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# Assam govt suspends internet in Chirang and Kokrajhar after violent eviction clashes

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The Assam government has suspended mobile internet and data services in Chirang and Kokrajhar districts after violent clashes broke out during an **eviction** drive along the India-Bhutan border on Friday.

An official order issued by Additional Chief Secretary Ajay Tewari stated that the restrictions were imposed following a sharp escalation of tensions in Chirang district on April 16, when the forest department carried out an eviction drive at Runikhata under the forest range area.

During the drive, forest personnel detained 25 members of the Adivasi community, which triggered protests that soon turned violent.

The situation escalated as local residents, including a large number of women, staged protests demanding the release of individuals allegedly detained on charges of encroaching on reserved forest land.

Reports said demonstrators allegedly damaged forest department vehicles and attempted to set the range office on fire, triggering widespread chaos and continued clashes.

The situation further deteriorated with incidents of firing and continued clashes between security forces and protesters.

Authorities expressed concern that the unrest could spread to neighbouring Kokrajhar district, prompting the decision to enforce preventive restrictions to maintain law and order.

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Meanwhile, the government also cited the risk of misinformation and provocative content circulating on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, X, YouTube, and Instagram, which could further

worsen the situation.

Invoking provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017, the administration ordered an immediate shutdown of mobile internet services in the affected areas until further notice.

Officials warned that any violation of the order or misuse of communication platforms could invite legal action.

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