

Assam, N-E States to receive heavy rains



A section of a road damaged due to a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall in Sikkim, on Saturday. (PTI)

GUWAHATI, June 15 (IANS)

OWING to cyclonic circulations, Assam and other States in the north-eastern region are set to receive heavy rain in the next few days, weather officials said on Saturday.

Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms lashed various places in Assam including the southern part since Friday night. Sanjay Shaw, Director of the regional meteorological centre in Guwahati told IANS, "A cyclonic circulation over Assam and neighbourhood area is persisting 1.5 kilometres above the mean sea level. Moreover, the east-west trough from north-west Bihar to Nagaland now runs from cen-

tral Uttar Pradesh to east Meghalaya across north Bihar and sub-Himalayan West Bengal at 0.9 kilometres above the sea level." He has also mentioned that another cyclonic circulation lies over east Bihar and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal including Sikkim which is also accounting for the torrential rains in the north-eastern region. The maximum and minimum temperatures have also dropped in many cities across the north-east.

SIKKIM CM TAMANG VISITS LANDSLIDE HIT VILLAGE: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Saturday visited landslide affected Majhua village in Namchi district and talked to the affected people.

Ramaphosa re-elected S African President

JOHANNESBURG, June 15 (PTI)

SOUTH African President Cyril



Ramaphosa has been reelected by lawmakers for a second term after his African National

Congress and the Democratic Alliance struck a historic deal to form a coalition Government by setting aside their rivalry.

Ramaphosa's ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years in last month's elections. It got 40 per

cent of the vote, while the Democratic Alliance (DA) came second with 22 per cent.

The new Government of national unity combines Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-Right DA and smaller parties.

Ramaphosa, 71, easily won the late Friday vote against Julius Malema, leader of the far-Left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). Ramaphosa got 283 votes and Malema just 44.

In his victory speech, Ramaphosa hailed the new coalition, and said voters expected the leader to "act and to work together for the good of everyone in our country."

Modern warfare

No longer solely physical domain: IAF chief



IAF chief V R Chaudhari congratulates cadets during the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal on Saturday. (PTI)

HYDERABAD, June 15 (PTI)

MODERN warfare is no longer a solely physical domain, but a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Saturday.

Addressing the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA) at Dundigal near here, Chaudhari also said tomorrow's conflicts cannot be fought with yesterday's mindset.

G7 Summit commmits to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

■ By Aditi Khanna

BARI (Italy), June 15 (PTI)

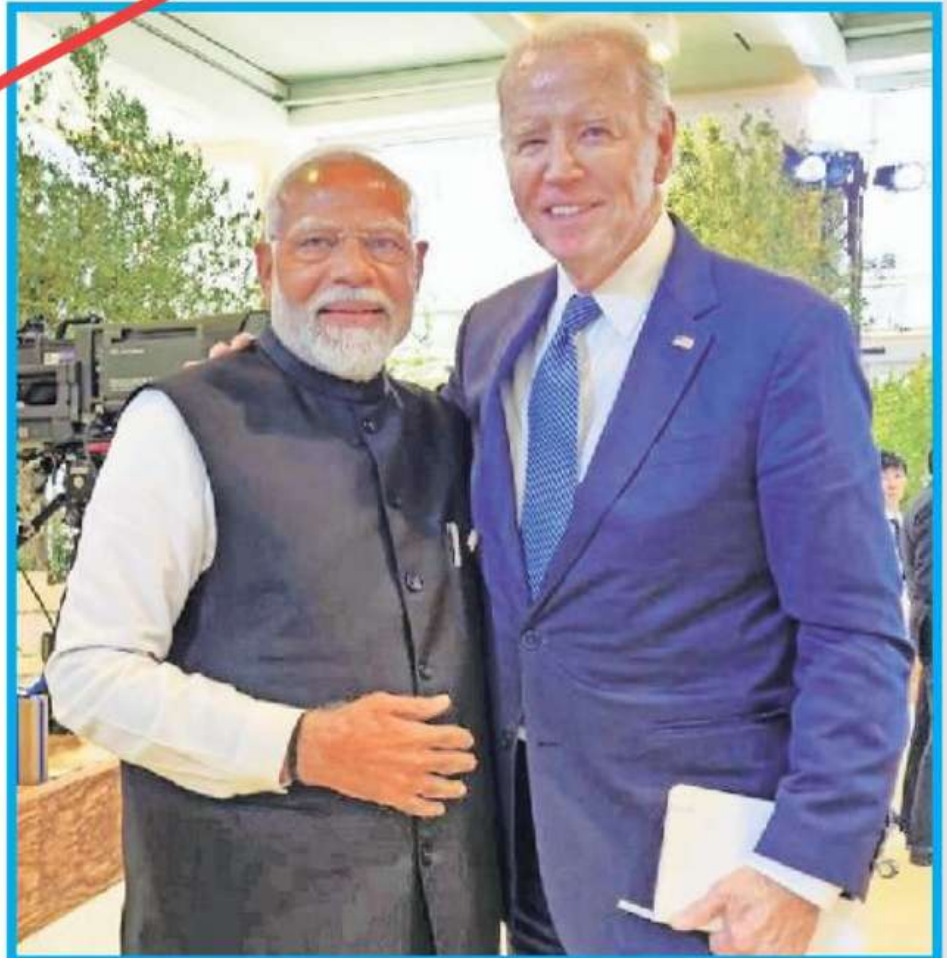
THE Group of Seven industrialised nations have committed to promoting concrete infrastructure initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in the G7 Summit Communique issued at the end of the three-day G7 Summit, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Communique was issued on Friday evening after the customary "family photo" at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia, where the G7 also reiterated a commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific" based on the rule of law.

Prime Minister Modi attended the G7 Summit at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the host.

"We will further promote concrete G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives, flagship projects, and complementary initiatives to develop transformative economic corridors for quality infrastructure and investment, such as the deepening of our coordination and financing for the Lobito Corridor, the Luzon Corridor, the Middle Corridor, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, also building on the EU Global Gateway, the Great Green Wall Initiative, and the Mattei Plan for Africa launched by Italy," reads the communique.

Billed as a path-breaking
(Contd on page 3)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G7 summit, in Apulia, Italy. (PTI)

Modi, Meloni review progress of India-Italy strategic partnership

BARI (Italy), June 15 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni have reviewed the progress of the bilateral strategic partnership and agreed to strengthen cooperation in global fora and multilateral initiatives, including the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. A Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) readout of the meeting said the leaders committed to fulfil their shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific and also discussed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).



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Naxalites, 1 STF jawan killed in Chhattisgarh encounter



(Left) A security personnel injured during an encounter with Naxalites being treated in Narayanpur district on Saturday. (Above) Pipe bombs and pressure cooker bombs have been deactivated by soldiers in Bijapur on Saturday. (PTI/ANI)

■ Three IEDs planted by Naxalites recovered in Bijapur district

NARAYANPUR, June 15 (PTI)

EIGHT Naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, police said. Two other STF personnel sustained injuries in the incident, they said.

A huge cache of weapons and other materials belonging to Naxalites were recovered from the encounter site, they said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said his Government is fully committed to eliminating Naxalites, and it will not sit quiet till it achieves the goal.

The gunfight broke out at around 7 am in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts — Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon — was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraaj P said.

The operation was launched on June 12 based on information about the presence of cadres belonging to Maad division and PLGA com-

pany no. 1 of Maoists in forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and Kodtameta villages under Kohkameta police station area of the district, he said.

Personnel from the State Police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and STF, along with the 53rd battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 135th battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), were involved in the operation, he said. The exchange of fire broke out when security personnel were cordoning off the area, followed by intermittent firing till the afternoon in the forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and

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MEA, SBI ink MoU for digital payment aggregation services



NEW DELHI, June 15 (PTI)

THE Ministry of External Affairs and the SBI have signed an MoU to provide an additional digital payment service of the bank through its payment gateway SBlePay to users of the eMigrate portal, including Indian migrant workers and recruiting agents, officials said on Saturday.

This agreement would "further facilitate and enhance the ambit of safe and legal migration of Indian migrant workers", according to a statement issued by the Ministry.

Since its launch in 2014, the eMigrate project has been assisting Indian workers going to emigration check required countries for employment by making the emigration process online and transparent, and to bring foreign employers, registered

recruiting agents and insurance companies issuing the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna on one common platform to facilitate seamless, safe and legal migration, it said.

The portal also has a mechanism for voluntary registration of emigrants holding ECNR category passports proceeding for overseas employment, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement said.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Bramha Kumar, Joint Secretary (OE & PGE) on behalf of the ministry and Neelesh Dwivedi, General Manager (NW-I), from the SBI's side at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan here. The MoU seeks to "provide an additional digital payment services of the SBI through payment gateway called SBlePay to Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents and other users of the eMigrate portal (<https://emigrate.Gov.In>)", it said. It will be operational soon after successful integration of the SBlePay with the eMigrate portal, the officials said.

PRAYER
*Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good. His love
endures forever.*
Psalms 136:1