploma certificates in obstetrics and gynaecology, while Dr Animesh Namdeo and Dr Millo Apo received their diploma certificates in anaesthesiology. Dr Lenong Lego received the diploma certificate in radiodiagnosis and Dr Taru Tari received the diploma certificate in radiology from the governor. (Raj Bhavan)

Man on a mission...

(From P-1) Dondu primarily uses social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X to share his discoveries and observations, which are mainly scientific and propels researchers into carrying out further researches. These platforms help him instantly connect with researchers and people across the globe who are curious about Tawang's wild beauty.

This year, in February, Dondu documented the sighting of a flock of northern pintails (*Anas acuta*) at an altitude of 13,500 feet in Tawang for the first time in Tawang district. This documentation was significant in revealing a change in the behavioural pattern of this migratory species, since these birds were never seen in such a high altitude region.

"I am also planning to develop a dedicated website to showcase the region's biodiversity, treks, and ecotourism opportunities in a more organised and accessible way," he adds.

When asked, he said, "Yes, I have been fortunate to make some significant observations. One of my most memorable discoveries is a species of primula, photographed in Tawang, which was recently confirmed as recorded for the first time in India. Prior to this, it was only confined to Bhutan and southeastern Tibet."

In 2020, he discovered a very rare and endangered orchid called *Cypripedium tibeticum* in the Mago area in central Tawang. More recently, he found another unusual flowering plant, which experts believe could potentially be new to science. A genetic analysis is currently underway to confirm this discovery.

"Apart from flora, Tawang is home to wildlife, including the iconic snow leopard, red panda, clouded leopard, takin, musk deer, marmot, Himalayan monal, tragopan, snow cock, and the wintering black-necked crane. Each species highlights how biologically important this region truly is," he says.

"Every corner of Tawang holds its own magic, with landscapes that transform beautifully through the seasons. From vibrant, wildflower-filled summers to silent, snow-dusted winters, the region is full of contrast and wonder," Dondu says.

Beckoning adventure and nature enthusiasts, he says that if a stretch that truly embodies the soul of wild Tawang, it would be the route from Sulungti to Gongkharg La, leading to the base of Gorichen peak in the Mago area. This region, with its hanging glaciers, alpine lakes, meadows bursting with blooms, and panoramic views of the Gorichen massif, is a dream for trekkers, birders, and spiritual seekers. "The silence in these remote valleys is not empty. It speaks, it teaches, and it transforms you," he says.

Dondu, professionally runs Discover Shangri-la, an ecotourism initiative offering immersive travel experiences in Tawang, and leads the Environmental Protection Society, an NGO based in Tawang. "What began as a personal passion has now become both my profession and my life's mission," he says.

He said that he launched the Shangri La Calling Festival a few years ago. His intent was to showcase Tawang's hidden wonders, especially sacred and spectacular places like Chumig Gyatsal - the 108 waterfalls - and to open new pathways for sustainable tourism that benefits local communities. "However, the event had to be postponed due to some circumstances. We are now preparing to revive it this year in the Mago region," he informs.

This festival will not just be a celebration of nature, but also of the rich culture, heritage, and traditions of Mago. It aims to bring global attention to a region that has remained largely unexplored, while creating meaningful opportunities for the people who call it home.

"For me, Shangri La Calling is not just a passion or a profession. It is a calling. It is a call from the mountains themselves - to stand as their guardian and storyteller, and to honour the communities that have lived in harmony with this land for generations. It is where my purpose, my community, and my commitment come together," he adds.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a recent visit to his home district Tawang lauded Dondu for his tireless efforts in bringing global attention to the hidden treasures of Tawang - from sacred wilderness trails to untouched cultural landscapes.

Locals restore...

(From P-1) The road restoration work was led by former ASMs (2008 batch) of Chetam and Nilling circles, in collaboration with the incumbent gram chairpersons of Chetam and Nilling circles. It was sponsored by the former Dasi village ASM Pudi Tamin Dasi.

Earthmovers and dumpers were pressed into service, and the road was restored after 10 hours of rigorous work by the people of both circles on Saturday.

They took up the restoration work after appeals by the public for immediate restoration of the road went unheeded, the release said.

Dukam advocates...



(From P-1) Arunachal's growth - one that is inclusive, sustainable, and truly transformative."

The workshop was organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Industries, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The event witnessed the participation of over 300 aspiring entrepreneurs from across the state, along with banking officials, industry experts, consultants, HoDs, and other stakeholders.

The workshop aimed to unlock industrial growth in the Northeast by fostering B2B and B2G linkages, facilitating policy awareness, financial access, and digital onboarding for entrepreneurs.

Expressing confidence in Arunachal's potential, Dukam stressed the need for regular dialogue between the government and entrepreneurs to transform the state from a consumer to a producer economy.

Reiterating the state government's commitment to building an investment-friendly ecosystem through progressive policies and infrastructure, he encouraged entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the workshop and equip themselves to thrive in an increasingly competitive industrial landscape.

Dukam's adviser Dr Mohesh Chai called upon the entrepreneurs to contribute towards building a truly 'Viksit Arunachal'. Highlighting the state's strategic location bordering Myanmar, Bhutan, and Tibet, Dr Chai said that with united efforts from all stakeholders, Arunachal can emerge as a gateway for trade and industry in the region.

He also noted the shift from the Government of India's 'Look East' to 'Act East' policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and urged the participants to "leverage the momentum and make UNNATI-2024 a success on the ground."

Chief Secretary Manish Gupta in his remarks underscored the importance of capitalizing on Arunachal's strengths by promoting the secondary and tertiary sectors. He commended the organizers "for curating such a timely and significant event" and emphasized its role in realising the vision of a 'Viksit Arunachal'.

Industries Secretary Saugam Biswas also addressed the gathering, highlighting the opportunities embedded in the UNNATI-2024 scheme and elaborating the day's agenda.

The workshop featured technical sessions on the UNNATI scheme, inter-departmental engagements with DPIIT representatives, experience-sharing forums, B2G meetings, and other allied activities aimed at strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Arunachal. (DIPR)

Landowners donate...

(From P-1) deliberate land-related issues concerning various schools in the area.

Headmasters, teachers-in-charge, and faculty members from five schools - Government Secondary School, Dolungmukh; Para Residential School; PS Pisu; UPS Dolungmukh; and Government Primary School, Taino - were also present, along with the respective land owners of these schools.

Appreciating the noble gesture, MLA Tebin lauded the land donors and termed the initiative "a true example of grassroots development."

Plantation, cleanliness drives organised

DAPORJIO, 28 Jun: The Luyu Welfare Society and the Yinkgi Welfare Society organised tree plantation and cleanliness drives in their adopted areas here in Upper Subansiri district on Saturday.

Participating the drives, Deputy Commissioner Taso Gumbo said that cleanliness of Daporjio township was a major challenge for the district administration and the Urban Development Department, as there were tonnes of rubbish in town.

He said that the plan to have stakeholders adopt areas for a year is aimed at achieving a permanent solution to the garbage problem in the township, and applauded the CBOs for their prompt action and co-operation.

He directed vendors and shopkeepers to adhere to civic sense and refrain from littering their surroundings, adding that defaulters would face strict action. (DIPRO)

Workshop on foundational numeracy

ITANAGAR, 28 Jun: Forty-one participants from various Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) of Tinsukia region of Assam participated in a three-day regional workshop on foundational numeracy conducted at the PM Shri KV No 1 here from 26 to 28 June, in collaboration with the Jodo Gyan Education Foundation.

The workshop aimed to build teachers' capacity in teaching mathematics at the foundational level through experiential, activity-based methods that reduce maths anxiety and foster conceptual understanding.

The workshop emphasized the importance of making mathematics joyful and meaningful by connecting abstract concepts to real-life experiences. Teachers also collaboratively designed lesson plans and discussed strategies to promote inclusive, discussion-based classrooms.

Tinsukia-based KVSR O AC Rajendra Kumar also interacted with the participants.

The workshop facilitated by Jodo Gyan curriculum associates Poja and

Examining NDA govt

Resolve to make India a world leader in every sphere by 2047: Amit Shah urges youth

Notwithstanding the BJP-led NDA government claiming various achievements, a detailed analysis reveals that development has primarily benefited the upper echelons of society and the middle class. The poorer sections have been overlooked, as evidenced by the declining standards of health and education nationwide, for which the states also bear some responsibility.

These observations have been somewhat substantiated by the World Bank. Though it has found that 171 million Indians had been pulled out of extreme poverty and this is quite encouraging, it has revised the poverty line upwards from \$2.15 per head per day to \$3 per head per day. When the poverty line is raised, more people are expected to be included as poor, not less. When such reports appearing, the government seeks not to question the data.

However, if one examines some other metrics of development such as per capita income, the Human Development Index and the Global Hunger Index, the country's rankings are 144, 130 and 105 respectively, which are poor. Thus, resting on the laurels of the recent report makes little sense. Moreover, while the World Bank report has talked about the number coming out of extreme poverty, it has not stated in what category they are in now. Can we say that most of them are just below the poverty line while some belong to the economically weaker sections? Most, if not all, of those who may have come out of extreme poverty have to depend on the state for free rations and other forms of support.

One may refer here to the Congress booklet, '11 Saal, Jhoote Vikas Ke Vaade'. (11 years, false development claims) which has quoted extensively from published data to nullify the government's claims. Citing the Global Hunger Index report, the Congress stated: "Malnutrition remains a national crisis. Stunting (low height for age) is at 35.5 percent, wasting (low weight for height) at 19.3 percent and underweight (low weight for age) at 32.1 percent". It referred to the World Bank report regarding Swachh Bharat, which said: "Toilet usage dropped since 2018-19 by 20 points among SC and 24 points among ST due to non-functional toilets, lack of water and poor maintenance". The hype regarding sanitation in the remote villages and the availability of potable water thus remains much to be desired.

Coming to the economic front, though GDP growth has remained steady, food inflation has increased rapidly, affecting the poor and marginalized sections. The most distressing factor, however, has been lack of job creation

State Of The Poor

as manufacturing did not expand while the government also failed to diversify exports and enter new markets. Over the years, experts have opined that the government has to focus attention on jobs and labour utilisation. Obviously, manufacturing has not picked up while small entrepreneurs and traders are struggling.

There is a definite need to change the outlook of the government towards the grassroot development, i.e. problems persisting down below and affecting the poor and the marginalised. What is indeed tragic is the outsourcing of an array of State functioning and services to an array of private corporations and consultants, thereby making essential services costlier.

To start with, the government must focus attention on the rural sector and make appropriate allocation for the rural employment programme, which is not being done and the last two-three months every year have been devoted to deferring payment of wages. Moreover, the money that is being paid is far less than the minimum wages of the states. This should be looked into while such a programme for the urban poor, as argued by many economists, may need to be given a rethink.

OPEN FORUM

By Dhurjati Mukherjee

In the political domain, Modi's nationalism has re-emerged as a factor in politics, and the country increasingly demands robust responses not only to perfidious Pakistan but also China as well. But the over centralisation of government policies has affected functioning of various institutions. On one hand, power within the Prime Minister Office has emerged stronger, and on the other the importance of Union ministries or crucial feedback from the party is dwindling and being ignored. The Gandhian viewpoint of grass-root involvement in the planning and development process has thus been given a shrift. Can it still be said that democracy is an instrument for the powerless to attain a measure of equality and dignity?

Another aspect of the political strategy of the government has been stifling dissent and curbing individual freedoms. One may refer here to Pawan Khara, the chairman of the Congress's media and publicity department who quoted facts to show that "between 2014 and 2022, 8719 UAPA cases yielded only a 2.55 percent

conviction rate, exposing its misuse to target critics, students, journalists and activists. Repressive policies and the lack of freedom of speech and expression, specially in universities, is gradually being curtailed and should be a growing concern.

Recall, two years ago a report over 500 scientists and academics wrote to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore to ensure that its students and faculty remain free to express and discuss a range of ideas about science and society, after the institute stopped a discussion on the UAPA and the criminal justice system. Numerous such academics and intellectuals have, over the years, protested against curbing the right to dissent and expressing their views. It raises question that imposition of diktats and most arrests maddo not have legal sanctity?

The two vital areas that need to be considered are the erosion of the secular democratic spirit and the lack of a proper strategy to help in job creation on a massive scale. Though the apprenticeship scheme is, no doubt, commendable, what is necessary is the revival of the rural sector and encouragement of cottage and micro industries in specialized areas which have not only market potential but also potential for exports.

Another important aspect that needs to be considered is the education sector which is in the Concurrent List and thus the Central government has a key responsibility in this sector, more so because the states are cash-starved. It can very well be said that the Centre could set up a model school in every Block and one college in every district of the country. The formulation of Right to Education has little meaning if the learning outcomes do not improve and the poor and the marginalized are assured of quality education.

Given the financial constraints faced by the governments and the fact that international agencies have suggested that the super-rich be taxed more, authorities should consider introducing at least some cess could be introduced. Many countries, even the rich economies, have wealth tax and inheritance tax but in India this does not exist. The governments should take note of a quote of political scientist, Sheldon Wolin: ordinary men and women can recognize that their concerns are best protected and cultivated under a regime whose actions are governed by principles of commonality, equality and fairness. Thus, in all fairness the present dispensation must garner more resources for the welfare needs of the struggling masses, not just who may have come out of extreme poverty. — INFA

resolution of creating an India where it attains the first position in every field in the world when the country celebrates the centenary of its independence," Shah added.

The Union minister said the idea of setting up the contributions of tribal leader Govind Guru in India's freedom struggle, saying he awakened the conscience of the people from the region during the British rule.

Shah was addressing via video link a programme where development works worth Rs 125 crore for Shri Govind Guru University at Vinzol near Godhra in Gujarat's Panchmahal district were launched.

Describing Govind Guru a hero of India's freedom movement who fought against the British rulers, Shah said, "Around 1,512 tribal brothers and sisters were martyred in that struggle against the British, and Mangadh (in Gujarat) became an important place in the history of India's fight for independence."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken forward the heroism of Govind Guru, and is determined to make India a great nation by 2047, he said.

"It is a matter of importance for all of us. Our youth and children should make a

Centre issues model rules to ease tree felling on agricultural land, boost agroforestry

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: The Centre has issued model rules for the felling of trees on agricultural land in a bid to promote agroforestry with the aim of doubling farmers' incomes, increasing tree cover outside forests and mitigating climate change.

In a letter sent to all 19 state governments on June 19, the environment ministry said the objective of 'Model Rules for Felling of Trees in Agricultural Lands' is to enhance the ease of doing business in agroforestry and incentivise farmers to integrate trees into their farming systems without facing undue procedural hurdles.

The government has been promoting agroforestry to double farmers' income, enhance tree cover outside forests, mitigate climate change, reduce timber imports and ensure sustainable land use. It also supports India's climate goals under the Paris Agreement.

A key barrier is the lack of clear, harmonised rules for felling trees on agricultural land which affects cultivation and marketing of agroforestry produce, according to the ministry.

According to the model rules, the State Level Committee (SLC) already formed under the Wood-Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016 will also serve as the committee for these rules. It will now also include officials from revenue and agriculture departments.

The committee will advise the state government on how to promote agroforestry and increase timber production from agricultural lands by simplifying rules for felling and transit of trees, especially species with commercial value. It will empanel agencies for verification of applications and transit of timber from agricultural lands.

Applicants must register their plantation land on the National Timber Management System (NTMS) portal. They have to enter land ownership details and the location of their agricultural land.

They must give basic

plantation details, including the number of saplings by species, planting date (month and year) and the average height of seedlings. Applicants will also have to update this information as required by the SLC.

For lands with more than 10 trees, the applicant must apply online through the NTMS, giving detailed information about the trees to be felled.

The verifying agency will do a field visit and prepare a report with details about the land, trees and the estimated quantity of timber. Based on this, a felling permit will be generated.

For applications for the felling of up to 10 trees, applicants need to upload tree photos to the NTMS. The system will estimate the tree size (girth, height), yield and species.

Applicants also need to inform the planning filing date. After felling, they must upload stump photos.

The department concerned may also send an officer to verify. In this case, the no objection certificate for felling will be issued automatically through the portal.

Divisional forest officers will monitor how verifying agencies are functioning. They will submit a report every quarter to the SLC on the performance of these agencies.

Currently, most states have their own laws or rules that regulate the felling of trees on agricultural land. Some states have exempted certain tree species from requiring felling permission, while others require clearance even on private land depending on the species and location.

The new mechanism aims to simplify the process of obtaining permission for tree felling on agricultural land and to transform agroforestry in India into a more organised and structured sector.

Currently, many farmers struggle to get fair market prices for timber because they lack verifiable proof that the wood is legally harvested and not linked to deforestation. (PTI)

Pragmatic Push For Peace

Quiet has once again descended over the historic and imposing headquarters of the United Nations in New York. The 32nd Session of the General Assembly, which began on September 20, has concluded. Delegations from 149 member states are now on their way back home at the end of a session which was both memorable and lively. Not everything that one had hoped for came to pass. Indeed, there was much left to be desired in more ways than one. Nevertheless, the Session will also be remembered for many credits.

Vital issues of war and peace were debated once again and various resolutions voted — but with a difference. Unlike in the previous sessions, the discussions did not lead to any great bitterness or tension. In fact, the session was generally free of confrontation, even if controversies remained and each side tried hard to achieve its ends.

What is more, the session saw the United Nations diplomacy acquire a new, pragmatic dimension in its quest for lasting peace. The door was wisely left open time and again for outside initiatives to be taken within the framework of the United Nations objectives. Search for a meaningful basis for peace and security in the troubled Middle East, for instance, was carried on outside the United Nations, as dramatized by President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Not unexpectedly, it generated both heat and controversy at the United Nations. Significantly, there was no confrontation. There is now a widespread understanding at the United Nations that durable peace in the Middle East cannot be realized until the question of Palestine is amicably resolved. Indeed, Israel's latest proposals on this question show that Prime Minister Begin has begun to pay serious attention to the root of this problem in the Middle East.

President Sadat's initiative may have given the impression that the United Nations had been unable to do anything in the matter. But such an impression would be contrary to facts. Israel, it has to be remembered, was created in 1947 by the partition of Palestine under a General Assembly resolution. But its boundaries have yet to be finally settled, and so also the future of the rest of Palestine outside Israel. Thus the United Nations has still to finish the job it undertook when it partitioned Palestine and created Israel. Otherwise, the very existence of Israel would continue to be questioned and there would be little hope of a lasting peace settlement.

Several familiar issues were spotlighted once again. Prominent among these was the vital issue of disarmament. Much was understandably repeated and some new points were also made. But the focus was mainly on the special disarmament session of the General Assembly due to be held in May and June next year. A preparatory committee is now working on a draft for the Declaration on Disarmament, which will set out the objectives, intermediate targets and a time frame with a set of priorities for a detailed programme of action. The latter is expected to include a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Test and reduction of Military

budget and diversion of resources thus released to development.

Considerable time and attention was also devoted to two other major issues Human Rights and the New International Economic Order. India and the other countries of the third world scored a significant victory when they successfully defeated a renewed western effort to create at this Session a post of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor the performance of various countries in regard to human rights. The third world took the view that the existing Human Rights Commission should first look into the entire question of human rights and put forward proposals which would enable the international community to look into not merely the political rights as emphasized by the West, but also the economic and social rights.

What of the U.N.? Is it any more effective than was? The United Nations is slowly but surely getting stronger notwithstanding cynical comments here and there. Even the criticism of ineffectiveness is seen by these experts as carrying within it seeds of future growth and progress.

REWIND

By Inderjit
(Released on 29 December 1977)

On the economic front, however, the third world suffered a defeat in its efforts to push ahead on the question of establishing the new International Economic Order. After the Paris dialogue, the third world expected the United Nations to get the West to move on to more serious negotiations on a wide-ranging and more representative basis. But the developed Western countries apparently found it difficult to make concessions for the present neither in terms of liberalization of trade or in the rescheduling of debts or in the transfer of real resources. Even in regard to the Common Fund for Committees, the negotiations in Geneva have ended in failure, further reflecting the sad plight of the Western economies.

The United Nations is clearly here to stay and has a role to play. It is, indeed, humanity's only hope to lasting peace and a just world order.

Consequently, the third world was constrained to recognize that no progress could now be made on substantive negotiations and decided instead to concentrate on organizational questions for the time being. It succeeded in establishing a new Committee comprising the entire U.N. Membership to monitor the negotiations taking place on all economic fronts and try to influence them in the direction of the New International Economic Order. In addition, the third

world extracted from the developed countries on other organizational concession appointment at the United Nations Headquarters of a Director General for Development and Economic Co-operation who will function as an economic deputy to the Secretary General, Mr. Waldheim.

How did India and its delegation fare? The March revolution gave India a big boost and greatly enhanced its image among all members of the United Nations, especially the third world countries who were particularly happy to see the world's largest democracy survive the onslaught of dictatorial forces and uphold once again basic human freedoms and values. Interest in India thus revived and its voice was again heard at the UN with great interest and respect. This was reflected as much in the appreciation at the United Nations of Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's powerful speech in eloquent Hindi, as in the key role which India and its Ambassador at the UN Mr. Rikhi Jaipal, played in getting the Security Council as its President for November to decide unanimously on a Mandatory Arms Embargo against South Africa. Not many know that it was the Indian draft resolution which was finally adopted by the Security Council.

The session saw the United Nations diplomacy acquire a new, pragmatic dimension in its quest for lasting peace. The door was wisely left open time and again for outside initiatives to be taken within the framework of the United Nations objectives. Search for a meaningful basis for peace and security in the troubled Middle East, for instance, was carried on outside the United Nations, as dramatized by President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

India's image was furthermore enhanced by the manner in which the delegation vigorously pursued a policy of genuine non-alignment, judging various issues strictly on merit and in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

What of the U.N.? Is it any more effective than it was? Opinion among a cross-section of veterans that I talked to in the popular delegates lounge appeared to be agreed on one point: The United Nations is slowly but surely getting stronger notwithstanding cynical comments here and there. Even the criticism of ineffectiveness is seen by these experts as carrying within it seeds of future growth and progress. World opinion is increasingly coming to accept the United Nations as a meaningful forum as reflected in the pressing request last month by the International Pilots Association for some UN initiative and action against hijacking. As Ambassador Jamil Baroodi of Saudi Arabia who has represented his country at the UN since 1945, told me: "Without the UN, the world would have been greatly worse off. We would have had more tension, more conflicts and perhaps even a war by now". The United Nations is clearly here to stay and has a role to play. It is, indeed, humanity's only hope to lasting peace and a just world order. — INFA

Shukla's space sojourn marks beginning of new era for India: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: The 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' slogan reverberated on the International Space Station as Prime Minister Narendra Modi told astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla that his space travel marked the beginning of a new era and was the first step towards Mission Gaganyaan, India's own human spaceflight project.

"Shubhanshu, today you are the farthest from the land of India, but the closest to the hearts of every Indian," the prime minister told Shukla in an interaction through a video link from the International Space Station, which is orbiting the earth at an altitude of 400 km.

Modi said Shukla's name carries the word 'shubb' (auspicious), and that his journey marked the auspicious beginning

of a new era. "Bharat Mata ki Jai" chant filled up the space station as the prime minister raised the slogan towards the end of the 18-minute conversation, which was reciprocated by Shukla.

Shukla told the prime minister that his space sojourn was "not my journey alone but also our country's", and that he was absorbing these "new experiences like a sponge". "Everything is different here," the astronaut said, sharing his experience in micro-gravity conditions on the space station.

"We trained for a year and I learnt about different systems... but after coming here, everything changed... Here, even small things are different, because there is no gravity in space... Sleeping here is a big challenge... It takes

some time to get used to this environment," he told the prime minister.

The astronaut said that the space station orbits the Earth 16 times a day and that he was privileged to witness 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every day.

"Right now, we are travelling at a speed of 28,000 kilometres per hour. This speed reflects how fast our nation is progressing and now, we must go even beyond this," Shukla said.

Shukla reached the International Space Station on Thursday along with three other astronauts as part of the commercial Axiom-4 mission for a 14-day stay during which the crew will be part of a series of science experiments.

"When I saw India for the first time from space it appeared much larger and

grander than on the map," Shukla said in the interaction with the Prime Minister.

"You can truly feel the sense of oneness -- there are no borders, no lines. It feels as if this entire Earth is our home and we are all its citizens," Shukla said.

Modi told the Lucknow-born astronaut that his historic journey was not just limited to space, but would add fresh momentum to the march towards Viksit Bharat (developed India).

"We have to take Mission Gaganyaan forward. We must build our own space station. And we must ensure that an Indian astronaut lands on the Moon."

"Your experiences will play a crucial role in all these future missions. I am confident that you are diligently recording every bit of your experience," the prime minister said.

Shukla said his travel to the space station was not just his personal feat but a collective achievement of the entire nation.

The prime minister told Shukla that his space sojourn would become a source of great inspiration to the youth of the country.

"I am confident that this will be a source of great inspiration. It has been a true pleasure speaking with you today," PM Modi said.

Shukla told the prime minister that he had brought with him gajar ka halwa, moong dal halwa and aam ras (mango nectar), which was relished by fellow astronauts on the space station.

The International Space Station now has 11 astronauts from six countries. (PTI)

AR organises summer camp for students



KHONSA, 28 Jun: Fifty students from various schools participated in a four-day summer camp organised here in Tirap district by the Assam Rifles.

The initiative was aimed at providing a constructive and enriching environment during the summer break, focusing on holistic development and community engagement.

The camp, which saw

the participation of students from King George School, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sharda Mission School, and ARPS, offered a diverse mix of activities such as sports competitions, a visit to the local museum, a dog show, a pipe band performance, non-flame cooking, dance, zumba, yoga, physical training, and a reading session at the library.

The programme was designed to promote discipline, creativity, physical fitness, and camaraderie among the children, while also introducing them to the ethos and commitment of the armed forces.

The event was appreciated by all attendees and local residents alike, with the large turnout and enthusiastic participation standing as a testament to its success. (DIPRO)

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Preamble of Constitution 'not changeable' but was changed during Emergency, claims V-P Dhankhar

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday (June 28, 2025) asserted that the Preamble of a Constitution is "not changeable" as it is the "seed" on which the document grows.

He said the preamble of no other Constitution has undergone change except that of India.

"But this Preamble was changed by the 42nd Constitution (Amendment) Act of 1976," he said, noting that the words "socialist", "secular", and "integrity"

were added. "We must reflect," he said adding that B.R. Ambedkar did painstaking work on the Constitution and he must have "starely focused on it".

His remarks at a book launch event here came after the RSS on Thursday called for reviewing the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble of the Constitution, saying they were included during the Emergency and were never part of the Constitution drafted by Ambedkar.

The Congress and other

opposition parties have slammed RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale's call for a national debate on whether the terms 'secular' and 'socialist' should remain in the Preamble, terming it "political opportunism" and a "deliberate assault" on the soul of the Constitution.

As Hosabale's strong pitch for a review of the two words inserted in the Preamble of the Constitution during the Emergency days (1975-77) kicked up a political row, an article published in an RSS-linked magazine

organised said it is not about dismantling the Constitution but about restoring its 'original spirit', free from the 'distortions' of the Congress' Emergency-era policies.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh sought to defend the call by the second senior-most functionary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), saying any right-thinking citizen will endorse it because everybody knows that these words were not part of the original Constitution written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. (PTI)

Two Indonesians held in Mumbai with hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 21.55 crore

MUMBAI, 28 Jun: Two Indonesian nationals were arrested with 21.55 kg of hydroponic ganja from a Mumbai suburb, a police official said on Saturday.

Acting on inputs, a team from the Oshiwara police station intercepted two persons in the Jogheshwari area on Friday.

The duo was carrying 21.55 kilograms of hydroponic weed, with a potential to fetch Rs 21.55 crore in the illicit drug market, he said. (PTI)

EPFO Itanagar conducts outreach prog



PASIGHAT, 28 Jun: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Itanagar conducted district outreach programs at Apex Professional University here on Friday.

The programme was presided over by Regional PF Commissioner-II Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, along with Registrar Vijay Kumar Tilak and Deputy Registrar S Santhosh Kumar, and was attended by employees from the institution, besides employees and employers from Pasighat (E/Siang).

The EPFO Itanagar conducts the programme every month for the employees working in private/public sector undertakings, employers and pensioners, to make them aware of their benefits, rights, responsibilities and services under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, and to hear out and redress their grievances, if any.

During the programme, the regional PF Commissioner-II interacted with the employees and discussed various topics, such as recent initiative undertaken by the EPFO on

online services in every sphere of service like online claim submission and settlement, KYCs, e-nomination, profile correction, claiming death benefits by beneficiaries, etc. He also heard out the grievances of employees and employers and advised them to register on portals like EPFGIMS and CPGRAMS to have their grievances redressed online.

A similar programme was also conducted for Lower Siang district at DRDA, Likabali on the same day, a special state office release informed.

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A similar programme was also conducted for Lower Siang district at DRDA, Likabali on the same day, a special state office release informed.

Himanta calls for removing 'socialism, secularism' from Constitution

GUWAHATI, 28 Jun: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed on Saturday that 'socialism' and 'secularism' are "Western concepts", and these words should be struck off the Constitution.

He said these words were included in the Preamble of the Constitution by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi when the country was under Emergency rule, and these have no place in the Indian civilisation.

"How can I be secular? I am a hardcore Hindu. A Muslim person is a hardcore Muslim person. How can I be secular?" Sarma said.

He was speaking after launching a book titled 'The Emergency Diaries: Years That Forged a Leader' in Assam, which is based on first-person anecdotes from associates who worked with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then a young RSS pracharak, and used other archival material.

The book chronicles the 1975-77 Emergency era and Prime Minister Modi's role in the 'resistance

movement'. Sarma said that the words 'socialism' and 'secularism' were not part of the original Preamble and were inserted through the 42nd amendment to the Constitution during the Emergency period under former PM Indira Gandhi.

"It changed the way people perceived our Constitution and damaged our national life," he claimed. He maintained that the word 'socialism' was not put in the original Constitution as Article 14 ensures that the state shall not discriminate on any basis.

The word 'secularism' was inserted by people who view it from the Western angle, and it needs to be struck off from the Preamble, Sarma added.

Sarma maintained that the Indian concept of secularism is not about being neutral, but it is about being 'positively aligned'.

"We are a spiritual nation. If people are told that they can have good roads but cannot visit temples or 'namghars' (Vaishnavite places of worship), our people will choose going to

temples. We are not like countries like China, which have an authoritarian rule," he said.

Sarma said the Western countries have to be 'neutral' as they have their own history of conflict between monarchy and church, which is not applicable for a nation like India with its 5,000-year-old civilisational history.

"After taking oath, we all finally first go to Kamakhya temple and Herdowa (Vaishnavite saint Sankardeva's birthplace), Mulkis go to Mecca. We cannot be neutral but we are inclusive," he asserted.

The CM also claimed that the Western concept of socialism was also imposed by Gandhi, while the Indian economic principle was based on 'trusteeship' and helping the marginalised.

He said that socialism is from countries like Russia and China and is a concept based on 'conflict', with Left supporters many times making its 'positive comparison with communism'.

"These concepts were never for India. Our economic principle is of shar-

ing the riches... This socialism made us lose our competitiveness and capabilities, and we were left behind in the global race," Sarma said.

"The BJP didn't have to even demolish this concept of socialism. P.V Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh demolished it and brought liberalisation," he added.

He was referring to Prime Minister Rao and then Finance Minister Singh who were credited with bringing economic liberalisation in India in the early 1990s.

Sarma said the economic liberalisation was taken forward by the later BJP governments, and its benefits are now being made available to the marginalised and poor sections.

Sarma said that the time is ripe to discuss the 'damage' caused by the Emergency to the nation, and start "erasing the Emergency legacy, just as colonial legacies are being erased".

"We must not forget the Emergency as we cannot repeat the Emergency," he added.

He claimed that Gandhi

had brought in Emergency to save her own chair and there was no situation of unrest in the country to justify it.

The Emergency declared on June 25, 1975, by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi lasted until March 21, 1977. It was marked by widespread press censorship, arrests without trial and the stifling of dissent in academia, politics and civil society.

Sarma also questioned Gandhi's leadership, referring to the formation of Bangladesh.

"By winning the war against Pakistan, what did she do to help the North-east? She could have redrawn the map for NE's straight access to the rest of the country and not remain dependent on the 'chicken neck' corridor. She could have asked Bangladesh to take back the illegal immigrants and they would have obliged," he claimed.

"She was a powerful leader, but what is her contribution to the nation. Even Hitler was powerful but he damaged Germany," Sarma added. (PTI)

Parag Jain appointed new R&AW chief

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: Parag Jain, one of the brains behind the meticulous planning of 'Operation Sindoor', has been appointed as the new chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) under cabinet secretary for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post until further orders, whichever is earlier... the order read.

The decision to appoint Jain as chief of the external intelligence agency was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet earlier this week, officials said.

Before this, Jain was the head of the Aviation Research Centre, an organisation that deals with aerial surveillance, SIGINT operations, photo reconnaissance flights (PHOTINT), monitoring of borders and

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ingery intelligence (MI-NI).

Jain is known for his exceptional expertise in integrating both human intelligence (HUMINT) and technical intelligence (TECHINT) and is widely credited as the mastermind behind the planning of 'Operation Sindoor', providing intelligence support that enabled the armed forces to execute precise strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

India hit nine terror camps across the border and Line of Control, including the headquarters of banned terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and

Lashkar-e-Taiba, on 7 May.

The missile strikes were guided by pinpoint intelligence gathered by a team led by Jain, officials said.

With extensive ground experience in Kashmir, Jain is well-positioned to counter Pakistan's ongoing efforts to rebuild terror infrastructure in PoK.

Jain also brings extensive experience in addressing neighbourhood challenges and issues related to Khalistan terror groups. He played a crucial role in Jammu and Kashmir during the 2019 reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jain has held several significant positions. He was promoted to the rank of director general of police (DGP) in Punjab on 1 January, 2021, though he was on central deputation at the time.

His career includes significant operational contributions during the height of terrorism in Punjab, where he served as SSP and deputy inspector general of police in various districts.

Jain has also served in Indian missions in Sri Lanka and Canada. During his tenure in Canada, he monitored Khalistan terror modules operating from the soil of that country. (PTI)

ICAR-CITH and QUL fruits Pvt Ltd partner to revolutionize temperate horticulture in North East



DIRANG, 25 Jun: The Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (ICAR) and leading temperate agri-technology firm QUL Fruits Pvt Ltd have entered into a strategic partnership aimed at ushering in a new era of temperate horticulture in NE states.

The collaboration was formally launched through a farmer-centric program held in CITH RS Dirang drawing participation from a wide spectrum of horticulture stakeholders.

A release from the ICAR-CITH, Dirang informed that the initiative is designed to introduce high-value temperate crops-particularly apples, kiwis, and persimmons-into the agricultural mainstream of the North East, using proven technologies and success models from the Kashmir

valley. During the event, local farmers were given an insightful demonstration on how advancements in apple cultivation have transformed horticulture in Kashmir, with the promise that similar transformations are possible across the hilly tracts of Arunachal Pradesh and surrounding states.

QUL Fruits Pvt Ltd has announced the opening of a dedicated extension and interaction center named QUL Gab. Located in the region, this QUL Gab will serve as a hub for cross-regional collaboration, enabling North Eastern farmers to directly interact with their Kashmir counterparts. The platform is also expected to facilitate technology transfer, sharing of best practices, and ongoing training sessions.

QUL Fruits Pvt Ltd has also committed to inviting select farmer groups from Arunachal Pradesh and adjoining areas to visit Kashmir with the objective to expose them to real-world applications of innovative horticultural techniques and give them first-hand experience of the changes that have redefined apple farming in the Kashmir valley.

The launch workshop witnessed participation from senior scientists of the CITH regional station, Dr. Avijit I.M. PS, Dr. Pradeep Kumar N, scientist vegetable science, Dr. Supreetha B G, scientist, fruit science, Dirang; several farmer groups from Dirang and neighboring areas; and Junaid, business head of QUL Fruits Pvt Ltd for the North Eastern region.

Study links autoimmune condition with near doubling of mental health risks

Having an autoimmune condition, in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks and damages healthy tissues and organs, could be linked to a near doubling of risk of experiencing persistent mental health issues, a study has found.

Researchers from The University of Edinburgh, UK, said that a persistent inflammation, which is a hallmark of autoimmune disorders, could explain the risks.

Women were found to be at a higher mental health risk, compared to men having the same conditions, according to the study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Medical Health.

The study looked at six autoimmune disorders that included rheumatoid arthritis (affects joints), inflammatory bowel disease and lupus, which can damage kidneys and brain among other organs.

The researchers said that inflammation is linked to mental ill-health. However, many studies have looked at small sample sizes, limiting their validity.

They analysed data of 15.6 lakh people from a UK dataset, of which 37,808 reported autoimmune conditions.

"Overall, the risk of affective disorders among people living with autoimmune conditions was nearly twice that of the general population," the authors wrote.

Further, those with autoimmune conditions were more likely to be women, and at a higher chance that their parents were diagnosed with a mood disorder—such as depression, anxiety or bipolar—at least once in life.

A diagnosis of mood disorder was found to be prevalent among 29 per cent of the participants affected by an autoimmune condition, compared to the general population (18 per cent).

Similarly, depression and anxiety were prevalent among 25.5 per cent and 21 per cent of the autoimmune-affected, compared to 15 per cent and 12.5 per cent in the general population, the researchers found.

Further, while overall prevalence of bipolar disorder was much lower, it was found to be significantly higher among those having an autoimmune disorder—about one per cent, compared to 0.5 per cent of those not having the disorder.

Mood disorders were also seen to be significantly and consistently higher among women (32 per cent), compared to men (21 per

cent) having the same health conditions.

The authors cautioned that being an observational study, the results do not allow to establish a cause-and-effect link.

However, "this analysis of a large national dataset suggests that chronic exposure to systemic inflammation may be linked to a greater risk for affective (mood) disorder," the team said.

The 'Our Future Health' dataset was used for the study. The participants responded to questionnaires with personal, social, health and lifestyle information upon enrollment to the study. (PTI)

Majority of vitiligo patients suffer from depression, some even considered suicide; study says

A study has found that the majority of people suffering from vitiligo live with crippling psychological trauma and even face social exclusion, which takes a massive toll emotionally and on their quality of life.

Vitiligo is a skin condition characterised by loss of skin pigmentation, resulting in white patches.

In the study, 100 per cent of vitiligo patients surveyed said they felt embarrassed about their appearance, and 54.7 per cent had stopped attending social functions altogether.

Conducted among 430 government employees across Maharashtra living with vitiligo, the study found that 87 per cent of participants reported anxiety or concern regarding their condition from in-laws.

The findings of the study were published in the Annals of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in January, highlighting the staggering psychological trauma and social exclusion faced by people living with vitiligo.

Led by Dr Rinky Kapoor and Dr Debraj Shome, co-founders and directors of The Esthetic Clinics, the research provides rare insight into the experiences of patients long overshadowed by the clinical focus of dermatology.

The study evaluated 430 government employees across Maharashtra living with vitiligo, using four internationally validated psychometric scales: the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), Vitiligo Impact Scale-22 (VIS-22), Toronto Alexithymia Scale-20 (TAS-20), and Vitiligo-specific Quality of Life (VitQoL) tool.

As part of the study, 60.5

per cent of patients reported feeling depressed, while 43.3 per cent said they had considered ending their life. Additionally, 100 per cent felt their condition affected their ability to make friends or show affection.

Also, 71.9 per cent of respondents said their skin condition interfered with their ability to work or study. "These aren't just numbers," Dr Kapoor said. "Each percentage point represents a real person losing confidence, relationships, and sometimes even their will to live. The scale of this suffering is unacceptable."

Contrary to popular perception, vitiligo's visibility is what causes the greatest damage, compared to its medical severity.

According to the study, 81.2 per cent of participants reported that the stigma against their condition has

a "large impact" on daily life, highlighting the profound emotional toll of a condition that, while medically benign, is socially punishing, Dr Kapoor said. "The stigma is often compounded by ignorance, with nearly 89 per cent of patients reporting that people around them believe vitiligo is contagious by touch. Women, in particular, bore the brunt, reporting discrimination in matrimonial matches, workplace opportunities, and social life," she stated.

She further asserted that this is not just a dermatological issue but a social emergency.

"We found that even in educated, urban families, vitiligo is misunderstood, feared, and looked at with prejudice. Patients are judged for something beyond their control. Many

women are denied marriage proposals, people are isolated at work, and some patients reported being shunned in public places like temples and weddings," the doctor observed.

Noting that vitiligo cannot be treated as purely a skin-deep issue, especially when over 40 per cent of patients have contemplated suicide, Dr Kapoor called for increased public awareness, psychological support, and social inclusion alongside medical treatment.

While vitiligo remains medically benign, its emotional toll has prompted newer therapeutic approaches.

A second study led by Dr Kapoor and Dr Shome, published in the Dermatological Reviews, explored the use of Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors like topical ruxolitinib. (PTI)

WHO expert group fails to find a definitive answer for how COVID-19 began

An expert group charged by the World Health Organization to investigate how the COVID-19 pandemic started released its final report Friday, reaching an unsatisfying conclusion: Scientists still aren't sure how the worst health emergency in a century began.

At a press briefing on Friday, Mariette Venter, the group's chair, said that most scientific data supports the hypothesis that the new coronavirus jumped to humans from animals.

That was also the conclusion drawn by the first

WHO expert group that investigated the pandemic's origins in 2021, when scientists concluded the virus likely spread from bats to humans, via another intermediary animal. At the time, WHO said a lab leak was "extremely unlikely."

Venter said that after more than three years of work, WHO's expert group was unable to get the necessary data to evaluate whether or not COVID-19 was the result of a lab accident, despite repeated requests for hundreds of genetic sequences and more detailed biosecurity information that were made to the Chinese government.

"Therefore, this hypothesis could not be investigated or excluded," she said. "It was deemed to be very speculative, based on political opinions and not backed up by science." She said that the 27-member group did not reach a consensus; one member resigned earlier this week and three others asked for their names to be removed from the report.

Venter said there was no evidence to prove that COVID-19 had been manipulated in a lab, nor was there any indication that the virus had been spreading before December 2019 anywhere outside of China.

"Until more scientific data becomes available, the origins of how SARS-CoV-2 entered human populations will remain inconclusive," Venter said, referring to the scientific name for the COVID-19 virus.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was a "moral imperative" to determine how COVID began, noting that the virus killed at least 20 million people, wiped at least \$10 trillion from the global economy and upended the lives of billions.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was a "moral imperative" to determine how COVID began, noting that the virus killed at least 20 million people, wiped at least \$10 trillion from the global economy and upended the lives of billions.

Last year, the AP found that the Chinese government froze meaningful domestic and international efforts to trace the virus' origins in the first weeks of the outbreak in 2020 and that WHO itself may have missed early opportunities to investigate how COVID-19 began.

U.S. President Donald Trump has long blamed the emergence of the coronavirus on a laboratory accident in China, while a U.S. intelligence analysis found there was insufficient evidence to prove the theory. (AP)

Over 20 lakh from tribal areas screened for sickle cell anaemia in past 8 years: CSIR DG

More than 20 lakh people from tribal areas have been screened since we started the sickle cell anaemia project eight years back, said CSIR's Director General Nallathambi Kalaiselvi, terming it among the institute's more successful missions.

Introduced in the Union Budget 2023 and launched in July the same year, the 'National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission' is aimed at eliminating the blood disease from the country by the end of 2047.

The genetic disorder affects red blood cells, making them sickle-shaped, instead of the usual round one. Common symptoms include acute painful episodes, blocking of blood vessels and possible organ damage.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Kalaiselvi, who is also the Secretary of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research,

searched, said, "While the country started talking about sickle cell anaemia only three years back, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) started addressing sickle cell anaemia eight years back, thanks to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, who gave the funding for the first five to six years."

"It is actually one of our very visionary, successful missions, I would say," she said. Kalaiselvi made history when she was appointed the first woman chief of CSIR—the country's largest research and development organisation, with 37 national laboratories and over 3,400 scientists.

She explained that the sickle cell anaemia mission was divided into three parts, first being the screening and surveillance done by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology

(CCMB) in Hyderabad.

"If you just see the screening and surveillance, it is a great success story for our team, headed by Dr Chitra Chandak (at CCMB), which went to Raipur, Bilaspur and other places," Kalaiselvi said, adding that 20 lakh people have been screened so far.

"They interacted with the tribal communities and provided counselling pre and post-marriage, before and during pregnancy, and also after child birth," she explained.

"The second part looked at drugs and medicines that could be utilised for sickle cell anaemia. This was headed by the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology," Kalaiselvi added.

The third part, involving genome sequencing and editing, was headed by the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, the 58-year-old said.

Kalaiselvi said, "Now, after five to six years, we realised the great potential of coming up with a sickle cell anaemia detection kit, developed by (Chandak's) group."

Explaining the working of the kit, she said, "Using one drop of dried blood, you can easily understand if you have a threat of developing sickle cell anaemia... if you are a carrier or patient... or what is the severity of the condition."

"It is going to cost even less than Rs 100, and you need not depend upon sophisticated instruments from now onwards," she added.

Born in February, 1967, in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, Kalaiselvi graduated with a Bachelors in Chemistry from Government Arts College in Tirunelveli. She obtained a Post Graduate Degree in Chemistry from

Garfield



Peanuts



Dennis the Menace



| Sudoku | | | | Previous issue's Solution | | | | | |
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Lando Norris feels back to his old self with pole position for the Austrian GP

SPIELBERG, 28 Jun: Lando Norris said he felt back to his old self after taking pole position by more than half a second in qualifying for the Austrian Grand Prix on Saturday.

Norris is seeking a strong result in Austria after colliding with his McLaren teammate and Formula 1 title rival Oscar Piastri at the last race in Canada. Norris crashed out and immediately apologized, while Piastri extended his standings lead.

Piastri rued his bad luck in third place on Saturday after a yellow flag meant he had to abandon his final lap.

Norris set the pace throughout the final part of qualifying and his final lap increased his advantage over second-placed Charles Leclerc of Ferrari to 0.521 of a second.

"Nice to see the old me back every now and then," Norris quipped with his team over the radio.

Norris hopes it's 'just the beginning'



It's the third pole position of the season for Norris and the first since last month's Monaco GP, which he also won. Norris has been less consistent than Piastri in qualifying this season, even when he's later shown it can match the Australian's pace on the race.

"Some of my tougher moments have been the qualis, so to put in a lap like today, to have the

performance throughout this weekend like I had, was pleasing for myself," Norris said.

"I'm very happy with today but I want to prove it to myself over and over again and hopefully this is just the beginning of it."

Norris ended a streak of five pole positions at the Red Bull Ring for defending champion Max Verstappen, going back to the 2021 Styrian GP.

Piastri was .062 further back in third and said he had to abandon his final run of qualifying when Pierre Gasly's Alpine spun in front of him, causing a yellow flag which meant drivers behind had to slow down.

"Lando's been very quick all weekend so it would have been a tough challenge, but I think we easily had enough pace in the car this weekend to be on the front row," Piastri

said. "Always a shame when you don't even get the chance, but we can still have a good race from there. Sometimes it's just not your day."

Verstappen and Red Bull struggle

Lewis Hamilton was fourth as Ferrari had one of its best qualifying performances of the season and Verstappen seventh for Red Bull after his final lap was also spoiled by the yellow flag.

It was a difficult day for Red Bull at its home track. Verstappen's teammate Yuki Tsunoda hasn't scored a point in three races and continued to struggle. He was 18th. "I didn't have any front frip, bro," he told the team.

There was a delay for a red flag in the second part of qualifying when grass at the side of the track caught fire. The same problem caused repeated disruptions in qualifying at the Japanese GP in April. (AP)

South Africa teenager Pretorius becomes youngest test cricketer to score 150 on debut

BULAWAYO, 28 Jun: South Africa teenager Lhuan-dre Pretorius became the youngest player to score 150 runs in test cricket on Saturday against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club.



Pretorius made 153 on debut in the first test at 19 years, 93 days. He was 26 days younger than when Pakistan's Javed Miandad tallied 163 in 1976 against New Zealand in Lahore.

Pretorius was the fifth youngest man in test history to score a century on debut, and the youngest South African.

Corbin Bosch, playing his second test, also scored a century, getting there on the third-to-last ball of the day.

South Africa was 418-9 at stumps after the first day.

"It was amazing," Pretorius said. "I was quite nervous (when I walked in). I'm glad (the debut is) over. We knew they only had two seamers and we knew we could take the spinners out of the attack. I just love batting, fortunately it worked out for me today."

For their first test in neighboring Zimbabwe in 11 years, the Proteas picked

only four of the 11 who won the World Test Championship final at Lord's this month. Among those not picked were captain Temba Bavuma, player of the final Aiden Markram, and Kagiso Rabada, who took nine wickets.

Spinner Keshav Maharaj was the stand-in captain and chose to bat first with three debutants in Pretorius and allrounders Dewald Brevis and Codi Yusu.

They were soon in trouble at 23-3, when Pretorius walked in, and 55-4, when Brevis joined 95 in 88 balls for the fourth cricketing hundred.

There's no video review, and Pretorius didn't walk on

30 when he edged behind and was given not out. It would have been Tanaka Chivanga's fourth wicket in six overs. He appeared to knock Brevis' 50 in 127.

Pretorius reached his 50 in 53 balls, followed by Brevis' 50 in 138, the fastest by a South African debutant. Brevis was out for 51, including four sixes.

Pretorius broke Graeme Pollock's record to become the youngest South Africa century-maker — 100 off 112 balls — followed after tea by 150 in 157 balls.

Chivanga finally got Pretorius to pull at a short ball that popped to mid-on. He scored 153 in 160 balls with 11 boundaries and four sixes.

Yusu's own useful contribution was 27 in a 59-run ninth-wicket stand with Bosch.

Bosch was dropped on 2 and 97 and got to his century in the last over with a single toward backward square leg. His hundred took 124 balls and included 10 boundaries.

Bosch had support from No. 11 batter Kwena Maphaka, who was 9 not out.

Chivanga has 4-83. (AP)

Pogba signs 2-year deal with Monaco to relaunch career after doping ban

LONDON, 28 Jun: Former France midfielder Paul Pogba joined Monaco on a two-year contract on Saturday in a bid to relaunch a stellar career derailed by injuries and a doping ban. Monaco confirmed the widely expected transfer on the club website, and in a video posted on X, with the 32-year-old Pogba wearing the club's red-and-white jersey.



The former Juventus and Manchester United player will play in the French top flight for the first time.

Monaco finished third in Ligue 1 last season and Pogba, who has been without a club since leaving Juventus last year, gets the chance to play Champions League soccer again providing Monaco gets through qualifying.

Pogba honed his technique in France at Le Havre's academy but signed with Manchester United at age 16 in 2009.

Previously one of the world's top midfielders, Pogba made more headlines in recent years with his off-field problems.

Last year, Juventus said it came to "a mutual agreement" with him to cancel his contract despite the 2018 World Cup winner having a ban for doping slashed. The Serie A club never seemed enthusiastic about welcoming him back after his four-year ban for doping was cut to 18 months by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Pogba tested positive

for testosterone in 2023 and was handed the maximum punishment by Italy's anti-doping court. CAS judges reduced it as they acknowledged a lack of intent and said his positive test was the result of erroneously taking a prescribed supplement.

In 2016, Pogba became the then-most expensive soccer player in history when he returned to United from Juventus for a fee of 105 million euros (\$116 million). He has played 91 times for France and scored in the World Cup final when Les Bleus beat Croatia 4-2.

Kylian Mbappé, who also scored in the 2018 final

and enjoyed a good relationship with Pogba, posted a message on Instagram saying "Pogback" and "Daghe Munegu" (which in Monaco dialect means "Go Monaco").

Overall, Pogba netted 39 goals for United in 226 games. He returned to Juventus as a free agent in 2022, but injuries limited him to 12 matches in his second spell at the club.

Monaco's signing of Pogba shows an intent to mount a stronger challenge for the French title next season after wasting a good start last season. (AP)

Arjun Atwal in top-10 at US Senior Open

COLORADO SPRINGS, 28 Jun: Indian golfer Arjun Atwal landed two birdies late in his second round to get into the top-10 of the U.S. Senior Open here.

Atwal, the only Indian to have won on the PGA Tour, has now shot two straight even par rounds and lies tied-10th.

Atwal, who had two birdies and two bogeys in the first round, had a second hole on the 11th, his bogey hole, and then carded a double bogey on the 15th. He fought back with birdies on the 17th, 26th and eighth and closed with a par on the ninth.

Padraig Harrington and Stewart Cink endured the ups and downs together for a second straight day and found themselves tied for the lead. Harrington has now shot 67-67, while Cink has carded 68-66 to be at 6-under.

Cink made up five shots over the final nine holes of his head-to-head pairing against Harrington, and the players headed into the weekend tied at 6-under 134, along with late-charging Mark Hensby.

Cink shot 31 on the front nine, his second nine, to match Harrington's score on



the back.

Three behind was Thomas Bjorn (69), followed by Y.E. Yang (68) and Billy Andrade (69) at 2 under.

At 1-under, Darren Clarke, Steve Flesch and Miguel Angel Jimenez -- whose round included an approach on 18 from closer to the driving range than the fairway and a double hit from the rough on No. 2. Jimenez had no penalty for that.

The 52-year-old Cink, the 2009 Open champion who is playing in his first U.S. Senior Open, hit all 18 greens in regulation, making it 35 of 36 for the week.

Among those who missed the cut were 12-time senior major champion Bernhard Langer, who shot 77, and Angel Cabrera, a two-time major winner this year, who shot 75. (PTT)

Rohit wanted me to bring aggressive outlook to KL Rahul's batting: Abhishek Nayar

NEW DELHI, 28 Jun: Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar says then skipper Rohit Sharma had entrusted him with the task of giving an "aggressive outlook" to KL Rahul's batting when he took over the role with the Indian team last year.

However, Nayar had to leave the job after India's 1-3 series defeat against Australia in the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"When I first picked up that role, I remember I had a conversation with Rohit, and he said that one of the things he was really keen on me doing was working with KL and bringing out a more aggressive outlook to how KL played the game, and bringing the best out of him," Nayar told ESPNcricinfo.

Rahul had some reasonable outings in the first two years, scoring 276 from 10 innings against the Aussies with a couple of fifties, and the right-hander

made 140 runs in five matches in the ensuing Champions Trophy while batting down the order.

"He (Rohit) believed strongly that KL would play a major role in the Champions Trophy, World Cup and everything going forward including the BGT and the Tests in England," said Nayar.

Even though India lost the first Test at Leeds, Rahul made a bright beginning to the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, making 42 and 137 while opening the innings.

The beginning of Rahul's transformation, Nayar said, was in the training he did prior to the tour of Australia.

"Australia was going to be critical for him because it was almost like what if you didn't get runs there...because he was out of the T20 [squad]. Then this could also very well have been his last series."

"Over hours and hours of conversation, eventually I got him to a place where he sort of trusted me to do certain things with him in regards to how he practises, in regards to trusting certain changes in his tactics, in regards to his stance, where he stands in the crease, what guard he takes," Nayar detailed.

"So why does Rahul struggle to meet his talent with performances? "People keep talking about your potential and your talent, and you keep adding more pressure saying that because everyone thinks I'm talented, I need to live up to it, and those expectations sometimes weigh on your shoulders. That was something that I think was one of those things that was holding him back."

"It takes the fun out of the game. This doesn't let you play the kind of cricket you want to play, and more than anything it kills your instinct completely," he added. (PTT)

TITLE CHANGED
I, Miss Jeena Pegu, Do/De hereby change my title from 'Pegu' to 'Tamuk' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, Pasighat, East Siang District, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 296 dtd. 24.06.2025.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Miss Jeena Tamuk for all purposes.

TITLE CHANGED
I, Shri Gotom Pegu, S/o Late Ojong Pegu, do hereby change my title from 'Pegu' to 'Tamuk' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, Pasighat, East Siang District, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 294 dtd. 24.06.2025.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Shri Gotom Tamuk for all purposes.

TITLE CHANGED
I, Shri Gaurav Pegu, S/o Late Ojong Pegu, do hereby change my title from 'Pegu' to 'Tamuk' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, Pasighat, East Siang District, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 291 dtd. 24.06.2025.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Shri Gaurav Tamuk for all purposes.

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I, Miss Ojita Pegu, Do/De hereby change my title from 'Pegu' to 'Tamuk' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, Pasighat, East Siang District, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 292 dtd. 24.06.2025.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Miss Ojita Tamuk for all purposes.

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I, Shri Karsing Pegu, S/o Late Karte Pegu, do hereby change my title from 'Pegu' to 'Tamuk' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, Pasighat, East Siang District, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 297 dtd. 24.06.2025.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Shri Karsing Tamuk for all purposes.

TITLE CHANGED
I, Miss Anung Pegu, Do/De hereby change my title from 'Pegu' to 'Tamuk' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, Pasighat, East Siang District, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 293 dtd. 24.06.2025.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Miss Anung Tamuk for all purposes.

AFFIDAVIT
I, Shri Iken Angu alias Ipin Angu, S/o Lt. Nyal Angu, do hereby solemnly declare that I shall henceforth be known and recognized as 'Shri Iken Angu' instead of 'Ipin Angu', in accordance with Affidavit No. 7242, dated 26.06.2025, executed before Notary, Govt. of India, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh.
Henceforth, I shall be known as Shri Iken Angu for all purposes.

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CORRECTION
I, Shri Juguram Natung, do hereby correct my son's name from 'Tangam' to 'Noha' vide an affidavit made before the Notary Public, ICR, Nirjuli, (A.P) vide Sl. No. 1005/25 on dated 14.05.2025.
Henceforth, my son's correct name shall be known as Noha Natung for all purposes.

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AFFIDAVIT
I, Shri Gollo Butam, S/o Lt. Gollo Ali, Resident of VII G.P. No. 10, P.O. Nohla, Dist. Papum Pore, Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh have corrected my name from Gollo Tattai to Gollo Butam vide an Affidavit No. 354 dated 27/06/2025 before the Executive Magistrate, Dohkh (A.P).
Henceforth, I shall be known as Shri Gollo Butam in all Purpose.

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Smriti Mandhana's elegant maiden ton leads India to 97-run win over England in 1st T20I

NOTTINGHAM, 28 Jun: Stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana's graceful maiden T20 International hundred adorned India's smooth 97-run win over England in the opening match here on Saturday.

The visitors now lead the five-match T20I series 1-0.

Mandhana (112, 62 balls) and Harleen Deol (43, 23 balls) added 94 runs for the second wicket as India posted a commanding 210 for five after being invited to bat.

Skipper Nat Sciver Brunt (66, 42 balls) waged a lone battle for England, who were limited to 113 all out in 14.5 overs by the on-song Indian bowlers.

For India, debutante left-arm spinner Shree Chaurani (4/12) was the most successful bowler, as there was nothing much left in England's innings after they lost half of the line-up inside the first 10 overs for a sub-100 score.

Mandhana, who led the team in the absence of injured regular captain



Harmjanpreet Kaur, stole the day with an innings that was a full-fledged display of her style, aggression and ability to play shots around the field. She gave the Indian innings some early impetus, making 77 runs with a struggling Shafali Varma (20, 22 balls), whose return to top-flight cricket after a gap of eight months was less than satisfactory.

Mandhana was the dominant figure in that alliance off just 8.3 overs. Shafali's dismissal did not deter Mandhana as the left-hander raised a further 94 runs for the second wicket with an equally aggressive Harleen, who was dropped on 26 by Danny Wyatt-Hodge off off-spinner Alice Capsey near mid-wicket.

any such chances to England, and she started off with three boundaries off left-arm spinner Linsey Smith in the fourth over, and hardly took her foot off the accelerator. Later, she also punished another left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone for two sixes in the seventh over as the Indian innings chugged along.

Mandhana brought up

her fifty in 27 balls, and the next 50 came off just 24 balls. Mandhana soon went past 87, her previous best in T20Is, and touched the three-figure mark for the first time in her career that has 30 fifties.

She reached the coveted milestone in style too, hammering pacer Lauren Bell for two consecutive boundaries.

Her knock is the highest for India in T20Is, surpassing Harmanpreet's 103.

At the other end, Deol relied more on sweeps to fetch boundaries, using the general lack of direction of English bowlers on the day she fell to Bell, who was England's most successful bowler (3/27).

Mandhana was eventually dismissed by Ecclestone but not before taking India to a position of strength.

England tried to stage a late comeback as Bell removed Richa Ghosh (12) and Jemimah Rodrigues (0) in the 18th over but by then India were already closing in on the 200-run mark. (PTI)

Pegula beats Swiatek on grass to win Bad Homburg title in Wimbledon tune-up

BAD HOMBURG, 28 Jun: World No. 3 Jessica Pegula beat five-time major champion Iga Swiatek 6-4, 7-5 to win the grass-court Bad Homburg Open and extend Swiatek's year-long title drought on Saturday.

Pegula clinched her third of 2025 — with the others in Austin, Texas, and Charleston, South Carolina — and it was the ninth title of the American's career.

World No. 8 Swiatek sought her first trophy since the 2024 French Open and 23rd overall.

In their 11th career meeting but first on grass, Pegula won for the fifth time overall. Pegula beat Swiatek in the quarterfinals at last year's U.S. Open, where she finished runner-up.

Although Swiatek hit nine aces in the final on Saturday, she also dropped her serve twice. Pegula



saved the only break point she faced.

Still, Swiatek took heart from her performance.

"This tournament shows there is hope for me on grass," she said. "I'm happy we can play here and I'm happy I could prove that."

The former No. 1 has won four French Opens and one U.S. Open but has never been beyond the

quarterfinals at Wimbledon. Pegula has also never been past the last eight at Wimbledon, where plays starts on Monday in London.

Elsewhere on Saturday, 19-year-old Australian Maya Joint saved four match points as she won the Eastbourne Open final against Filipino qualifier Alexandra Eala 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (10). (AP)

Elite Women's Boxing: Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen starts campaign with win

HYDERABAD, 28 Jun: Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen opened her campaign with a clinical 4:1 win over Uttar Pradesh's Rashi Sharma in the 48-51kg category on the opening day of the Elite Women's Boxing Tournament here on Saturday.

Haryana's Anjali scored an upset win over World

Championships bronze medalist Manisha Moun in the 57-60kg category at the Hyderabad's Saroornagar Indoor Stadium.

Other notable Day 1 results included a win for 2023 world champion Nitu (Haryana) in 45-48kg over Rajani Singh (UP) 5:0 while Telangana's Yashi Sharma defeated K Monisha (Tamil Nadu) 5:0 in the 60-65kg

category. Another standout performer from the TOPS setup, Laxmi, posted a dominant 5:0 win in the 51-54kg bout against Ragini (UP).

The gold and silver medalists in each of the 10 weight categories will be selected for the elite national camp to be held in Patiala. (PTI)

Diksha and Vani in top 10 at Amundi German Masters

HAMBURG, 28 Jun: Diksha Dagar and Vani Kapoor had a contrasting day two at the Amundi German Masters to be placed tied eighth as three out of the nine Indians made the cut at the Green Eagle Golf Course.

Diksha played an even par round to slip from the top five while Vani played 3-under 70 to move into the top 10.

The only other Indian to make the cut was Avani Prashanth who played a round of 1-over 74 to end the day at tied 43. She made two birdies, one bogey and one double bogey.

Diksha played an even par round to slip from the top five while Vani played 3-under 70 to move into the top 10. The only other Indian to make the cut was Avani Prashanth who played a round of 1-over 74 to end the day at tied 43. She made two birdies, one bogey and one double bogey.

Sweden were in shared lead the field. Brien had a round of 1-under 70 and a combined score of eight under par with rounds of 68-70 (33; 58-1). (PTI)

also played a second round of 3-under 70 to tie in tied lead.

Shannon Tan played a round of 4-under 69 to move into third place and has a 36-hole score of seven under par.

Brien and Tan are the two highest ranked players on the Order of Merit taking part in the tournament.

Diksha began her second round on the front nine and picked up a shot on the second hole and then dropped the third before closing the front nine with a birdie.

On the back nine she had a bogey on the 12th and a birdie on the 13th. However, she dropped a shot on the 16th to close the day with an even par round. She continues to have a combined score of four under par.

Vani started on the front nine and had six quiet holes before she made birdie on the seventh and then closed the front nine with a bogey.

On the back nine Vani picked up shots on the 12th, 15th and 18th holes to finish the day at a combined four under par. (PTI)

India overcome Malaysia to regain team gold in Asian Snooker

COLOMBO, 28 Jun: Multiple-time world champion Pankaj Advani and British snooker legend Ding Junhui secured a fine 3-1 win over formidable Malaysia to regain the team gold in the ACBS Asian Snooker Championship here on Saturday.

For India, who last won the gold two years ago in Iran, this was their fifth gold.

Having been put through the wringer in the semifinals earlier in the morning by Hong Kong-1 (3-2), the Indians' savior Aditya Mehta, who suffered a neck niggle, for both the matches, came back recharged for the final.

Damani, who made a sizzling 33 clearance that took proportions of an 80-break in the deciding against Hon Man Chan in the semi, seemed to carry that momentum into the title clash.

Playing the first singles, he made a gritty 52 before an unlucky red off-ended the break abruptly against Thor Chuan Leong.

Given a lifeline, Thor Chuan, winner of the Asian 6-red title three days ago, fought back in fine style, prevailing 68-58 with a run of 39, to put Malaysia ahead.

Advani, who lost a rare frame in the semi against Kwok Wai Fung, brushed aside Lim Kok Leong to

make it one-frame apiece.

In the doubles, after letting Malaysia take an early 33-1 lead, Damani punished Thor Chuan's error with a brilliant frame-clinching break of 60 to put India just a win away from the title.

Advani then kept the dangerous Thor Chuan on a tight leash with his stunning safety play en route to a decisive victory.

Results: Final India beat Malaysia 3-1 (Brijesh Damani lost to Thor Chuan Leong 58 (52); Pankaj Advani beat Lim Kok Leong 66 (51)-25; Advani/Damani beat Tir Chuan/Lim Kok 76 (60)-33; 58-1). (PTI)

Jayasuriya takes 5 wickets as Sri Lanka beats Bangladesh by an innings and 78 runs in 2nd test

COLOMBO, 28 Jun: Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took his 12th five-wicket haul in test cricket to lead Sri Lanka to a dominating win over Bangladesh by an innings and 78 runs in the second cricket test and a 1-0 victory in the two-match series.

The fourth day started with Bangladesh struggling on 115 for six needing 97 more runs to make Sri Lanka bat again. But the rest of the match lasted less than 30 minutes as Jayasuriya polished off the tail by taking three of the last four wickets at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Bangladesh was all out for 133 in its second innings having made 247 in the first. Sri Lanka scored 458 in its first innings dominated by a brilliant century from opener Pathum Nissanka and backed up by half-centuries from Dinesh



Chandimal (93) and Kusal Mendis (84).

Litton Das (14) edged Jayasuriya to wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis with one run added to the overnight score Saturday. Jayasuriya lured Nayem Hasan (5) for a drive and he was stumped by Kusal Mendis. Jayasuriya caught Thajul Islam (6) off his own bowling while off spin bowler Tharindu Pathirana ended the game trapping Ebadot Hossain

(6) bow.

Jayasuriya finished the innings with 5-56. Captain Dhananjaya de Silva and Rathanayake took two wickets each.

The first test in Galle ended in a draw.

"Bowlers and batters did well in the first innings here," said de Silva. "Bowlers had their plans and executed well. That's a good morale booster for us, losing the toss and putting the opposition under

pressure." De Silva had high praise for Nissanka, who was named player of the match and series.

"He's been performing in all three formats for a long time and I think he will continue to do that," de Silva said of Nissanka.

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said after the match that he would step down as test captain to allow consistency in leadership in

different formats of the game, but he had been replaced as one-day international captain.

Shanto said his side's batting "wasn't up to the mark."

"We had opportunities but we couldn't make those things happen," he said. "The wicket is a little slower but the way we got out was not good enough. We always took easy options and made mistakes while batting." (AP)

All it needs is attitude adjustment to become a good fielding side: Haddin

SYDNEY, 28 Jun: Former Australia keeper Brad Haddin believes the Indian team, led by Shubman Gill, needs an "attitude adjustment" as the visitors try to find a way out of their fielding woes in the ongoing five-Test series in England.

Indian fielders, especially Yashasvi Jaiswal, dropped several catches as Gill's side lost the opening Test as Headingley by five wickets to go 1-0 down against Ben Stokes' team.

The 47-year-old Haddin, who played 66 Tests and scored more than 6,500 runs across formats for different eras had good fielding as their distinguishing feature.

"Every great team, no matter who era you are playing, the one standout they've always had... they've been great fielding



teams. And, I think, that's the one legacy (Shubman) Gill can start to leave now on this team," said Haddin in his Willow Talk podcast.

"It needs an attitude adjustment if you want to field well and compete the whole time, it's only adjusted," Haddin added.

Young opener Jaiswal, who was fielding in the slips and gully region, crucial catches off the bowling of Jasprit Bumrah, leaving the pace spearhead frustrated.

Indicating that Indian

players' poor fielding was evident during this year's Indian Premier League. Haddin said the catching had left a lot to be desired during the two-month-long T20 tournament.

"In the IPL this year, the catching was horrible. Yes, we talk about talented bowlers, batsmen, but it was the catching that was a real problem."

He said that there was becoming stopping India from being the best fielding side in the world given the kind of talent they had.

"And the one thing I'd say to India, is find a way to be the best fielding team in the world because you've got the talent everywhere else," he said.

India will hope to overcome their shortcoming and level the series when the second Test gets underway in Birmingham on July 2. (PTI)