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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
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Landslide kills six in Nagaland ; key national highways blocked

Six people died and four people were injured in a series of landslides , triggered by incessant rainfall along the National Highway 29 in Nagaland on Tuesday night .

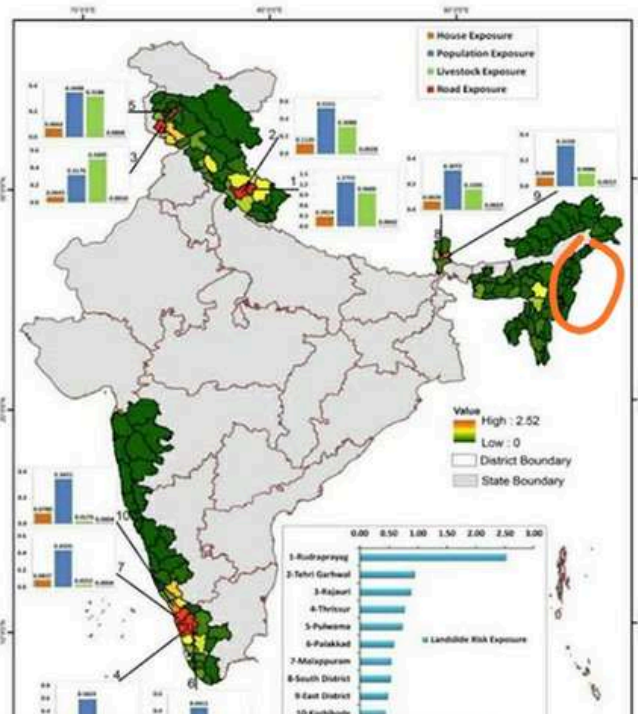
Pherina and Pahar areas have been the worst damaged areas .

Landslides and mudslides at other area washed away connecting Dimapur and Kohima . The highway is also crucial for supplies in Manipur .

People started panic buying after the news of landslides and obstruction of roads spread . However , authorities have asked people to refrain from Panic buying as there was no shortage of food and essential goods .

Efforts to clear road obstruction and make the highway functional is underway.

A data tabled in Parliament has said that 196 incidents of landslides occurred between April and July this year in the North East .



EPFO pensions can soon be collected via by bank branch

The Union Labour ministry has cleared a proposal for a centralised pension Payment System (CPPS) , for EPF pension beneficiaries .

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandviya called it a “ significant milestone “ in modernising the EPFO . Under the new system the Pensioners would be able to receive their pension from any bank , any branch anywhere in the country .

This would be a great relief for pensioners who would move to their hometown after retirement . Earlier , the process was lengthy and involved a particular EPFO Office where documents needed to be submitted before the pension could be withdrawn .

In the next phase of Modernisation that is proposed , there will not be even need to visit any branch and the pension will be directly credited to pensioner accounts . .

EPFO is one of the two social security schemes under the Ministry of Labour , the other being ESIC .



Under this employees and employees contribute 12 % each per month that goes as provident Fund managed by EPFO .
The amount later is disbursed as fixed pensions .

Modi takes aim at China in Brunei , says India does not back expansionism

As PM Modi landed in Brunei capital Bandar Sheri Bagwan he became the first Indian Prime Minister to make a bilateral visit to Brunei .

In a banquet hosted by Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah he said that India supports “ development not expansionism “ .

“ Brunei is an important partner of India’s act east policy and Indo Pacific vision “

In the South China Sea he “urged all parties to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with International law , Particularly UNCLOS 1982 .”

The two sides held a bilateral meeting . In which it was said that Brunei would continue to host ISRO’s Telemetry Tracking and command station .
The sides discussed ways to improve defence ties and the possibility of Long term cooperation in LNG supplies .

Brunei is a “ claimant state” under South China sea , along with China , Malaysia , Philippines .
It is strategically located and is rich in oil and gas .
Considered a US ally for long ,
In recent times its relation with China has improved and trade with China has increased multifold .



SC slams Uttarakhand CM , says this is not a ‘feudal era ‘

The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday orally slammed Uttarakhand Chief Minister for ignoring objections from state bureaucracy and his own ministers on transfer of an Indian Forest Services (IFS) officer .

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami had appointed IFS officer Rahul as the director of Rajaji tiger AP Reserve . Mr Rahul was found to be involved in illegal felling of trees and unauthorised construction at Corbett Tiger Reserve . He is facing departmental enquiry and CBI enquiry in Corbett cases .

Despite objections CM Dhami appointed him as Director of Rajaji Tiger Reserve , which is ecologically sensitive .

The Court observed that this was not a “ feudal era “ in which what the king said had to be done .

“ If you disagree with all your officers and your minister . The least that is expected is that there should be some application of mind “ Justice B R Gavai said .

The court later revoked the transfer order .



Center , Tripura sign peace accord with insurgent groups in the state

More than 300 armed cadres from insurgent groups in Tripura have given up violence and have pledged to join mainstream .

A memorandum of sentiment was signed between the Government of India , Government of Tripura and The National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Forces (ATTF) in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah .

The two groups have been active for more than 37 years . Their bases were in Bangladesh . They were involved in killing 600 and 300 people respectively . Their mandate was to make an independent Tripura nation .

This is 12 th such pact from North East and third from Tripura .

Centre suggest measure to enhance security measures in hospitals

In a letter to the state, the health ministry has called for recruitment of ex-servicemen , state security force personnel to manage security at hospitals . It also advised background checks of contract workers and Sharing of video footage .

Heavy rain claims 49 life in Gujrat

Heavy rain in Gujarat since the last week of August has caused massive damage of standing crops and has claimed 49 lives .

Kutch , Dwarka , Junagadh , Jamnagar and Porbandar are the most affected districts .

The state has got 118 % rainfall .

Kutch has received a maximum of 180% rainfall of the season .

Ethanol push turned India into corn importer , shaking up global market

India has become a big corn importer and imported 1 million tonnes of corn last year .

India for long has been a corn exporter , the reversal came after the central government increased the price of ethanol made from Corn over ethanol made from Sugarcane .

India currently blends 13% ethanol in Gasoline , and has plans to increase it to 20% by 2025– 26 .

The increased demand of Ethanol has resulted in importing corn and producing ethanol from it . India imported most of the corn from Myanmar and Ukraine .

Corn in India is used by poultry farms as a feed . Poultry industry is facing disadvantage from the increased corn prices .

Pressure is also to bring GM crop varieties to market .

World : _____

Russia strikes Ukraine's Lviv as it's troops advance in the east

On Wednesday , Russia struck missiles on the West Ukrainian city of Lviv . Three children among seven were killed in the strike .

This comes a day after Russia struck Paltova military school in which 53 had died .

Russia has increased its attack following the Kursk invasion by Ukraine .

Advancing in East Russia captured the village of Karlivka , 30 km from Pokrovsk .

Pokrovsk is a key Ukrainian supply route . Russia for long has been looking to capture it .



Xi hosts African leaders at grand Summit in Beijing

China is hosting the China Africa Forum this week . Heads of twenty five African leaders have arrived or confirmed their arrival to Beijing .

In the biggest summit this year , the Chinese President welcomed the leaders . China promised cooperation in infrastructure , energy and education .

China , the world's number two economy, is Africa 's largest trading partner . China has given billions of loans to African countries for infrastructure projects .

China taps vast mineral resources of Copper , gold , lithium and rare earth metals of the African continent .

Mongolia defies ICC warrant for Putin's arrest gives him a red carpet welcome

Russian President Vladimir Putin was accorded a red carpet welcome on Tuesday . Mongolia International Criminal Court (ICC) member state ignored ICC warrant to arrest Me Putin .

ICC in March 2023 had issued an arrest warrant against Putin .

It is an obligation to any ICC member to comply with its arrest warrant orders .

This was the first visit by Putin to any ICC member state . Earlier he had skipped the BRICS 2023 meeting that was held in South Africa , a ICC member state .

Ahead of Mr Putin's visit , Ukraine had urged Mongolia to arrest Putin and hand over to the court in Hague .

The EU had expressed concern that Mongolia might not execute the warrant .

Mongolia is heavily dependent on trade ties with Russia and China , this being one of the reasons for ignoring ICC orders .

Besides Russia knew this well in advance .

The two sides signed several agreements on rail connectivity , hydro projects in which Russia will aid Mongolia .



Sports :

Harvinder's shooting prowess to the fore in the recurve open

India won one gold, three silver and two bronze medals on Thursday at the Paris Paralympics .

Harvinder Singh became the first Indian to win a gold medal in Archery in Paralympics .

Sachin won silver in Shot Put .

Ajeet and Sundar won silver and Bronze respectively in the Javelin throw .

Sharad Kumar and Mariyappan Thangavelu won silver and bronze respectively in the high Jump event .

India has won a total 22 medals with 4 gold, eight silver and 10 bronze .

It is placed 15 th in the medal tally currently .



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