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# Daily Current Affairs



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# The journey of a liberated soul



## Jyoti Khatanar

For more than two millennia, the Buddha (the awakened one) has been a powerful religious, political and social figure. His presence is felt in many parts of the world, exerting extraordinary influence in the mental and social landscape of mankind. His teachings are gradually becoming the spiritual heritage of the human race and are viewed as meaningful resources to address numerous challenges generated by global disasters, climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. It is interesting to note that there are many Buddhas and the Buddha who is accepted as the historical figure is generally viewed as the last one who attained Nirvana. Buddha was supposed to live during a period that ranged from 560 - 480 BCE. The usually accepted life span of the last Buddha was 80 years. He was born in a royal family in Lumbini (present-day Nepal). After encountering many miseries of life, he resolved to renounce his wealth and family and left the palace at the stroke of midnight. During the next six years, he practised the art of meditation with some of the best teachers of the Indian subcontinent. Finally, he

realised that the life of extreme asceticism could not be the right path to attainment of enlightenment. There are stories regarding numerous pressures generated by various evil forces released by the Lord of death, rebirth and desire (Mara) to distract him from the path that he would like to carve not only for himself but for the entire human race. In this case, he is a supreme humanist. And finally on the full moon day, sitting under a tree, he attained enlightenment. This moment is traditionally identified with his full understanding of four noble truths. From this moment onwards, he started preaching his understanding of existential and human situation to others. His five old companions were his first set of disciples: Kondañña, Assaji, Bhaddiya, Vappa and Mahanama.

Buddha's last 45 years were dedicated to the act of spreading messages. With minimum dialogues, he wanted to intensify the passion of realising the final destination of human life with great care and compassion among the common masses. He never preferred a life of extreme asceticism; rather, as another famous Buddhist Nagarjuna (150 AD-250 AD) opined, the middle way. Buddha

was extremely ill during his last hours and he met his disciples for the last time to share his final realisations and passed into Nirvana. Buddha made it clear that after death, Tathagata becomes deep like an ocean. A deep ocean is calm, free from waves and agitation. There is a view that the Buddha may come back to the world again, from Tushita heaven where yet-to-be Buddhas are residing. It is interesting to note that Buddha's devoted companion Ananda persuaded the master to allow women to become nuns. Further, it is equally important to note that Ananda (5th-4th BCE), Buddha's first cousin, had not attained enlightenment during the Buddha's lifetime.

Today, Buddhism is widely known for its four noble truths and eight-fold noble paths. The four noble truths include these pieces of wonderful information and profound realisation: there is suffering, there is the origination of suffering, there is the cessation of suffering and there is a path to the cessation of suffering. Here, the idea of suffering is an extended one, for it is not mere pain but it is existential suffering of every individual which is characterised by frustration, alienation and despair. It involves the idea that everything that we generally do is, in some way or the other, related to suffering. This suffering may not be due

to the absence of happiness but arise out of our experience of transitoriness. In order to exit from the planes of suffering, one method is the right kind of meditation. The Buddha advised us that we must follow an operational method of eight-fold path in order to get rid of pain and misery. They include right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration.

Contemporary Buddhism has acquired many striking features. From the 19th century onwards, Buddhism has responded to the complex situations of modern world dominated by science and technology, colonial forces, democratic and other values in diverse ways. East Asian forms of Buddhism had to face western domination and they introduced innovative approaches to meet these intrusions. It is said that Buddhism not only adopted techniques of western Christian missionaries to protect and spread its views, but also the nomenclature. For example, the US branch of one form of Japanese Buddhism 'Jodo Shinsh' adopted the word church in its official name, Buddhist Churches of America. Again, there are international organisations in the style of Christian missionaries' ways of working like Maha Bodhi Society

(1891), the World Fellowship of Buddhist (1950) and the World Buddhist Sangha Council (1966).

The Encyclopedia Britannica notes another four responses in contemporary Buddhist activism. They include reforms, designed to make Buddhism more appealing by incorporating and understanding of modern science and changing ethical and moral values. The second response is related to engaged Buddhism where ideas related to feminism are incorporated and additional roles of Buddhist nuns are being accepted. Here the practitioners draw their inspiration both from the Theravada and Mahayana schools of thought. The third pattern of reformed Buddhism includes more active role of common people and the technique is developed under the Vipassana movement, popular both in western and eastern countries. This is a technique based on meditation and acceptance of a journey from the idea of suffering to the idea of happiness. The fourth strand of Buddhism, popular in regions like Thailand where there is the promise of immediate success not only in religious terms but in day-to-day life whereby one can experience spiritual and material growth simultaneously.

(Published on the occasion of Buddha Purnima today.)

- Four noble truths:
- Suffering (dukkha) is the essence of the world
  - Every suffering has a cause – Samudya.
  - Suffering could be extinguished – Nirodha,
  - It can be achieved by following the Atthanga Magga (Eight Fold Path).

	Patronage	Presidency	Important Remarks
1 <sup>st</sup> council – Rajgriha, 400 BC	Ajatshatru	Mahakashyapa	The Buddhist Canon as it exist today was settled at this Council and preserved as an oral tradition.
2 <sup>nd</sup> council – Vaishali, 383 BC	Kalasaoka	Sabakami	First schism occurs in which the Mahasanghika school parts ways with the Sthaviravadins and the Theravadins.
3 <sup>rd</sup> council – Patliputra, 250 BC	Ashoka	Moggaliputta Tissa	Abhidhamma Pitaka was established
4 <sup>th</sup> council – Kashmir, 72 AD	Kanishka	Vasumitra	Buddhism got divided into Mahayana & Hinayana

Eight Fold Paths: the path consists of various interconnected activities related to knowledge, conduct, and meditative practices.

- Right view    ○ Right intention    ○ Right speech    ○ Right action    ○ Right livelihood
- Right mindfulness    ○ Right effort    ○ Right concentration

# Delimitation of constituencies on top of govt agenda: CM



**R DUTTA CHOUDHURY**

**GUWAHATI, May 15:** Delimitation of constituencies is on top of the agenda for the Government and the Central Government is also keen on carrying out the delimitation process in Assam, said Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the Chief Minister said that the delimitation of constituencies is a must to protect the political rights of the indigenous people of the State. He alleged that Congress delimitated the constituencies of the State keeping in view the interests of the party and not in the interest of the indigenous people. At present, the power balance is not in

favour of the indigenous people of Assam and that is why the Government has taken delimitation as one of its priority areas.

The Chief Minister said that he had a discussion with the Central Government on the issue of delimitation and the Union Home Ministry would concentrate on the issue soon. He pointed out that the Home Ministry is now busy with the process of delimitation of constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir and once the process is fully completed, the Ministry would concentrate on the issue of delimitation in Assam.

Sarma said that the Government is waiting for the verdict of the Supreme Court on the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

“The Government’s stand on the NRC is very clear. We are not satisfied with the NRC published in 2019. That is why the Government wants 20 per cent re-verification in the districts having a border with Bangladesh and 10 per cent in other districts,” he said.

The Chief Minister pointed out that once the Supreme Court gives its final verdict, it would be easier to identify foreigners living illegally in Assam on the basis of the NRC.

Replying to a question on the steps taken by the Government to check fresh infiltration, Sarma said that both the Central and State Governments are keen on checking the infiltration of foreigners and that is why, the Union Home Minister,

Amit Shah personally visited the international border areas in Mankachar recently to assess the situation on the ground. He asserted that the rate of infiltration has come down as the Central Government has installed the most modern equipment available to track any movement along the international border.

It may be mentioned here that the All Assam Students’ Union (AASU) is also demanding delimitation of the constituencies in the State to protect the political rights of the indigenous people. The student body is of the view that the political power should remain in the hands of the indigenous people and that is why the constituencies should be delimited properly as soon as possible.

The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. It is appointed for the purpose of drawing up the boundaries of constituencies all over the country.

Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.

Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.

The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.



# India bans export of wheat over price rise concern

Govt committed to ensuring food security of neighbours, vulnerable countries, says DGFT notice

NEW DELHI, May 14: India has banned wheat exports in a bid to check high prices amid concerns of wheat output being hit by scorching heat wave.

The decision would help control retail prices of wheat and wheat flour, which have risen by an average 14-20 per cent in the last one year, besides meeting the foodgrain requirement of neighbouring and vulnerable countries.

"The export policy of wheat ... is prohibited with immediate effect...", the Directorate General

of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification issued late Friday. The export shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit



(LoC) have been issued on or before the date of this notification

will be allowed.

According to the DGFT notification, wheat exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments.

India's wheat exports stood at an all-time high of 7 million tonnes, valuing USD 2.05 billion, in 2021-22 fiscal year on better demand of Indian wheat from overseas. Of the total wheat exports, around 50 per cent of ship-

ments were exported to Bangladesh in the last fiscal.

To justify the ban, Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey and Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja held a press conference here and asserted that there was no crisis of wheat supply in the country and the move was to control prices of wheat and wheat flour.

"At the end of the day, food is a very sensitive item for every country because it affects everybody - poor, the middle and the rich," the Commerce Secretary said, adding the wheat flour prices

have gone up in some parts of the country by about 40 per cent.

The government is also committed to ensuring the food security of neighbours and vulnerable countries.

"So, we have kept the window open for (our) neighbours. We have also kept the window open for a large number of vulnerable countries if their governments do make such requests. The order is to divert trade to the needy, poor and the vulnerable countries," he added.

Talking about the current fiscal 2022-23, he said as per estimates, 4.3 million tonnes of wheat have

been contracted for exports so far.

"It is a balanced order ... Please interpret the order not as a prohibition or a ban but as an order which divert trade to the needy, the poor and the vulnerable," the Commerce Secretary said.

Out of this, 1.2 million tonnes have already been exported in April and May, and another 1.1 million tonnes are expected to be shipped, he said, adding "if you have a valid order - irrevocable letters of credit - that contract will be honoured. So, India's credibility as a reliable supplier is maintained".

Further, he said that if the price

situation improves, the government may review this decision.

"No order is in perpetuity. If these figures get changed and global prices change. If food and agriculture departments are comfortable, again it (the decision) will be reviewed," he said.

Official data released this week showed that retail inflation surged to an eight-year high in April due to high prices of fuel and food items.

The Food Secretary noted that many other countries such as Turkey, and the US have imposed different restrictions on wheat exports. - PTI

The Government of India has banned the export of wheat with immediate effect, considering the need for the support of neighbouring countries to manage the country's overall food security. The government has placed the export of wheat in the "prohibited" category.

Important Facts :

- According to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), export of wheat will be allowed in the case of shipments where credit of credit has been issued on or before May as a corona period arrangement.
- According to the DGFT, exports to other countries can be allowed only on the basis of permission granted by the central government to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments.
- The notification issued by the department said that the Government of India is committed to provide for the food security needs of its country, neighbouring and other vulnerable developing countries which are adversely affected by the sudden change in the global market of wheat.
- According to the estimates of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, India has exported 7 million tonnes (MT) of wheat during the fiscal year 2021-22 which is valued at \$2.05 billion. About 50 percent of the total wheat exports were exported to Bangladesh during the last financial year.
- Egypt, which is one of the largest importers of wheat in the world, had agreed to get wheat from India.

## Wheat production in india :

- India was the world's second largest producer of wheat with a share of around 14.14 per cent in global wheat production in 2020.
- Annually, the country produces 107.59 million tonnes of wheat, most of which is used for domestic consumption (98 million tonnes).
- The major wheat growing states are Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Top ten wheat producing countries in the world: China, India, Russia, USA, Canada, France, Ukraine, Pakistan, Germany, Australia.



# Committee to create ecosystem for boosting cruise tourism: Sonowal

MUMBAI, May 14: Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said the government has set up a high-level committee to create an enabling ecosystem for the development of cruise tourism in the country.

The committee comprises government officials and cruise industry players.

Sonowal on Saturday inaugurated the first two-day India International Cruise Conference being organised here by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways in association with industry body Ficci.

The Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and his deputy Shripad Naik virtually laid the foundation stone for the third chemical berth at Pir Pau Jetty and remotely inaugurated Keshi Lighthouse in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra and Dhanushya Kodi Light House in Tamil Nadu.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the event, the minister said the government aims to make India the most attractive cruise tourism destination and the industry the world's largest one in the world.

Sonowal also informed that the government has set up a task force under the Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and the Shipping Secretary as its vice-chairman.

The high-level committee will assist the task force with its ideas and suggestions to the committee, he said.

"I declare the constitution of a high-level committee



Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte and Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant during the '1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference', in Mumbai on Saturday. - PTI

comprising both government officials and national and international industry players. It will assist the task force and give it ideas and suggestions," Sonowal said.

Emphasising that the purpose of the international conference is to make India a cruise tourism hub, the minister said the government will provide whatever modern infrastructure is required to attain the objective.

He also expressed hope that the State governments will also play their role in the promotion of the industry, which is seeing demand coming back after being hit during the pandemic.

"India is going to be the most attractive destination of cruise tourism, and there is no doubt about it because

whatever potential we have in the coastal areas and inland waterways are now set to be explored. It is still untapped. So, we will explore it with our most modern infrastructure," Sonowal said.

India aims to increase cruise passenger traffic from 0.4 million at present to 4 million. The economic potential of cruise tourism is expected to go up from USD 110 million to USD 5.5 billion in the years to come, according to an official release.

To boost the cruise tourism industry in the country, the government has taken several initiatives, including infrastructure upgradation, rationalisation of port fees, removing ousting charges, granting priority berthing to cruise ships, and providing e-visa facilities, among others,

the release added.

Upgradation and modernisation are being carried out at seven major ports in the country, including the flagship new international cruise terminal coming up in Mumbai with a total cost of about Rs 495 crore.

Sonowal asserted that the Indian cruise market has the potential to grow 10 folds over the next decade, driven by rising demand and disposable incomes. "The government realises this potential and is determined to position India as a global cruise hub with state-of-art infrastructure for both ocean and river cruises," he said.

The sea cruise terminal, coming up at BPX-Indira Dock, is expected to be commissioned by July 2024. - PTI

Cruise tourism is a form of travelling for leisure purposes, involving an all-inclusive holiday on a cruise ship of at least 48 hours, according to a specific itinerary in which the cruise ship calls at several ports or cities.

Cruise tourism is seen as a potential growth enabler for the tourism industry as a whole. This has been made possible due to several factors such as a rise in standard of living, desire to have new experiences. Traditionally, popular cruise tourism destinations were centered on Europe, South East Asia etc. However, if we combine India's rich natural and cultural heritage along with all the facilities of cruise tourism it can help leverage India's position in the global tourist map.

## Policy

The Cruise Shipping Policy of the Ministry of Shipping was approved by the Government of India on 26th June, 2008. The objective of the policy is:

1. Make India as an attractive cruise tourism destination with the state-of-the-art infrastructural and other facilities at various parts in the country;
2. Attract the right segment of the foreign tourists to cruise shipping in India;
3. Popularize cruise shipping with Indian tourists.

the government has set up a high-level committee to create an enabling eco-system for the development of cruise tourism in the country.

The committee comprises government officials and cruise industry players.

The economic potential of cruise tourism is expected to go up from USD 110 million to USD 5.5 billion in the years to come



# Super sucker machines fail, artificial floods wreak havoc



STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 14: The artificial floods that wreaked havoc in many areas of the city in the past 48 hours have proved that the super sucker machines have failed in carrying out proper desilting work.

It may be mentioned that large parts of the city, including Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Hatigaon, Chandmari, Paltan Bazar, RG Baruah Road, B Borooah Road, Panjabari, etc., have been reeling under artificial floods for the last 48 hours.

On December 10 last year, the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs had introduced ten super sucker machines in the city to mitigate the artificial flood problem in a sophisticated manner.

Based on official sources, *The Assam Tribune* had earlier reported that the super sucker machines have only turned into a financial burden for the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) due to their massive operational costs.

The artificial floods now have proved that most of the public money spent in operating these machines has gone waste as they have failed in delivering the expected results.

Notably, the super sucker machines, along with two dump tanks each against one machine, were procured by the State government by spending Rs 25 crore from the fund of Guwahati Smart City Ltd project. Sources also said that the GMC is spending around one lakh rupees daily in operating these sophisticated machines.

Most of the officials concerned were apprehensive about massive artificial floods in the city this year, as these machines had not shown the expected results in desilting work.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, newly-elected mayor of GMC Mrigen Sarania also admitted that waterlogging took place as the desilting works were not carried out as per need.

According to him, the artificial floods were caused due to excess rainfall, which was beyond the wa-

ter-bearing capacity of both natural and artificial drainage systems in Guwahati. At the same time, he also stated that the water-bearing capacity of natural outlets have gone down drastically in the recent times, due to which many areas got inundated with rain water. "I don't want to say that the desilting work was not done properly. Rather, we need to expedite the desilting work under proper supervision," Sarania said.

He said that in Rukminigaon and Hatigaon areas, low-lying areas were inundated and proper planning needs to be done to address the issue in such areas.

Further, a senior official of the State government said that this year the entire desilting exercise of drainage in the city failed, due to which people are now suffering.

"The artificial floods caused due to incessant rainfall in the past 48 hours have proved that the super sucker machines have failed in yielding the expected results. Such types of machinery have shown very good results in developed countries, especially in Europe. On the other hand, in Guwahati the situation is totally different. In developed countries, people don't throw garbage in the drains, but in Guwahati most people have this bad habit. So the super sucker machines are not showing expected results here," the senior official stated.

In the report regarding failure of super sucker machines, *The Assam Tribune* had stated that the employees of the GMC garbage branch, who are operating these machines, also admitted that these machines are not adequate to perform proper desilting of drainage in the city.

The GMC employees stated that it was not possible to use the machines in areas connected through narrow roads. Even sources at Dispur also stated that during procurement of these super sucker machines it came to light that the machines are not feasible in the city as the main source of silt in the drainage of Guwahati is the mud flow from hilly areas during the rainy season.

In order to tackle the drainage block situation as well as the long-standing urban flood situation during rainy season in Guwahati, the Guwahati Municipal Corporation bought ten 'Super Suckers' to work. The 'Super Sucker' is a massive truck that has one machine unit and two container set units that can store the drain silt after collection.

The truck has a storage capacity of 10,000 litres. The super suckers are an alternative to the traditional method of silt collection, where the collected discharge is kept near the drain to dry until it is taken by a garbage truck. The collected silt will then be transferred to the garbage station. The entire process just takes 20 minutes to clear blocked drains.

## Criticism

Super-suckers are not for cities like Guwahati, where people lag in civic sense. Silt and waste, including plastic waste are not being removed completely from the drains by using the super-suckers. Manual labour would have cleared the drains more efficiently than the machines at half of the expenditure

# Modi pitches for reforms in WHO



NEW DELHI, May 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for reforming the World Health Organization (WHO) and streamlining its approval process for vaccines and therapeutics to keep the supply chains stable and predictable.

In his address at the second global virtual summit on Covid-19 hosted by US President Joe Biden, Modi also pitched for making flexible the WTO's rules, particularly related to TRIPS ((Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights).

The Prime Minister said there was a need for building a resilient global supply chain and enabling equitable access to vaccines and medicines.

He said the WHO must be reformed and strengthened to build a more resilient

## Covid summit

global health security architecture.

Referring to India's handling of the pandemic, Modi said the country's vaccination programme is the largest in the world. "In India, we adopted a people-centric strategy against the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Modi said the Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt lives and supply chains and test the resilience of open societies. "We must build a resilient global supply chain and enable equitable access to vaccines and medicines," he said.

Modi participated in the first global virtual summit on Covid-19 hosted by Biden on September 22 last year as well. The second summit intends to galvanize new actions to address the continued challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and build a stronger global health security architecture. – PTI

World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.

- Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.
- There are 194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.
- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.

The Second Global Summit on COVID-19 was recently held. The summit was co-hosted by the United States, Belize, Germany, Indonesia, and Senegal.

Theme of the Second Global COVID Summit: Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness.

The Agreement on TRIPS is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

It establishes minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of different forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations.

TRIPS was negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between 1989 and 1990 and is administered by the WTO.

It introduced intellectual property law into the multilateral trading system for the first time and remains the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property to date.



The President's Colour Award is the highest honour that can be given to any 'military unit' of the country. The presentation of this award is an acknowledgment of the unit's praiseworthy service.



A special flag, also known as 'Nishaan', is given to a unit as part of the award. It is an emblem worn by all the officers in the unit on the left-hand sleeve of their uniform.

Although, the units have stopped carrying the colour into battles, the tradition to receive, hold and parade with the colour is still prevalent today in the Armed forces.

While the Heavy cavalries are awarded with 'Standards', the light cavalries receive 'Guidons'.



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Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



"From preserving law and order to solving horrendous crimes, from assistance in disaster management to fighting COVID-19, our police personnel always give their best without hesitation. We are proud of their diligence and readiness to assist citizens."

Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

## President's Colours presented to ASSAM POLICE

by Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs &  
Minister of Cooperation, Govt. of India  
on 10th May 2022

Assam becomes the 9<sup>th</sup> State in the country  
to be bestowed with this exceptional honour

### Medals of Honour

- Kirti Chakra – 2
- President's Police Medal for Gallantry – 6
- Police Medal for Gallantry – 275



### Immortal Bravehearts: Police force with a difference

- A force with a glorious past spanning many decades – from fighting insurgency, 1971 Indo-Pak war, handling natural calamities, pandemic situation to maintaining law and order
- We have lost many bravehearts in the process – 407 Policemen made supreme sacrifice

### Zero Tolerance Against Crime

- Crime rate down from 384 to 222 per lakh population
- Massive increase in case disposal
- Decreased pendency of cases (May 2021 – 1,09,081; April 2022 – 83,947)



### Fighting Organised Crime

- 250 Human trafficking victims rescued
- More than 10,000 cattlees rescued, over 992 traffickers arrested



### Ending Rhino Poaching

- Rhino poaching down to zero
- On World Rhino Day, 2,479 rhino horns burned to symbolise stern action and emphazise rhino conservation



### Policing with a Human Face

- Transformation from an insurgency-oriented force to a Citizen Centric Service
- Assam Police played a stellar role during the COVID-19 pandemic



### End of Insurgency

- Due to improved law and order situation, AFSPA withdrawn from 23 districts – 66% of Assam
- 2,500+ militants have rejoined the mainstream
- Peace Accords signed with NDFB and Karbi militant groups



### War on Drugs

- 2,854 cases registered, 4,838 persons arrested
- Drugs valued at ₹550 crore seized
- Mass awareness created against the use of drugs



### Technology Boost

- Infusion of latest technology such as ITMS, CCTNS, ICJS & Cyberdome
- 24X7 Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting & Management System



### Smart Police

- Complete revamp of soft and hard infrastructure to create a smart Police Force
- Focus on upgradation of skills, health and welfare of police personnel



Assam is the 10th state in the country to receive the President's Colour Award as a recognition of exceptional performance in controlling crime, tackling insurgency, ensuring security of lives and property, and maintaining law and order in the state.



# Rajiv Kumar new CEC



NEW DELHI, May 12:

Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar was on Thursday appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner and will oversee the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, besides various assembly polls.

He will assume charge on May 15 after incumbent Sushil Chandra demits office on May 14, a notification issued by the Union Law Ministry said.

Born on February 19, 1960, Kumar will demit office in February 2025 when he attains the age of 65. According to the law governing the election commissioners, an EC or a CEC can hold the office for six years or till he or she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Besides the President and the Vice President elections due shortly, the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and several assembly polls will be held under Kumar's watch. – PTI

The Election Commission was established in accordance with the **Constitution on 25th January 1950.**

The Election Commission of India is **an autonomous constitutional body** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.

The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice President of the country.

It is **not concerned with the elections to panchayats** and municipalities in the states.

- For this, the Constitution of India provides for a **separate State Election Commission.**

Its powers, appointment and duties are mentioned in Part XV of the Constitution (Article 324 to Article 329) and the Representation of People Act.

**Article 324:** Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.

**Article 325:** No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special electoral roll on the ground of religion, race, caste or sex.

**Article 326:** Elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

**Article 327:** Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to election to legislature.

**Article 328:** Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.

**Article 329:** Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

The President appoints **Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.**

They have a **tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years,** whichever is earlier.

They enjoy the **same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges** of the Supreme Court of India.

The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through **impeachment by Parliament.**

# Remains of ancient settlements found in Arunachal

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, May 12: While undertaking archaeological exploration and excavation works in the jungles of Ramghat under the Tarasso circle of Papum Pare district recently, the Archaeology Section of the Directorate of Research, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, discovered the ancient remains of a settlement covering an area of nearly 20 acres, an official said today.

The archaeological excavation team unearthed a fortification (rampart) made of stone blocks, burnt bricks and stone boulders, and measuring a length of 226 metres complete with a gate. The gate is made of rectangular and hemispherical stone blocks, burnt bricks, and stone slabs with a 2.83-metre passage. Some of the stone blocks carry symbols and designs like bows, arrows, and tridents. Stone blocks of different shapes and sizes and about 31



burnt bricks, which were apparently used in building the fortification, have been discovered in the site so far. A broken Shivalinga, sealing balls, and potsherds have also been recovered from the site, and field investigation has revealed that the ancient human habitation was made of stone piles (pillars). The stone piles, which were discovered during exploration and clearance of debris, have also been partly

conserved, the official said.

Meanwhile, in another archaeological exploration at Vyas Kund, Ramghat, the remains of a stone staircase have been discovered.

Archaeologist Pura Koji of the Research Department, under whose supervision the entire exploration and excavation works were carried out, said that there was need for further field work and investigation in the jungles of



Ramghat and the Vyas Kund area to unearth more ancient remains.

Koji, who was accompanied by his assistant, Tadu Ringku, stated that the research team also conducted archaeological exploration and excavation works in the Upper Balijan area under the Balijan circle and unearthed brick structures, which also appear to be remains of an ancient settlement. A footpath made of

bricks, connects the structures and runs east to west and then towards the north. Prehistoric tools and potsherds have also been discovered in the site.

Koji said that the archaeological excavation that started on March 24 last, concluded successfully with cooperation and support from the local administration and the Zilla Parishad members of Balijan and Tarasso-Tem Pika and Tem Yaba.

An ancient settlement remains covering an area of more than 20 acres has been discovered in a jungle of the Papum Pare district in Arunachal Pradesh during an exploration by the archaeology section of the State Directorate of Research,

The archaeological excavation at the jungles of Ramghat, under Tarasso circle of the district, unearthed fortification (rampart) measuring 226 meters long which is made of stone blocks, burnt bricks and stone boulders along with one gate.

The findings also include a Shivalinga (broken), sealing ball and potsherds while the field investigation has also revealed ancient human habitation made of stone piles (pillars).



**Daily MCQ for APSC CCE**

Pampa Sagar Dam is located on which of the following rivers?

- A. Bhima
- B. Kosi
- C. Palar
- D. Tungabhadra

Correct Answer is: **D. Tungabhadra River**

The Pampa Sagar Dam, also known as Tungabhadra Dam is constructed across the Tungabhadra River. The dam is in Hosapete, Vijayanagara district of Karnataka. It is a multipurpose dam serving irrigation, electricity generation, flood control, etc.

## Daily MCQ for APSC CCE

Consider the following statements

- i. National Technology Day is celebrated every year in India on May 11
- ii. The theme of National Technology Day 2022 is Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future

Select the correct statements

- A. I Only
- B. II only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

Correct Answer is: **D. Tungabhadra River**

The National Technology day is celebrated every year on 11 May. The theme of National Technology Day 2022 is 'An Integrated Approach to Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.





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**Part: 1**

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