

Govt releases 1st tranche of Rs 160 crore interim relief to 75K affected households

GUWAHATI, Aug 3 (PTI)

THE Assam Government on Monday released the first tranche of Rs 160 crore interim relief of about Rs 15,000 each to around 75,000 flood-affected households, officials said.

ASSAM FLOOD

The toll in the devastating deluge in Upper Assam rose to 85 as three more deaths were reported on Sunday even as the number of affected people dipped to 1.35 lakh, they said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is touring the worst-affected districts, released the

first tranche of interim relief from Dibrugarh. Around 75,000 families with severely damaged houses in Sivasagar, Chariadeo, Jorhat and Golaghat districts received Rs 15,000 each, among other benefits provided for the affected people in the first tranche, the officials said.

Sarma is scheduled to visit parts of Sivasagar district during the day and oversee the relief and rehabilitation operations, while also interacting with the affected people.

The fresh fatalities in the deluge were reported in Sivasagar, one of the most-affected districts in the current wave of floods in the northeastern State.

A total of 1,36,200 people remained affected by floods in the Charaideo, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, and Sivasagar districts. On Saturday, almost 1.8 lakh people were affected across five districts. Sivasagar remained the worst-hit with over 55,000 people affected, followed by 40,000 people in Charaideo and 22,000 in Jorhat.

Flash floods hit Kargil villages; Army, police launch relief ops

JAMMU/KARGIL, Aug 3 (PTI)

FLASH floods triggered by heavy rainfall and cloudburst hit parts of the Kargil region, damaging infrastructure, disrupting road connectivity and prompting rescue operations by the Army, police and civil administration, officials said.

Heavy rain triggered flash floods in Hardass and Tumail villages of Kargil district on Sunday evening, inundating habitations and damaging roads and other public infrastructure, officials said.

Local authorities and emergency teams rushed to affected areas to assess the damage and launch relief operations.



JCB excavators clear debris and scattered wooden logs which were swept away in a flash flood at Nepali Khuti area, in Sivasagar on Monday. (ANI)

Important to anticipate future security challenges: CDS



Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) General N S Raja Subramani poses for a group photograph with officials during the inauguration of the fourth edition of the Tri-Services Future Warfare Course (FWC-4) at the Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (PTI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff General N S Raja Subramani on Monday addressed military officers attending a tri-service future warfare course here and emphasised

the importance of anticipating future security challenges and developing the ability to respond effectively across multiple operational domains.

Conducted by the Headquarters Integrated

Defence Staff (HQ IDS), the four-week course brings together officers from the three services along with representatives from the government, industry, academia and strategic institutions.

The fourth edition of the Tri-

service Future Warfare Course commenced at the Manekshaw Centre, with the CDS delivering the keynote address at the inaugural session.

In his address, Gen Subramani focussed on the changing char-

acter of warfare and the growing influence of emerging technologies on military operations, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. He emphasised the importance of anticipating future security challenges and developing the ability to respond effectively across multiple operational domains.

The CDS highlighted the increasing role of artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, autonomous systems, information warfare, space technologies and data-driven decision-making in shaping future conflicts.

He also stressed on the need for greater jointness, integration and collaboration between the Armed Forces, industry, academia and the research community to strengthen national defence preparedness.

During the programme, participants will deliberate on subjects covering geopolitics, emerging technologies, cognitive and cyber warfare, multi-domain operations, scenario-building and technology-enabled warfare.

India-Uzbekistan bilateral trade

Goyal calls for doubling in three years

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (IANS)

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday invited businesses from India and Uzbekistan to co-invest, co-manufacture and co-innovate, while calling for concerted efforts to double bilateral trade between the two countries over the next three years.

Addressing the India-Uzbekistan Business Forum here along with visiting Uzbek Investment, Industry, and Trade Minister Laziz Kudratov, the Minister said the strategic partnership between the two countries,

based on mutual trust, respect, and a shared vision for prosperity, offers tremendous opportunities for expanding trade, investment and economic cooperation. Goyal said India and Uzbekistan have an immense business potential that remains largely untapped.

He observed that while bilateral trade has crossed approximately \$1.5 billion, it represents only a fraction of what the two economies can achieve together.

The Minister said India offers Uzbekistan not only a large and growing market but also a reliable partner, a skilled and youthful work-

force, and a platform for innovation-led growth.

Referring to the recently concluded Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Uzbekistan, he said the agreement would enhance investor confidence and encourage businesses from both countries to invest in each other's economies and build long-term partnerships.

Goyal identified several sectors with strong complementarities that offer significant scope for bilateral collaboration.

He said Uzbekistan presents substantial opportunities for Indian

investment in the mining sector.

He also highlighted the potential for cooperation in textiles, noting Uzbekistan's strength in cotton production and India's leadership in the textile industry, with opportunities to jointly expand into garment manufacturing, design, and global markets.

In the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors, the Minister said India, recognised as the pharmacy of the world, can support Uzbekistan's healthcare modernisation through affordable medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, telemedicine, training of doctors and paramedics, and quality healthcare services.

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Vishwesh Negi appointed India's next envoy to Iran

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (PTI)

DIPLOMAT Vishwesh Negi has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Iran, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Monday. An IFS officer of the 2002 batch, he is presently a Joint Secretary in the Ministry and is expected to take up the assignment shortly. "Vishwesh Negi, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Iran," the MEA said in a statement.

The West Asia region remains deeply volatile since February 28, when the US-Israeli combine launched military strikes on Iran and Tehran retaliated.

Military-civil integration key to robust defence ecosystem to fight challenges: Rajnath



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presents an award to an AFHQ personnel during the AFHQ Civilian Services Day ceremony, in New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said there was a need to “deepen integration” between the military and civil components of his Ministry to foster greater synergy within the defence ecosystem to tackle evolving security and technological challenges.

In his address at the foundation day celebrations of Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services here, he also said that if officers of the AFHQ Civilian Services develop defence-specific common cyber tools leveraging their expertise, it could prove beneficial to the

defence forces.

Singh emphasised that both the uniformed and civil services share the same commitment of ‘nation first’, and when the objective is singular, every element of the system transforms into national strength.

Underlining that defence forces are marching towards greater jointness with renewed vigour, he said there was a need to deepen integration between the military and civil components of the Defence Ministry to foster greater cooperation and alignment within the defence ecosystem to tackle evolving security and technological challenges.

Suu Kyi has rare meeting with International Red Cross

BANGKOK, Aug 3 (AP)

MYANMAR'S detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with the International Committee of the Red Cross' representative in the capital on Monday, the military-backed government said, a rare moment of contact with the outside world for the Nobel laureate who has been held out of public view since the military seized power in 2021.

Two photographs published with the announcement showed Suu Kyi shaking hands with Arnaud deBaecque, the ICRC's representative to Myanmar, and meeting with him in a wood-paneled room.

The Presidential Press and Information Bureau, which released the photographs, said the meeting was held Monday morning but did not disclose the location of the meeting or provide details about what was discussed.

Two other photographs showed Suu Kyi cutting a pink birthday cake bearing the inscription, "Happy Birthday Aunty Suu, 19.6.2026," suggesting they may have been taken during a celebration for her 81st birthday in June.

In the photos, Suu Kyi appeared relaxed and was smiling. She did not show any obvious signs of ill health, although her physical condition could not be independently assessed from the images.

There was no immediate comment from the ICRC's Myanmar office.

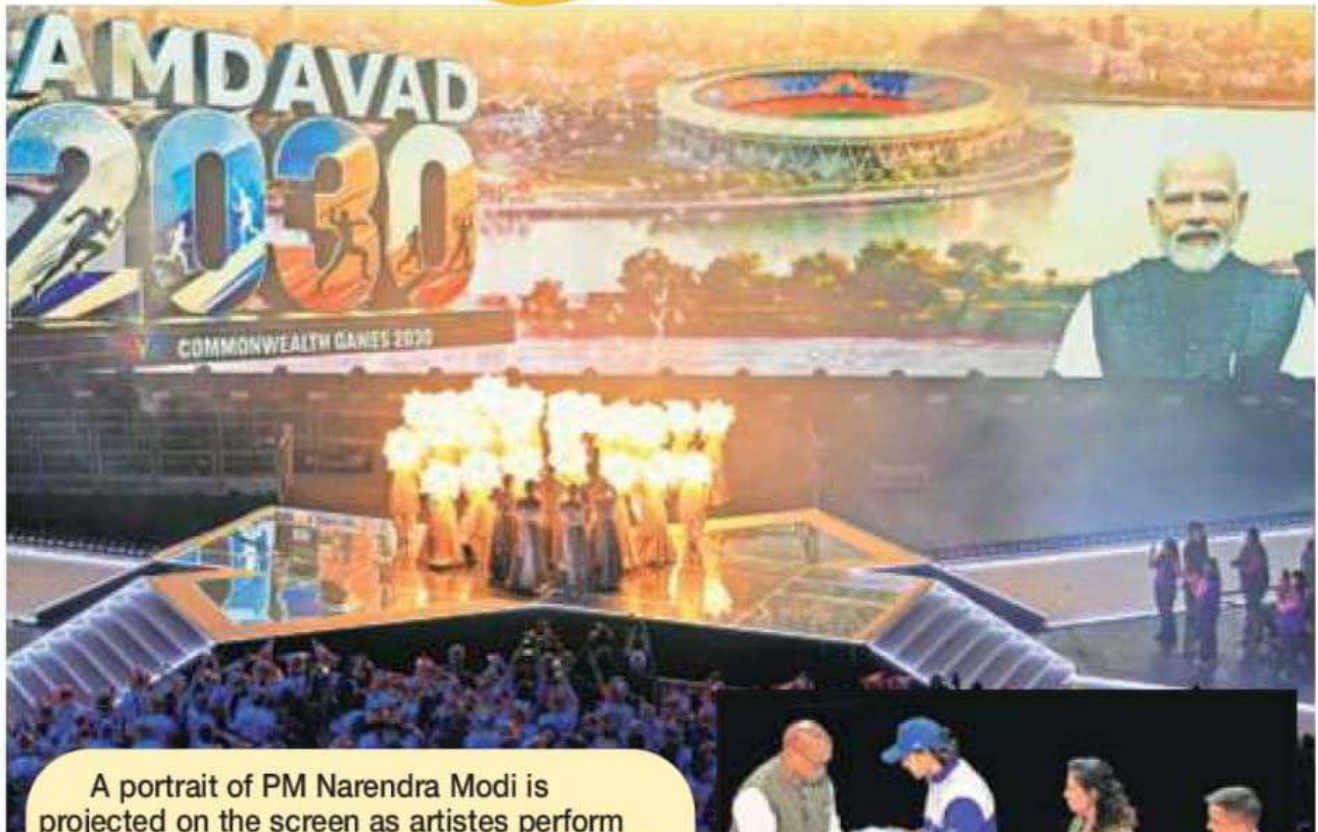


The release came as calls are growing from other countries, including Myanmar's fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, for access to or engagement with Suu Kyi as part of efforts to resolve the country's political crisis.

Kim Aris, her younger son living in London, and Myanmar democracy activists has been waging an online campaign named to demand evidence his mother is alive and well.

Suu Kyi was detained Feb. 1, 2021, when the army seized power from her elected government. She has not been seen publicly since then, and the last official photo of her released was in April, when she was moved from prison to house arrest and her sentence was reduced as part of a prisoner amnesty for a Buddhist holiday.

Commonwealth baton heads to Ahmedabad



A portrait of PM Narendra Modi is projected on the screen as artistes perform during the closing ceremony of the 23rd CWG, at OVO Hydro, in Glasgow, on Sunday. The Scotland officials handed over the CWG flag and baton to Indian representatives -- Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, IOA president PT Usha and Gujarat Dy CM Harsh Sanghavi. (PTI)



GLASGOW, Aug 3 (PTI)

AS THE curtain came down on the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, India offered the world a vibrant invitation to Ahmedabad, blending ancient philosophy, contemporary artistry and cultural grandeur in a handover presentation that officially launched the journey towards the centenary edition of the Games in 2030.

The 122-member Indian contingent returned with 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze medals, underlining the country's growing depth beyond its traditional strengths.

Boxing led the chart with 7 gold and 3 silver medals. In athletics & para-athletics, India returned with 3 gold (para), 7 silver and 6 bronze medals. Judokas won 2 gold medals including a silver and a bronze. In weightlifting India claimed 6 silver and 1 gold and bronze medal each, while in para powerlifting India claimed one bronze medal.

The emotional centrepiece of Sunday's closing ceremony at the OVO Hydro saw Glasgow formally pass the Commonwealth Games baton to India before a spectacular showcase of music, dance and

storytelling projected India's identity as a nation where tradition and modernity coexist.

Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, representing King Charles III, formally declared the Games closed.

"Thanks for the manner in which you have competed, officiated, supported, organised the Games. You have once again brought the spirit and value of Commonwealth tonight. Thank You Glasgow," he said.

"I call up on athletes of all countries and territories to come to Ahmedabad, India in four years time to celebrate the

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