Centre extends term of panel probing Manipur violence

Second extension since formation on June 4, 2023

NEW DELHI, May 20: The Centre has given an other extension till November 20, 2025 to a commission of inquiry for submitting its report on the proceedings from the service of one lakh or more people in Manipur that began on May 3, 2023 and lasted for some time.

The Commission of Inquiry headed by former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Ajay Lamba, was formed on June 4, 2023. The panel is also considering the road blockades, Hanumtha Shivkar Dias and retired IPS officer Aloki Prabhakar, was mandated to probe the causes and extent of the violence and loss, targeting members of different communities, who is now out in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

The commission was supposed to submit its report to the Central Government "as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting", the certificate issued on June 4, 2023, said.

The panel has been extended twice since then. In its last extension, the Ministry of Home Affairs gave the commission time till May 20, 2025, to submit its report.

"The commission shall submit its report to the Central government as soon as possible but not later than November 20, 2025," the MHA said in the latest notification.

According to the terms of reference of the commission, it will probe the sequence of events leading to and all the facts relating to such violence, whether there were any lapses or omissions or delays in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities, individuals, and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and loss.

The inquiry shall look into the complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association, the MHA said.

According to the June 4, 2023 notification of the Home Ministry, large scale violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, which claimed the lives of many residents of the State, besides injuring several others.

People's houses and properties were burnt down as a result of the arson, rendering many of them homeless.

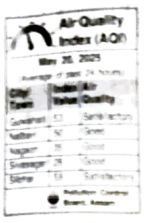
The notification said the Manipur Government on May 20, 2023, recommended of the constitution of a judicial commission to look into the causes and non-curtailment factors of the crisis and the unfortunate incidents that took place on May 3, 2023, and arrangements under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

Based on the recommendation of the Manipur Government, the Centre was of the opinion that it was necessary to appoint a commission of inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into a definite matter of public importance, namely, incidents of violence in Manipur, the notification said.

The violence in Manipur was triggered after Kuki-Zo tribals living in the hill districts protested over a High Court recommendation for granting ST status to the Meitei community members.

At least 264 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley based Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups based in the adjoining hills. Manipur is currently under President's Rule which was imposed on February 13, 2025, after then Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned on February 9. The State Assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation.

Since taking over as the Governor of Manipur on January 6, Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been meeting a cross section of people, taking feedback from them on how to bring back normalcy in the State. Bhalla, a former Union Home Secretary who worked closely with Home Ministry Amit Shah for five years till August 2024, was handpicked by the latter. – PTI



WEATHER NorthEast

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain very likely to occur at most places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura and at many places over Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. No large change in maximum temperature very likely over the region.

Warning: 1: Thunderstorm and lightning accompanied with gusty winds reaching upto 40-50 kmph very likely to occur at isolated places over Meghalaya and Tripura. 2: Thunderstorm and lightning accompanied with gusty winds reaching upto 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam and Manipur. 3: Thunderstorm and lightning very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. 4: Heavy to very heavy rain very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya. 5: Heavy rain very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

	Max	Min
Dibrugarh	25.8	23.4
Tezpur	26.9	23.5
Silchar	27.1	24.4
Dhubri	27.9	23.4
Jorhat	26.4	22.7
N Lakhimpur	27.6	18.6
Shillong	22.5	16.2
Cherrapunjee	20.5	17.3
Passighat	26.6	21.6
Aizawl	29.2	22.7
Imphal	27.6	21.0
Kohima	19.0	17.4
Agartala	33.4	25.0
Itanagar	26.3	22.6

Duty Meteorological Officer, Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati

Mizoram first to achieve status as fully literate State

ZODIN SANGA

AIZAWL, May 20: In a milestone achievement that sets a precedent for the rest of India, Mizoram on Tuesday officially became the country's third fully literate State. Chief Minister Lalduhoma made the formal announcement at a State-level function held at the Mizoram University auditorium in Tanhrilhere, where Union Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary was also present.

The announcement marks the successful conclusion of a focused literacy mission carried out under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP), also known as ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society). The campaign represented a seamless integration of government policy and grassroot volunteerism, with education officials describing it as a model of community-led transformation.

Though Mizoram has always ranked high in education – boasting a literacy rate of 91.33 per cent in the 2011 Census, the third highest in India – fresh surveys conducted under the NILP revealed that 3,026 individuals in the State were still illiterate. Out of them, 1,692 were found eligible for basic literacy interventions and were enrolled in the programme.

The backbone of this achievement was a corps of 292 volunteer educators drawn from different walks of life – students, teachers, government staff, Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators (CRCCs), and other educationists. Motivated by the Mizo code of Tlawmngaihna – a spirit of selfless service – and guided by the national ethos of "Kartavya Bodh" (a sense of civic responsibility), these volunteers reached out to learners in far-flung villages and urban centres alike.

Their efforts paid off. Following a thorough evaluation by the State's Education Department, Mizoram was assessed to have achieved an overall literacy rate of 98.2 per cent, the highest in the country. With this, the State was officially declared fully literate – an achievement welcomed with pride and celebration across its eight districts.

"This is more than a statistical accomplishment – it is a reflection of the Mizo people's collective belief in the power of education to uplift lives," said a senior official from the Mizoram School Education Department. "We have seen young people, working professionals, and elders all contribute their time and energy to this movement. It is truly a people's programme."

Mizoram, which became the 23rd State of India on February 20, 1987, covers a territory of 21,081 square kilometres and has long been a frontrunner in human development indicators in the North East. Its strong civil society, combined with a culture that deeply values learning, has enabled it to consistently rank among the top States in literacy and school enrolment.

During the felicitation ceremony, several newly literate persons shared their experiences. Some described the profound impact the ability to read and write has had on their confidence and participation in social and economic life.

Union minister Jayant Chaudhary applauded the State for not only reaching the milestone but doing so in a way that sets an example for other parts of India. "This is the kind of collaborative spirit that our country needs," he said. "Mizoram has demonstrated what can be achieved when policy meets passion."

Chief Minister Lalduhoma echoed similar sentiments, calling the success a "triumph of community resolve". He said that the State would now turn its attention towards promoting lifelong learning, skill-building, and digital literacy to keep pace with the changing demands of the 21st century.

> "Triumph of community resolve
> – Lalduhoma, CM

'DAM'AGED. Heaps of garbage seen floating in the Ganol river at Chibragre Dam in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya on Tuesday. – UB Photos

NCC cadet Rifiness Warjri scales Mt Everest

3rd woman from Meghalaya to achieve feat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 20: A 20-year-old NCC cadet, Rifiness Warjri, has scripted history by becoming the third woman from Meghalaya to scale Mount Everest.

Warjri is a student of St Anthony's College, Shillong, and a cadet of 61 Meghalaya Girls' Battalion, NCC. According to NCC officials, she reached the summit of Mount Everest at 4.45 am on May 18.

"For the people of the North East, Warjri's accomplishments are more than personal victories. They serve as a beacon of hope. In a region where opportunity is often hindered by geographic challenges, her achievement shines brightly, encouraging others to chase their dreams, no matter how distant," the NCC officials stated.

Warjri had developed a passion for mountaineering during her schooling years at Auxilium Convent, Shillong, through her involvement with the NCC. She is also an accomplished wushu artist, having represented Meghalaya in competitive events.

Earlier, Warjri had scaled Mount Abi Gamin (7,355 metres) in Uttarakhand in August 2024. The third eldest among five children, she thanked her parents, Shiluborbor Kharmyndai and Diamondsen Warjri, for providing their unwavering support.

Gary Jarman Lamare, a Discovery Channel photographer, was the first from Meghalaya to summit Mount Everest in 2012. He was followed by Wansuk Myrthong, an armed Meghalaya Police constable, in 2013, and Dolyne Kharbhih, a former NCC cadet hailing from Ri Bhoi district, in 2016.

ILP system

DIMAPUR, May 20: In a meeting, Dimapur DC Tiwongsibi Chang today informed non-Naga communities residing in Dimapur, Chumoukedima and Niuland that the inner line permit (ILP) regime would be implemented in the three districts. The ILP system is already in force in other districts of the State.

Chang told media persons after the meeting that the State Cabinet on May 14 reiterated that the ILP regime would be implemented in Dimapur, Chumoukedima and Niuland districts. – Correspondent

Indian Institute of Information Technology Guwahati
e-Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited for "Hiring of Agency for Providing Professional Counselling Services"
For details please visit www.eprocure.gov.in or www.iiitg.ac.in
Last Date 04-06-2025 till 1800 Hrs.
Sd/- Dean (Admin)
NIT No. IIITG/SAP/19/2025/204 dated 20.05.2025

Tripura traders

AGARTALA, May 20: The Tripura Government has asked traders, who have been operating their businesses through integrated check posts in the State, to adhere to the port restrictions imposed by the Centre on imports of certain goods, such as readymade garments, from Bangladesh, an official said on Tuesday.

During a meeting with the exporters and importers from Agartala, Dharmanagar and Sonamura, State Industries and Commerce Department Director Sailesh Kumar Yadav has instructed them to follow the port curbs, he said. – PTI

Massive cheating racket busted in Itanagar, 53 held

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, May 20: In a major crackdown on an inter-State cheating racket, the Capital Police here has arrested 53 candidates involved in unfair practices during the CBSE-conducted recruitment examinations held on May 18 for the posts of laboratory assistant and junior secretariat assistant under the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Itanagar SP Rohit Rajbir Singh said today.

Acting on credible inputs from school authorities, teams from the Niti Vihar and Chimpu Police Stations conducted swift operations across multiple examination centres. At Kingcup Public School, 23 candidates were caught with GSM-enabled devices and micro earpieces during pre-examination frisking.

Another individual – a Haryana resident – was detained at VKV, Itanagar, with concealed equipment. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of more suspects and the recovery of 29 electronic gadgets allegedly used for cheating, the SP told media persons at a press conference here.

The accused have been booked under stringent provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

Preliminary investigations revealed a well-orchestrated cheating network allegedly being operated from Haryana, with suspected links to wider syndicates across India. Candidates were reportedly promised guaranteed selection in return for hefty payments. They were trained to use hidden devices, through which answers were communicated by handlers during the objective-type examinations.

Police has recovered incriminating digital evidence, including call logs, SIM cards, and WhatsApp chats, all of which are currently under forensic examination to trace deeper connections and understand the full scale of the operation, the SP said, adding that key handlers and middlemen involved in orchestrating the racket have been identified, and a police team has been dispatched to Haryana to apprehend them.

Additionally, the CBSE has been formally informed and is cooperating fully with the investigation.

Reports of similar cheating patterns from examination centres in Gangtok, Chandigarh, and Shimla have raised concerns of a nationwide scam. Authorities have vowed strict action to uphold the sanctity of public examinations.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati-781039, Assam
Industrial Interactions and Special Initiatives Cell
Online Interview for the Project position Associate Project Engineer under the sponsored project titled "Flood Early Warning and Monitoring System for Himalayan Catchments" Project No: **xxCEICNSONY0041SxxSD028** from the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Guwahati on **27th May, 2025**
For detailed advertisements may please visit
https://www.iitg.ac.in/iitg_recruitment
Advt. No: IITG/IISSI/Project Staff Rectt-2025/23 HoS (IIISSI Cell) I/c

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अरुणाचल प्रदेश
National Institute of Technology Arunachal Pradesh
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
JOTE-791113, Arunachal Pradesh, www.nitap.ac.in
Advertisement No.: NIT/AP/Estt-166/NTR-01/2024
RECRUITMENT FOR FILLING UP VARIOUS NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for the various Non-Teaching positions. For further details, please visit the Institute website www.nitap.ac.in
Opening of online application portal 24-05-2025 and the last date for submission of online application is 20-06-2025 up to 11:59 P.M. The last date of receipt of hard copy of application 30-06-2025, (05:00 PM)
Any subsequent change or amendment to this vacancy notice shall be posted in the institute's website only
Sd/- Director

Shirui Lily Festival gets under way in Manipur

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, May 20: Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla today inaugurated the fifth edition of the State-level Shirui Lily Festival at Heritage Ground, Vangaiyan, at Shirui village in Ukhrul district.

The five-day festival will showcase cultural events, artefacts, games, music, and food of Manipur in general and the Tangkhul Naga tribe in particular.

On the occasion, the Governor released a souvenir and inspected the various stalls at the venue. He also witnessed the cultural performances of different tribes. Earlier, the Governor scaled the Shirui Peak in the morning.

In his address at the inaugural ceremony, the Governor said that the festival, which is being held in the picturesque Ukhrul district, is a tribute to the magnificent Shirui Lily, the State flower. This rare plant is a living symbol of Manipur's ecological wealth and natural heritage, he added.

Organised with the twin vision of promoting sustainable eco-tourism and generating environmental awareness, the Shirui Lily Festival has grown into one of the most attractive and spectacular events in the State's cultural calendar.

The festival serves as a collective reminder to protect the endangered Shirui Lily, while celebrating the vibrant Tangkhul Naga culture through traditional dance, music, craft, and local cuisine, uniting people from all walks of life.

Describing Ukhrul as the crown jewel of Manipur's hill districts, the Governor said that it is a destination in itself with green hills, forests, and deep-rooted traditions.

"We have the intent of promoting the Shirui Lily Festival all across the country and abroad," Bhalla said. The Governor expressed the confidence that the festival would not only entertain and inspire, but also ignite people's sense of environmental stewardship and create cultural vibes.

Scribes protest

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 20: Media persons on Tuesday decided to launch a 'pen down' strike by suspending all normal duties on May 21 in protest against the alleged harassment of a media team going to cover the opening ceremony of the fifth Shirui Lily Festival in Ukhrul district.

The All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and the Editors Guild Manipur (EGM) took a decision in this regard in a joint meeting at the Manipur Press Club here.

"In the event the matter is not resolved suitably, the pen down strike may be extended," stated a joint statement of the AMWJU and the EGM. The meeting also resolved to boycott all government news and information.

ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड
Oil India Limited
OIL INDIA
P.O. Duliajan - 786602, Assam, India CIN: L11101AS1959GOI001148
ENGAGEMENT ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS
(NOTIFICATION NO. HRAQ/CONT-WP-B/25-208 dated 21/05/2025)
Oil India Limited intends to engage personnel (domicile of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh) purely on contractual basis for immediate engagement at Oil Higher Secondary School (OIHSS), Duliajan and Moran. All details viz. respective date(s), venue etc. of Walk-in-Practical/Skill Test cum Personal Assessment(s) for Contractual Engagement (s) for the below mentioned post(s) are included in the detailed advertisement which is available in the website of Oil India Limited i.e. www.oil-india.com :
ADVT. NO. HRAQ/CONT-WP-B/25-208 dated 21/05/2025:
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Performing Arts-Dance), (OIHSS), Duliajan
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Performing Arts-Music), (OIHSS), Duliajan
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Performing Arts-Dance), (OIHSS), Moran
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Physical Education), (OIHSS), Duliajan
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Physical Education), (OIHSS), Moran
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Fine Arts), (OIHSS), Duliajan
Contractual Graduate Teacher (Fine Arts), (OIHSS), Moran
Please read the above detailed advertisement carefully which is available in the website of Oil India Limited i.e. www.oil-india.com under OIL for All menu > Career at OIL > Current Openings section.