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# Daily Current Affairs



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# Israeli Ambassador in Assam



STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 27: Israel's Ambassador to India Naor Gilon on Friday said that the bilateral relationship between the two countries is 'strategic' in nature.

Gilon, who is on an official visit to Assam, said that the West Asian nation has expertise in areas like agriculture and water resources which can be of use for the Northeastern region.

He said that the relationship between the Jewish and the Indian civilisations was very old. Gilon said that since India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992, the ties between the two countries have cemented further.

He said that initially, defence and agriculture were the two areas in which both the countries focused.

"In recent years, the relation between India and Israel has taken the shape of a strategic partnership. The scope of our bilateral ties has widened a lot since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel in 2017, followed by the then Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to India in 2018," Gilon said.

He added that there is expanded cooperation between India and Israel in areas like trade and commerce, science and technology, agriculture, security, research and development, and cultural exchanges.

Gilon said that many farmers in India have benefited from Israeli expertise and technologies in areas like drip irrigation, cultivation and post-harvest management.

» SEE PAGE 2

India recognised Israel in 1950 and full diplomatic relations were established after the opening of embassies in 1992.

Prime Minister Modi undertook an historic first ever visit by an Indian PM to Israel in 2017, during which the relationship was upgraded to a strategic level and seven Agreements/MoUs were signed. Trade- The bilateral merchandise trade stood at 5.65 billion dollars (excluding defence) in 2018-19, with the balance of trade being in India's favour.

Trade in diamonds constitutes close to 40% of bilateral trade.

Potash is a major item of Israel's exports to India.

Indian software companies are beginning to expand their presence in the Israeli market and the first meeting of the newly established India-Israel CEOs Forum took place in 2017.

Agriculture- India has benefited from Israeli expertise and technologies in horticulture mechanization, protected cultivation, orchard and canopy management, nursery management, micro- irrigation and post-harvest management.

Israeli drip irrigation technologies and products are now widely used in India.

A comprehensive Work Plan for cooperation in agriculture was signed in 2006.



# Chief Minister's scheme for public emergency introduced

## STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 27: The State government has introduced a new scheme called the Chief Minister's Scheme for Public Emergency (CMSPE) and notified the necessary guidelines for the implementation of the same.

As per the notification issued in this regard from Assam Chief Minister's Secretariat, the CMSPE will utilise the funds placed at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in the Annual State Budget as Chief Minister's

grant for Public Emergency.

The entire rationale of the scheme is to make money available for different kinds of public emergencies as envisaged without loss of time. Keeping this in mind, the entire amount budgeted under the scheme will be drawn through the ceiling route after obtaining Finance Department concurrence and it will be kept in savings bank account of a public sector bank which will be operated by the Chief Minister of Assam. At the end of the financial year,

the interest earned will be returned to the government exchequer.

It may be mentioned that the funds under this scheme will be utilised to provide compensation for victims of conflict/natural calamities/accidents where regular budget is not available. Fund can also be utilised to provide monetary award for exceptional service rendered by an individual or a public servant and to provide financial support to sports/ culture/ academic icons including individuals

who bring laurels to the State, various organisations for different workshops, seminars, festivals, etc. Accordingly to the guidelines of the CMSPE, fund will also be provided for infrastructural support to social, cultural, academic institutions which are not supported under regular schemes of the government.

The CMSPE scheme will be implemented by the Chief Minister's Secretariat and the fund under the scheme shall be sanctioned on the approval of the Chief Minister of Assam.

The Assam government on Friday introduced a special scheme named Chief Minister's Scheme for Public Emergency (CMSPE) that will be used by the public as a means of compensation to the victims faced by various natural disorders and uncertain accidents and situations. In this regard, the state government issued a notification that states that the scheme shall be used for the purpose of compensating losses of citizens caused by various misfortunes and natural as well as unnatural accidents.

the entire amount budgeted under the scheme will be drawn through the ceiling route after obtaining finance department concurrence and it will be kept in savings bank account of a public sector bank which will be operated by the chief minister of Assam. At the end of the financial year, the interest earned will be returned to the Government exchequer.



# BJP to contest KAAC polls on 'development' plank

PRANJAL BHUIYAN

## Cong promises alternative model of administration

GUWAHATI, May 27: The ruling BJP is contesting the forthcoming elections to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) with 'development' as its major plank and the party is confident of 'sweeping' the polls, even as principal Opposition Congress alleged about "large-scale corruption and mismanagement" in the Council during the past five years and asserted that it will seek to provide an alternative model of administration.

"Our main agenda is development. The areas falling under the KAAC have witnessed a lot of progress in the last five years and we want to continue with the development agenda. Under the BJP-led State government and the BJP-led Council at Diphu, infrastructure and connectivity got a major boost. The Prime Minister himself came to inaugurate the Veterinary College and the Agricultural College in Karbi Anglong. The Diphu Medical College became operational. The KAAC areas are now in a very comfortable position with regard to health and education due to the work done by the Council and the State government. The

electorate is totally satisfied with the administration headed by KAAC chief executive member Tuliram Ronghang." Vijay Kumar Gupta, senior State BJP leader and district prabharhi of Karbi Anglong East, told this newspaper.

He added, "We are confident of winning in all the 26 constituencies of KAAC. The Congress will score zero and so will the other Opposition parties," Gupta added.

He admitted that the people of the hill districts con-

fronted a problem of household water supply.

"Drinking water is still an area of concern and providing potable water to all the residents of KAAC will be a priority in the next five years. In addition, our party is also committed towards construction and upgradation of rural roads as well as on providing dwellings to the eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)," Gupta said.

He asserted that the rul-

ing party got into the election mode much ahead of its rivals.

"Our organisational base is very strong in KAAC. We started preparations for the polls six months ago. We mobilised our mandal committees, shakti kendras, booth committees, and page in-charges. A 'Go to the Voters' campaign and party conferences were undertaken in all the booths. There were as many as 15-20 aspirants for tickets in each seat, but we have not

facied any rebellion after declaration of the candidates' list," Gupta said.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) general secretary in-charge of Karbi Anglong Golap Saikia said that the grand old party is confident of forming the next administration in KAAC.

"The BJP failed to bring any development in KAAC. The local people are totally dissatisfied with the Council's performance. The KAAC has witnessed unprecedented corruption and

pillagerage of funds during the five years under the BJP and we are highlighting it in a big way in our election campaign. Encroachment of government land has taken place in many places. Even the road leading to Diphu Medical College gets flooded whenever there is rain. The State government and the KAAC, both ruled by the BJP, ignored infrastructure, education, health sector, agriculture and rural development in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts," Saikia claimed.

He reiterated that Congress is looking to provide an alternative for the voters of KAAC.

"Once the Congress party forms the next council in Diphu, we will ensure proper utilisation of funds. We will provide a transparent administration and also look at generating new sources of revenue. We are confident of securing at least 14-15 seats and forming the next administration in KAAC," said the APCC general secretary.

Elections to the 26-member KAAC will be held on June 8. Counting of votes will take place on June 12.

There are 17 constituencies in the Karbi Anglong district and nine seats in the West Karbi Anglong district.

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council consists of 30 (thirty) members, 26 (Twenty Six) of whom are to be elected and the four nominated with a view to provide representation to the minorities who constitute a considerable proportion of the total population of the subdivision. The tenure of the District council is for five years unless it is dissolved earlier. The District Council has a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman who are elected by the members of the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Assam Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951.

## BJP begins campaign for KAAC election

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU, May 27: The ruling BJP formally made their final drive for the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council election-2022 from Dhansiri Member of Autonomous Council constituency in Karbi Anglong district.

Tuliram Ronghang, chief executive member of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council addressed an election rally in support of Titutama Hasnu, BJP nominee from that constituency at Betagoun.

Titutama Hasnu, a young high court lawyer and a declared BJP activist who was instrumental in consolidating the BJP base in that troubled border locality, enjoys the support of youths

and women voters in particular.

Tuliram Ronghang played a wild trump card to boost Titutama's prospect; the other strong contender for BJP ticket and veteran leader of Dhansiri, Bhuphan Hasnu, who got elected from Dhansiri several times and served as executive member of the Council a number of times and shared the dais with Tuliram Ronghang. He appealed to the voters to support Titutama Hasnu.

While addressing the election rally at Betagoun, Tuliram Ronghang urged the local people to vote for development and for first tracking the pace of growth. He recalled the dark days of ethnic clashes among Karbi and Kukis, Karbis and Dimasa, Kar-

bi and Rengma, etc. He appealed for total peace and harmony for economic and social change.

He promised that Titutama Hasnu will be taken in the executive committee of the Council and will be given strong portfolios if they return her victorious.

Elwin Teron, official adviser of Tuliram Ronghang, who is now contesting from Amri constituency of West Karbi Anglong supported by Amri Democratic Front, is confident of a sure win against the BJP candidate D Upping Masali in the forthcoming KAAC elections. Elwin Teron and his party feel that the people of the locality are disappointed with the failure of the BJP candidate.

## Karbi Anglong Crisis 1

- Located in central Assam, Karbi Anglong is the state's largest district and a melting pot of ethnicities and tribal groups — Karbi, Dimasa, Bodo, Kuki, Hmar, Tiwa, Garo, Man (Tai speakers), Rengma Naga. Its diversity also generated different outfits and fuelled an insurgency that did not allow the region to develop.
- The Karbis are a major ethnic group of Assam, dotted by several factions and splinters. The history of the Karbi group has been marked by killings, ethnic violence, abductions and taxation since the late 1980s.
- Insurgent groups of Karbi Anglong district like People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), etc. originated from the core demand of forming a separate state:
- Some of the other demands of the militant groups are:
  - Inclusion of some areas into Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC),
  - Reservation of seats for ST
  - More powers to the council,
  - Inclusion of Karbi language in the 8th schedule
  - Financial package of Rs 1,500 crore



# Review of compliance with forest clearance conditions



The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is going to review compliance with forest clearance conditions on the part of those hydel power projects in Arunachal Pradesh, which have already been approved for implementation. This is said to be a part of the exercise being undertaken by the Ministry to examine the eligibility of the 3,097-MW Etalin Hydel Power Project in Dibang Valley.

The Forest Conservation Division of the Ministry said in its May 23, 2022 office memorandum, that the diversion of 1165.66 hectares (ha), including 91.331 ha underground

area, of forest land for construction of the Etalin project was considered by the FAC in its meeting held on May 11, 2022.

Moreover, the memorandum said that the FAC, inter alia, recommended constitution of a committee under chairmanship of the Regional Officer, Integrated Regional

## Arunachal hydel projects

Office, Guwahati, of the MoEFCC. The Nodal Officer (FCA) of the Arunachal Pradesh Government will be a member. The panel will monitor compliance of conditions under forest clearance granted to the hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh in the past. The committee may submit its report

within three weeks, the office memorandum added.

Hydel projects, including the 405-MW Ranganadi Stage-I, 600-MW Kameng, 110-MW Pare, 2,000-MW Subansiri Lower and 2,880-MW Dibang Multipurpose Project, have already been granted forest clearance by the MoEFCC FAC. All these projects have direct transboundary implications between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam due to inter-state existence of river courses. While the first three projects have already been commissioned, the construction of the Subansiri Lower Project is on. The Dibang project is yet to be constructed. The EHEP in the Dibang Valley is proposed to be set up upstream of the Dibang Multipurpose Project.

Arunachal Pradesh has the **largest hydropower potential** among the Himalayan states.

• According to government estimates, the Northeast India has a hydropower potential of around 63,000 MW, of which about 50,000MW is in Arunachal Pradesh. But less than **10% of the total potential has been harnessed.**

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