

PM Modi assures support to flood-hit Arunachal, Nagaland

NEW DELHI, July 30 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured five Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland that the Central Government would extend all necessary support and continue working in close coordination with the concerned state Governments to effectively tackle the challenges posed by the ongoing heavy rainfall and floods.

After meeting the MPs from the two Northeastern states, PM Modi posted on his official X account: "Had a meeting with MPs from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. We talked about the situation in these states in the wake of floods there. The Central Government will keep working with the respective State Governments to address the challenges. Praying for everyone's wellbeing and safety."

Led by Union Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, the five parliamentarians met the Prime Minister at Parliament House, New Delhi. They discussed the ongoing flood situation in the two States. Later, Rijiju said in a post on his X handle: "The Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland met Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji at Parliament House, New Delhi apprised him of the prevailing flood situation in both states. Hon'ble PM assured full assistance has already given necessary directions for ensuring timely relief,

restoration support for the affected people." Other members of the MP team which met the Prime Minister included Tapir Gao (Lok Sabha, Arunachal

Pradesh), Tai Tagak (Rajya Sabha, Arunachal Pradesh), S. Supongmeren Jamir (Lok Sabha, Nagaland) and S. Phangnon Konyak (Rajya Sabha, Nagaland).



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with MPs from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland in the presence of Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju during a meeting in the wake of flood situation in these states, in New Delhi.

(PTI)

Sikkim Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba meets PM in New Delhi

GANGTOK, July 30 (PTI)

SIKKIM'S Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Parliament House and submitted a memorandum seeking his early intervention on a series of long-pending developmental, strategic and constitutional issues concerning the Himalayan State.

A statement from the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) MP's office said that during the meeting, Subba conveyed the greetings and gratitude of the people of Sikkim and Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang to the Prime Minister for the Centre's continued support to the Himalayan state.

The Prime Minister also enquired about the recent tunnel mishap in Sikkim. The MP briefed him on the state Government's response to the tragedy and thanked the Prime Minister for his concern and support for the affected families, the statement said.

India, Germany to sign submarine deal very soon: German envoy

NEW DELHI July 30 (PTI)

INDIA and Germany are expected to sign a deal for next-generation submarines "very soon", German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann said on Thursday.

India and Germany are reportedly finalising an estimated 8 billion euros (over Rs 90,000 crore) Project-75I submarine agreement for six next-generation conventional submarines to be built in India for the country's navy.

Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and India's state-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders are expected to ink the agreement. "Submarine deal, I'm very hopeful and confident that it will be signed very soon, in the next month, maybe," Ackermann told reporters here.

India eyes \$500 billion electronics mfg by 2030 under Viksit Bharat roadmap

NEW DELHI, July 30 (IANS)

INDIA is targeting annual electronics and semiconductor production worth \$500 billion by 2030 as part of its broader vision to transform into a developed nation by 2047, a Senior Government official said on Thursday.

Addressing the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC)

Dialogue 2026 here, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the Government's Viksit Bharat roadmap has translated the 2047 vision into sector-specific action plans with clearly defined milestones for 2030.

Highlighting the electronics and semiconductor sector, Bhatia said India aims

to scale annual production from the current baseline of around \$330 billion to \$500 billion by 2030, before expanding further to between \$5.3 trillion and \$8 trillion by 2047.

"These targets will unlock significant manufacturing opportunities," he said, adding that the Government's long-term plans cover both economic and social sectors and are designed to accelerate industrial growth.

Bhatia said India continues to remain one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, supported by a sustained focus on reforms and implementation over the past decade.

He noted that reform efforts have gathered further momentum in the last three years through high-level committees working on sector-specific initiatives.



Odisha on high alert as flood situation remains grim

BHUBANESWAR, July 30 (PTI)

ODISHA remained on high alert on Thursday as the flood situation continued to be grim in four northern districts, while rising water levels in the Mahanadi triggered fears of a "medium" flood in the river's downstream areas, officials said. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said that although water levels in some rivers in north Odisha were receding, they continued to flow above the danger mark and fresh areas were inundated overnight.

"The administration is on high alert and leave of all officials in the flood-affected districts has been cancelled," he said.

Floods triggered by incessant rain under the influence of a deep depression inundated several villages in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj districts.

In view of the IMD's rainfall forecast and the flood situation, authorities ordered the closure of schools and anganwadi centres in Bhadrak, Jajpur, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi districts. Rescue operations were intensified, and more than 1.65 lakh people were evacuated to safer places, officials said. So far, over six lakh people have been affected due to the floods.

Jajpur collector Ambar Kumar Kar said the flood situation worsened after two breaches developed in the embankment of the Kani river, a tributary of the Baitarani, near Patana under Dasarathapur block on Wednesday night.

The breaches marooned several villages and inundated fresh areas, severely affecting people in three blocks, officials said.

Meanwhile, swelling water level in the Mahanadi emerged as a major concern, prompting authorities to alert districts along the river basin following heavy rainfall in its upper catchment areas in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

"The situation has intensified as floodwaters from the Tel, Ib and Jira rivers are adding to the Mahanadi's flow, leading to a fur-



An aerial view of flood affected areas of Jajpur, Bhadrak and Baleswar, Odisha on Thursday. (PTI)

ther rise in the water level," an official said. The water level at the Hirakud Dam stood at 620 feet against its full reservoir level of 630 feet. The reservoir was receiving an inflow of 3,31,063 cusecs, while 64,109 cusecs were being released downstream through two gates. Officials said

additional gates may have to be opened if the water level continues to rise.

ASSAM FLOOD REMAINS GRIM; IMD PREDICTS HEAVY RAINFALL IN ARUNACHAL, NAGALAND: The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Thursday even as water receded

from most parts of the State, with the death toll rising to 78 and over three lakh people continuing to reel under the deluge, officials said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), however, forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms at isolated places across the State and neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland over the next three days, raising concerns for districts bordering the two States.

HEAVY RAINS LASH TELANGANA: Heavy rains lashed several parts of Telangana on Thursday, narrowing the rainfall deficit in the state during the current monsoon season and bringing cheer to farmers.

The rains led to traffic snarls in the city, prompting the Cyberabad Traffic Police to ask companies and organisations operating in the area to consider work from home wherever possible after 2 pm.

Police, in an advisory to all schools and educational institutions in the area, suggested considering online or virtual classes on July 31, to minimise travel-related risks and inconvenience for children and ease pressure on road infrastructure.

Two brothers killed, mother injured in landslide in Nagaland

KOHIMA, July 30 (PTI)

TWO teenage brothers were killed and their mother was injured in a landslide in Nagaland's Mokochung district, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred at Upper Penli Ward early on Wednesday when a rain-triggered landslide struck their residence, a senior officer said.

The bodies of the teenagers were retrieved from the debris by a joint team involving the personnel of SDRF, district administration, police, Penli Ward Colony Council and local volunteers, he said.

Their mother was rescued

after being trapped in mud up to her waist, the officer said.

The landslide was triggered by overnight rain, causing a retaining wall above the rented house to collapse, he said.

The deceased were identified as Muwalong Sangtam (19) and Thridiba Sangtam (16), both students of Queen Mary Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Mokochung, he said.

The family had returned to Mokochung only a few days ago after schools reopened on July 28 following the summer vacation. The deceased and their mother hailed from Alisopur village in Tuensang district.

'First module of Indian space station to be launched in 2028'

NEW DELHI, July 30 (IANS)

BHARATIYA Antariksh Station, planned as India's first indigenous space station comprising five modules and targeted for establishment by 2035, will see the development and launch of its first module, BAS-01, by 2028, the Government said on Thursday.

Baseline design review and system engineering for BAS-01 have been completed, 31 baseline design documents released, sub-system design work has commenced and development of proto hardware for human space programme is in progress, Union MoS Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said in the Rajya Sabha.

As part of Gaganyaan programme, new developments in the area of Human Rated Launch Vehicle (HLVM3), Orbital Module, Crew Escape System,

■ Proto hardware development for human space programme is in progress, Jitendra Singh informed RS

ground infrastructure establishments, establishment of flight operations and communication network, Crew recovery operations have been carried out.

Precursor missions TV-D1, IADT-01 and 02 have been accomplished and activities are in advance stages for 1st Uncrewed mission, G1, the minister noted.

Docking systems have been worked out including electrical and mechanical interfaces. The concept demo model of Refuelling mechanism has been

successfully demonstrated.

Other critical technologies for human spaceflight requirements include flight suit, view port and crew seat. For Gaganyaan missions these have been currently sourced from external parties.

Major critical technologies for the human space programme have been identified including flight suit, view port, crew seat and docking technology. Government has approved the indigenous development of these critical technologies.

"These initiatives will establish the technological foundation for indigenous design and development of the remaining four modules of BAS," the minister said.

It will build self-reliance in critical human spaceflight technologies, thereby fostering innovation and high-technology manufacturing required for human space flight, he added.

Jaishankar to Ukrainian counterpart: Attacks on Indian seafarers unacceptable

NEW DELHI, July 30 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday conveyed to his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha that attacks on commercial shipping and Indian seafarers in Black Sea by any party are “absolutely unacceptable and India condemns them “unequivocally”.

Jaishankar said this during a phone conversation with Sybiha that came days after India summoned Ukrainian envoy Oleksandr Polishchuk and lodged a strong protest over killing of an Indian seafarer in an attack on a merchant vessel in the Black Sea region.

The vessel MV Omorfi had reportedly come under Ukrainian drone strikes amid fresh hostilities between Russia

and Ukraine.

Five Indian seafarers have died and two more reported missing following recent Russian and Ukrainian attacks on merchant vessels.

“Discussed attacks on commercial shipping and Indian seafarers in the Black Sea. Such attacks by any party are absolutely unacceptable and India condemns them unequivocally,” Jaishankar said on social media.

“India has consistently advocated dialogue and diplomacy between the parties concerned,” he said.

“Underlined the fragility of the current international situation, with multiple conflicts in different geographies. These are impacting fuel, fertilizer and food security, especially for the Global South,” Jaishankar added.

Sybiha, on his part, pitched for India to play an “active role” in ending its conflict with Russia.

In a social media post, the Ukrainian foreign minister said he had a “good” conversation with Jaishankar and that he briefed his Indian counterpart about President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s recent visit to Washington DC. Sybiha said he also conveyed to Jaishankar the “consequences of Russian aggression” far beyond Ukraine’s borders.

“By attacking civilian vessels in the Black Sea, Russia undermines freedom of navigation and puts global food security at risk. At the same time, its continued war fuels instability in global energy markets, affecting countries far beyond our region,” he alleged.

Iran strike kills 1 at Chinese firm building in Kuwait

■ By **Samy Magdy and Elena Becatoros**
CAIRO, July 30 (AP)

AN IRANIAN strike hit a Chinese firm's building in northern Kuwait on Thursday morning, severely damaging the structure and killing a worker, Kuwait's military said, hours after Jordan's air defences shot down five missiles launched from Iran.

The attacks came after the US military said it had completed "a heavy wave of strikes against Iran," conducted in response to an earlier Iranian missile attack on a US base in Jordan.

The US and Iran each fired barrages of missiles Thursday, as the pattern of back-and-forth strikes took hold again and hope dimmed for any quick resolution.

Central Command said in a social media post that the US

US, Iran trade missile barrages as hopes dim for quick resolution

Jordan's air defences shot down 5 missiles launched from Iran

had struck "dozens" of targets belonging to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, including military command centres as well as missile and drone facilities, and coastal surveillance and defence sites.

No casualties were reported from Jordan's interception of the missiles, Jordan's state-run Petra news agency said, quoting the spokesman for the country's armed forces.

The flare-ups on multiple fronts after several days of relative calm raised the risk of a return to all-out war. It also underscored the difficulty of winding down a five-month conflict that has jolt-

ed the world economy and is unpopular among Americans. The fighting was likely to add to concerns that the US is further drawing down already diminished stockpiles of sophisticated munitions needed to defend its bases and allies.

The new strikes came hours after US President Donald Trump vowed to hit Iran "very hard" after it targeted a base in Jordan that hosts US troops.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said three people were killed and two were wounded in a strike on the island of Qeshm, which lies just off the Iranian mainland in the Strait of Hormuz.

The latest barrage came after the US partnered with Saudi Arabia to strike Iran-backed militias in neighbouring Iraq, killing at least 20 fighters and six Iranian advisers on Wednesday.

Fires reported on two natural gas vessels in Egyptian port

Elsewhere, British maritime security firm Ambrey said drone strikes ignited fires on two natural gas vessels at the Egyptian port of Damietta on Wednesday. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the strikes on a US-owned floating storage facility and a Greek-owned tanker. No injuries were reported. The office of the Egyptian

prime minister said initial investigations showed the fires on the two vessels had been caused by a drone.

Egypt, a close US ally and regional mediator, is one of the only countries in the Middle East to have been spared direct military action during the war. A strike by Iran or its allies, if confirmed, would mark a significant widening of the conflict.

Asked during an Oval Office event if Iran was responsible for the strikes on the natural gas vessels, Trump responded: "It's a little more of the same."

"In the meantime, we're going to be hitting them very hard because it's our turn to hit them," he added.

The strait is once again effectively closed - and in recent weeks, fighting elsewhere has squeezed energy supplies further.

Thousands of people break through border separating Morocco from Spain

CEUTA, July 30 (AP)

THOUSANDS of migrants streamed into the tiny Spanish territory of Ceuta from Morocco on Thursday, prompting local officials to call on Spain to declare a national emergency and send the army to restore the frontier.

Spain's interior ministry said it would guarantee the safety of citizens and the integrity of the nation's border, but that the government could not declare a national emergency over migration concerns.

Video footage showed crowds of people, mainly Moroccans, walking around the breakwaters at Tarajal beach onto local roads. While the majority appeared to be young men, there were also families with women and children. "Viva Espana!" some shouted to a freelance photographer working for The Associated Press.

Spain is a main point of arrival into Europe for migrants seeking better economic opportuni-

ties or an escape from violence in their home countries.

The escalation at the border between Spain and Morocco comes after a surge in migrants attempting to reach the small exclave, mainly by swimming.

The scenes of people streaming across the frontier recall the border crisis of May 2021 when more than 8,000 migrants poured into Ceuta in just two days.

Juan Jesus Vivas, the head of Ceuta's regional government, called for the national government to declare a national emergency on grounds of national security, asking for more police and for the army to be deployed on the border.

Vivas said the additional police and soldiers would be necessary "to guarantee the inviolability of the frontier and citizen safety."

He had warned on Wednesday that migrant reception centers were overwhelmed with hundreds of people sleeping on the streets.

Sprinters Gavit, Basil complete historic 1-2 in men's 100m T47



Mohammed Basil

Dilip Gavit

GLASGOW, July 30 (PTI)

INDIA'S para-athletes remained an inspiring and unstoppable force at the Commonwealth Games as sprinter Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath scripted another story of grit with a gold-silver finish in the men's 100m T47 final here.

Gavit clocked a Games record and his season's best time of 10.71 seconds to take the top spot, while Basil produced his season's best of 10.83 seconds to finish second in a closely-fought race on Wednesday.

England's Kevin Santos completed the podium taking 10.85 seconds to win bronze. The

men's 100m T47 is a para athletics sprint event covers arm impairment or absence, affecting strength, movement or coordination on one side.

Gavit's gold was India's third at the Games, following Mirabai Chanu's victory in the women's 48kg weightlifting event and Sharmila Dhankar's triumph in the women's shot put F57 para athletics category.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU CONGRATULATED: President Droupadi Murmu congratulated Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Mohammed Basil Morssinganakathi. Murmu also congratulated Murali Sreeshankar on winning Silver in the men's long jump event.

Sreeshankar leaps into history with second straight CWG long jump medal

GLASGOW, July 30 (PTI)

MURALI Sreeshankar became the first Indian long-jumper to win two successive medals at the Commonwealth Games as he once again claimed a silver at the event with a confident performance which showed that his two-year battle with a career-threatening knee injury was now well and truly over.

Having claimed his first silver in Birmingham in 2022, the 27-year-old added another to his collection after producing a best leap of 8.09 metres, capping an emotional comeback from



(Contd on page 5)

Parliament passes Anti-Paper Leak Bill amid Opposition walkout

NEW DELHI, July 30 (PTI)

PARLIAMENT on Thursday gave its approval to a Bill to amend the Anti-Paper Leak law, prescribing stricter punishment, with the Government saying it is proceeding on the major issues affecting students and sought cooperation from all sections to deal with the problem.

The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 was cleared by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha amid Opposition walkout, a day after it was passed by the Lok Sabha.

The Bill, introduced earlier in the day by Jitendra Singh, was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday after a nearly seven-hour debate.

According to the Bill, individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get



MoS Jitendra Singh

jail terms for a minimum of five years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh.

For organised crimes, the bill proposes a minimum sentence of seven years and a fine of up

to Rs 10 crore.

The amendment Bill seeks to empower all the State Governments and Union Territories administrations to designate any court of session to be a special fast-track court to try offences under the proposed law. It also provides that the proceedings in such courts are continued on a day-to-day basis and the trial is completed within three months from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

The bill also empowers the Central Government to constitute a special task force for investigation of any offence, if necessary. In the Upper House, the discussion saw interventions from both sides, with the Government defending the amendments as a necessary step to deter the paper-leak mafia through higher penalties, designated courts, and time-bound trials.