

WORLD



**● It's special as son-in-law of India: Rishi Sunak on visit to Delhi for G20**

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**● N Korea says its latest submarine can launch nuclear weapons**

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**● Hopeful of consensus on New Delhi declaration: India**

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**● It's people's victory: Mamata on Dhupguri bypoll result**

## Police unearth signed blank cheques, ₹ 64 lakh in cash

**Bajali extortion: CID on job to ensure a foolproof case ● 10 including SP in police net ● More arrests on the cards**

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** The state CID has recovered over Rs 64 lakh in cash and 21 blank cheques signed by a businessman's mother during raids while investigating an extortion case in which 10 people, including SP and DSP level officers, of Bajali district were arrested.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, special director general of police Harmeet Singh said the 10 accused were arrested since September 3 on the charge of extorting money from the businessman and are currently in CID custody.

The 10 included an IPS officer who was serving as the SP of Bajali district, a DSP and two sub-inspectors of police.

The special DGP said a few more people are likely to be arrested.



rested.

It is also being found out why this businessman, Rabiul Islam, was targeted by the accused who allegedly demanded ₹ 2.5 crore from him. Islam's business dealings are also being looked into,

Singh said.

He said that during raids in different locations since the registration of the case, ₹ 64,29,500 in cash was recovered from a suitcase and four sets of fingerprints found on it, which are being examined.

Twenty-three cheques, including 21 blank ones, bearing the signature of Islam's mother have also been found, besides other documents and items such as mobile phones and a laptop.

Singh said a demand for ₹ 2.5 crore was allegedly placed before Islam, of which he had paid ₹ 10 lakh in cash to the SP and the cheques were given in lieu of the rest of the amount.

Islam had also given two expensive laptops as demanded, one of which has been recovered by the police, he added.

The CID registered a case on August 31 initially against seven police personnel of Bajali, including the deputy superintendent of police (DSP) and two sub-inspectors (SI). The SP, Siddhartha Buragohain, was transferred from Balaji the next day and was arrested later.

rested later.

The then-additional SP (ASP) Gayatri Sonowal, DSP Puskal Gogoi and SI Debajit Giri, in charge of the Bhawanipur outpost have been arrested.

Two drivers (home guards) of the SP and the Personal Security Officer (PSO) of the ASP have also been apprehended. The husband of Sonowal and two alleged middlemen are among the others arrested so far.

Singh said Islam lodged a complaint of the alleged extortion attempt to the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption on August nine, and he also submitted some audio recordings in support of his case.

A few days later, Islam was picked up by the district police and allegedly subjected to physical harassment (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## 5750 youths to be trained in 59 vocations in these centres CM inaugurates 60 training centres, flags off Skill Yatra



**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said that setting up of training centres will pave the way for skill development of youths, which in turn will help them to secure employment.

The Chief Minister said this while inaugurating training centres to train 5750 youths in 59 different vocations under the Assam Skill Development Mission at Janata Bhawan in Guwahati on Friday.

Sarma also flagged off a Skill Yatra to generate skill awareness programme in four districts through skill vans. The districts are Kamrup, Nalbari, Darang and Morigaon. A scheme called the 'Indigenous Skill Training by Gurus' was also launched on the occasion.

Under the scheme, initially 15 districts will be covered to undertake the programme and 10 candidates will be selected from each district. Moreover, he also launched the process of releasing stipend through DBT to 500 trainees under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Assam Skill Development Mission. He also inaugurated the Training Centre of Schwing Stetter. As a part of the programme, 50 trainees from Industrial Training Institute Guwahati will be trained for the job of concrete pump operator.

Speaking on the occasion, Himanta Biswa Sarma, "The inauguration of training centres in Assam is an important development for enhancing the skills of youths and making them capable of employment as well as for self-employment. 60 training centres have been set up across the state under state funded Placement Linked Skill Development Training Programme to train these youth in short term skill courses that will also help them to create self-employment avenues. The 60 training centres will impart training in 59 different disciplines across 10 sectors."

The Chief Minister said that the Skill Yatra that would also go a long way in connecting students of classes IX to XII in government schools with a provision to counselling the students along with their parents. Under the 'Indigenous Skill Training by Gurus' scheme special focus will be made for preserving and promoting indigenous trades of Assam like mask making, bell and brass metal etc.

"Our government is on its track to develop the skill of youths to make them self-reliant. Since Assam is rich in tourism, hospitality and other associated fields, skilled employees will help to meet the demands of the job markets," said Sarma. (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## 2 killed, nearly 50 injured in fresh violence in Manipur

**IMPHAL, Sept 8:** Two persons were killed and nearly 50 injured in two different firing incidents at Pallel in Manipur's Tengnoupal district on Friday.

Among the injured, four civilians sustained bullet wounds, officials said.

Firing between two groups of unidentified men reportedly began at Pallel around 6 am leading to the death of a person.

He was declared brought dead at the Kakching Jeevan Hospital, while the injured who received bullet injuries have been referred to Imphal, they added.

The condition of one of the injured admitted to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Imphal is critical, doctors said.

As news of the firing spread, a large number of people from different sides of Thoubal and Kakching districts rushed to Pallel, but

were stopped by Assam Rifles personnel leading to the tense face off, officials said.

A 48-year-old man was killed in the crossfire between the two groups of unidentified armed men, officials said.

More than 45 women were also injured after Assam Rifles lobbed teargas shells to defuse the situation, officials said. An Assam Rifles jawan was also injured, they added.

On the other hand, a contingent of Rapid Action Force personnel heading to Pallel from Imphal to contain the mob was blocked by locals at Thoubal.

Situation is still tense and firing has temporarily been stopped, officials said.

This comes two days after thousands of protesters gathered at Phougachao Ikhai in Bishnupur district (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## World leaders arrive in Delhi for G20 summit



**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Several world leaders, including British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, arrived in New Delhi on Friday to attend the G20 summit, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he looks forward to productive discussions with them over the next two days. The leaders were welcomed by traditional dance performances by

various troupes and a smiling IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva danced to the beat of the music at the airport.

Responding to a post by Georgieva on X on arriving here to attend the summit, Prime Minister Modi said he appreciates the affection she has shown for India's culture when she landed here.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Hasina were received at the airport by Union ministers

Shobha Karandlaje and Darshana Jadhav respectively.

Sunak was received by Union minister Ashwini Choubey while Argentine President Alberto Fernández was welcomed by Union Minister Pargan Singh Kulaste.

Comoros President Azali Assoumani also arrived here to a rousing welcome. He is also the chairperson of the African Union.

Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov also arrived for the summit.

On his arrival, Deputy Prime Minister of Oman Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said was received by Ashwini Choubey and he witnessed dance performance by cultural troupes.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Modi said, "I am confident that our guests will enjoy the warmth of the Indian hospitality."

"I will also be holding bilateral meetings with several leaders and heads of delegation to further deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation," (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## PM Modi, US President Biden hold bilateral talks

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden here, with their discussions covering a wide range of issues focused on deepening the bond between the two countries.

The meeting was held soon after Biden arrived in New Delhi to participate in the G20 Summit to be chaired by Prime Minister Modi.

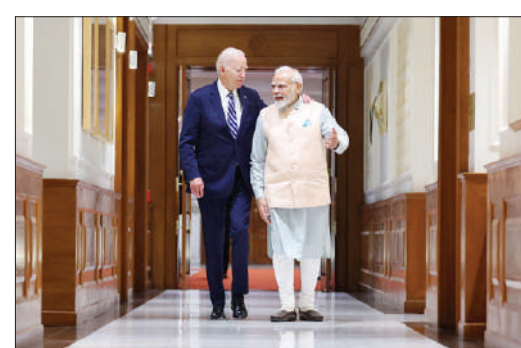
"Their discussions include a wide range of issues and will further deepen the bond between India and the USA," the Prime Minister's office said.

US treasury secretary Janet Yellen, secretary of state Anthony Blinken and US national security advisor Jake Sullivan were also present in the meeting from the US side while the Indian delegation included Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar and national security advisor Ajit Doval.

Modi is scheduled to hold 15 bilateral meetings over the next two days when world leaders gather in the national capital for the Summit.

The Prime Minister earlier said that these meetings would give an opportunity to review India's bilateral ties with these nations and further strengthen developmental cooperation.

"It is my firm belief that the New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in human-centric and inclu-



sive development," the Prime Minister posted on X, adding, "I look forward to productive discussions with world leaders over the next two days."

"I will also be holding bilateral meetings with several leaders and heads of delegation to further deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation," Modi said. On Saturday, he will hold bilateral meetings with leaders of the UK, Japan, Germany and Italy besides attending the G20 events.

On Sunday, he will have a working lunch meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, sources said. (PTI)

**LONDON, Sept 8:** There is a full-scale assault on the democratic institutions of India and there are concerns in the European Union (EU) quarters over this attempt to "stifle" the country's democratic structures, Rahul Gandhi said on Friday as he pledged that the Opposition will stop this "onslaught on our freedom".

The Congress leader, who is on a European tour starting with Belgium, addressed a broad range of topics at a media briefing in Brussels, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict to say that the Opposition agrees with the government's current position on the issue.

On India hosting the G20 Summit, Gandhi said it was a "good thing" and pointed to the lack of an invitation for Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge to the event as reflective of a "type of thinking" from the government that "did not value the leader of 60 per cent of



India's population".

"There is an increase in discrimination and violence in India and there is a full-scale assault on the democratic institutions of our country, which everybody knows," said Gandhi.

Asked about the reaction of the European parliamentarians to some of these issues, he replied: "They were very concerned and they felt that there is an attempt to stifle the democratic structures of India, for

sure. I mean, they were very, very clear with us," the 53-year-old leader said.

"The democratic fight and the fight for democracy in India is ours. And it's our responsibility, and we will take care of it. We will make sure that the sort of onslaught on our institutions and our freedom is stopped. The Opposition will make sure it happens," he added.

He said he has had "fruitful" conversations with parliamentarians and members of the diaspora at the start of his European tour, which is part of a wider initiative to travel around the world with the Opposition's vision and have an open exchange of ideas.

"We discussed with the parliamentarians across the board the relationship between India and Europe, the changing globe, transition into a new sort of energy paradigm," (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## BJP Mahila Morcha's national executive meeting to be held in Guwahati

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** The BJP Mahila Morcha's two-day national executive meeting will be held in Guwahati from Saturday.

A total of 200 office-bearers, including 60 from the Northeast, will attend the meeting.

The meeting, which is being held in the Northeast for the first time, will be attended by members from 35 states and Union territories, barring Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, where assembly elections are due later this year, the Morcha's national general secretary Indu Goswami said at a press conference here.

"There will be five sessions during the meeting which will deliberate, among other things, the road map of the Mahila Morcha for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls along with its role in the forthcoming assembly elections in five states.

"The meeting will also discuss various (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## Collective response of G20 countries to climate change lacking in ambition, credibility UN Chief urges G20 countries to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius goal alive

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** United Nations General Secretary Antonio Guterres on Friday urged all G20 countries to display their leadership by keeping the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal alive.

These nations should focus on rebuilding trust based on climate justice and advancing just and equitable transition through a green economy.

At the Paris climate talks in 2015, countries agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900) to avoid extreme, destructive and likely irreversible effects of climate change.

"We have no time to lose, challenges stretch as far as I can see. The climate crisis is worsening dramatically, but the collective response is lacking in ambition, cred-



ibility and urgency," Guterres told a press conference on the eve of the G20 Summit here.

He urged the G20 countries -- responsible for 85 per cent of the world's GDP and 80 per cent of the emissions -- to demonstrate leadership in two priority areas: prevent-

ing a climate breakdown and saving the sustainable development goals.

"The climate crisis is spiralling out of control, but G20 countries are in control. Together, G20 countries are responsible for 80 per cent of global emissions. Half measures

will not prevent full climate breakdown," he said.

Guterres urged the G20 leaders to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal alive, rebuild trust based on climate justice and advance just and equitable transition through a green economy.

He urged big emitters to make extra efforts to cut emissions and support emerging economies to achieve these.

He said developed countries should reach net zero by 2040 and the emerging economies by 2050. OECD countries should phase out coal by 2030 and the others by 2040, he added.

The UN chief said the developed countries within the G20 should show leadership by delivering on commitments to developing countries, by (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## 10 mobile veterinary units flagged off in Karbi Anglong

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 8:** Chief executive member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang on Friday flagged off 10 mobile veterinary units (MVU) vehicles from Arboretum-cum-Craft Centre at Diphu in Karbi Anglong district.

The animal husbandry and veterinary department launched the animal ambulance service for treating animals at the doorstep of farmers in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Tuliram Ronghang said, "It is for the first time in Karbi Anglong that MVUs are being launched for providing mobile medical services to pigs, cattle, goats and poultry. The veterinary doctors will make door-to-door visits in these mobile vans to treat the sick animals. In the first phase 10 MVU vehicles have been released for Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong. More MVUs will be provided soon."

District veterinary officer Dilip Mahanta said, "While seven MVUs are for Karbi Anglong, three are for West Karbi Anglong. In one MVU there will be a veterinary doctor, a field assistance and driver. The public will be able to avail the MVU service from 8



am to 5 pm. During these hours anyone can call on the toll free number 1962 to avail medical care for their sick animals.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the MVU service in the state on June 13 this year. Young veterinary doctors are being appointed for the MVUs and as their energy and enthusiasm will help them render their service to the people in an effective manner.

Meanwhile, Mahanta also pointed out that in Karbi Anglong the Africa Swine flu has badly affected the piggeries in the district. (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)



## Stock markets rally for 6<sup>th</sup> day running on buying in HDFC Bank, L&T and RIL



**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** Benchmark BSE Sensex rallied further 333 points on Friday to extend its winning run to a sixth straight session driven by buying in index heavyweights HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Reliance Industries.

Shrugging off weak global market trends, the BSE Sensex jumped 333.35 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 66,598.91. During the day, it climbed 501.36 points or 0.75 per cent to 66,766.92.

The broader Nifty advanced 92.90 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 19,819.95, rising for a sixth session in a row. Nifty has gained 473 points or 3 per cent in the six trading sessions while Sensex rallied 1,434 points or 2.41 per cent.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 878.4 points or 1.34 per cent and the Nifty climbed 384.65 points or 1.97 per cent.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 878.4 points or 1.34 per cent and the Nifty climbed 384.65 points or 1.97 per cent. From the Sensex pack, NTPC rose the most by 2.65 per cent. Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, Titan, Power Grid and State Bank of India were the major gainers.

ITC, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and JSW Steel were among the laggards.

"Benchmark indices ended the week just a few percentage points away from record highs ahead of the G20 Summit buoyed by good support from the Bank Nifty as well as the PSU & Infrastructure stocks," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities said. Despite a deficient monsoon, the mood in the market was optimistic as PSU stocks across sectors exhibited positive investor appetite, Ranganathan said.

Banking shares gained after the RBI announced a phased with-

drawal of the incremental CRR from Saturday which was imposed to absorb surplus liquidity following the withdrawal of ₹ 2,000 currency notes.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said that global markets stumbled as they processed August's jobless claims data from the US and the rise in gas prices due to strikes in Australia, rekindling further slowdown.

"The domestic market, however, showcased its resilience once more by rallying, seemingly unfazed by global distress signals."

"Although selling was seen in IT and pharma stocks due to weak global cues, the gains in infra, industrial, and capital goods stocks due to improved order inflows coupled with the persistent preference for mid- and small-cap stocks contributed to the ongoing rally," Nair said. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.92 per cent and smallcap index gained 0.43 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 2.13 per cent, and capital goods climbed 1.51 per cent. Power (1.48 per cent), oil & gas (1.43 per cent), consumer durables (1.35 per cent) and energy (1.33 per cent) also advanced.

Commodities, FMCG and IT were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the negative territory. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.07 per cent to USD 89.98 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 758.55 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark ended with a gain of 385.04 points or 0.58 per cent at 66,265.56 on Thursday. The Nifty advanced 116 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 19,727.05. (PTI)

## Tea producers urged to improve quality to enhance exports

*'There have been disturbing reports about use of pesticides which is hurting tea exports'*

**KOLKATA, Sept 8:** The government on Friday exhorted tea producers across the country to improve quality for raising exports which has remained almost stagnant for more than a decade.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of Indian Tea Association (ITA) virtually, the additional secretary (plantations) with the commerce ministry, Amardeep Singh Bhatia said that the country's share in global tea exports has slipped from 42 per cent to 12 per cent.

Some of the export markets have been lost owing to inroads made by Kenya and Sri Lanka in those markets, he said.

"There is need to improve the quality of tea. There have been disturbing reports about use of pesticides which is hurting tea exports. It is difficult to raise exports if quality is not improved. The need for this has to come from within the industry, the Tea Board will act as a facilitator," Bhatia said.

According to the Tea Board Data, India's tea exports in 2022 stood at 231 million kilogram. It stood at 96.49 million kg in the first six months of the current calendar year.

Bhatia said "The increase in demand for quality teas has to be raised both internationally and domestically. There is need to iden-



tify markets where per capita consumption of tea is low. These markets have to be explored.

"Our share in the global tea exports market was 42 per cent, which has slipped to only 12 per cent at the moment. We need to claw back on our position in global tea exports," he said.

The official said disruptions to the country's tea exports were caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He also stressed on the

need for replantation of old bushes for increasing yield and productivity of labour.

Climate change, he said, is a major challenge which is being faced by the industry at the moment.

Referring to Darjeeling tea, Bhatia said that it is important to preserve and promote the geographical indication (GI) tag which it has earned for its premium quality. The assistance of the West Bengal government is needed for this.

There is also need to move up the value chain for gaining greater share in the export market. India at the moment is mainly exporting bulk tea, Bhatia said.

Tea Board's role, he said, will be more of a facilitator and the process of reformulation of various schemes for the industry is underway.

"Subsidies cannot be entirely done away and the government is contemplating how this can be reworked upon," Bhatia added.

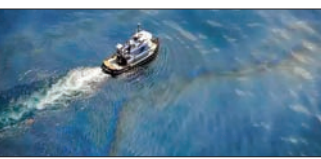
Tea Board deputy chairman Saurav Pahari, who too addressed the AGM virtually, said that time has come to engage start-ups in a more meaningful way for increasing exports.

"At present, these start-ups have new linkages with the mainstream tea trade ... They have out-of-the box ideas which can be leveraged for brand building," he said.

Outgoing ITA chairperson Nayantara Palchoudhuri said that the industry is facing problems of financial stress, climate change adversities, rising wages and falling prices.

"There is need for a unified approach to deal with these multifaceted challenges," she said. On the Darjeeling tea industry, Palchoudhuri said there is need for a financial package this from the Centre for this. (PTI)

## Minor oil spill near Mumbai



**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** A minor crude oil spill was reported at the seashore near Pirwadi beach of Uran in Navi Mumbai but the spill was soon arrested, sources said.

The spill was reported around 0545 hours on Friday.

The Oil Spill Response (OSR) team of ONGC Uran rushed to the spot, they said, adding that the root cause was detected and the spill stopped. Corrective measures were taken and the spill was arrested immediately, they said. The cause of the spill was not immediately known. Undersea pipelines bring crude oil from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) fields in the Arabian Sea to Uran before it is transferred to refineries for processing into fuels like petrol and diesel. The pipeline had spills in the past, too, the last major one being in 2013.

Sources said government authorities have been briefed by ONGC management about the incident. It was assured that there is no reason for panic as the spilled oil quantity was very small and it is being recovered. (PTI)

## Samsung launches Galaxy A54 5G in new white colour with exciting offers

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** Samsung is set to launch the Galaxy A54 5G in a stylish new Awesome White color variant, adding to its existing Awesome Lime, Awesome Graphite, and Awesome Violet options. The Galaxy A54 5G in Awesome White, with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage, will be available for purchase in India starting September 8. This addition provides customers with more choices to express their personal style.

Samsung has also announced attractive offers for both the Galaxy A54 and Galaxy A34 5G. Customers can now buy the Galaxy A34 5G, originally priced at ₹ 30,999, for an effective price starting at ₹ 26,999. This revised price includes an instant cashback of ₹ 2,000 and an additional bank cashback of ₹ 2,000, applicable when using ICICI Bank and SBI credit cards. For those interested in the Galaxy A54 8GB/256GB variant, initially priced at ₹ 40,999, it can now be purchased for just ₹ 36,999. Additionally, customers looking for enhanced affordability can take advantage of the convenient 12-month no-cost EMI with zero down payment.

Samsung will also host a Live Commerce event for the Galaxy



A54 5G and Galaxy A34 5G from 12 pm on September 7 to midnight on September 9. Customers purchasing these devices during the Live Commerce event on Samsung.com will be eligible for a free 25W travel adapter, valued at Rs 1,299.

Both the Galaxy A54 5G and Galaxy A34 5G offer a premium look and feel along with durability, featuring a long-lasting 5000mAh battery. They come with enhanced experiential features like Samsung Wallet and Voice Focus, as well as dual Dolby-engineered stereo

speakers for immersive entertainment. Both devices are built to withstand the elements with an IP67 rating, making them dust and sand resistant, ideal for outdoor adventures.

The Galaxy A54 5G features a 50MP OIS primary lens and a 12MP ultra-wide lens, while the Galaxy A34 5G comes with a 48MP OIS primary lens and an 8MP ultra-wide lens. Both models are equipped with a 5MP macro lens. They also introduce the beloved 'Nightography' feature from Samsung's flagship series to make low-light photography more accessible.

The devices sport vivid displays with Super AMOLED technology and 1000 Nits brightness. The 120Hz refresh rate on both devices ensures smooth transitions and motion, even in fast-paced scenes.

Security is a priority with Samsung's defense-grade security platform Knox, which protects personal data in real-time. The Galaxy A54 5G and Galaxy A34 5G offer four OS updates and 5 years of security updates, ensuring they remain up-to-date and deliver top-notch performance for years to come, making them a compelling choice for consumers.

## RBI decides to withdraw incremental CRR in phased manner

**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** The Reserve Bank on Friday decided to discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR), which was put in place to absorb surplus liquidity following the withdrawal of ₹ 2,000 currency notes, in a phased manner beginning Saturday. On August 10, the RBI mandated banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) of 10 per cent on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023 and July 28, 2023.

The measure was intended to absorb the surplus liquidity generated by various factors, including the return of Rs 2,000 notes to the banking system.

"On a review, it has been decided to discontinue the I-CRR in a phased manner," the central bank said in a statement.

Based on an assessment of current and evolving liquidity conditions, it has been decided that the amounts impounded under the I-CRR would be released in stages so that system liquidity is not subjected to sudden shocks and money markets function in an orderly manner, it added.

The RBI said 25 per cent of the amount of I-CRR maintained by banks will be released on Saturday and another 25 per cent on September 23. The rest will be released on October 7.

While announcing the I-CRR, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had indicated that the provision was a temporary measure for managing the liquidity overhang.

The RBI had announced that the I-CRR would be reviewed on September 8, 2023, or earlier with a view to returning the impounded funds to the banking system ahead of the festival season.

Following the withdrawal of the ₹ 2,000 notes, the liquidity with the banks had surged significantly, the I-CRR was aimed to absorb the excess cash.

As much as 93 per cent of ₹ 2000 currency notes that were in circulation on May 19 -- the day when the currency was withdrawn from circulation -- have been returned to banks.

The total value of ₹ 2000 banknotes received back from circulation is ₹ 3.32 lakh crore up to August 31, 2023. (PTI)

## GCCs expanding out of Bengaluru with 55 pc set up in other Indian locations: Report

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** As many as 18 new global capability centres (GCC) have been set up in India in the first half of CY2023 and more than half of them are in locations other than Bengaluru, says a report.

The Nasscom-Zinnov report highlighted that India is home to more than 1,580 GCCs, with a total market size of USD 46 billion and growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.4 per cent. Over 1.66 million professionals are recruited by these GCCs as of June 2023.

GCCs are offshore units of multinational corporations and global lenders that provide services such as IT, finance, human resources, R&D, and analytics to their parent organisations. Tier-II cities such as Vadodra, Nasik, and Coimbatore saw the expansion of centres for established GCCs in verticals such as industrial, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), retail, electrical and electronics, and software and internet. (PTI)

## Stock market: Asian shares weaken while Japan reports economy grew less than expected

**BEIJING, Sept 8:** Shares fell Friday in Asia after Japan reported its economy grew less than earlier estimated in the last quarter.

Oil prices declined, while US futures edged higher. Japan, the world's third largest economy, grew at a 4.8 per cent annual pace in the April-June quarter, below the earlier estimate of 6 per cent growth, according to data released Friday.

Much of that growth was driven by exports, which rose nearly 13 per cent, while private consumption fell 2.2 per cent on weak investment spending.

A separate report showed that wages declined in July for the 16th straight month, falling 2.5 per cent from a year earlier.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index dropped 1.2 per cent to 32,606.84, while the Kospi in Seoul lost less than 1 point, to 2,547.68.

Hong Kong's markets were closed due to a tropical storm.

The Shanghai Composite index shed 0.2 per cent to 3,1016.87, while the S and P/ASX 200 fell 0.2 per cent to 7,156.70.

On Thursday, Wall Street slipped in mixed trading Thursday as the threat of high interest rates continued to dog Big Tech stocks.

The S and P 500 fell 0.3 per cent to 4,451.14, for its third straight loss. The Nasdaq composite was hit particularly hard by the drop for tech stocks, sinking

0.9 per cent to 13,748.83.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average held up better than the rest of the market because it has less of an emphasis on tech. It rose 0.2 per cent to 34,500.73.

Stocks felt pressure from the bond market, where yields rose earlier in the week after a report showed stronger growth for US services industries last month than economists expected.

Yields remained high after a report on Thursday said fewer US workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than expected.

While such reports are encouraging for the economy, indicating a long-predicted recession is not near, they could also keep conditions humming strongly enough to push upward on inflation.

The Federal Reserve has already hiked its main interest rate to the highest level in more than two decades in hopes of slowing the economy enough to drive inflation back down to its 2 per cent target.

It's come close, and inflation has cooled from its peak above 9 per cent last summer. But the worry is that the last percentage point of improvement may be the toughest for the Fed.

High interest rates drag stock prices, especially those of technology companies and others that have been bid up on expectations for high growth far in the future. (AP)



## Govt rolls out 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of mandatory gold hallmarking in 55 new districts in 17 states/UT

Currently, a total of 343 districts are covered under mandatory hallmarking

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** The government on Friday said the third phase of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts has come into force in 55 new districts in 16 states and one Union territory.

Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and was voluntary in nature till June 16, 2021, when the government decided to implement mandatory gold hallmarking in a phased manner.

Currently, a total of 343 districts are covered under mandatory hallmarking. In the first phase, launched on June 23, 2021, 256 districts were covered, while the second phase from April 4, 2022, included 32 more districts.

According to the Consumer Affairs Ministry, an order for implementation of the third phase of the mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and gold artefacts was notified on September 8.

The third phase of the mandatory hallmarking will cover an additional 55 new districts in 16 states and one Union territory, it said in a statement.

Eight districts, including East Champaran, will be covered in Bihar, five districts each in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, and four districts in Telangana under the third phase.

Three districts each will be covered in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, while two districts each in Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

In Rajasthan, the mandatory gold hallmarking will be implemented in one district -- Jalore -- during the third phase.

Nodal agency Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has successfully implemented mandatory hallmarking in the last two



phases, wherein more than 4 lakh gold articles are being hallmarked with Hallmark

Unique Identification (HUID) every day. Since the implementation of mandatory

hallmarking, the ministry said, the number of registered jewellers has increased from 34,647 to 1,81,590, while Assaying and Hallmarking Centers (AHCs) rose to 1,471 from 945.

"More than 26 crore articles of gold jewellery have been hallmarked with HUID so far," the ministry said.

Consumers are encouraged to verify the authenticity and purity of the hallmarked gold jewellery items with the HUID number purchased by using 'verify HUID' in the BIS Care App, which can be downloaded from the Play Store.

The number of downloads of the BIS Care App has increased from 2.3 lakhs during 2021-22 to 12.4 lakh in the current financial year. Further, more than one crore hits of 'verify HUID' in the BIS Care App have been recorded as of date in the span of the last two years, it added. (PTI)

**ASSISTANCE TO DESILTING OF OPEN DRAIN**

**E-Tender Notice No. 30 of 2023 Dated: 05-09-2023.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

**Tender No. DCESTMLG-07-2023.**

**Name of work & Location:** Assistance to desilting of open drain by utilisation of Railway owned excavator/earth moving equipments (JCB) at Pandu and Maligaon Railway area including manual desilting/cleaning of drain (For One Year).

**Tender Value:** ₹69,19,109.08/- **Earliest Money:** ₹1,38,400/- **Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender:** 13.00 hrs. of 27-09-2023 **& opening at 13.00 hrs. of 27-09-2023.** For details please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Dy. Chief Engineer/Estate, Maligaon**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

*Serving Customers With A Smile*



# Tributes paid to 'Sudhakantha' on his 97th birth anniversary

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 8:** Diphu Club celebrated the 97th birth anniversary of the legendary bard, Dr Bhupen Hazarika. On this special occasion, the statue of Dr Hazarika was unveiled by the chief executive member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang, in Diphu on Friday.

Tonu Mazumdar, a member of Diphu Club, shared that the statue was funded under the MP untied fund, generously donated by Rajya Sabha MP Pabitra Margherita with a contribution of Rs 7.5 lakhs. The funds were sanctioned through the district administration of Karbi Anglong for the statue's construction. The statue, standing at an impressive height of 11 feet, is crafted from fibre.

CEM Tuliram Ronghang noted that Madhab Borah also made significant contributions to this initiative. Furthermore, he announced plans for the construction of an entrance gate in memory of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, with an allocation of ₹ 20 lakhs.

Distinguished individuals present at the event included MP Horensing Bey, MLA Bidyasing Engle, Executive Members (EMs) of KAAC, MACs, SP of Karbi Anglong Sanjib Kumar Saikia, and Padmashree Rongbong Terang.

**An LGBTI Airport release:** In Guwahati, the staff and officers of LGBTI Air-

port paid tribute to the legendary Assamese singer Bhupen Hazarika on the occasion of his 97th birth anniversary. Bhupen Hazarika was a renowned Indian singer, composer, writer, and filmmaker, and his immense contributions to Indian music, cinema, and literature are being fondly remembered.

Airport employees gathered to offer floral tributes to the legendary artist and discussed his significant role in shaping Assamese and Indian cultural heritage. COO Snehasish Dutta addressed the gathering, highlighting Bhupen Hazarika's cultural journey. He emphasised how Hazarika's music and art had resonated not only across India but also worldwide, from the Ganges to the Mississippi.

Banajit Ojah also spoke about Bhupen Hazarika's life journey and his substantial contributions to Assam and the north-eastern region of India. Ojah noted that Bhupen Hazarika is one of the most revered figures in Assam, alongside Srimanta Sankardev and Madhabdev.

**Our Tezpur correspondent adds:** Throughout Sonitpur district and the rest of the state, organisations came together to honour the legendary musician Dr Bhupen Hazarika on what would have been his 97th birthday. In Tezpur, a heartfelt tribute was offered at the Bhupen Hazarika Kalabhumii by the Sonitpur dis-



trict administration in collaboration with the esteemed cultural organisation, Sur Sangam.

The ceremony, held under the theme 'Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat' (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India), highlighted the unparalleled contributions of the renowned cultural icon to the world of music. MLA Tezpur, Prithiraj Rabha, Sonitpur DC, Deba Kumar Mishra, and



the respected educationist and social leader, Mahendra Nath Keot, initiated the shraddhanjali (tribute) by lighting earthen lamps before the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika at Kalabhumii. Dignitaries present included former president of Tezpur Sahitya Sabha and retired professor Purneswar Nath, president of Tarun Asom Sangha, Dr Bhubaneswar Saharia, president of Sonitpur Zila Sahitya Sabha, Dr Bhupen

Saikia, and others from the cultural and artistic community.

Sonitpur DC Deba Kumar Mishra and MLA Tezpur Prithiraj Rabha expressed their deep admiration for Dr Bhupen Hazarika and highlighted his immense contributions to Assamese culture. Renowned actor Arun Nath and actress Krishna Das Nath shared their fond memories of the great artist, emphasising the irreplaceable void left by his passing.

Several organisations, including Baan Theatre Tezpur, Jyoti Bharati (POK), Tarun Asom Sangha, 'Sudhakantha' Dr Bhupen Hazarika Kala Sangeet Academy, Bihaguri, Prahlada Chandra Das Memorial Nityashala, and others, also organised various programs to commemorate the day. Baan Theatre family paid tribute to the legendary artist by lighting a ceremonial lantern.

A cultural evening featuring songs by Dr Bhupen Hazarika was organised by Sur Sangam at Kalabhumii, directed by noted artist Anil Kumar Bhattacharyya. Various local artists participated in this event, creating a memorable homage to the music maestro's enduring legacy.

**Our Jorhat correspondent adds:** Students from six schools in Jorhat celebrated the 97th birth anniversary of the renowned musician and cultural icon, Sudhakantha Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. The event was organized by the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Foundation of Jorhat at the DCB Girls' High School auditorium.

During the program, around one hundred students paid tribute to Dr Bhupen Hazarika by singing his songs and performing a dance. The Foundation members also offered floral tributes in front of a portrait of the maestro, recalling his invaluable contributions to culture, literature, film, and music.

## KKHSOU introduces programs in journalism and mass communication

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University (KKHSOU), situated in Guwahati, proudly stands as the first and only Open and Distance Learning University in the region. This institution is now unveiling an exciting array of academic programs in the realm of journalism and mass communication. These programs are carefully crafted to cater to the aspirations and talents of both budding enthusiasts and working professionals alike.

At the heart of this offering is a two-year master's program that provides students with advanced knowledge and skills crucial for thriving in the dynamic world of journalism and mass communication. It serves as a comprehensive foundation for those embarking on this exciting career path.

For those seeking a more streamlined journey, KKHSOU presents a one-year post graduate diploma in mass communication. In just a year, this diploma program imparts a thorough understanding of mass communication, enabling students to explore a wide range of captivating career opportunities.

Additionally, there's a six-month diploma in journalism and mass communication, designed to offer essential skills in a condensed time frame. This option caters to individuals looking for a quicker route to acquiring the fundamental competencies required in mass

communication.

For those with a specific interest in broadcast journalism, KKHSOU offers a post graduate diploma in broadcast journalism. This specialised program delves into the intricate world of TV and radio journalism, equipping students with the skills needed to excel in this exciting field.

One remarkable aspect of KKHSOU's programs is their recognition. The academic credentials obtained from KKHSOU hold the same value as those from traditional institutions, endorsed by the University Grants Commission (UGC). This recognition ensures that KKHSOU graduates are well-prepared to meet the ever-evolving demands of the industry.

Notably, KKHSOU is deeply committed to nurturing the professional growth of working journalists and individuals who aspire to make their mark in the field of journalism and mass communication. The university's flexible learning approach empowers learners to pursue their studies while effectively balancing other commitments.

In essence, KKHSOU's foray into the domain of journalism and mass communication promises to be a game-changer, providing accessible and high-quality education to those passionate about this field. It opens doors to a world of possibilities and opportunities for both fresh minds and seasoned professionals.

## Over 25 Asian Openbill Storks found dead

**HT Correspondent**

**JORHAT, Sept 8:** A tragic incident unfolded on Thursday evening at Rongdoi Bhogonia village embankment on the northern outskirts of Jorhat, where over 25 Asian Openbill Storks were discovered dead after reportedly falling from their nests due to a storm that swept over Jorhat and nearby areas.

The Forest department personnel, in a swift response, rescued 21 of these storks on Friday and transferred them to the CWRC in Kaziranga.

Villagers who found the birds on the ground, with most of them deceased and a few still alive, speculated that they may have died either from the fall or due to lightning during the storm. Concerned villagers provided water to the surviving storks and also alerted an NGO to assist. On Friday, the Forest department personnel removed the carcasses of the deceased storks and ensured the safe transport of the rescued 21 birds to the CWRC at Kaziranga.

The Asian Openbill Stork is a large wading bird commonly found in the north-eastern region. They typically build their nests on tall trees during the breeding season.

## Haflong DTF strategises to expand immunisation coverage in Dima Hasao

**HT Correspondent**

**HAFLONG, Sept 8:** In an effort to bolster routine vaccination processes and extend immunisation coverage to all children and pregnant women in Dima Hasao district, a second-round meeting of the District Task Force (DTF) for Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 was convened in Haflong.

Led by deputy secretary of DHAC, Rebecca Changsan, ACS, the meeting aimed to strategise and plan the implementation of IMI 5.0 in the district. Dr Marina Changsan, the district immunisation officer, shared crucial information during the meeting. She highlighted that the routine vaccination process would be carried out in three phases, with each phase scheduled for August, September, and October 2023, respectively.

The initial phase of immunisation under Mission Indradhanush 5.0 took place from August 7 to 12, 2023. The upcoming second phase is slated to occur from September 11 to 16, 2023, targeting children aged 0-5 years and pregnant women who may have been



left out or missed during the previous round of immunisation.

Officials from various departments, including Medical & Health Services,

Education, and Social Welfare, attended the meeting, demonstrating their commitment to the successful execution of this vital immunisation initiative.

## Non-bailable arrest warrant against state ASP for 'attempt to murder'

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** A non-bailable arrest warrant has been issued against an Assam Police Service (APS) officer on allegations of attempted murder pressed by a domestic help, a top police official said on Friday.

Talking to reporters, Special DGP Harmeet Singh said police are on the lookout for Subhalakshmi Dutta, the additional superintendent of police (ASP) (border) of Charaideo district.

"A non-bailable warrant of arrest has been issued against the ASP. If she doesn't surrender, the process will start to seize her property and declare her an absconder," he said.

A criminal case was registered against Dutta on August 26 in Nazira police station of neighbouring Sivasagar district by her domestic help, alleging physical assault.

Singh said the Indian Penal Code (IPC) clauses against Dutta were not of too serious in nature initially as the two government hospitals where the maid was examined had not reported any grievous injuries. The maid was shifted to a private hospital by three Assam Tea Tribe Students' Association (ATTSA) members, who "tried to interfere with the investigation and tried to make her compromise," he said. It was after coming out of the hospital, the victim claimed an attempt to murder against the ASP in her statement, which led to more stringent clauses being applied against the accused, the top cop said.

On Dutta giving police the slip when they tried to apprehend her from a flat in Guwahati on September 4, Singh said as the court had not permitted her arrest after dusk, she managed to take advantage of it. (PTI)

## Assam achieves record winter paddy seed production registration on SATHI portal

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** The Assam Seed and Organic Certification Agency (ASOCA) has announced a significant milestone in the state's agricultural sector. The agency reported the highest-ever area registration for the production of foundation and certified seeds of winter paddy (rice) on the SATHI Portal for the 2023-24 season.

Mowsam Hazarika, the director of ASOCA, expressed his delight at this achievement, highlighting that this marks the most substantial area registered for foundation and certified seed production since ASOCA's establishment.

The endeavour involved collaboration with various agricultural entities, including Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL), 33 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), as well as several private farms and individual growers.

This remarkable feat in seed production follows the introduction of Seed Certification under the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal in Assam on July 4, 2023. The portal is a centralised online system aimed at enhancing seed traceability, authentication, and inventory management. It addresses challenges related to seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.

Looking ahead, Assam plans to initiate seed certification for other crops such as mustard, green gram, black gram, and more starting from the next Rabi season.

## NFR unloads 1204 freight rakes in August

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** In a continuous effort to maintain the supply of essential and other commodities, the North-east Frontier Railway achieved a significant milestone by unloading 1204 freight carrying rakes during the month of August this year. From April to August 2023, within the jurisdiction of NF Railway, a total of 5651 freight carrying rakes were successfully unloaded.

This commendable achievement reflects the efficient transportation of goods such as FCI rice, sugar, salt, edible oil, fertiliser, cement, coal, automobiles, containers, and various other items during the month. These items were then unloaded in different goods sheds within the railway's jurisdiction.

During August 2023, the breakdown

of unloaded freight rakes in various states is as follows: 680 rakes in Assam (including 332 loaded with essential commodities), 98 in Tripura, 19 in Nagaland, 10 in Manipur, 8 in Arunachal Pradesh, 3 in Mizoram, and 01 in Meghalaya. Furthermore, 218 freight rakes were unloaded in West Bengal, and 167 freight rakes in Bihar were also part of this substantial achievement within the jurisdiction of NF Railway. This continuous transportation of essential and other commodities plays a pivotal role in meeting the requirements of common people and sustaining the local economic activities in all regions. The expedited execution of doubling works in crucial sections across NF Railway has led to the heightened flow of freight traffic, further contributing to this success.

## Jorhat MP inaugurates rest room and footpath library

**HT Correspondent**

**DEMOW, Sept 8:** In a joint effort by the Bamrajbari Training Centre and Sports Association, along with the support of the local community in Panidehing, Bamrajbari, a rest room and an attached footpath library were inaugurated by Jorhat MP Topon Kumar Gogoi on Friday. During an interaction with the media, Jorhat MP Topon Kumar Gogoi shared that the newly constructed rest room and footpath library, dedicated to the memory of Miliram Hazarika in the Nitaipukhuri area of Bamrajbari, is now open to the public.

He said that the 21st century is the century of knowledge, and this initiative aims to honour Miliram Hazarika's memory by providing a conducive environment for local residents to study in the library. The library is equipped with a wide range of books to cater to the diverse interests and needs of the community. The event saw the presence of notable figures, including Pateshwari Hazarika, a renowned social worker, Pranab Chetia, general secretary of BJP, Sivasagar district, Hiranjit Bireswar Deori, a working member of Deori Autonomous Council, etc.

## UPPL mourns passing of general secretary Ranjit Kumar Daimary

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, Sept 8:** Ranjit Kumar Daimary, the general secretary (Administration) of Sukhanjhora Primary Committee of the UPPL party under the Banaragan Block Committee of Kokrajhar district, passed away due to a heart stroke on Thursday afternoon.

Daimary breathed his last at around 2.45 pm at Kokrajhar Medical College & Hospital. He had been attending a party meeting of the Kokrajhar District Committee in Haltugan when he suddenly fell ill and was immediately rushed to Kokrajhar Medical College & Hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

Ranjit Kumar Daimary was an active leader at the primary committee level and was involved in various social activities. He was only 38 years old. The funeral of Daimary took place on Friday, following traditional rituals, at the village crematorium ground. The ceremony was attended by party leaders, workers, and well-wishers.

Prominent figures such as Lawrence Isary, MLA of Kokrajhar East LAC and



president of Kokrajhar District Committee, UPPL; Iraqdao Brahma, working president of UPPL Youth; Hantigiri Narzary, UPPL media secretary; Rabiram Brahma, UPPL CWC member and Banaragan TCLCC chairman; Janak Ujir, CWC member; Motiur Rahman, UPPL secretary of Kokrajhar District Committee, and several other party leaders paid their last respects by offering tributes to Ranjit Kumar Daimary.

Pramod Boro, the chief executive mem-

ber of Bodoland Territorial Region and UPPL president, expressed his condolences over the untimely demise of Ranjit Kumar Daimary and offered prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

The UPPL party extended its deep mourning and condolences to the bereaved family members, praying for the eternal peace of the departed soul. A one-minute silence condolence was also observed at a party meeting in Kokrajhar to pay respect to Ranjit Kumar Daimary.

No.DPRD/BTC/(SOPD)/Koj-288/Pt.I/2023/05

### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated Kokrajhar the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2023

Sealed tenders with a validity period of 90 (ninety) days from the date of receipt in prescribed from affixing non-refundable court fee stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only subsequently to be drawn up in printed F-2 form are hereby invited from the Govt. registered PWD (Roads/ Building), Irrigation, Water Resources, PHE others Govt. Contractor's under Class-I (A, B, C), Class-II and Class-III category from approved firm/ suppliers of 2020-21/2021-22 according to tender limit of eligibility for the following works and will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 2.00 pm on 15/09-2023 and will be opened on the same date and place at 2.00 pm in the presence of willing contractors or their authorized agents.

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Name of Scheme/work	Tender Amount (Rs.)	Earnest Money (ST, SC, OBC-1% & Gen-2%)	Cost of Tender	Time for completion in days
1	Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar	Valuation Estimate of Old Office Building	5,08,800/-	1%-Rs. 2974/- 2% - Rs. 5948/-	@ 160/-	15 Days

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to 12.00 Noon on all working days from 08-09-2023 to 15-09-2023 in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/ Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (Preferable SBI) duly pledged to the Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar. The Cost of tender (Non-Refundable) must be in the form of Demand Draft/ Banker Cheque of a Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of the Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar and payable at SBI, Kokrajhar to be deposited 0.03%. The Contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, GSTIN, PAN Card, Voter Card, Aadhar Card, Caste Certificate and Labour License along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/ opening day the same will be received/ opened on the next working day.

### Note:-

- The Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar does not bind himself to accept the highest tender and also reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason.
- The bidder shall have to bear all the expenditures for the dismantling and carrying of the building materials.
- The bidder shall have to complete dismantling and carrying of materials within 7 days from the issuance of order from this end.
- The highest bidder shall have to deposit valuation amount immediately after selection of bidding as Govt. Revenue.
- The site shall have to be clear properly by the bidder.
- Taxes will be deducted as per relevant provision of Act.
- Contractors will have to submit their tender with upto date registration certificate and item of annexure should be enclosed with the tender otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- The tenderer should submit their tender with up to date GSTIN certificate and PAN Card failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Director,  
Panchayat & Rural Development,  
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)-2023-24/496



QUOTE OF THE DAY

I've never known any trouble than an hour's reading didn't assuage. - Arthur Schopenhauer

Striving for economic supremacy

India's finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, recently unveiled intriguing projections for the Indian economy at the Global Fintech Festival in Mumbai. The statistics she presented offer a tantalizing glimpse into India's potential future. According to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI), India's per capita income is projected to soar 7.5 times, reaching Rs 14.9 lakh annually by 2047, up from Rs two lakh in 2023. In dollar terms, this translates to an increase from \$2,500 in 2023 to a staggering \$12,400 in 2047. Furthermore, the workforce is expected to grow from 53 crore in 2023-24 to 72.5 crore in 2047-48, representing a significant shift. These statistics are undeniably remarkable, with the potential to eradicate poverty in India. However, it's essential to remain cautious, considering the potential challenges posed by inflation and macroeconomic instability. It's worth noting that finance minister Sitharaman chose not to delve into India's GDP or economic growth, a topic often emphasized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who aimed to make India a \$5 trillion economy by 2023-24. Critics, including former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, argues that India's ranking as the fifth largest economy, or even its ascent to the third spot, holds little significance unless poverty, which still afflicts 16 crore people living below the \$2-a-day threshold, is effectively addressed. While robust economic growth is necessary, it's insufficient if it doesn't narrow income inequality and eradicate poverty. The disparity is stark, with the top one percent of India's population accounting for nearly half of the country's income.

Nonetheless, India's economic progress since liberalization in 1991 is undeniable, particularly in the face of global economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The resilience displayed by India's economy has not gone unnoticed, with global analysts echoing the sentiment that India is poised to become an economic superpower. Goldman Sachs predicts India will be the world's second-largest economy by 2075, and FT's Martin Wolf suggests that, by 2050, India's purchasing power will surpass that of the United States by 30 percent. Several positive trends converge to fuel India's economic potential, from a burgeoning consumer base and innovation to a growing aspirational middle class and green transition. On the supply side, factors like a demographic dividend, improved access to finance, and infrastructure upgrades, both physical and digital, further boost India's prospects. Additionally, regulatory and policy reforms, along with India's geopolitical position and the diaspora dividend, play pivotal roles in facilitating this growth. However, as with any growth story, there are potential pitfalls to navigate. The most pressing challenges include the unequal distribution of wealth, with the top ten percent of Indians holding a disproportionate 77 percent of the national wealth. Healthcare costs alone push nearly two people into poverty every second. Linguistic divides, regional imbalances, and emerging inter-regional tensions require deft handling, along with managing the intricate political landscape.

India's economy is indeed on a trajectory to become an economic powerhouse in the coming decades. However, success hinges on skillful navigation through a myriad of challenges. It will require astute political leadership and intellectual acumen to address these issues and ensure that the growth trajectory remains on course. The path to economic supremacy is laden with opportunities, but it is also riddled with potential obstacles that demand attention, foresight, and concerted efforts from both government and business leaders.

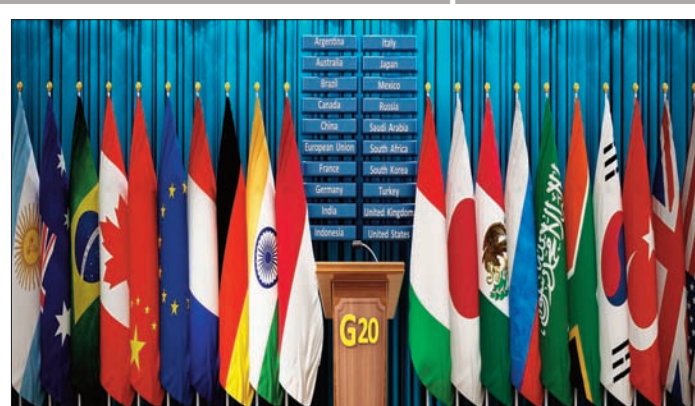
G-20 to fetch amazing results for India

The creation of a new world is possible through the G-20 conference

The entire world, troubled by violence, terror and war, has fixed eyes on the summit of G-20 countries to be held in New Delhi on 9 and 10 September. This summit is special, because India, being the President of G-20 this year, has given new directions and new dimensions to the entire world. The summit is taking place at a time, when the world is hogged by the concerns of insecurity and unrest due to the Russia-Ukraine war, China-Taiwan tension and North Korea's missile testing programs. Although the G-20 is a forum for economic issues, and not security related issues, the path to economic progress opens up only through security, peace and a war-free environment. The way security concerns have affected the world economy, it is not possible for the G-20 countries to ignore it completely. G-20 member countries together account for about 85 percent of the world's gross domestic product and 75 percent of international trade.

Being the president of this forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the message of peace for economic progress, he says that there is a need to give the message to the world again that 'this is not an era of war'. Decisive framework and directions should also be decided in the conference to curb China's expansionist policies. Obviously, whatever decisions will be taken in the Delhi Summit, it will be important for the entire world and a new world structure will be possible through it.

The entire world does not want war, the brilliance of non-violence and peace is the biggest expectation of world public opinion; now non-violence is not cowardice, but the foundation of an advanced and ideal world structure. Now, if the era of non-violence continues and its brilliance continues, then the next pages of world history will be truly golden, the path of economic progress through G-20 will be like the ears of wheat in



the pigeons' mouth. But its biggest obstacle will be to prepare a decision and a decisive outline on China and Russia. Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping's bilateral meetings with leaders of other countries were all eyes on the Delhi summit, still Putin and Xi Jinping both will not attend the New Delhi Summit. This, however, will not have much effect on the objectives and possibilities of the Summit. When the heads of big countries like America, Britain, Australia, France, Italy, Germany, South Africa and Indonesia are going to participate in the Conference, then some direction will definitely emerge to deal with the current challenges facing the world. Its possibilities have also increased, because India has also invited nine countries, including -Netherlands, Egypt, Spain, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates and Bangladesh, which are non-members of G-20.

India has assumed the presidency of G-20 considering all Vasudha (earth) as its family. A century ago, Swami Vivekananda had given the idea of Indian spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' by addressing the delegates present at the Sarvadharmasammelan in Chicago, USA as 'sisters and brothers', listening to which all the delegates present there were surprised and kept clapping for a long time after being happy with

this address. Even today, PM Modi has taken up steps towards making the world one family by making the same 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' mantra as the announcement and logo of G-20; however, ambitious countries like China and Russia are sowing thorns in these paths.

Actually, the countries of the world have to understand that at this time both China and Russia want to run the world in their own way. The intention of China and Russia both is to destroy the sovereignty of their neighbouring countries, and at the same time, they also want support from forums like G-20 in their totally unjust and inhuman act. How can you forget that Putin is fighting a war against Ukraine; so China also is constantly keeping a vulture eye on Taiwan and Indian territories?

Despite this, India, which is continuously getting stronger in world politics, should neither get disheartened, nor should sit down accepting defeat? With the energy that India has got from its tradition, we have to wish and strive for peace, happiness and prosperity in the entire world. History is the witness that our forefathers, who wished for the happiness and peace of all living beings, did not attack anywhere in the world with the aim of attaining political power, or encroaching on any country, or occupied borders of any country. If there was a situation of con-

flict, the aim was the protection of the good and the destruction of the wicked. Apart from this, wherever Modi went on the strength of his good behavior and knowledge, he hoisted the flag of brotherhood, and Indian culture. PM Modi did not attack anyone for the sake of power.

Even today Indian culture remains dignified in the countries of Greater India, which are the proof of this statement. India has its own independent policy vis-a-vis the entire world and its conduct should continue

DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Lalit Garg

accordingly. Keep in mind, if countries having an adverse attitude towards our progress had acted, then G-20 would never have been organized in India; and again India would not have got the presidency. Whatever India has achieved, it has been achieved by its own efforts, and in future also it will achieve success only by its own sturdy efforts.

The Chinese President alone is responsible for the decline in India-China bilateral relations today. There are multiple examples from which it can be proved that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is coming to attend the summit to be held in India. It should be expected that there will be no talks of sabotage from China on the summit platform of integration. Definitely, India has made G-20 a more inclusive platform under its chairmanship, many new countries have been added to this platform. With the efforts of India, the African Union also joined the G-20, while earlier the people of Africa did not have a voice on this platform. When the G-20 was formed in 1999 to overcome the global economic crisis, initially only the finance ministers of the member countries and key bank governors were called to the conference.

For the first time, heads of state of about 40 countries and representatives of many global organizations are going to participate in the Delhi conference,

definitely this conference will be unique and India has also made grand and unique preparations for its dignity.

For India, this conference is a good opportunity to intensify efforts to find a basis for ending the Russia-Ukraine war with the member countries. Russian President Putin is unable to come up with a reason for war with Ukraine. There is no deep diplomacy behind this. In spite of this, the onlookers will make some sense out of the top leaders of Russia-China not taking the G-20 seriously and their indifference. This will also happen because the G-20 is dominated by peace-loving western countries.

Apart from this, it is chaired by the pro-peace and anti-war India, which is the foundation of Panchsheel, about which China is uncomfortable from the beginning. The reason for his uneasiness is the water turning on his expansionist activities and diplomacy. He is isolated in his opposition to India. Experts of diplomacy believe that Xi Jinping did not release the new map of his country at such a time. The new map of China violates the borders of many countries. China has not only shown some areas including Arunachal of India in its new map, but has also shown Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam in its map. India has expressed its objection to this. The truth is that in the long journey of Indian culture and politics, the spirit of world welfare and human welfare has always been active.

In the entire literature available under this culture, the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' has always been flowing like an inner stream. In this, priority has been given to the whole world along with the country rather than the individual. In the G-20 Delhi conference, only the feeling of world-family will be emphasized. (The author is a journalist, columnist who can be reached at lalitgarg11@gmail.com)

Saudis, Russians jolt oil market with surprise extension of output cut till year-end

By: K Raveendran

Saudi Arabia and Russia have surprised global oil markets by extending their voluntary production cuts until the end of the year, sending crude prices to 10-month highs, something that was least expected.

Saudi Arabia announced it will extend the 1 million bpd voluntary cuts until December 2023. Russia followed suit, making a similar announcement that its voluntary cut of 300,000 bpd will continue till the end of the year.

The development was a clear indication that prices would trump volumes for both the countries. The bullish moves are seen to significantly tighten the global oil market and can only result in one thing: higher oil prices worldwide. The decisions surprised oil markets, and prices reacted strongly and suddenly following the announcements. ICE Brent front month jumped from \$88.5 per barrel to over \$90.5 per barrel, the highest price since November 2022.

Analysts are now predicting that global liquids demand will surpass supply by around 2.7 million bpd in the further quarter of this year. But it will have implications for the revival of the global economy, which continues to show several downside risks albeit amidst some positive developments.

Rystad Energy experts are wondering whether the Saudis won't be worried about global demand in the final quarter of 2023, particularly in China, so that they need to take preempted measures. Chinese macroeconomic sentiment is a potential downside risk, but the agency's latest mobility indicators do not show an imminent deceleration that could justify such a move by Saudi Arabia.

The impact these cuts will have on inflation and economic policy in the West is hard to predict, but higher oil prices will only increase the likelihood of more fiscal tightening, especially in the US, to curtail inflation. Western leaders, wary of an oil price spike, could explore import adjustments or open diplomatic discussions to help mitigate the impact and tame inflation.

The extension of this longer cut until December implies a significant shift in balances. Moreover, this would lead to the highest semi-annual deficits since the second half of 2021 but with the added pressure of starting from much

lower stock levels both for crude and products. In China, services PMI figures showed a slowdown in activity levels, adding to the concerns about the Chinese economic recovery and its impact on oil demand. Traders could remain focused on any new measures from the Chinese government to boost the economy before taking a view of how the market is headed.

In the Eurozone, PMI figures showed a faster-than-expected decline in economic activity which could affect demand expectations from the area. The eurozone continues to see weak economic growth and high inflation and remains exposed to the ECB's monetary policy. The European Central Bank could raise interest rates again to fight inflation and could affect demand for oil in the process.

Inflation has been pushing up drilling and completion costs and contributing to a rise in capital expenditure, while muted oil prices are dampening cash flow. Capital expenditure among the peer group has risen for 10 straight quarters, reaching \$9.7 billion in the second quarter of this year, up from \$7.8 billion over the same period in 2022. After investments peaked timing with the spike in oil prices on the back of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there has been a steady decline.

Spending on conventional oil and gas exploration is growing and expected to top \$50 billion this year, the highest since 2019, but operators are still waiting for the results they had hoped for. According to Rystad, despite the rising investments, discovered volumes are falling to new lows.

Estimates show that in the first half of 2023, explorers found 2.6 billion barrels of oil equivalent, 42 percent lower than the first half of 2022 total of 4.5 billion. Fifty-five discoveries have been made, compared to 80 in the first six months of last year. This means discoveries in 2023 have averaged 47 million barrels; lower than the 56 million barrels per discovery for the same period in 2022.

In the hunt for new resources, exploration companies are prioritizing the offshore sector, trying to capitalize on underexplored or frontier areas to unlock new volumes through high-risk, higher-cost offshore developments. The offshore industry accounted for about 95 per cent of exploration spending this year to date but only about two-thirds of discovered volumes. (IPA Service)

Physiotherapy and arthritis

Disorder	COPCORD Bhigwan 1996	RJD India COPCORD 2004-2010
Rheumatoid arthritis	0.67 (0.57, 0.79)	0.24 (0.26, 0.79)
Osteoarthritis	0.76 (0.64, 0.88)	0.22 (0.05, 0.48)
Inflammatory arthritis		
Spondyloarthritis	0.30 (0.23, 0.38)	0.25 (0.05, 0.68)
Ankylosing Spondylitis	0.10 (0.06, 0.15)	0.10 (0.02, 0.18)
Osteoarthritis, any form	6.35 (5.92, 6.62)	4.30 (3.50, 5.61)
Osteoarthritis knee	4.42 (4.14, 4.71)	3.34 (2.43, 4.47)
Gout	0.13 (0.06, 0.19)	0.04 (0.01, 0.07)
Soft tissue rheumatism, any form	3.77 (0.51, 4.03)	1.31 (0.77, 2.11)
Ill defined symptoms, nonspecific arthralgia	6.25 (5.29, 6.59)	4.25 (3.23, 5.53)
Lupus & other connective tissue disorders	NI	0.02 (0.01, 0.03)

Note: Prevalence was adjusted for age-sex distribution with India population census 2001; rheumatic disease diagnosis was clinical; COPCORD community oriented program for control of rheumatic

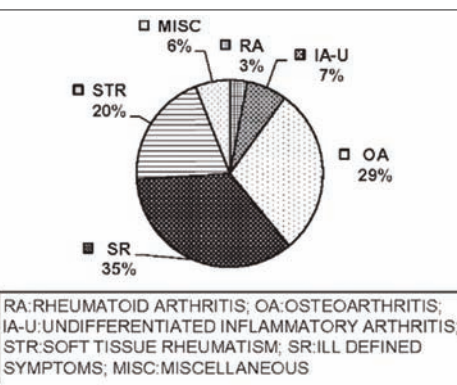
By: Dr. Abhijit Dutta PhD

Arthritis" literally means joint inflammation. The term arthritis is often used to refer to any disorder that affects the joints. These are diseases characterized by inflammation (signs include redness or heat, swelling, and symptoms such as pain) and loss of function of one or more connecting or supporting structures of the body. Arthritis affects more than 180 million people in India - prevalence higher than many well-known diseases such as diabetes, AIDS and cancer.

Around 14% of the Indian population seeks a doctor's help every year for this joint disease. Alarmingly, India will emerge as the capital of Osteoarthritis by 2025 with more than 60 million to be likely affected. (Disease burden of rheumatic diseases in India: COPCORD perspective, A. Chopra, Published 1 June 2015 in Medicine Indian Journal of Rheumatology)

The maiden WHO ILAR COPCORD (Community Oriented Program For Control Of Rheumatic Diseases) Bhigwan (1996-2014) demonstrated that musculoskeletal (MSK) pain was the commonest self-reported ailment in the community, soft tissue rheumatism, ill-defined MSK symptoms and osteoarthritis (OA) were the predominant disorders and about 10% cases suffered from inflammatory arthritis. The burden of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was high with point prevalence of 0.7%.

Bone and joint decade (BJD) India conducted several standardized and uniform surveys (2004-2010) all over India and collected data from over 55,000 persons at 12 sites. The pooled age sex adjusted (India census population 2001) prevalence reported by the recent surveys was - RA (0.34), OA knees (3.34), undifferentiated inflammatory arthritis (0.22), Spondyloarthritis (0.23), ankylosing spondylitis (0.03), psoriatic arthritis (0.01) soft tissue rheumatism (1.39), gout (0.05) lupus (0.01); prevalence



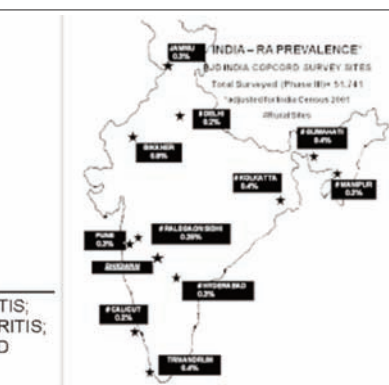
percent in parenthesis. Several forms of collagen vascular disorders and vasculitis are described in hospital based case series.

**Classification**  
There are several diseases where joint pain is primary, and is considered the main feature. Generally when a person has "arthritis" it means that they have one of these diseases, which include: Hemarthrosis, Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Gout and pseudo-gout, Septic arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, Juvenile idiopathic arthritis, Still's disease Psoriatic arthritis, Osteoarthritis is the second most common rheumatologic problem and it is the most frequent joint disease with a prevalence of 22% to 39% in India. OA is more common in women than men, but the prevalence increases dramatically with age. Nearly, 45% of women over the age of 65 years have symptoms while radiological evidence is found in 70% of those over 65 years. OA of the knee is a major cause of mobility impairment, particularly among females. OA was estimated to be the 10th leading cause of nonfatal burden.

Epidemiology of knee osteoarthritis in India and related factors, Chandra Prakash Pal, Pulkesh Singh, Sanjay Chaturvedi, Kaushal Kumar Pruthi, and Ashok Vij, Indian J Orthop. 2016 Sep; 50(5): 518-522. doi: 10.4103/0019-5413.189608, PMID: PMC5017174, PMID: 27746495

Rheumatoid Arthritis, another common arthritis, is an autoimmune disease which mainly affects tissues around the joints. Most frequent in adults, it affects between 0.5%-1% of the population in India. Women are three to four times more frequently affected than men. Onset generally occurs in the 35-55 year age group. Gout is one of the most common causes of inflammatory arthritis. Gout is three to four times more common in men and the obese aged 50 years or above.

**Symptoms**  
Pain, which can vary in severity, is a common symptom in virtually all



types of arthritis. Other symptoms include swelling, joint stiffness, redness, and aching around the joint(s). Arthritic disorders like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis can affect other organs in the body, leading to a variety of symptoms. Symptoms may include inability to use the hand or walk, Stiffness in one or more joints, Rash or itch, Malaise and fatigue, Weight loss, Poor sleep, Muscle aches and pains, Tenderness.

Decreased mobility, in combination with the above symptoms, can make it difficult for an individual to remain physically active, contributing to an increased risk of obesity, high cholesterol or vulnerability to heart disease. People with arthritis are also at increased risk of depression, which may be a response to numerous factors, including fear of worsening symptoms.

**Physiotherapy's role in treatment of Arthritis**

Physiotherapy (physical therapy) plays a crucial role in the management and treatment of arthritis. It can be highly effective in improving joint function, reducing pain, and enhancing the overall quality of life for individuals with arthritis. Here are some ways in which physiotherapy is commonly used in the management of arthritis:

1. **Pain Management:** Physiotherapists can employ various techniques to help alleviate pain associated with arthritis. This may include heat or cold therapy, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, and manual therapies such as joint mobilization and soft tissue massage.

2. **Range of Motion Exercises:** Arthritis can lead to joint stiffness and reduced mobility. Physiotherapists can design specific exercises to help maintain or improve joint flexibility and range of motion.

3. **Strengthening Exercises:** Strengthening the muscles around affected joints can provide better support and stability. Physiotherapists can create customized exercise programs that target muscle groups to help protect and support arthritic

joints. 4. **Balance and Coordination Training:** Arthritis can affect balance and coordination, increasing the risk of falls. Physiotherapists can design exercises and activities that improve balance and reduce the risk of injuries.

5. **Joint Protection Techniques:** Physiotherapists can educate individuals with arthritis on joint protection techniques, which involve modifying daily activities to reduce stress on the affected joints. This can help prevent further damage and discomfort.

6. **Assistive Devices and Orthotics:** Physiotherapists can assess the need for assistive devices such as braces, splints, or orthotics to provide additional support and reduce pain in affected joints.

7. **Education and Lifestyle Advice:** Physiotherapists can offer guidance on lifestyle modifications, including exercise routines, ergonomic adjustments at home and work, and recommendations for managing symptoms during flare-ups.

8. **Aquatic Therapy:** Water-based exercises in a pool or aquatic environment can be particularly beneficial for people with arthritis. The buoyancy of water reduces the impact on joints while allowing for effective exercise and increased range of motion.

9. **Pain Relief Modalities:** Physiotherapists may use modalities like transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) or ultrasound to provide pain relief and reduce inflammation.

10. **Post-Surgery Rehabilitation:** For individuals who undergo joint replacement surgery due to severe arthritis, physiotherapy is an integral part of the post-operative rehabilitation process. Physiotherapists help patients regain strength, mobility, and function in the replaced joint.

It's essential for individuals with arthritis to work closely with their healthcare team, including physiotherapists, to develop a personalized treatment plan. The specific approach to physiotherapy will depend on the type and severity of arthritis, as well as individual needs and goals.

Regular physiotherapy sessions, along with consistent home exercises and self-management strategies, can help individuals with arthritis manage their condition effectively and improve their overall quality of life. (The author is a Certified Manual Therapist {Manual Therapy Foundation of India} and Art of Manipulation Member of Indian Association of Physiotherapists Professor & Dean, Faculty of Paramedical Sciences, Assam Down Town University. He can be reached at 8638029986, dean.para@adtu.in)



# Careers to eradicate poverty and enhance charity

By: Ranjan K Baruah

We dream of a society which is free from hunger and poverty. None of us wants a society where there are people who sleep without food or basic amenities. We have seen many places in India which reflect poverty in the country. Any young person or children would react when they see someone begging for food or for other things. We may give one time help or assistance but that may not help and we need to act to bring a solution to end poverty.

Charity, like the notions of volunteerism and philanthropy, provides real social bonding and contributes to the creation of inclusive and more resilient societies. It can alleviate the worst effects of humanitarian crises, supplement public services in health care, education, housing and child protection.

It assists the advancement of culture, science, sports, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. It also promotes the rights of the marginalized and underprivileged and spreads the message of humanity in conflict situations.

In the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015, the United Nations recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Agenda also calls for a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. It also acknowledges the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society



organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda.

We should be aware that the International Day of Charity was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and

stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities. The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in

1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace."

We may choose career options related to eradicating poverty or end hunger. There are many international and national organisations actively focussing on eradicating poverty. The United Nations recognizes that civic engagement plays an important role in terms of development in creating the desired global change. To get engaged in global organisation in this regard one may choose to study social sciences or specializations courses like Social Work, Sociology, Development Studies, Rural Development, etc. There are many colleges and universities that offer courses related to social work or developmental studies or similar subjects.

There are many other courses which

are also linked with careers related to eradicating poverty. Few people may be successful without any such degrees but in the competitive and challenging world it is always good to have strong academic performances. One must possess skill as one needs patience and passion to work in this area.

Let us all get inspired from great work done by Mother Teresa towards society. We may also get involved and work with people and communities to end hunger and eradicate poverty and contribute towards a sustainable future. (With direct inputs from UN publications) *(The author is the Advisor of Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department of Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam and can be reached at 8473943734 or bkranjjan@gmail.com)*

## APSC Vacancy 2023 – 48 Scientific Officer & Cultural Development Officer Posts

Last Date: 05 & 09/10/2023

Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) has released two advertisements for the recruitment of 48 Scientific Officer & Cultural Development Officer Posts. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

### 1. Cultural Development Officer

No of posts: 28 posts  
Name of department: Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam under Cultural Affairs Department

Category-wise vacancy:

# UR: 16  
# OBC/ MOBC: 7  
# SC: 1  
# STP: 2  
# STH: 2

Scale of pay: Rs. 14,000/- to 60,500/- Grade Pay: Rs. 8,700/-

Educational Qualification:

(i) Either (a) or (b) of the following:

(a) Bachelor Degree in any discipline from any Govt. recognized university with Diploma from Govt. recognized institute in Dance/ Drama/Diploma from Govt. recognized institute in Film making for Film Editing/ Motion Picture Photography/Acting/Sound Engineering.

(b) Bachelor Degree in Music (Vocal/Instrumental/Sattriya) from any Govt. Music College/ Govt. recognized institute,

Or

Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts from any Govt. College of Art & Craft Govt. recognized institute,

Or

Bachelor Degree in Cultural Studies from any recognized university/ Govt. recognized institute.

(ii) Preferable Qualification :

(a) The candidate must possess adequate knowledge on Cultural Heritage of the state of Assam,

(b) Any candidate having certificate of National/State Level performance may be given preference,

### 2. Scientific Officer

No of posts: 1 post

Category-wise vacancy:

# UR: 1

Name of department: Directorate of Forensic Science, Guwahati, Assam

Scale of Pay: Rs. 30,000/- to 1,10,000/- Grade Pay: Rs. 12,700/-

Educational Qualification: M.Sc. in Chemistry or M.Sc. in Physics or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Chemistry/ Physics from a recognized university.

### 3. Scientific Officer

No of posts: 12 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

# UR: 6

# OBC/ MOBC: 3

# SC: 1

# STP: 1

# STH: 1

Name of department: Regional Forensic Science Laboratories at Silchar, Bongaigaon, Tezpur and Dibrugarh

Scale of Pay: Rs. 30,000/- to 1,10,000/- Grade Pay: Rs. 12,700/-

Educational Qualification:

Instrumentation Division: M.Sc. in Physics with Electronics or M.Sc. in Electronics or M.Sc. in instrumentation or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Physics with electronics/Electronics/instrumentation from a recognized university.

Questioned Documents Division: M.Sc. in Physics or M.Sc. in Chemistry or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Physics/Chemistry from a recognized university.

Drugs and Narcotics Division: M.Sc. in Chemistry from a recognized university or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Chemistry from a recognized university.

Toxicology Division: M.Sc. in Chemistry or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Chemistry from a recognized university.

Biology Division: M.Sc. in Zoology or M.Sc. in Botany or M.Sc. in Biotechnology or M.Sc. in Anthropology(Physical) or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Zoology/Botany/Biotechnology/Aanthropology(Physical) from a recognized university.

Serology Division: M.Sc. in Zoology or M.Sc. in Botany or M.Sc. in Biotechnology or M.Sc. in Anthropology(Physical) or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Zoology/Botany/Biotechnology/Aanthropology (Physical) from a recognized university.

### 4. Junior Scientific Officer

No of posts: 7 posts

Name of department: Mobile Forensic Laboratories under the Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam.

Category-wise vacancy:

# UR: 3

# OBC/ MOBC: 2

# STP: 1

# STH: 1

Scale of pay: Rs. 22,000/- to 97,000/- Grade Pay: Rs. 11,800/-

Educational Qualification:

Biology Division: M.Sc. in Zoology or M.Sc. in Botany or M.Sc. in Biotechnology or M.Sc. in Anthropology(Physical) or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Zoology/Botany/Biotechnology/Aanthropology(Physical) from a recognized university.

Chemistry Division: M.Sc. in Chemistry or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Chemistry from a recognized university.

Physics Division: M.Sc. in Physics or M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Physics from a recognized university.

Other Criteria of APSC Vacancy

Age Limit: The candidates should not be less than 21 years of age and not more than 38 years of age as on 01/01/2023.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

# SC: 5 years

# ST: 5 years

# OBC/ MOBC: 3 years

# PwBD: 10 years

# For more details pl read the official notification/s.

Citizenship: Candidates must be Indian Citizens as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India.

Residency:

(i) The candidate must be a permanent resident of Assam.

(ii) The candidate must produce PRC issued in Assam for educational purpose/ Employment Exchange Registration certificate / Voter ID card of the candidate or his/her parents will be treated as proof of residency along with the application form.

Application Fee:

# General/EWS: 297.20

# SC/ST/OBC/MOBC: 197.20

# BPL: 47.20

# PwBD: 47.20

# Payment Mode: Online

Important Dates of APSC Recruitment 2023

# Starting date of submission of online application: 6th September 2023

# Last date of submission of online application: 5th & 7th October 2023



## SSC Translator Recruitment 2023 – 307 JHT, Jr Translator & SHT Posts

Last Date: 12/09/2023

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 307 Group 'B' Non-Gazetted posts of Junior Hindi Translator, Junior Translation Officer, Junior Translator, Senior Hindi Translator and Senior Translator for various Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations in the Government of India. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

### 1. Junior Translator

No of posts: 263

### 2. Junior Translation Officer

No of posts: 13

### 3. Junior Hindi Translator (JHT)

No of posts: 21

### 4. Senior Hindi Translator (SHT)/ Senior Translator (ST)

No of posts: 10

### Eligibility Criteria of SSC Translator Recruitment

Age Limit: Candidate age must be between 18 to 30 years as on 01.08.2023, i.e., candidates born not before 02.08.1993 and not later than 01.08.2005 are eligible to apply.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

# SC/ ST: 5 years

# OBC: 3 years

# PwD (Unreserved): 10 years

# PwD (OBC): 13 years

# PwD (SC/ST): 15 years

### Educational Qualification:

Posts 1 to 3:

Master's degree of a recognized University in Hindi with English as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's degree of a recognized University in English with Hindi as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's degree of a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi medium and English as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's degree of a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with English medium and Hindi as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's Degree of a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi and English as compulsory or elective subjects or either of the two as a medium of examination and the other as a compulsory or elective subject at degree level and

Recognized Diploma or Certificate course in translation from Hindi to English & vice versa or two years' experience of translation work from Hindi to English and vice versa in Central or State Government Office, including Government of India Undertaking.

Post 4:

Master's degree of a recognized University in Hindi with English as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's degree of a recognized University in English with Hindi as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's degree of a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi medium and English as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's degree of a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with English medium and Hindi as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level;

or

Master's Degree of a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi and English as compulsory or elective subjects or either of the two as a medium of examination and the other as a compulsory or elective subject at degree level and

Recognized Diploma or Certificate course in translation from Hindi to English & vice versa or three years' experience of translation work from Hindi to English and vice versa in Central or State Government Office, including Government of India Undertaking.

### Application Fee:

# General/ OBC: Rs. 100/-

# SC/ ST/ Women/Ex-Servicemen: Nil

# Payment Mode: Through Debit/ Credit Card/SBI Challan/SBI Net Banking

### Important Dates of SSC Translator Recruitment 2023

# Starting date of submission of online application: 22nd August 2023

# Last date of submission of online application: 12th September 2023

# Schedule of Computer Based Examination: October 2023

## Indian Coast Guard Navik Recruitment 2023 – 350 Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 22/09/2023

Indian Coast Guard has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 350 posts of Navik (General Duty), Navik (Domestic Branch) and Yantrik in the Indian Coast Guard, an Armed Force of the Union for 01/2024 Batch. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

### 1. Navik (General Duty)

No of posts: 260 posts

### 2. Navik (Domestic Branch)

No of posts: 30 posts

### 3. Yantrik (Mechanical)

No of posts: 25 posts

### 4. Yantrik (Electrical)

No of posts: 20 posts

### 5. Yantrik (Electronics)

No of posts: 15 posts

### Scale of pay:

# Navik: Basic pay of Rs. 21700/- (Pay Level-3)

# Yantrik: Basic pay Rs. 29200/- (Pay Level-5)

### Eligibility Criteria of Coast Guard Navik Recruitment

Age Limit: Candidates age should be between 18 years to 22 years. Candidates should be born between 01 May 2002 to 30 Apr 2006 (both dates inclusive) applying for post of Navik (DB), Navik (GD) and Yantrik.

Age Relaxation: Upper age relaxation of 5 years for SC/ST and 3 years for OBC (non-creamy) candidates is applicable only if posts are reserved for them.

### Educational Qualification:

# Navik (Domestic Branch): Class 10th passed from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE).

# Navik (General Duty): 10+2 passed with Maths and Physics from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE).

# Yantrik: Class 10th passed from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE) and Diploma in Electrical/ Mechanical / Electronics/ Telecommunication (Radio/Power) Engineering of duration 03 or 04 years approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).

OR  
Class 10th & Class 12th passed from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE) "AND" Diploma in Electrical/ Mechanical / Electronics/ Telecommunication (Radio/Power) Engineering of duration 02 or 03 years approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).

### Examination Fee:

# UR/OBC: Rs. 300/-

# SC/ST: Nil

# Mode of Payment: Net banking or by using Visa/ Master/ Maestro/ Rupay Credit/ Debit Card/ UPI.

### Important Dates of Indian Coast Guard Recruitment 2023

# Starting date of online application submission: 8th September 2023

# Last date of online application submission: 22nd September 2023 upto 1730 HRS

## SBI PO Recruitment 2023 – 2000 Probationary Officer Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 27/09/2023

State Bank of India (SBI) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 2000 Probationary Officer (PO) Vacancy. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

### Name of post: Probationary Officer (PO)

No of posts: 2000 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

# SC: 300

# ST: 150

# OBC: 540

# EWS: 200

# GEN: 810

Pay: Rs 36000-1490/7-46430-1740/2-49910-1990/7-63840

### Eligibility Criteria of SBI PO Recruitment

Age Limit: Not below 21 years and not above 30 years as on 01.04.2023 i.e., candidates must have been born not later than 01.04.2002 and not earlier than 02.04.1993 (both dates inclusive).

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

# SC/ST: 5 years

# OBC: 3 years

# PwBD: 10 years

# PwBD (OBC/NCL): 13 years

# PwBD (SC/ST): 15 years

Educational Qualification: Graduation in any discipline from a recognised University or any equivalent qualification recognised as such by the Central Government.

Final Year Students: Those who are in the Final Year/ Semester of their Graduation may also apply provisionally subject to the condition that, if called for interview, they will have to produce proof of having passed the graduation examination on or before 31.12.2023.

Others: Candidates possessing qualifications such as Medical, Engineering, Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant would also be eligible.

Application Fee: Category-wise application fee is as mentioned below

Category	Fee Amount
UR/ EWS/ OBC	Rs 750
SC/ ST/ PWD	NIL

Payment Mode: Debit Card/ Credit Card/ Internet Banking

### Important Dates of SBI Recruitment 2023

# Starting date of online application submission: 7th September 2023

# Last date of online application submission: 27th September 2023



# It's special as son-in-law of India: Rishi Sunak on visit to Delhi for G20

**LONDON, Sept 8:** Rishi Sunak said on Friday that his visit to New Delhi for the G20 Leaders' Summit is "obviously special" as he joked about being referred to as the "son-in-law of India" as the first British Prime Minister of Indian heritage and married to an Indian in Akshata Murty.

Speaking to reporters in a huddle on his flight to New Delhi, the 43-year-old British Indian leader said he was excited to be back in India, "a country that is very near and dear to me". He is joined on the visit by his wife, the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, and is scheduled for bilateral talks with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit.

"I'm heading to the G20 Summit with a clear focus. Stabilising the global economy. Building international relationships. Supporting the most vulnerable," tweeted Sunak as he embarked on the three-day tour.

"It's obviously special. I saw somewhere that I was referred to as India's son-in-law, which I hope was meant affectionately," he told reporters travelling with him.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has been flagged as a key topic on the agenda for the UK during the summit discussions, with Down-

ing Street saying India's role and influence is "vital".

"Once again, Vladimir Putin is failing to show his face at the G20. He is the architect of his own diplomatic exile, isolating himself in his presidential palace and blocking out criticism and reality. The rest of the G20, meanwhile, are demonstrating that we will turn up and work together to pick up the pieces of Putin's destruction," Sunak told reporters.

His Downing Street spokesperson said the UK will use "every opportunity" to show its support for Ukraine and further foster global support as well.

"India has a vital role to play as



the world's largest democracy in calling out Russia's assault on human rights and indeed democracy itself. We will use meetings with Modi or elsewhere to encourage them to use that influence to bring an end to Putin's brutal invasion," Sunak's spokesperson said. The India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations are

likely to also feature highly during the Modi-Sunak bilateral discussions, having just completed 12 rounds of negotiations but with no set timeframe for its conclusion.

Separately, Downing Street has indicated that there will be no changes to the UK immigration policy as part of the deal, though short-term business visas are up for discussion as part of the trade talks.

Official UK government statistics peg the India-UK bilateral trade relationship as worth around GBP 36 billion in 2022, expected to be significantly enhanced with what both sides have branded as a

deep and forward-looking FTA.

Modi and Sunak last met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan, in May. A month later, during UK-India Week in London, Sunak had said he "can't wait" to meet his Indian counterpart again.

"Prime Minister Modi and I agree there's huge potential here. We're making great progress together on the 2030 Roadmap and we want to strike a truly ambitious trade deal that benefits both our nations, bringing tremendous opportunities to businesses and consumers, both in India and here at home," he said at the time. (PTI)

Hero Kim Kun Ok, is designed to launch tactical nuclear weapons from underwater but did not specify the number of missiles it could carry & fire

## North Korea says its latest submarine can launch nuclear weapons, but there are doubts

**SEOUL, Sept 8:** North Korea said on Friday its new submarine has nuclear attack capabilities after years of development. Leader Kim Jong Un described the milestone as crucial in his efforts to build a nuclear-armed navy to counter the United States and its Asian allies.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the vessel, named "Hero Kim Kun Ok," is designed to launch tactical nuclear weapons from underwater but did not specify the number of missiles it could carry and fire.

South Korean officials were skeptical that the submarine would work as North Korea described and said it likely wasn't ready for operational duty.

Still, the vessel's development underscored how the North continues to potentially extend the range of its nuclear arsenal with systems that are harder to detect in advance.

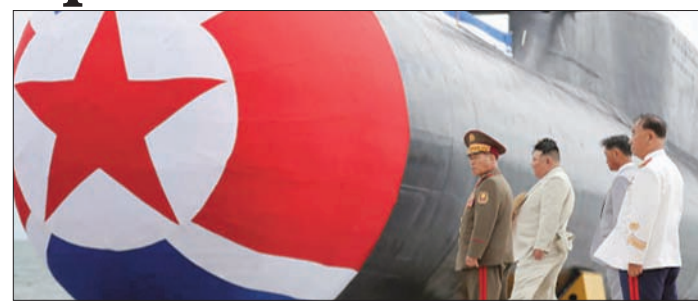
Based on Kim Jong Un's comments and photos by North Korean state media, it's likely the subma-

rine is the same one Kim inspected in 2019 while it was under construction. At the time, experts assessed it as an effort to convert an existing Romeo-class submarine.

The submarine appears to have at least 10 launch tubes — four of them apparently larger than the other six — that are possibly designed for missiles.

"This submarine, though heavily modified, is based on 1950s Soviet-origin technology and will have inherent limitations. Nevertheless, in terms of complicating the targeting challenges that the US and its allies will face, the submarine will serve North Korea's purposes," said Ankit Panda, an expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In recent years, North Korea tested a variety of missiles designed to be fired from submarines as it pursued the ability to conduct nuclear strikes from underwater. In theory, such capacity would bolster its deterrent by ensuring a surviv-



able capability to retaliate after absorbing a nuclear attack on land. Ballistic missile submarines would also add a maritime threat to the North's growing collection of solid-fuel weapons fired from land vehicles that are designed to overwhelm missile defenses in South Korea and Japan.

Still, it would take considerable time, resources and technological improvements for the heavily sanctioned nation to build a fleet of at least several submarines that could travel quietly and execute attacks reliably, analysts say.

matched known features surrounding the facility. The submarine still appeared to be at port Friday morning, according to other images taken by Planet. The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies first identified the submarine's location.

In speeches at the vessel's launching ceremony Wednesday and an onboard inspection Thursday, Kim expressed satisfaction that the country has acquired its own nuclear attack submarine to counter the advanced naval assets of the US, KCNA said.

In July, the US docked a nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarine in South Korea for the first time since the 1980s.

Kim said the country is also pursuing a nuclear-propelled submarine and plans to remodel its existing submarines and surface vessels so they can handle nuclear weapons, describing the building of a nuclear-capable army as an "urgent task." (AP)

## Russia holds elections in occupied Ukrainian regions in an effort to tighten its grip there



**TALLINN, Sept 8:** Russian authorities are holding local elections this weekend in occupied parts of Ukraine in an effort to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not fully control.

The voting for Russian-installed legislatures in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions begins Friday and concludes Sunday. It has already been denounced by Kyiv and the West.

"It constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, which Russia continues to disregard," the Council of Europe, the continent's foremost human rights body, said this week. Kyiv echoed that sentiment, with the parliament saying in a statement that the balloting in areas where Russia "conducts active hostilities" poses a threat to Ukrainian lives. Lawmakers urged other countries not to recognize the results of the vote. For Russia, it is important to go on with the voting to maintain the illusion of normalcy, despite the fact that the Kremlin does not have full control over the annexed regions, political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

"The Russian authorities are trying hard to pretend that everything is going according to plan, everything is fine. And if everything is going according to plan, then the political process should go according to plan," said Gallyamov, who worked as a speechwriter for Russian President Vladimir Putin when Putin served as prime minister.

Voters are supposed to elect regional legislatures, which in turn will appoint regional governors.

In the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, thousands of candidates are also competing for seats on dozens of local councils. The balloting is scheduled for the same weekend as other local elections in Russia. In the occupied regions, early voting kicked off last week as election officials went door to door or set up makeshift polling stations in public places to attract passersby.

The main contender in the election is United Russia, the Putin-loyal party that dominates Russian

politics, although other parties, such as the Communist Party or the nationalist Liberal Democratic party, are also on the ballots.

For some residents of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, large swaths of which have been held by Russian-backed separatists since 2014, there is nothing unusual about the vote.

"For the last nine years, we've been striving to get closer with Russia, and Russian politicians are well-known to us," Sergei, a 47-year-old resident of the occupied city of Luhansk, told The Associated Press, asking that his last name be withheld for security reasons.

"We're speaking Russian and have felt like part of Russia for a long time, and these elections only confirm that."

Some voters in Donetsk shared Sergei's sentiment, expressing love for Russia and saying they want to be part of it. The picture appears bleaker in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. Local residents and Ukrainian activists say poll workers make house calls accompanied by armed soldiers, and most voters know little about the candidates, up to half of whom reportedly arrived from Russia — including remote regions in Siberia and the far east.

"In most cases, we don't know these Russian candidates, and we're not even trying to figure it out," said Konstantin, who currently lives in the Russian-held part of the Kherson region on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River.

Using only his first name for safety reasons, Konstantin said in a phone interview that billboards advertising Russian political parties have sprung up along the highways, and "campaign workers have been used in ahead of the vote."

But "locals understand that these elections don't influence anything" and "are held for Russian propaganda purposes," Konstantin said, comparing this year's vote to the referendums Moscow staged last year in the four partially occupied regions. Those referendums were designed to put a veneer of democracy on the annexation. (AP)

## 2 dead in HK amid extreme rain and flash floods

**HONG KONG, Sept 8:** Heavy rain in Hong Kong and southern China overnight flooded city streets and some subway stations, with hundreds evacuated and two deaths reported in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong authorities said during a joint news conference on Friday that the extreme weather was expected to last until at least midnight, with widespread flooding and heavy disruptions to public transport in multiple districts.

An official from the Hong Kong Observatory said the city had recorded over 600mm of rain so far — a quarter of the city's average annual rainfall. The Hong Kong Observatory said it recorded 158.1 millimeters (6.2 inches) of rain in the hour between 11 p.m. Thursday and midnight, the highest recording for a single hour since records began in 1884. Hong Kong police said that two bodies were found floating in waters in different parts of the city. The city's fire services department said it had evacuated 110 people and assisted 20 injured people. The city's response to the rain and floods has drawn criticism from residents online, who questioned the authorities' preparedness for such an emergency.

Hong Kong's No. 2 official, Eric Chan, said that the predictability of rainfall "cannot be compared with that of a typhoon." (AP)

## Russian missile attack kills policeman, injures 52 others in Zelenskyy's hometown

**TALLINN (ESTONIA), Sept 8:** A Russian missile attack on Friday on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown in central Ukraine killed one policeman and injured at least 52 others, emergency officials said, while another attack in the southern Kherson region killed three people.

The strikes were among multiple Russian attacks across the country overnight, officials said. Meanwhile, Moscow is trying to strengthen its position politically with local elections in areas it has illegally annexed, including some it still does not control. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it does not recognize the "fake elections."

The strikes came days after 16 people were killed in a Russian attack on a market in eastern Ukraine and drone debris was found in Romania that sparked fears among local residents that the war could spread into the NATO-member country bordering Ukraine. Ten buildings were damaged in the attack on Zelenskyy's hometown of Kryvyi Rih Friday.

Three people pulled from the rubble were in serious condition, according to Ihor Klymenko, Ukraine's minister of Internal Affairs. Photos posted by Klymenko on Telegram showed a building on fire, burnt timbers and emergency services evacuating the injured.

Three people were also killed Friday after a Russian bomb struck the village of Odradokamianka in the Kherson region of southern Ukraine, Klymenko said. Also on Friday, a funeral was being held for an 18-year-old who was among 16 people killed on Wednesday in a Russian attack on a market in Kostiantynivka in Ukraine's east-

ern Donetsk region. The attack, which wounded 33 others, turned the market into a fiery, blackened ruin and overshadowed a two-day visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken aimed at assessing Ukraine's three-month-old counteroffensive. Blinken's visit signalled ongoing US support with the announcement of an additional USD 1 billion in aid.

Meanwhile, Russia is holding local elections in the part of the Kherson region it controls. Local elections are also being held in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions. In Kherson, local residents and Ukrainian activists say election poll workers have made house calls accompanied by armed soldiers. Ukraine has dismissed the elections, calling on its allies to condemn Russia's actions and urging them not to recognise any administration created as a result of the votes.

The war continued to raise difficult questions for other nations trying to manage the war's fallout on food security, inflation and other matters. Britain announced on Friday it will host a global food security summit in November in response to Russia's withdrawal of a Black Sea grain deal and attacks on Ukraine's grain supply.

The announcement came as British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak arrived in India for a Group of 20 summit, where he hopes to marshal international resources to counteract the war's impact on the global food supply.

Sunak's government said Royal Air Force aircraft will fly over the Black Sea as part of efforts to deter Russia from striking cargo ships transporting grain from Ukraine. (AP)

## SKorea's Yoon meets Indonesian leader to deepen economic, defence ties

**JAKARTA, Sept 8:** South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with his Indonesian counterpart, Joko Widodo, on Friday seeking to deepen economic ties and defence cooperation at a time of heightened global geopolitical tensions. Yoon has been in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, since Tuesday attending the three-day summit by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with Asian and Western counterparts.

That meeting spotlighted major conflicts in Asia, with calls for peaceful resolutions and restraint. Widodo and his wife, Iriana, hosted Yoon and South Korean first lady Kim Keon Hee at a ceremony in the colonial-style Merdeka palace in Jakarta.

During their meeting, the two leaders agreed to deepen their strategic partnership in the security and defence industries and to expand cooperation in future-looking industries such as electric vehicles, batteries and smart cities. Indonesia's foreign affairs minister, Retno Marsudi, told reporters after the meeting that Widodo welcomed commitments made by South Korean company LG and its partners in Indonesia to "accelerate the realisation of a grand investment package worth USD 9.8 billion for the construction of a cathode factory" on Indonesia's Batam island, next to Singapore.

She added that factory construction is expected to start this year, involving Indonesia's state-owned companies and regional businesses. Cathodes are key components in global battery production for electric vehicles. (AP)

## Clashes resume between factions in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp

**BEIRUT, Sept 8:** Clashes resumed in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp overnight, with heavy gunfire and shelling wounding at least 20 people and prompting residents of the camp and the surrounding area to flee on Friday.

There had previously been several days of street battles in the Ein el-Hilweh camp between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement and Islamist groups after Fatah accused the Islamists of gunning down one of their military generals on July 30. Those street battles left at least 13 dead and dozens wounded, and forced hundreds to flee from their homes.

An uneasy truce has been in place since August 3, but clashes were widely expected to resume as the Islamist groups have not handed over the accused killers of the Fatah general, Mohammad "Abu Ashraf" al-Armoushi to the Lebanese judiciary as demanded by a committee of Palestinian factions earlier this month.



A committee of Palestinian factions in Ein el-Hilweh announced on Tuesday that their joint security forces would launch raids in search of the accused killers.

Maher Shabaita, head of Fatah in the Sidon region, told The Associated Press that the Islamist groups had launched an attack Thursday night in an attempt to forestall plans by Palestinian forces to clear militants out of schools they had been occupying in the camp.

By late morning on Friday, the fighting had at least temporarily subsided.

The state-run National News

Agency reported 20 people were wounded, including an elderly man, and transported to hospitals overnight. Shabaita said the wounded included three civil defence volunteers who came under shelling as they were working to extinguish fires.

There were no immediate reports of deaths. The public Lebanese University announced it would close its branches in the city of Sidon, which is adjacent to the camp, and postpone scheduled exams in light of the fighting.

Officials with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, could not immediately give information on the number of casualties or displaced.

UNRWA appealed last week for USD 15.5 million to repair infrastructure damaged in the last round of clashes in the camp, provide alternative education locations for children whose schools were damaged or occupied by militants, and give cash assistance to people who have been displaced from their homes. (AP)

## Queen Elizabeth II died aged 96 on September 8 last year King Charles, PM Sunak lead UK tributes on Queen Elizabeth II's death anniversary

**LONDON, Sept 8:** Britain's King Charles III and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak led tributes to the late Queen Elizabeth II on Friday, the first death anniversary of the country's longest-serving monarch, and praised her dedication and service to the nation.

Queen Elizabeth II died aged 96 on September 8 last year.

In a statement recorded at Balmoral Castle — the Scottish castle where his mother breathed her last, Charles also thanked people for the "love and support" shown to him and his wife Queen Camilla since then. Buckingham Palace had previously announced that the royal couple would be marking the solemn occasion privately, with bell-ringing at Westminster Abbey in London to mark the King's first year of reign among the public events on the agenda.

"In marking the first anniversary of Her late Majesty's death



extraordinary life of duty and dedication".

"With the perspective of a year, the scale of Her Late Majesty's service only seems greater. Her devotion to the nations of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth only seems deeper," he said.

"I treasure my memories of those occasions when I met Her Late Majesty, in particular the private audience I had with her at Buckingham Palace before presenting my first Budget as Chancellor.

"I was struck by her wisdom, by her incredible warmth and grace, but also her sharp wit. People across the UK — whether they had the good fortune to meet Her Late Majesty or not — will be reflecting today on what she meant to them and the example she set for us all. We will cherish those memories," he added.

The Opposition Labour leader,

Sir Keir Starmer, said the late Queen "always enjoyed a special bond with her people".

His message read: "It was a relationship built from her understanding that service of this great nation is the thread that unites sovereign and subject."

Buckingham Palace has also released a new portrait of the late Queen taken by Cecil Beaton in 1968 when she was 42. In it, the late monarch is standing side-on to the camera, wearing her Garter robes and the Grand Duchess Vladimir's Tiara, made of 15 interlaced diamond circles.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Kate, will attend a special service at St. David's Cathedral in St. David's, west Wales, in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and a 62-gun salute will be fired at the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company. (PTI)



# BJP wins bypolls in Dhanpur, Boxanagar assembly seats in Tripura

**AGARTALA, Sept 8:** The BJP won the by-elections to the Dhanpur and Boxanagar assembly seats in Tripura's Sepahijala district on Friday by huge margins, according to the Election Commission.

BJP's Tafajjal Hossain won the Boxanagar seat, which has around 66 per cent minority voters, by 30,237 votes. Hossain got 34,146 votes, while his nearest rival Mizan Hossain of the CPI(M) got 3,909 votes.

BJP candidate Bindu Debnath bagged the Dhanpur seat, which has a significant tribal population, by 18,871 votes. Debnath got 30,017 votes, and his nearest rival Kaushik Chanda of the CPI(M) got 11,146 votes.

Alleging large-scale rigging during the polling and inaction by the Election Commission, the opposition CPI(M) boycotted the counting of votes. The two seats witnessed a one-on-one fight between the ruling BJP and the CPI(M) with the other two opposition parties, Tipra Motha and Congress, not fielding any candidates.

Extending gratitude to the people of the state, Union home minister Amit Shah said the victories will further strengthen the determination to transform Tripura into a prosperous state under the leadership of



PM Narendra Modi.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Tripura for making the BJP victorious in the Baxanagar and Dhanpur assembly bye-elections. It will further strengthen our determination to transform Tripura into a prosperous state under the leadership of PM @narendramodi Ji. Congratulations to the Tripura CM @DrManikSaha2 Ji and BJP President @Rajib4BJP Ji, along with the karyakartas, for this resounding victory," he posted on X.

Thanking the people of the state for

the victories, BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee said the CPI(M) that ruled the state for decades will be extinct in the near future.

"We were sure about winning the by-elections because of the double-engine government's developmental works. I thank the people for reposing faith in PM Modi and CM Manik Saha. The CPI(M), which ruled the state for years, will be extinct in the near future," he told reporters.

The polling for the by-elections was held on September 5. An average

## Assam CM expresses gratitude to voters for BJP wins

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convenor and senior BJP leader, Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday expressed his gratitude to the voters of Tripura for the wins by BJP candidates in by-election to two assembly seats.

He congratulated BJP candidates for winning Boxanagar seat by over 30,000 votes and Dhanpur seat by 18,871 votes.

"My gratitude to Tripura voters for their continued faith in the policies of Hon PM Shri @narendramodi Ji and @BJP4India", the Assam chief minister posted on 'X'.

"The victory of BJP candidates in two Assembly bypolls by huge margins is heartening. Congratulations to BJP's Tafajjal Hossain on winning Boxanagar seat by over 30,000 votes and Bindu Debnath for clinching Dhanpur by 18,871 votes. They both defeated CPI-M candidates," he posted. Boxanagar seat has around 66 per cent minority voters and the BJP wrested it from the CPI-M after bagging

30,237 more votes.

Dhanpur constituency has a significant tribal population and the margin of the party's win was 18,871 votes.

CPI-M boycotted the counting held during the day alleging large-scale rigging during polling of September 5 and inaction by the Election Commission.

The two seats witnessed a direct fight between the ruling BJP and opposition CPI-M as rivals Tipra Motha and Congress did not field any candidate.

The by-election to the Boxanagar constituency was necessitated by the death of CPI-M MLA Samsul Haque.

Union minister Pratima Bhoomik's resignation as the lawmaker of Dhanpur necessitated the by-election in that seat.

With the two victories, BJP's tally in the 60-member assembly increased to 33. Its ally IPFT has one MLA, while the opposition Tipra Motha has 13 MLAs, CPI(M) 10 and the Congress has three MLAs. (PTI)

The by-election to the Boxanagar constituency was necessitated by the death of CPI(M) MLA Samsul Haque. Union minister Pratima Bhoomik's resignation as the MLA of Dhanpur necessitated the by-election in that seat.

The BJP won the Dhanpur seat for the first time in the assembly polls held seven months ago, and retained it in the by-election. The ruling party wrested the minority-dominated Boxanagar seat from the CPI(M) in a significant victory in the bypoll.

Hossain, who won the Boxanagar seat, said people voted in large numbers for the BJP to teach the CPI(M) a lesson.

"In the assembly election in February, the CPI(M) won the seat by misleading people of the minority community. But this time, they voted for the BJP in large numbers to teach the CPI(M) a lesson. The CPI(M) will be reduced to a party of the past soon," he claimed.

"The CPI(M) knew they would lose the election. That's why it boycotted the counting," he said.

With these victories, the BJP's tally in the 60-member assembly increased to 33. Its ally IPFT has one MLA, while the opposition Tipra Motha has 13 MLAs, CPI(M) has 10 and the Congress has three MLAs. (PTI)

## BJP MLAs signed resolution empowering non-tribals in Meghalaya: District Council chief

**SHILLONG, Sept 8:** The BJP in Meghalaya was left red-faced after the party's legislators – AL Hek and Sanbor Shullai – were found to have violated the traditional dorbhar system to favour trading by non-tribals, drawing criticism from social organisations in this hill state.

Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council chief executive member Pyniaid Syiem told PTI, "We have seen it in paper that a resolution was signed by the two legislators Hek and Shullai. This is strongly against the rule of the Elaka Administration Act of the council."

Hek, one of the two MLAs, is a cabinet minister in the present Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government backed by the BJP.

The two BJP MLAs were found to have signed a resolution granting the president of the then Refugee Rehabilitation Colony Welfare Committee in Rynjah area of the city to issue NOC to non-tribals to trade and provide residential certificates for all purposes.

The RR Colony is a settlement of about 250 homes that was built for those who fled Bangladesh in the 1971 war, mostly Hindu families.



According to the tribal council CEM, such resolution violates the authority granted to the traditional dorbars by the council since the area is under the jurisdiction of the Dorbar Shnong of Rynjah, which is duly recognized by the council.

Several organisations have accused the BJP of trying to meddle with the traditions of the tribal people in the state.

The Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People feels that the MLAs should refrain from making such callous and irresponsible acts which devalues the role of our traditional bodies.

The FKJGP also issued a strong warning against the RRWC to stop meddling with affairs related to issuing of NOCs or RCs to the people of the area.

ple of the area.

"The RRWS should instead act in accordance with the notification of the Hima Mylliem in 2019 which declared the colony as Them Rynjah or else the federation will be forced to tread a different path in order to safeguard our culture and tradition," the FKJGP said.

The KHADC chief also reiterated that while the council had no intention to interfere with the religious rights as a welfare society, he added that, "As administration is concerned, we will ensure that residents of the area should follow the rules of the land. This is Khasi Hills and not Bangladesh or West Bengal and the 2019 notification stands till today," Syiem said.

Meanwhile, when sought clarification, Hek feigned ignorance on the subject.

"The question of helping non-tribals only does not arise at all. We are here to help all the people in the state," he said.

"There is no question of violating the traditions or the council. We help everybody who needed our help. This is the responsibility of the leaders and the BJP," he added. (PTI)

## Cong confident of forming next govt in Centre: Theunuo

**KOIHMA, Sept 8:** The Congress in Nagaland has expressed confidence that the party with opposition bloc INDIA's support will win the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) working president Khriedi Theunuo, while addressing a commemorative programme to mark the first anniversary of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, said majority of the citizens are of the view that the party will bring relief to people. "Increase in the cost of living has affected people throughout the nation. Majority of the citizens are of the view that it is the Congress which can bring relief to people," he said. (PTI)



Shooting pistol and rifle session organised for children at Bethany Society, Laitumkhrah, Shillong on Friday. UB Photos

## 4 Kohima villages get ₹ 4 lakh each to set up farmers' markets

**HT Correspondent**

**DIMAPUR, Sept 8:** Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio sanctioned ₹ 4 lakh each to four villages of Chiechama, Rusoma, Zadima and Bosta in Kohima district to construct farmers' markets.

He said various farmers' markets are being set up in major district locations of the state to enable farmers from various villages to sell their produce.

Rio said this at the inaugural programme of the first Jhum Fair, organised by Chiechamiapfui Mechü Krotho, at Chiechama village.

Assuring support to farmers, Rio stated that the state government is focusing on the development of the agricultural and allied sectors. He hoped that the Jhum fair would continue in the future, providing economic opportunities for farmers.

He congratulated the women of Chiechama village for their outstanding efforts in organising the event. He commended their initiative in showcasing various agricultural products and sharing the rich Chiechama cuisine.

Rio expressed his delight in exploring the gastronomic delights of Chiechama cuisine, which embodies the flavours, spices and traditions of Nagaland.

He observed that the Chiechama women have motivated everyone through their initiatives and hoped that this would inspire neighboring villages to emulate such exemplary efforts.

Rio acknowledged the women for their promotion of organic farming, emphasising that organic produce may cost more but is beneficial for health. He encouraged everyone to promote local produce and cuisine.

Underscoring the unique identity of the Nagas, be it food, traditions or culture, he said due to the long-pending Naga political issue, the state lags behind in the industrial sector and that locally made products labeled as 'Made in Nagaland' are not widely commercialized though there are a few exceptions.

Rio expressed pride in the growing awareness among Nagas about selling their produce and achieving economic sustainability through various agricultural products.

He also expressed his happiness that some families in Chiechama village are earning over one lakh rupees by commercialising their products.

Rio highlighted the significance of 2023 being declared as the International Year of Millets worldwide and commended the emphasis on millets in the fair. He stressed the need to document rich food habits and cuisines, as these aspects of culture, tradition and food habits are evolving alongside modern civilisation.

He said the state government is placing special emphasis on preserving cultural traditions, heritage and cuisines by holding road shows, festivals, and granting Geographical Indication (GI) tags to local products.

## Manipur police clarifies misleading social media posts regarding recent violence



**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** The Manipur Police have officially refuted misleading information circulating on social media platforms concerning recent violent incidents in the region. Contrary to the claims made in these posts, the police clarified that the reported exchange of gunfire was not between Kuki militants and Meetei village volunteers but rather between security forces and armed miscreants in the area.

The incident in question took place in Pallel village, located in the Kakching district, where security forces engaged with armed individuals. It is important to emphasize that these events were not related to any conflict between Kuki militants and Meetei village volunteers.

The situation in the region remains tense, with fresh violence erupting in areas between Tengnoupal and Kakching districts. Tragically, one individual lost their life, and over 60 others sustained injuries as Assam Rifles personnel reportedly employed gunfire and tear gas shells to disperse protesters.

It should be noted that earlier on the same day, around 7:15 a.m., miscreants launched an attack on Pallel village in Tengnoupal District, further escalating tensions in the area. These recent developments underscore the critical importance of accurate reporting and responsible sharing of information, especially on social media, as misinformation can exacerbate an already fragile situation and hinder efforts to restore peace and stability in the region.

## Heavy rains forecasted across NE states until September 11

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued weather advisories indicating the likelihood of heavy rainfall in several Northeastern states. From Assam and Meghalaya to Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh, these regions are expected to experience varying degrees of rain and thunderstorms until September 11. Specifically, Assam and Meghalaya have been issued an orange alert for September 8, signalling a heightened risk of heavy rainfall in these states. Meanwhile, a yellow watch has been issued for Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh, indicating a lower but still significant risk of heavy rains.

A noteworthy aspect of this forecast is that it comes at a time when the flood situation in Assam had been gradually improving, raising concerns about potential setbacks due to the predicted rainfall.

Residents and authorities in these areas are urged to stay vigilant and take necessary precautions in response to these weather warnings to ensure safety and minimize potential risks associated with heavy rainfall and thunderstorms.

## End of road for communists in Tripura, arrogance of 'ghamandia' alliance broken: BJP after bypoll victories

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** The BJP hailed its victory in the bypolls to the Dhanpur and Boxanagar Assembly seats in Tripura on Friday and said it is the end of the road for the communists in the northeastern state, which was once known as a Left bastion.

The saffron party gave the credit for its victory in the Tripura bypolls to the "strong and widely recognised" leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mantra of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas", and said the results show the people's "approval" to the developmental work carried out by the party's "double-engine" government in the state.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Tripura for making the BJP victorious in the Boxanagar and Dhanpur assembly bye-elections," home minister Amit Shah said in a post on X.

The victory in the bypolls will further strengthen "our determination" to transform Tripura into a prosperous state under the leadership of the prime minister, he added.

Shah also congratulated Tripura chief minister Manik Saha, state BJP president Rajib Bhattacharjee and the party workers for the "resounding" victory.

"This result shows the people's approval to the developmental works carried out by our double-engine government under the guidance of PM

Narendra Modiji," BJP chief J P Nadda said in a post on X.

Nadda also congratulated Saha, Bhattacharjee and the party's "hard-working karyakartas" for winning the bypolls with an "overwhelming majority".

BJP's in-charge for the northeastern region Sambit Patra hailed the party's victory in the bypolls and said the results have broken the arrogance of the "ghamandia" (arrogant) alliance of opposition parties.

"They have suffered a severe defeat. People have proved their alliance to be a 'thugbandhan' (alliance of thugs)," he wrote on microblogging website X.

"This victory of BJP reflects the strong and widely recognised leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modiji and his mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'," Patra added.

According to the Election Commission (EC), Tafajjal Hossain of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Boxanagar seat, which has around 66 per cent minority voters, by a margin of 30,237 votes. Hossain got 34,146 votes, while Mizan Hossain of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) bagged 3,909 votes.

BJP's Bindu Debnath won the Dhanpur seat, which has a significant tribal population, by a margin of 18,871 votes. Debnath got 30,017 votes while Kaushik Chanda of the



CPI(M) got 11,146 votes.

Both the seats in Sepahijala district witnessed a one-on-one contest between the ruling BJP and the CPI(M) as the two other opposition parties -- Tipra Motha and Congress -- had not fielded candidates.

"BJP wins both Assembly seats in Tripura.... End of the road for the Communists, in what was once their bastion," the party's IT department head, Amit Malviya, said in a post on X.

Alleging large-scale rigging during the polling and inaction on the part of the EC, the CPI(M) boycotted the counting of votes.

Polling for the by-elections was held on September 5. An average turnout of 86.5 per cent was recorded in the two seats. The counting was held at the Sonamura Girls' School

amid tight security.

The bypoll to the Boxanagar constituency was necessitated by the death of CPI(M) MLA Samsul Haque. Union minister Pratima Bhoomik's resignation as the MLA from Dhanpur had necessitated the bypoll in that seat.

The BJP won the Dhanpur seat for the first time in the Assembly polls held seven months ago and retained it in the by-election. In a significant victory, the ruling party wrested the minority-dominated Boxanagar seat from the CPI(M) in the bypoll.

With these victories, the BJP's tally in the 60-member Assembly increased to 33. Its ally, IPFT, has one MLA, while the Tipra Motha has 13 MLAs, the CPI(M) 10 and the Congress three. (PTI)

## Significant unity achieved among Zo ethnic tribes in Manipur

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 8:** In a significant development, the Zo ethnic tribes belonging to the Kuki-Zomi-Mizo-Hmar community in Manipur have come together under one unified entity called 'Zo United'. This historic unity was achieved following a decision made on September 7, during a meeting attended by representatives from various tribe-based groups within Manipur's Kuki-Zomi-Mizo-Hmar communities.

The meeting was hosted by Mizoram's NGO Coordination Committee and took place in Aizawl City. It aimed to address the need for a stronger united front to safeguard tribal territories against perceived threats from militant outfits targeting the minority ethnic Mizos.

The formation of 'Zo United' is a step towards enhancing unity and cooperation among all ethnic Mizo groups and associations. Leaders for this newly formed body will be selected before September 20, with representation from each tribe and sub-tribe Inpi/Inpu (apex body), as

well as the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU), and the Hill Tribal Council (HTC).

It's important to note that 'Zo United' does not represent a single ethnic Mizo tribe but rather an organization established to strengthen tribal unity and collaboration.

As part of this unity-building effort, the near-defunct Coordination Committee on Separate Administration Manipur (CORSAM) and Joint Inpi Council (JIC) were disbanded during the conference.

The meeting saw participation from 16 Manipur hill tribal groups, six Manipur tribal Members of Parliament, including two state ministers, and representatives from the Mizoram NGO Coordination Committee.

Recent events, such as the alleged assault on residents of Pallel, a Kuki-Zomi-Hmar hamlet in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, prompted discussions around the need for greater unity among these ethnic communities.

## LSCF-NEI condemns alleged assault on former village chairman by Kuki militants

**IMPHAL, Sept 8:** The Liangmai Senior Citizens' Forum, North East India (LSCF-NEI), in a statement issued by its chairman Ch Dithinbou, on Friday said that the September 5 incident has a potential to trigger a flare-up. While strongly condemning the incident, the Forum said that Kukis have been harassing Naga commuters along the IT Road for a long time now. Z Hotngambou of Rianglong (Lenglong) village, Tamei subdivision, Tamenglong district, was assaulted on September 5 by the Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) cadres, which is under Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the government, at Chawla along I T Road under Kangpokpi district. Z Hotngambou is ex-chairman of Lenglong village, a founding member and advisor of Zuinamai Foundation-North East India, and a member of LSCF-NEI. According to LSCF-NEI,

Z Hotngambou had to undergo medical treatments because of the beating by the Kuki militants. The Forum also alleged that the Kuki militants started beating Hotngambou because he mentioned the names of Naga Hobo, UNC, LNC and others during the course of interrogation by the Kuki militants. "Such an act of the Kuki militants is akin to challenging the Naga civil society organizations and the Nagas as a whole," the Liangmai elders' body also said. The Liangmai Senior Citizens' Forum then recalled how the 1990s' violence between the Nagas and the Kukis cropped up. The Forum further recalled that incident where the then chairman of Chawton village who also happened to be secretary of Zeliangrong Union of Tamei Zone, Mr. Champonbou, was thrashed by the Kukis at Chawla, IT Road, many years ago. (NNV)



# Hopeful of consensus on New Delhi declaration: India

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Ahead of the G20 summit, India on Friday said the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration was "almost ready" and the negotiators were moving towards a consensus.

Refusing to get into the specifics of sticking points such as the Russia-Ukraine war and climate-related issues, India's top G20 officials told a pre-summit press conference that they were hopeful of clinching a joint communiqué by consensus.

"India's expectation is that all G20 members will move towards a consensus and we are hopeful of a consensus on the communiqué," Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said in response to a question on the Ukraine conflict holding up an agreement on the New Delhi Declaration.

The G20 Leaders' Summit gets underway on Saturday and will conclude the next day.

On the inclusion of the African Union in the G20 bloc, Kwatra said he expected that Summit proceedings starting Saturday would take a "suitable decision" on it.

India's G20 sherpa Amitabh Kant said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a great believer in the Global South and had written to all the leaders on the inclusion of the African Union in the G20.

He said there has been a very



positive response and formally that will come before the Summit.

India also said its presidency of the G20 has lived up to Modi's vision of being inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and very decisive.

Kant said the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration will be the voice of the global south and developing countries.

Modi had asserted India's presidency should be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive, he said.

"These are the four principles on which we have worked. We have lived up to his vision of being inclusive, action-oriented, ambitious and very decisive during our presidency," Kant said.

"Our New Delhi Leaders' Declaration is almost ready, I would not like to dwell on it because this declaration will be recommended to the leaders during the Summit and the leaders will then accept it and only after it is accepted by the leaders, we will be able to talk

about the actual achievements of this declaration," he said.

Over 220 G20-related meetings were held in 60 cities across the country, showcasing India's diversity and federal structure, Kant said.

The Leaders Summit will comprise three key sessions -- One Earth, One Family and One Future besides other side events.

President Droupadi Murmu is hosting a dinner in honour of the G20 leaders on Saturday.

The G20 leaders will visit Raj Ghat to offer tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

India is set to make a dash for the goal line at the summit in addressing some of the complex global challenges such as concerns of the Global South, consequences of the Ukraine conflict, gloomy economic scenario, and fostering inclusive growth amid a fragmented geopolitical environment.

Modi, US President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron and other leaders of the G20 grouping as well as chiefs of many leading world bodies like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are converging in the national capital for the summit. (PTI)

# It's people's victory: Mamata on Dhupguri bypoll result

**KOLKATA, Sept 8:** West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee described her party's win in the Dhupguri bypoll on Friday as a "victory of the people". The ruling TMC wrested the Dhupguri seat from the BJP.

She congratulated candidates for defeating the BJP in the bypolls in four seats in various states saying it was a big win for the INDIA coalition. The BJP lost in Dumri (Jharkhand), Puthupally (Kerala), Ghosi (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhupguri, the ECI said.

"Dhupguri is a big win. The seat was with the BJP. It's a historic win and I congratulate all the people of Dhupguri. This is a win for the people," Banerjee told reporters at the city airport before leaving for New Delhi. At the national capital, Banerjee will attend President Droupadi Murmu's G20 dinner invitation on Saturday.

"I would like to congratulate all those who beat the BJP to win the bypolls. The BJP has lost four bypolls out of the seven held on September 5. This is a big win for INDIA. I want people to take such decisions slowly," she said.

"I thank the people of Dhupguri for reposing faith in us and voting decisively in our favour in the critical by-election to the Assembly constituency. People in North Bengal have been with us and trust our

strategy of growth, inclusiveness and empowerment. Bengal has shown its mandate, and soon INDIA too will show its preference. Jai Bangla!" she posted on X.

TMC candidate Nirmal Chandra Roy, a college professor, won the seat by over 4,313 votes. He bagged 96,961 votes, while his nearest rival BJP's Tapasi Roy, the widow of a CRPF jawan killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021, got 92,648 votes, the ECI said. With this victory, the TMC's tally went up to 217 in the 294-member assembly. It also enjoys the support of six BJP MLAs, who switched over to the ruling party but are yet to resign from the House.

"Thank you #Dhupguri, for embracing the politics of development over hatred and bigotry. Saluting every AITC worker for their tireless efforts in connecting with the people. We're committed to leaving no stone unturned in ensuring Dhupguri's all-round development," TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee posted on X. Banerjee had promised to make Dhupguri a "sub-division" by December this year.

Senior TMC leader Firhad Hakim slammed the Congress and the Left for campaigning against Bengal's ruling party despite being alliance partners in the INDIA opposition bloc, an opposition front

formed to take on the BJP in the next Lok Sabha polls.

"We are against the BJP and have been constantly fighting against them. But the Congress and the Left are fighting and campaigning against us and trying to help the BJP in Bengal," he said.

The BJP had snatched the seat from the TMC, which it had won twice since 2011, in the 2021 assembly polls.

Holding that an opposition party has only a slender chance to win a bypoll, the CPI(M) said it will review the Dhupguri bypoll results and take necessary steps to strengthen its organisation in north Bengal. CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty claimed that anti-BJP feeling is increasingly gaining strength countrywide.

"An opposition party candidate has only a slender chance to win a bypoll as the ruling party has an advantage," he said. Admitting weakness in organisational strength in the assembly constituency, Chakraborty said, "We will review the result and take necessary steps."

CPI(M) candidate Ishwar Chandra Roy received 13,758 votes, around 600 more than what the party got in the seat in 2021 assembly polls. The bypoll was necessitated owing to the demise of the BJP MLA. (PTI)

## Severe blow to ruling CPI (M) in Kerala

## UDF's Chandy Oommen wins Puthupally bypoll

**KOTTAYAM (KER), Sept 8:** Dealing a crushing blow to Kerala's ruling LDF, Congress candidate Chandy Oommen on Friday retained for the party-led UDF, the Puthupally assembly seat, which his father and former chief minister Oommen Chandy held for over half-a-century. Chandy Oommen trounced his main rival Jaick C Thomas of CPI(M) by a huge and historic margin in the bypoll. The 37-year-old Oommen defeated Thomas by a margin of 37,719 votes in the bypoll battle that saw a nearly month-long vigorous campaigning by leaders of the Congress, CPI(M), and BJP for their respective party candidates.

While Oommen gathered 80,144 votes, Thomas could get only 42,425 votes.

Though the BJP leadership exuded confidence of a good show in the politically significant bypoll, the saffron party could not feature prominently in the contest.

BJP candidate Lijin Lal finished a distant third, falling behind the LDF contestant by gathering a total of 6,558 votes.

Analysts agreed that the outcome was on expected lines, with the sympathy generated by the demise of his hugely popular father playing out to the advantage of Chandy Oommen. The contest in the politically hyperactive constituency in Kottayam district assumed added significance as it came just months before the Lok Sabha elections.

Maintaining a clear lead right from the start, Oommen went on to clock one of the state's highest victory margins. CPI (M) nominee Thomas failed to hold ground even in panchayats controlled by the LDF in the predominantly rural segment. Oommen Chandy who represented Puthupally constituency without a break since 1971 died on July 18, necessitating the bypoll. When an elated Congress described the exciting victory as a clear indication of "anti-incumbency" prevailing in the southern state, the ruling CPI(M) dubbed it a "sympathy wave" following the demise of Oommen Chandy. This is the third consecutive defeat for Thomas in the assembly polls in Puthupally constituency.

A Central committee member of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), 33-year-old Thomas has a history of shocking the Congress leadership by reducing Oommen Chandy's victory margin to a slender 9,044 votes in the 2021 assembly polls.

But this time, the Congress stalwart's son outshined him. Oommen even surpassed the record margin of 33,255 votes his father had once secured in the constituency. Oommen later told reporters that it was not him but Oommen Chandy himself who had won the bypoll by a historic margin.

"This is my Appa's (father's) victory. The people of Puthupally have rubbished all the allegations and campaigns unleashed against him," Oommen said.

He also visited his father's tomb at the local church and offered prayers after ensuring his victory.

Thanking the people of Puthupally for reposing their faith in the Congress, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) said the party candidate's

victory in the key bypoll was a testimony against the "misrule" of the Left government in the state.

KPCC chief K Sudhakaran said this will strengthen the UDF and is a setback for the Left Front.

"People from all political parties voted for us. It is 100 per cent a political victory for Congress-led UDF," Sudhakaran said. He said the result was a victory against the "misrule of the Left government".

"This victory is against the arrogance and autocratic rule of chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan," Sudhakaran alleged. Despite suffering a huge blow, CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan sought to put up a brave face by claiming that the voter base of LDF in Puthupally was intact and the win of the UDF candidate was surely on a sympathy wave.

Talking to the media in Thiruvananthapuram soon after the announcement of results, Govindan said the party will consider this defeat as a lesson to be more prepared for the upcoming elections.

"Chandy Oommen himself has said that it is the 13th consecutive victory of Oommen Chandy. That is true, and it was the sympathy vote for Oommen Chandy, who was an MLA there for 53 years," Govindan said.

He denied any anti-incumbency factor in the polls and said people have evaluated the performance of the government, which is why LDF could hold on to their base in the constituency. Govindan said the party will analyse the results further and correct its course.

Meanwhile, Chandy Oommen's mother, Mariamma, sisters Achu and Maria, also expressed happiness about their brother's impressive victory.

Achu, who faced widespread cyber attacks during the election campaign, said the resounding victory was a reply to those who hunted down Oommen Chandy and his family. Meanwhile, the BJP said the UDF victory is purely based on the sympathy wave in favour of Oommen Chandy and also a result of anti-incumbency sentiment against the Left government. BJP state president K Surendran said the decline in party's votes compared to the last assembly elections was because of the people's wish to give a fitting reply to the Pinarayi Vijayan-led government.

Talking to the media at the BJP state headquarters here, Surendran said the UDF camp could effectively 'manage' the situation prevailing in the constituency after the demise of Oommen Chandy and win by a considerable margin.

"Oommen Chandy was a tall leader of Congress who was an MLA in the constituency for 53 consecutive years. So there was a sympathy wave. In addition, people were unhappy about the present state government, and took this opportunity to teach them a lesson," he said. Surendran ridiculed the CPI(M) state secretary's comment about the reduction in the BJP's vote bank.

"He should first check for the over 15,000 votes that have gone from their account," Surendran said.

He said BJP will analyse the poll results deeply to see what resulted in the party losing over 5,000 votes in this election compared to the 2021 elections. (PTI)

**CHENNAI, Sept 8:** The Madras high court on Friday ordered issuing notice to former AIADMK minister B Valarmathi and her relatives on a criminal revision case initiated by it, following their discharge in a disproportionate wealth case by a trial court in 2012.

Invoking his powers under section 397 of Cr.P.C, Justice N Anand Venkatesh initiated on his own (suo motu) the criminal revision case and ordered notice to Valarmathi, her husband K V Balasubramanian and their sons B Muthamizhan and B Moovendran, besides the State government, returnable on October 12.

The case of the prosecution (DVAC) was that Valarmathi had amassed wealth in her name and in the names of her relatives to the tune of ₹ 1.70 crore, disproportionate to her known sources of income during her tenure as minister in the State Cabinet between 2001 and 2006.

Narrating the sequence of events and pointing out the flaws in the procedure followed by the prosecution and the trial court, the judge said having examined the order of discharge, this Court was of the prima facie view that the Special Court had traversed way beyond its jurisdiction in a discharge petition and has conducted a mini-trial to discharge the accused.

The orders of discharge, on the face of it reveal several palpable errors that were impossible for any trained legal mind to ignore, the judge added.

The judge said it was seen from the impugned orders of discharge that in paragraph 11, the Special Court notices that "there are various contradictions between the charge sheet and in the counter filed ..."

## PM Modi going against the Constitution, says TN CM

**CHENNAI, Sept 8:** Stating that the country's secularism and unity are under threat and that an attempt is being made to destroy social justice, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of functioning against the Constitution of India. After he came to power, the Prime Minister said that the Indian constitution was his 'veda' and even bowed before Parliament. "But now he is going against the Constitution. People should realise this and oppose it," the chief minister said while addressing a meeting at the Kerala Media Academy here.

"There's a threat to India's unity and diversity, and secularism, and an attempt is being made to destroy social justice. Through this, they (the BJP) are attempting to destroy India. We strongly oppose this," Stalin, who is the president of the DMK, said. For some, the mention of the word 'Dravidian' is causing 'irritation,' he said, and added that the people of both the states, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, belong to the same Dravidian family. He appealed to the people of both states to function like a double-barrelled gun to protect India. (PTI)

That the counter and the charge sheet were filed by the very same officer ought to have alerted the Special Court that there was something amiss. This volte-face was a deliberate ploy by the DVAC to short-circuit the prosecution since Valarmathi was now a minister in the State Cabinet, the judge added.

The judge said according to the Special Court, Valarmathi (A-1) had contended in her reply that land at Sholinganallur was purchased in the name of one Nachaippan for which her husband was a power agent. It could not be taken as an asset.

The judge said that the Special Court took note of these submissions and observed that had the prosecution conducted further investigation and recorded the statement of the above three persons the prosecution could have come to a fair conclusion and ascertain the explanation given by A1.

If the Special Court felt that further investigation was necessary nothing prevented it from passing a direction to that effect. Instead of doing so, it very strangely and curiously proceeded to discharge the accused. In other words, the Special Court discharged them not because it found that the case against all the accused was groundless but on account of the fact that the investigation, in the opinion of the Special Court, was incomplete, the judge added.

By completely ignoring the fact that what was before it was only a discharge petition, the Special Court literally donned the role of a Chartered Accountant and enquired into the material adduced by the accused, compared it with the information provided by the DVAC in the charge

sheet and their counter-affidavit, and then pronounced a verdict on the merits of each individual allegation raised by the accused largely relying upon the documents filed by them within the meaning of an anti-corruption act.

The Special Court has, at several places, concluded that the prosecution has not proved the charge against the accused overlooking the fact that what was before it was a petition for discharge and not a final hearing post trial, the judge added.

The order of discharge, prima facie, appears to rest on grounds that were clearly perverse and erroneous causing grave miscarriage of justice.

This Court was aware that the accused persons were discharged in December, 2012 which was just about one and a half years after A1's party (the AIADMK) came to power in the State in May 2011.

It was common knowledge that the AIADMK remained in power till May 2021, and A1 went on to become the Chairman of the Textbook Corporation in the second stint (2016-2021). The modus operandi of quickly obtaining discharge as soon as the accused and his/her party return to power was a well-known game-plan, the judge added.

The judge said in the present case from the facts, which were a matter of record, this Court was of the view that a prima facie case was made out for exercise of suo motu powers under Sections 397 and 401 CrPc and Article 227 of the Constitution of India against the order of the Special Court for Prevention of Corruption Act Cases at Chennai, dated December 24, 2012 discharging all the four accused. (PTI)

## Tibetans protest at Delhi's Majnu ka Tilla against Chinese participation in G20 Summit

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Ahead of the G20 Summit here, the Tibetan Youth Congress Friday held a protest in north Delhi's Majnu ka Tilla against the participation of Chinese delegates in the Summit.

Holding banners and raising anti-China slogans, protesters carried out a "peaceful" demonstration amid heavy personnel deployment, the police said. Some of the protesters had "Free Tibet" slogans painted on their faces and bodies. Tibetan Youth Congress president Gonpo Dhundup said, "This protest is not against India or India hosting the G20 Summit. We are raising these slogans against the Chinese participation in the G20 Summit."

"The current situation in Tibet is very critical. We have asked protesters to keep the protest peaceful. Not even a single protester breached any kind of law and order and they were following the rules and regulations of the Delhi Police. Our main motive behind the protest was to deliver the message

that China's diplomatic assurance is never to be trusted," he added. As the protest began, DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi immediately reached the spot and directed the police personnel to barricade a certain portion of the area, the police said.

"We had received a protest request at our Timarpur Police station from the Tibetan Youth Congress. We had rejected their request in view of the G20 Summit. Later, we received information that protesters would gather. So we walked out a robust plan," Kalsi said. "Our focus was to maintain vehicle movement properly. The protest continued for around half an hour, after which they dispersed peacefully and no untoward condition prevailed," DCP Kalsi said. Ahead of the G20 Summit, security has been beefed up across the national capital, especially in the New Delhi district, with police, paramilitary forces and other agencies maintaining a hawk-eye vigil in the city. (PTI)

# Hasina's daughter joins mother in G20 summit, speculation rife on possible political role

**KOLKATA, Sept 8:** Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter Saima Wazed is accompanying her mother during her trip to India to attend the G20 summit, officials of the neighbouring country said.

The appearance of Wazed at a second high profile international event after a trip with Bangladesh's President Mohammed Shahabuddin to Indonesia earlier this week to attend the Asean summit where her candidature for a WHO post was announced to a global audience, has also sparked speculation that she may in time be given a larger political role in the ruling Awami League.

Hasina will be inaugurating a rail link with Tripura and the second unit of the Rampal power plant along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, virtually from Delhi at functions on the sideline of the G20 meet.

She will also sign several agreements including a deal which will facilitate a Rupee-Taka card for citizens of both countries to pay in local currency instead of in dollars while travelling to the other.



"Saima Wazed will be in Delhi during the G20 talks," a top official of the Bangladesh foreign ministry confirmed.

"The question of a succession plan in Awami League has long been thought about. We believe that it will be done in a democratic manner, but democracy does not eliminate familial ties that a person may have with a political party," said

Ambassador Sarvajit Chakravarti, who has served two stints in Dhaka and is currently associated with a think tank Censers-K. The G20 summit which will be held in New Delhi over the coming weekend will be attended by most of the top leaders of the world.

This is possibly the first time Hasina's daughter will be by her mother's side

during an official visit to close neighbour and ally India, and analysts believe this to be significant in many ways.

Wazed, an autism expert who is standing for election as regional director for South-East Asia Region (SEARO) at World Health Organization (WHO), will be looking for India, one of 11 countries in the region, to endorse her.

Bangladesh's top diplomats are believed to have lobbied for her election among ASEAN countries. India will have to choose between her and Nepal's Shambhu Prasad Acharya for the WHO job. Given the importance that India attaches to its ties with both Bangladesh and Nepal, the choice is likely to be a tough one.

"A visit by Sheikh Hasina's daughter to India at a global meeting is an interesting development. Besides her nomination for an international organisation, it bears watching if she will opt for a larger role in Bangladesh," said Shantanu Mukherjee IPS (Retd), former National Security Advisor to Mauritius and a Bangladesh expert.

Added Prof Omprakash Mishra, an expert in international relations and former VC of North Bengal University, "India has always been supportive of our increasingly important neighbour (Bangladesh) in multinational forums."

Sheikh Hasina has yet to indicate any potential successor to the leadership of Awami League, though her son Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, or Joy Wazed as he is popularly known, was at one time seen by many as a potential candidate.

Wazed, who has been an advisor to the WHO director general on Mental Health and Autism as well as a member of WHO expert advisory panel on Mental Health, has till now shown no inclination to enter politics.

"We have not seen Sheikh Hasina suggest any succession plan as yet though over the years we have noted that her son Sajeeb being given responsibilities on IT etc by the Awami League. Now, Saima Wazed has also come into the picture. One can only presume that both are being groomed for a political role in the future," said Dr Sreeradhha Datta, former di-

rector of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies and currently fellow with National University of Singapore. Bangladesh is headed for a general election in the coming winter months where the ruling Awami League will be looking to win for an unprecedented fourth time.

However, the principal opposition party, BNP, led by former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, which has earlier accused the Hasina government of vote rigging, has said it will boycott the elections unless Hasina steps down and allows a caretaker government to conduct the elections, a demand unlikely to be conceded by the Awami League-led government.

While the US has some four months back announced a policy which reserves the right to deny visas to individuals including officials and politicians involved in hindering free and fair elections in the country, many other countries seem to be endorsing Hasina's leadership of a buoyant Bangladesh which is now being seen as a rising economic star in Asia. (PTI)



# High-income countries of G20 fall drastically short on climate action, says Oxfam paper

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Even if the high-income G20 countries, including the US, the UK, Australia and Germany, were to reduce their domestic emissions to zero by 2030, they would still fall significantly short of their fair-share benchmarks for emissions reduction, according to a new paper published by Oxfam International.

The paper by the global non-governmental organisation evaluates the fairness and ambition of national greenhouse gas reduction targets, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), of the G20 countries, using three distinct approaches. These approaches were employed to gauge the strength of the conclusions drawn. If all approaches arrived at similar results, it would suggest that the conclusions were robust.

The findings reveal that the G20, collectively as well as the most high-income countries of the bloc individually, are failing to meet the necessary levels of ambition required to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The gap between the collective NDCs of G20 and the fairness or ambition benchmarks outlined by the three approaches ranges from 2.8 to 3.9 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita by 2030.

This translates to an alarming excess of emissions in 2030, with



the G20 countries alone accounting for a surplus of 14.1 to 20.2 billion tons of CO2 equivalent. It underscores the urgent need for the G20 countries to significantly intensify their climate mitigation efforts, the paper read.

Delving further into the disparities among the G20 countries, the paper notes that the high-income nations of the grouping bear the primary responsibility for historic emissions and possess the technological and financial resources to

address the climate crisis. But they are falling far short of their fair-share benchmarks, with emissions levels still exceeding what would be equitable by a large margin.

For example, the United States and Australia, both high-income countries, would need to enhance their 2030 NDC emission reduction targets by 240 per cent and 170 per cent respectively to align with the fair-share benchmarks. Similarly, Germany and the United Kingdom would need to increase

their targets by 160 per cent and 124 per cent respectively.

The paper underscores that even if the high-income countries reduce their domestic emissions to zero by 2030, they will still not meet their fair-share benchmarks. These nations would need to provide substantial climate finance, technology transfers and support to other countries to bridge the emissions gap.

The middle-income G20 countries, while having lower historic responsibilities and fewer financial resources, are also found to fall short in achieving their fair share of global emissions targets, the paper says. This highlights the need for these countries to adopt more ambitious emissions reduction targets, consistent with the fairness benchmarks. These findings are crucial as the Global Stocktake, set to be finalised by the end of 2023 at COP28, aims to guide countries in enhancing the ambition of their climate action.

The persistent failure of the G20 countries to meet their ambitious and fair emissions reduction targets exacerbates the climate crisis, disproportionately affecting low-income communities and marginalised groups, Oxfam said, adding that the consequences of climate inaction are not only devastating but deeply unjust. (PTI)

## Mann appoints 710 revenue officials in Punjab amid agitation by 'patwaris'

**CHANDIGARH, Sept 8:** Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday handed over appointment letters to 710 newly recruited 'patwaris'.

The move comes a week after revenue officials launched an agitation saying they are boycotting "additional" work they are expected to carry out.

Mann also announced an over three-fold enhancement in the monthly training allowance for the under-training patwaris from the existing Rs 5,000 to Rs 18,000 with immediate effect.

He handed over the appointment letters to 710 newly inducted patwaris, including 201 women, at a function here.

In a reference to patwaris boycotting additional work, Mann, in an official statement, said it is unfortunate that some people have made it their habit to create inconvenience in the name of pen-down strikes for supporting their "corrupt colleagues".

Mann said this is "unwarranted and undesirable" as the state government will not make any compromise with the interests of the common man. Taking a jibe over the obstinacy of the agitating patwaris, the chief minister said they want to "blackmail" the state government by "harassing" the common man.

However, the government will not succumb to such theatrics at the cost of the interests of the people, he said, adding this is the government of the people and every effort will be made to ensure their wellbeing.

Mann asked the newly appointed revenue officials to perform their duties with honesty and dedication. It is the need of the hour to ensure that under-training patwaris discharge their duties in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

He said Rs 5,000 was too inadequate for these patwaris who had come into service after clearing a tough competition.

Last week, the revenue officers, under the banner of the Revenue Patwar Union, launched an agitation after a patwari and a kanungo in Sangrur district were booked under a corruption case last month.

The patwaris had earlier threatened a pen-down strike but appeared to soften their stand on Thursday, saying that they will attend work in their own revenue circles but not take on any "additional" responsibilities.

A union leader representing the officials had said they were not undertaking any work related to "additional" charges allocated to them in 3,193 revenue circles but were discharging their duties related to other circles, including that of flood relief. Addressing the gathering here on Friday, Mann said there is no dearth of funds with the state government to ensure the wellbeing of the employees of the Punjab government.

Exhorting the patwaris to judiciously use their pen for the welfare of the people rather than putting them in any kind of inconvenience, Mann said they will be incentivised accordingly in the coming times.

He said that pen-down strikes

have never done any benefit to anyone, so the newly inducted patwaris should not indulge in such actions. The chief minister categorically said that his government is committed to ensuring smooth and hassle-free services to people and no compromise will be made in this regard.

Announcing the recruitment of the patwaris annually on the lines of that of the Police force, Mann said the advertisement for the post of 586 new patwaris will be issued soon. The regular recruitment of revenue officials will streamline the functioning of the revenue department on one hand and facilitate the people of the state on the other, he said.

No stone will be left unturned for this noble cause to ensure that Punjab emerges as the front-ranking state in the country, the chief minister said. Mann said it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the state government has hitherto provided more than 35,000 jobs to the youth in various departments of the state government. Merit and transparency have been the twin pillars on the basis of which jobs have been given to the youth across the state, he said.

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition parties, Mann said that those who were living in palatial houses during their heydays of power had been ousted from the political scene of the state.

He said that the state has witnessed the dawn of a new era as these people who were considered invincible have been shown the door by the people. (PTI)

## PM holds bilateral talks with Mauritian counterpart, Bangladesh's PM

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held bilateral talks with his Mauritian counterpart Pravin Jugnauth and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Both foreign leaders arrived to a warm welcome at the New Delhi Airport to attend the G20 Summit from September 9-10.

Modi is scheduled to hold 15 bilateral meetings over the next three days when world leaders gather in the national capital for the Summit.

The prime minister earlier said that these meetings would give an opportunity to review India's bilateral ties with these nations and further strengthen developmental cooperation.

"It is my firm belief that the New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in human-centric and inclusive development," the prime minister posted on X, adding, "I look forward to productive discussions with world leaders over the next two days."

"I will also be holding bilateral meetings with several leaders and Heads of Delegation to further deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation," Modi said.

On Saturday, he will hold bilateral meetings with leaders of the UK, Japan, Germany and Italy besides attending the G20 events.

On Sunday, he will have a working lunch meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, sources said. (PTI)

## Banks can't use LOC as measure to recover money: Delhi HC

**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Banks cannot use Look Out Circulars as a way to recover money, the Delhi High Court has said, holding LOCs can't be opened on mere possibility of a person being made an accused in a criminal case as they take away a person's right to travel abroad which is a fundamental right under the Constitution.

A Look Out Circular (LOC), the high court said, is a measure to make a person surrender before investigating authorities or a court of law and can be issued only when there are sufficient reasons for it.

The court made the observations while quashing the LOC issued at the insistence of Bank of Baroda against Nipun Singhal, a former director at Lloyd Electric and Engineering Limited which is facing a CBI probe over certain transactions.

The court was informed that about 18 months after the petitioner had left the company, it was declared as a non-performing asset in November 2018, and in January 2022, the petitioner received a show cause notice from Bank of Baroda about having been declared a wilful defaulter. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

## Police unearth signed blank

after a raid in his house for drugs yielded no result, Singh said. In the meantime, the vigilance wing contacted the police headquarters about the complaint made by Islam, and the CID registered the case on August 31. He said a report that a former cop had provided information on Islam to the now-arrested SP is being looked into.

Singh said experts in forensic psychology from Gandhinagar-based National Forensic Sciences University have interrogated the accused and their report is also expected soon.

"The case is under investigation. All forensic, material and circumstantial evidence are being brought together to ensure a foolproof case," the officer added. (With inputs from PTI)

## CM inaugurates 60 training centres,

Talking about the bell and brass metal industries, the Chief Minister said that enhancing the skills of the artisans in these trades will help them to create products, which will be aesthetically superior along with have greater durability. He also spoke on the need of fusion of traditional and modern methods to make the handicraft items more attractive.

The Chief Minister also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a scheme namely 'Viswakarma' on 17 September for skilled workers. The scheme will also help the skilled workers in the state to hone their skills to the satisfaction of their customers.

Meanwhile, the state government will also launch a scheme wherein two lakhs youths will be trained on modern technology. The state government will collaborate with Tata Technology to train the youths in 70 ITIs on the concepts and components like artificial intelligence, machine learning, augmented reality, etc to make them ready for 'Industry 4.0'.

Sarma also took the occasion to thank the Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) for designing and organizing the programmes' which according to him would bring about paradigm shift in the skill landscape of the state. He also virtually interacted with mask making artists and bell metal making artisans.

State minister for skill, employment and entrepreneurship Jayanta Mallabaruah while speaking on the occasion, gave brief snapshot about the programmes. He said that the schemes have been launched primarily to help the youth of the state to become employable and create self-employment avenues in the state.

State minister for revenue and disaster management Jogen Mohan, minister for tea tribes welfare Sanjay Kishan, Rajya Sabha MP and Chief Minister's political secretary Pabitra Margherita, principal secretary of the skill, employment and entrepreneurship department B. Kalyan Chakravarthy, mission director of ASDM Ankur Jain and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

## 2 killed, nearly 50 injured in

on Wednesday and tried to break through army barricades in an attempt to reach their deserted houses in Torbung.

A day before the protest, full curfew had been clamped in all the five valley districts of Manipur as a preventive measure.

More than 160 people have been killed and several hundreds injured since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill district. (PTI)

## World leaders arrive in Delhi

he added. The G20 leaders will deliberate on pressing global issues at the grouping's annual summit here on September 9 and 10. India is hosting the summit in its capacity as the current G20 chair.

In its G20 presidency, India has been focusing on various issues such as inclusive growth, digital innovation, climate resilience and equitable global health access.

The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU). (PTI)

## Full-scale assault on Indian

into a new mobility paradigm... we were giving them a sense of the type of challenges India's facing — economic challenges, other challenges. The general sort of attack on the democratic institutions," he said.

"Internally in India it's been commented on and globally it's been commented on. And, of course, minorities are under attack but so are many other communities — dalit, tribal and lower caste communities are also under attack. There is an attempt to change the nature of our country," he added.

On the issues that arose during his discussions with members of the European Parliament (MEPs), Gandhi said the violence in Manipur was among the topics raised from the perspective of "democratic rights, harmony and peace between people" and pointed out that when countries are "dealing with India these days, there are other considerations which are also important".

"The G20 is an important conversation and it's a good thing that India is hosting it. Of course, there are issues in India that we raise (internally)," he said.

"India is a large country and by nature of being a large country, it will have relationships with many other countries. So that's a normal thing. India has every right to have a relationship with whoever it wants... the Opposition, by and large, would agree with India's current position on the [Russia-Ukraine] conflict. We have a relationship with Russia and I don't think the Opposition would have a different view than what the government is currently proposing," he said in response to a question.

In response to a question on Kashmir, the Congress leader stressed that the region was an "integral part of India" and therefore, nobody's business to interfere.

"The general discussion we're having here is that democratic institutions and democratic structures need to be protected in India and the voice of the people needs to be defended and protected, that goes for every single part of India, including Kashmir," he said.

Asked about the diminishing role of the public sector in India, Gandhi stressed that the Congress did not have a problem with the private sector, but against a monopolistic agenda.

He said: "Where we draw the line is where one or two people start to financially control the whole country; where one or two people or three people are running everything. That's where our problem begins. There's another element to this, which is that government policies in India have systematically attacked the backbone of our employment system."

"So, it's a two-pronged attack that the government is carrying out: number one, impose huge transaction costs on all small and medium businesses and ensure that you build two or three monopolies/monopolists who control pretty much everything... our problem with Adani is he controls the ports, he controls the airports, he controls agriculture, he controls grain silos, he has real estate, I mean he's everywhere and dominant everywhere," he said.

"We think that's counterproductive for the country. On one side, they are pushing this very monopolistic capital and on the other side, they are devastating the small and medium industries from where we get jobs; that's why we are having an unemployment crisis," Gandhi said. (PTI)

## BJP Mahila Morcha's national

schemes and policy initiatives taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the last nine years," Goswami said.

Former Union minister Bijoya Chakraborty will be the chief guest at the inaugural session, and it will be presided over by Morcha in-charge Dushyant Kumar Gautam.

Rajya Sabha MPs P Konyak and Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, who has been recently appointed as national general secretary of the BJP, will also preside over separate sessions.

The concluding session on Sunday will be presided over by BJP's joint general secretary (organization) Shiv Prakash, while Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will also address the members.

Goswami also paid her tributes to Dr Bhupen Hazarika on the occasion of his 97th birth anniversary on Friday.

Assam BJP Mahila Morcha president Angoorlata Deka and other senior functionaries were also present on the occasion. (PTI)

## 10 mobile veterinary units

Awareness should be created among the farmers so that pigs they can take the necessary precautionary measures to keep their livestock safe.

The state government is providing compensation to those who have lost their pigs. In Karbi Anglong the animal husbandry and veterinary department with the cooperation of Hongbari Engtipi, manager of a poultry farm in Diphu has distributed piglets to famers.

MP Horensing Bey, executive member of KAAC's animal husbandry and veterinary department, D Uphing Maslai and other MLAs, executive members of KAAC and other officials of the department were present on the occasion.

## UN Chief urges G20 countries to

meeting the USD 100 billion goal, doubling adaptation finance, replenishing Green Climate Fund and operationalising the loss and damage fund created in the last Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (PTI)

### EXTENSION NOTICE

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In reference to the advertisement No. SSA-12020/10/2023-MIS-SSA-SSA/I/254606/2023 Dated 19.08.2023, the date of submission of online applications for filling up Education Executives on attachment basis in Assam Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) is hereby extended up-to 18.09.2023.

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## ASHA BHOSLE AT 90: I faced difficulties but when I look back, it all looks 'mazedar'



**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** Music, like an ever flowing river, never ends, says Asha Bhosle. And as she turns 90 on Friday with a live concert in Dubai, India's singer for all times and ages could well be describing her own career that started an incredible eight decades ago. "At the age of 90, I have to stand for three hours on stage and sing songs, I'm happy I can do this at this age," Bhosle told PTI in an interview ahead of the show.

She sang her first film song "Chala Chala Nav Bala" for the Marathi film "Majha Bal" in 1943. Eighty years and some 12,000 songs later, Bhosle is readying to hold the stage again – and shows no signs of slowing down. Music, she said simply, is like breathing. And it wasn't always easy, said the singer whose voice has emoted every nuance and every mood for actors down generations, right from Meena Kumari to Kajol and hun-

dreds of others in between. "Humari saans nahin hoti hai toh aadmi mar jata hai. Mere liye music meri saans hai (For me, music is my breath). I have spent my life with this thought. I have given a lot to music. I feel good I've come out of difficult times. Many times I felt I would not be able to survive, but I did," Bhosle said.

From peppy numbers such as "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja" and "O Haseena Zulfon Wali" to soulful ghazals like "Dil Cheez Kya Hai" and the classical "Tora Man Darpan Kehlaye", Bhosle has been the voice millions of Indians have tuned into day and night.

Versatile could well be her middle name. Ever ready to experiment, her music has found popularity with international bands too. The Black Eyed Peas used the music of some of her songs. She also collaborated with Boy George and Stephen Lauscombe as well as with international cricketer Brett Lee. (PTI)

## Generally directors don't make for bad actors Anurag Kashyap



**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** Time flies by when he is directing but acting is also fun, says Anurag Kashyap, who believes directors generally don't make for bad actors as they know "what not to do" when they face the camera.

Kashyap is playing a badie, a builder-politician, in "Haddi", directed by Akshat Ajay Sharma and starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub. The film is currently streaming on ZEE5.

"When you are working, you have fun. (But) when I am directing, at the end of the day, I feel, 'I had just started and the day is already over?' But when I work like an actor, I feel, 'Just 30 minutes have passed?'" "Sometimes there is four hours of wait between shots. Time flies when you direct but you are too aware of time when you are acting," the filmmaker told PTI in an interview. Kashyap, who has acted in films such as "Akira", "Daas Dev", "Ghoomketu", Tamil film "Imaikka Nodigal" and "Kutney", said filmmakers understand the medium well and that can be a bonus when acting. "Generally, directors don't make bad actors. They might not be extraordinary, but they understand the medium very well, which

wins half the battle. If they don't know what to do, they, at least, know what not to do," he added.

Which is why he loves "exploiting" his director friends for roles in his movies, be it Hansal Mehta, Karan Johar, Tigmanshu Dhulia or others.

"I have exploited everyone from Hansal Mehta to Vasanth Bala. I haven't left anyone," the 50-year-old said.

Asked who makes for a good actor among the directors' community, Kashyap named Rajkumar Santoshi and his performance in Santoshi Sivan's film "Halo".

"He (Santoshi) is a terrific actor. Satish Kaushik ji was a very good actor. Tigmanshu Dhulia (Gangs of Wasseyapur) is an amazing actor. I was very happy with Karan Johar. He had done good work in 'Bombay Velvet'. I think he was brilliant in that film."

"Haddi" marks the debut of Sharma, a creative assistant director on Kashyap's "Manmarziyaan". It is a crime drama with Siddiqui in the role of a transgender.

Sushmita Sen-starrer "Taali", "Made In Heaven" and now "Haddi", transgender stories are finding representation in mainstream and Kashyap is happy that there is a "conversation". (PTI)

## Kangana Ranaut praises SRK for 'Jawan': Bowing down to your perseverance, hard work and humility



**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** Shah Rukh Khan is the cinema god for not just hugs and dimples but also for world saving, says Kangana Ranaut, praising the superstar for his transformation into a 'mass super hero' with new movie "Jawan".

The Atlee directorial, which is Shah Rukh's second release of 2023 after "Pathaan", opened to rousing welcome from the audiences across the country on Thursday.

Kangana posted a note on her Instagram Stories on Thursday evening and lauded Shah Rukh for hardwork and perseverance.

"SRK is the cinema God that cinema needs not just for his hugs or dimples but for some serious world saving as well. Bowing down to your perseverance, hard work and humility King Khan. @iamsrk," she wrote.

Kangana, 36, said SRK has emerged stronger out of his rough

patch where his past few films -- "Zero", "Fan" and "Raees" -- didn't work at the box office.

"From being the ultimate lover boy of the nineties to a decade long struggle again to reinvent his connection with his audience to his late forties to mid fifties and ultimately rising as the quintessential Indian mass super hero at the age of 60 (almost) is nothing short of super heroic even in real life." (PTI)

## Jason Statham, Sylvester Stallone's 'Expend4bles' to debut in India on Sep 22

**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** Action film "Expend4bles", starring Hollywood stars Jason Statham and Sylvester Stallone, is set to hit Indian theatres on September 22. The movie, the fourth chapter of the popular action franchise, will be re-released in four languages -- Hindi, English, Telugu and Tamil. It is distributed by MVP Studios.

"Expendables" is a huge brand and we are very excited to bring the fourth part of the franchise to India and release it along with its global release on September 22. The franchise has only gotten bigger with every episode," Sunil Ud-



hani, CEO of MVP Studios, said in a statement.

Scott Waugh, known for movies "Need For Speed" and "Hidden Strike", has directed the film, which sees Statham and Stallone reprising their characters of Lee Christmas and Barney Ross, respectively.

Returning cast members also include Dolph Lundgren as Gunner Jensen and Randy Couture as Toll Road.

They are joined by newcomers Andy Garcia, 50 Cent, Megan Fox, Tony Jaa, Iko Uwais, Jacob Scipio and Levy Tran.

Max Adams has penned the screenplay of the movie, which is produced by Avi Lerner, Kevin King-Templeton, Les Weldon, Yaviv Lerner and Statham. (PTI)



## 'Jawan' becomes biggest opening film of Hindi cinema

**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** Shah Rukh Khan's high octane action thriller "Jawan" earned Rs 129.6 crore worldwide and Rs 75 crore in India on day one, making it the biggest opening day in the history of Hindi cinema both globally and in the country, the makers said on Friday. The pan-India film, directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee and also

starring Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi as well as Deepika Padukone in a special appearance, released worldwide on Thursday in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

"As Jawan says, 'Yeh toh bas shuruat hai'. Thank you for the Massyive love," the production house Red Chillies Entertainment captioned the worldwide gross figures on X, for-

merly known as Twitter.

"Jawan" is a father-son story that addresses social and political issues through its hero, essayed by the Bollywood star. The film released on Thursday.

The film also features Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi as well as Deepika Padukone in a special appearance. (PTI)

## 'I'M VERY HAPPY, SRK IS GOD OF MASS'

## 'Jawan' director Atlee visits Mumbai's Gaiety Galaxy theatre, surprises fans watching SRK-starrer

**MUMBAI, Sept 8:** Atlee, the director of Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Jawan", witnessed the euphoric response to the movie first hand after he made a surprise visit to Gaiety Galaxy theatre here.

The action-entertainer released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on Thursday to overwhelmingly positive reviews as well as a thunderous reception from ardent fans of the superstar.

Atlee, 36, visited Bandra's iconic theatre late Thursday night and surprised the audiences watching the film's late night show.

Videos circulating on X, for-

merly known as Twitter, showed the filmmaker receiving a rousing welcome from the audience members who cheered, whistled and clicked his photos.

Dressed in a red sweatshirt paired with black trousers, Atlee expressed his gratitude with folded fans.

"I love everyone and they are loving me back. It's all because of Shah Rukh sir, I have just done my part," he told reporters outside Gaiety Galaxy.

"I'm very happy, SRK is god of mass. Anirudh (Ravichander, the composer) is now the rockstar of the nation," he added.

"Jawan" is a pan-India

thriller which outlines "the emotional journey of a man who is set to rectify the wrongs in the society". It also stars Vijay Sethupathi and Nayanthara.

The film marks the Hindi cinema debut of Atlee, best known for directing Tamil blockbusters "Bigil", "Mersal" and "Theri" with superstar Thalapa-

thy Vijay. Prior to the release, there were reports that Vijay will be making a cameo appearance in "Jawan". But the fans of the Tamil actor were disappointed when he didn't appear in the film.

Asked if he plans to reunite

with Vijay, Atlee said, "We will come back with something soon."

"Jawan" also features Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Girija Oak, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, Lehar Khan, Aaliyah Qureshi, Ridhi Dogra, Sunil Grover and Mukesh Chhabra as well as Deepika Padukone and Sanjay Dutt in special appearances.

Earlier on Thursday, Malhotra had also visited Gaiety Galaxy theatre and interacted with fans.

A Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, "Jawan" is produced by Gauri Khan and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. (PTI)





INDIA MISSED OUT ON THEIR FIRST EVER WIN OVER IRAQ

# SOMEONE DECIDED TO ROB THEM FROM WINNING, STIMAC SLAMS REFEREEING



**CHIANG MAI (THAILAND), Sept 8:** Indian football team coach Igor Stimac has lashed out at the referee for "robbing" his side of victory in the semifinal of the King's Cup against higher-ranked Iraq here.

A Sunil Chhetri-less India conceded a late goal off a debatable penalty to miss out on their first ever win over Iraq, who won the match via penalty shootout on Thursday.

Taking to social media after India's heartbreaking loss, Stimac praised his men's performance, saying a day will come when even the referee's controversial decisions won't be able to stop his team from winning matches.

"Our boys left everything on that pitch tonight and I am immensely proud of them! Someone decided to

rob them from winning tonight but the time will come sooner than many expect that even referees will not be able to stop my boys winning such games!" Stimac said after the match.

India will take on Lebanon in the bronze-medal playoff, which will be followed by the summit clash between Iraq and Thailand on Sunday.

Sandesh Jhinghan was adjudged to have fouled one of Iraq's forwards, and Aymen Ghabban slotted home the equaliser.

The game ended 2-2 in regulation time and after Brandon Fernandes missed the opening kick from the spot, Iraq were able to advance into the King's Cup final in which they will meet hosts Thailand.

Iraq is ranked 70th in the FIFA rankings while the Indians are placed at 99th.

India had already claimed two third-place finishes in the tournament, including the most recent one coming in 2019.

India were leading 2-1 till the 79th minute when the referee awarded a soft penalty to Iraq after their striker Ghabban was squeezed by two defenders inside the box during a tussle to get on to a high cross.

It did not look like a clear-cut penalty but Ghabban himself stepped up to take the kick from the spot and scored to level the match 2-2 and take it to the penalty shootout.

Iraq then won 5-4 in the shootout with Fernandez failing to score as his kick hit the post and went out.

The defeat marked the end of India's impressive unbeaten streak of 12 matches, as they suffered their first loss of the year. (PTI)

India announces 23-member squad for SAFF U-19 Championship



**NEW DELHI, Sept 8:** National Under-19 football head coach Shuvendu Panda on Friday announced a 23-member Indian squad for the SAFF U-19 Championship, to commence in Kathmandu on September 21.

The squad flew to Saudi Arabia for an exposure-cum-training camp early on Friday from where they will travel to the Nepal capital on September 19.

India has been drawn in Group B along with Bhutan and Bangladesh, while Group A comprises the hosts, Maldives and Pakistan.

After a single round-robin group stage, the top two teams from both groups will move into the semifinals. The final will be played on September 30.

Last year, India hosted the event in the Under-20 category and emerged champions, trumping Bangladesh 5-2.

The only other time the tournament was held in the U-19 category was in 2015 in Nepal, where the hosts defeated India on penalties after regulation time ended in a 1-1 stalemate.

Indian squad:

Goalkeepers: Lionel Daryl Rymmei, Divyaj Dhaval Thakkar and Manjot Singh Parmar.

Defenders: Thomas Kanamootil Cherian, Jahangir Ahmad Shagoo, Vijay Marandi, A Siba Prasad, Manabir Basumatary, Suraj Kumar Singh Nangbam and Ricky Meetei.

Midfielders: Manglentheng Kipgen, Ishaan Shishodia, Arjun Singh Oinam, Yash Chikro, Ebidas Yesudasan, Raja Harijan and Thumsol Tongsin.

Forwards: Gwngmsar Goary, Sahil Khurshid, Linky Meitei Chabungbam, Kelvin Singh Taorem, Naoba Meitei and Dinesh Singh Soubam. (PTI)

India lose to Iraq in penalty shootout after conceding debatable penalty, face Lebanon in bronze medal playoff

**CHIANG MAI (THAILAND), Sept 8:** A Sunil Chhetri-less India conceded a late goal off a debatable penalty to miss out on their first ever win over higher-ranked Iraq, who won the King's Cup semifinal clash via penalty shootout here on Thursday.

India will take on Lebanon in the bronze-medal playoff, which will be followed by the summit clash between Iraq and Thailand on Sunday.

In the other semifinal at the 700th Anniversary Stadium, Thailand defeated Lebanon 2-1.

India were leading 2-1 till the 79th minute when the referee awarded a soft penalty to Iraq after their striker Aymen Ghabban was squeezed by two defenders inside the box during a tussle to get on to a high cross.

It did not look like a clear-cut penalty but Ghabban himself stepped up to take the kick from the spot and scored to level the match 2-2 and take it to the penalty shootout.

Iraq then won 5-4 in the shootout with Brandon Fernandez failing to score as his kick hit the post and went out.

The defeat marked the end of India's impressive unbeaten streak of 12 matches, as they suffered their first loss of the year.

It was a creditable show by the Indian team, which was without their talismanic striker and captain Chhetri, who missed the tournament after becoming a father recently.

India played on equal terms against Iraq, ranked 70th in the FIFA chart (as against their 99th), for most part of the match.

Earlier, Mahesh Naorem gave India the lead in the 16th minute before Karim Ali equalised in the 28th minute, also from a penalty goal.

India took the lead in the 51st minute with Iraq captain and goalkeeper Jalal Hasan conceding an own goal.

Iraq were reduced to 10 men in the injury stoppage time as Zidan Iqbal was sent off for elbowing Brandon but India could not capitalise on that as the regulation time ended within a minute after that.

The early stages of the match showcased India's determination to make history. Naorem ignited the Indian fans' hopes when he found the back of the net, exploiting a sublime pass from Sahal Abdul Samad.

It was a moment of brilliance as Naorem deceived goalkeeper Jalal Hasan and slotted the ball past him at the near post. However, Iraq swiftly responded, drawing level from the penalty spot.

Ali calmly converted the spot-kick after Sandesh Jhinghan was penalised for a handball.

Iraq continued to press and came close to taking the lead, only to be thwarted by India's vigilant goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

The second half began with a twist that favoured India.

A rare mistake by Iraq's goalkeeper Hasan gifted India the lead.

Akash Mishra sent in a low and powerful cross, which was mis-handled by Hasan and the ball trickled into the net. (PTI)

## Manav Thakkar makes Ma Long work hard for his win at Asian C'hips

**PYEONGCHANG (SOUTH KOREA), Sept 8:** India's Manav Thakkar had his moments against Chinese legend Ma Long before going down fighting in a round of 16 men's singles contest at the Asian Table Tennis Championships here on Friday.

The 23-year-old from Surat, who suffered a 0-3 defeat, was expectedly nervous going into the match against arguably the greatest player of all time but ended up giving a good account of himself in the three games he got to play.

Manav, ranked 100, led 9-5 in the first game but Long managed to reel off the next six points. Even in the second game, the Indian had an 8-4 advantage but was not able to sustain the high level of table tennis he needed to produce consistently against the five time Olympic gold medalist -- two in singles and three in team events.

Long dominated the third game to complete a 11-9, 12-10, 11-5



win. "It was a wonderful experience playing him ahead of the Asian Games. There were many learnings and many positives," Manav told PTI. "I was bit nervous in the beginning but became confident as the strokes were landing. Many people were supporting me in the stands. In the end, I was able to match his level but was not consistent enough. What stands

out in great players like him is that they raise their game as the match progresses."

Earlier on Friday, Manav had pulled off a memorable 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7 win over world number 33 Kao Cheng-Jui of South Korea to enter the pre-quarterfinals.

On a day when the seasoned G Sathiyam and Sharath Kamal lost their round of 32 matches, another

heartening performance came from the 170th ranked Ayhika Mukherjee who stretched the Olympic bronze medalist Chen Xingtong of China to five games, before going down in the women's singles round of 32.

Ayhika was on course for the biggest win of her career after taking a 2-0 lead in the best of five affair. However, the world No 4 fought back to take the next three games with the final scoreline reading 2-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-3 in favour of the Chinese.

In the men's doubles quarterfinals, Thakkar and Manush Shah lost to the formidable Chinese combine of Fan Zhendong and Lin Gaoyuan 5-11, 3-11, 5-11.

The women's doubles pairing of Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee suffered a similar fate against the mighty Chinese pairing of Wang Manyu and Chen Meng, losing 5-11, 11-13, 10-12 in the last eight stage. (PTI)



Assam Handball Association launches team jersey at Assam Olympic Association Conference Hall on Friday, ahead of the Indo-Bangladesh International Handball Championship to be held from September 12 to 15. HT photo

## Labuschagne leads Australia to come-back win over South Africa in ODI

**BLOEMFONTEIN (SOUTH AFRICA), Sept 8:** Emergency replacement Marcus Labuschagne spearheaded Australia to a comeback win over South Africa in a one-day international.

Labuschagne played only after Cameron Green suffered a head injury from a Marco Jansen 140 kph bouncer off his helmet before he scored.

The concussion substitute was allowed in at five down and Labuschagne watched two more wickets fall as Australia collapsed to 113-7 in the 17th over. They were chasing 223 to win on a pitch of variable bounce against fired-up South African quicks.

But Ashton Agar joined Labuschagne and they calmly picked off the runs in an unbeaten stand of 112 to lead Australia to a notable win by three wickets with nearly 10 overs to spare.

Labuschagne made 80 not out and Agar 48 not out in a remarkable show of cool resilience. They pocketed all flashy strokes and, with a run rate required of 2, sliced apart South Africa with ones and twos. They went more than 14 overs without hitting a boundary.

Agar hit the winning runs, a boundary through the covers. "Gutsy win," stand-in captain Mitch Marsh said. "(The) boys are unbelievable. We were lucky with Marcus coming in and taking us over the line. Marcus is the perfect man for the job. He gives it everything."

South Africa was made to bat and was all out for 222 in 49 overs. Captain Temba Bavuma was 114 not out and the rest of the team scored 108.

Bavuma rode his luck. He was dropped on 6 and 88 and over-turned a lbw decision against him on 24.

South Africa started slow — 25-1 after 10 overs — and plenty of batters got starts but only Bavuma could endure.

South Africa was down to 185-9 in the 44th and Bavuma was dropped a second time in the 46th by Alex Carey. But No. 11 batter Lungi Ngidi blocked expertly to support his captain.

Bavuma swept a boundary through midwicket to reach his fifth ODI century and third this year, and smacked three boundaries off Josh Hazlewood who, in the same over, claimed Ngidi to end the innings.

Bavuma was only the second South African opener to carry his bat after Herschelle Gibbs in 2000 against Pakistan.

Australia was too wild in its chase. David Warner and Josh Inglis chopped on, Marsh nicked Kagiso Rabada, and Travis Head pulled Ngidi straight to Rabada. Gerald Coetzee dismissed Carey and Marcus Stoinis and Sean Abbott was bowled by Maharaj.

They were seven down in less than 20 overs. Labuschagne and Agar pulled off the escape.

The second of five ODIs is on Saturday. (AP)



## Coco Gauff wins a US Open semifinal delayed by a climate protest, will face Sabalenka in the final

**NEW YORK, Sept 8:** Coco Gauff never wavered one bit. Not when match point after match point went by the way-side. Not during a 40-shot exchange that ultimately helped decide the outcome. And not, most distracting of all, when her U.S. Open semifinal against Karolina Muchova was interrupted for 50 minutes by environmental activists — one of whom glued his bare feet to the concrete floor in the stands.

It's been rather obvious for quite some time that Gauff is no ordinary teenager. Now she is one win away from becoming a Grand Slam champion.

Gauff, a 19-year-old from Florida, reached her first final at Flushing Meadows by defeating Muchova 6-4, 7-5 on what was anything but an ordinary evening. "I really believe that now I have the maturity and ability to do it," said Gauff, who came close to a major trophy last year in the French Open but lost the title match. "You know, re-

gardless of what happens on Saturday, I'm really proud of how I have been handling the last few weeks."

The No. 6-seeded Gauff will meet No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus for the championship Saturday. Sabalenka beat 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys 0-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (10-5) in a topsy-turvy second semifinal that finished at nearly 1 a.m.

Sabalenka won the Australian Open in January, is 23-2 in Grand Slam matches this season and is guaranteed to move up to No. 1 in the world for the first time next week. She was on the verge of losing to Keys, who was up 5-3 in the second set, but used a 12-point run to get back into the match.

Tiebreakers at 6-all in the third sets of women's Grand Slam matches now are first-to-10 — unlike the old first-to-seven setup — but Sabalenka clearly forgot that. When she moved out front 7-3, she dropped her racket and put her hands to her face,

covering a huge smile. Then Sabalenka quickly realized there was work to be done and finished the job on her third match point. "I was all over the place," said Sabalenka, who was able to laugh about her mistake afterward. The toughest part against Muchova for Gauff might have been closing out the victory: She needed six match points to get it done, raucously supported by a loud, partisan crowd that chair umpire Alison Hughes repeatedly implored to quiet down.

After failing to convert one match point while serving for the win at 5-3, then another four in what turned out to be the last game, Gauff got the last chance she would need when she snacked a forehand winner to cap that 40-swing point that was the longest of the contest.

"I knew I had the legs and the lungs to outlast her in the rally; it was whether I had the mentality and patience to do it," Gauff said. "After 10 or 15 shots in, I was, like, Well, this is going to

change the match."

Sure did. On the next point, Muchova missed a backhand, and it was over. Gauff pumped her fists, waved to the fans and put a finger to her ear, as if to say she wanted to hear even more support. She is the first American teenager to make it to the title match in New York since Serena Williams, one of her idols, then quoted another, the late NBA star Kobe Bryant, by telling the fans: "Job's not done."

Gauff was up by a set and 1-0 in the second when four climate protesters disrupted play from seats in an upper level of the arena. All four were arrested; three were escorted away relatively quickly, but it took more time to remove the person glued to the ground.

"If that's what they felt they needed to do to get their voices heard," Gauff said, "I can't really get upset at it."

Both women spent time in the locker room during the delay. When action resumed, the play

was pretty even for several games, until Gauff surged ahead and got her first match point. Muchova erased that with a volley winner and broke back.

They would play on for nearly a half-hour.

With Gauff leading 6-5 and Muchova serving, the one-point-away count kept climbing. Muchova resisted. Gauff was unable to pull through.

Once. Twice. Three times. Four. The roars from the seats kept coming. Finally, Gauff completed her 11th win a row and the 17th in her past 18 matches, a run that began after a first-round exit at Wimbledon in July. The streak includes the two biggest titles of Gauff's career — and now she needs one more win to get an even more important championship.

"After Wimbledon, I wasn't expecting to do well, honestly, in this hard-court season," Gauff said, "so I'm really proud of the way I have been able to turn this season around for me." (AP)



# Asia Cup: Desperate Bangladesh search for win to stay alive in 'Super Four'



**COLOMBO, Sept 8:** Survival will be foremost in Bangladesh's mind whereas Sri Lanka will aim for a winning start when they cross swords in the second Super 4 match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday. A seven-wicket tolling at the hands of Pakistan in the Super 4 opener in Lahore has made a victory mandatory for Bangladesh against the Lankans, assuming that the weather remains dry enough for the match to take place.

A defeat will almost certainly put an end to their Asia Cup campaign. Batting is their main concern, and they will have to address it immediately.

They did make 334 for 5 against Afghanistan riding on hundreds by Najmal Shanto and Mehidy Hasan Miraz in the league phase.

But they came a cropper against more capable bowling units of Sri Lanka and Pakistan, making meagre totals of 164 and 193 respectively.

That propensity to go flat against top-class opponents will worry them going into the match against Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankans have a set of bowlers like Maheesh Theekshana, Matheesha Pathirana etc who can inflict high damage, and Bangladesh know it first-hand.

The pace-spin combination of Pathirana and Theekshana had taken six wickets among them to restrict Bangladesh to a sub-200 total in a Group B league match at Pallekele on August 31.

Sri Lanka are better placed in that department and pacer Kasun Rajitha had also played a handy role in their narrow win over Afghanistan in the last league match of the Asia Cup in Lahore on September 5. Even though he went for a lot of runs, Rajitha's four-wicket haul helped Lanka score a narrow 2-run victory in that match, along with the Afghans' unawareness of the run equation.

But the hosts too have their own worries. The way Afghan batters piled up 289 runs in just 37.4 overs will serve as a timely reminder to the Lankan bowlers about the need to stay focused on the task. Hence, Bangladesh will be eager to see their frontline batters rising to the occa-

sion. But they will not have the services of Shanto, who has been ruled out of the Asia Cup with a hamstring injury as Litton Das joined the side ahead of their match against Pakistan but failed to score too many.

Das could not play the first match of the tournament due to viral fever.

So, they will require heavier runs from captain Shakib Al Hasan, who made an 18-ball 32 against Afghanistan but scored half-century in a losing cause against Pakistan. In turn, Sri Lanka will hope that their captain Dasun Shanaka will be able to deliver on the morrow.

Shanaka can be a handy customer with both bat and ball, but he has been going through a modest run the whole of this year. While their batters have been well below-par on most occasions, Bangladesh bowlers too do not have much to rejoice about.

They never really threatened both Pakistan and Lanka, while it was Afghanistan's urge to score quickly spelt their doom than any real skilled spell by Bangladesh bowlers.

The likes of Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam can be nagging customers, but then it has not shown in this tournament yet. So, it could turn into a fascinatingly tight contest between two teams who have their own little perturbations.

**Teams:**

**Bangladesh:** Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Anamul Haque Bijoy, Litton Das, Towhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Nasum Ahmed, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Naim Sheikh, Shamim Hossain, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Tanzim Hasan Sakib.

**Sri Lanka:** Dasun Shanaka (captain), Pathum Nissanka, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Janith Perera, Kusal Mendis (vice-captain), Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Matheesha Pathirana, Kasun Rajitha, Dushan Hemantha, Binura Fernando, Pramod Madushan.

Match starts at 3 PM IST. (PTI)

## Stokes likely to undergo knee surgery post World Cup, could miss India Test series

**CARDIFF, Sept 8:** England's Test captain Ben Stokes in all likelihood will undergo knee surgery after the conclusion of ODI World Cup rendering him a doubtful starter for the important five-match away series against India next year.

Once a premier all-rounder Stokes has found it hard to bowl this summer due to chronic tendonitis in his knee. He has mostly played as a specialist batter in the last three Ashes Tests and will continue to do so in the ODI series against New Zealand followed by the World Cup in India next month.

Stokes said he plans to sort out his long pending surgery post the World Cup but refused to divulge the details.

"I know what's going to happen, I just don't think now is right time to say what I'm doing," Stokes told reporters on Thursday ahead of the first ODI against New Zealand.

"I've been having some good conversations with some specialists. There is a plan in place. It's nice knowing after the World Cup we've got something, a really good plan we can do and we can stick to."

"I want to be playing next summer as a genuine all-rounder. This winter is all about playing this World Cup, then getting this knee sorted," he added.

If the England Test captain un-



dergoes a surgery post the World Cup he could be in a race against time to get fit for the five-Test series in India, starting January 25.

Any player recuperating from knee surgery could take at least 8-12 weeks depending on the nature of the operation and time taken for extensive rehabilitation. With a million pound plus IPL contract in his kitty, the ideal time of return could well be the next year's IPL if one logically calculates the time he could take to start playing top flight cricket once again.

Stokes returns to England's ODI set up after reversing his decision to retire from the format to play in the World Cup in India, starting October 5 with the summit clash slated for November 19.

Comfortable with players turning down central contracts

With T20 leagues mushrooming all across the world, players are increasingly opting out of their central contracts to play franchise cricket.

However, Stokes is comfortable with the players' decisions to opt for lucrative leagues.

"We've got to understand, and I've got to understand as a captain, that there might be some decisions players make and I'm very comfortable and aware that something like that might happen," Stokes said.

"But it's up to the individual and I think having a good and clear understanding that the landscape of cricket is changing in front of our eyes very quickly, makes things like this a bit more easy to understand, if players were to choose to do something like that," he concluded. (PTI)

## Players should have been convinced to look at bigger picture: Gavaskar on Asia Cup venue fiasco



**COLOMBO, Sept 8:** Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar wants someone to find the "real story" behind Asia Cup 'Super Four' matches not being shifted out of Colombo to a much drier Hambantota and feels at times, even players need to look at the "bigger picture".

The Asia Cup, which is being hosted by PCB, is being held in a 'Hybrid Model' with India playing all their matches in Sri Lanka after refusing to travel to Pakistan.

With heavy rains predicted in Colombo through the week, there were talks of shifting matches to Hambantota but Asian Cricket Council has stuck to its original itinerary.

"Well, somebody should find the real story. It appears from cricketers' points, that it was probably the players who didn't want to go to Hambantota."

"So administrators, had to at last moment, change it from Hambantota to Colombo despite knowing Colombo could have pretty decent weather," Gavaskar told 'Sports Today'. But the former India captain clarified that he was not referring to players from any particular country.

"When I meant players, I didn't mean players of one team but players of all teams that were supposed to be there," he said.

Gavaskar also sympathized with

administrators as often they get the rough end of the stick from the fans, who are missing out on quality cricket due to inclement weather.

"It is easy to point fingers at administrators and they can be easily made scapegoats. It is really important to find out why despite knowing that weather forecast of Colombo won't be good, matches were not held in Hambantota," he said. Gavaskar is not averse to modern day players having a say in scheduling of matches but he also wants them to be accommodating when there are some unforeseen circumstances, like poor weather in this case.

Rain can also play spoilsport on September 10 when India are scheduled to face Pakistan for the second time in the tournament. The first game between the arch-rivals was called off due to rain.

"Obviously, you want players to be in good mental space. The gym facilities, practice facilities need to be good but at times like these, we need to look at the larger picture and Hambantota had less chance of rain and Colombo has more chance of rain."

"And when I say experimentation, it is a chance to prepare for the World Cup. But by no means I am saying that Asia Cup is less important. We also need to win the tournament," he said. (PTI)

## Dhoni spotted playing golf with former US President Trump

**NEW JERSEY, Sept 8:** India's World Cup-winning captain MS Dhoni was spotted enjoying a friendly round of golf with former President of the United States of America Donald Trump here.

Trump hosted the wicketkeeper-batter to play golf at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster.

It has been learned that Dubai-based entrepreneur Hitesh Sanghvi brought Dhoni to the Rudy Giuliani fund-raiser, hosted by Trump to pay for his former lawyer's legal bills.

Giuliani was indicted alongside Trump for allegedly trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election results in Georgia.

A picture and a video of Trump and Dhoni playing have been doing the rounds on social media.

In the group picture, Dhoni is seen in his vintage long hair while Trump was wearing a red coloured MAGA (Make America Great Again) cap. (PTI)

## Dutch cricket board search for Indian net bowlers for World Cup camp in Alur

**AMSTERDAM, Sept 8:** The Netherlands cricket board, in a surprise move, has posted an advertisement on social media, inviting Indian cricketers to join them as net bowlers in their preparatory camp for the World Cup.

While it is a convention (not a rule) for local state associations to provide net bowlers to visiting teams, the Dutch cricket board has sought one left-arm seamer, one right arm seamer, a mystery spinner and a left-arm spinner for the team's five-day pre-Cup camp in Alur from September 20-24.

The Netherlands squad, led by Australia-born Scott Edwards had come to Bengaluru in August for a short three-day acclimatisation camp but it is understood, the Netherlands cricket doesn't have enough depth in domestic cricket or resources to have travelling net bowlers.

Listing out the criteria for becoming the Netherlands World Cup squad's net bowler, "the pacers need to bowl above 120 kmph (75 miles per hour) and spinners, who are able to give it a tweak at a minimum 80 kmph (50 miles per hour)."

They have demanded videos with aspirants bowling minimum one over with clear trajectory of the deliveries visible.



Their travel, stay and meals during the camp would be taken care by the Royal Netherlands Cricket Association. All the applicants need to be above 18 years of age and residents of India.

Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), however, is ready to help them get the best possible net bowlers in town.

"They have already camped here and played a couple of

**MANILA, Sept 8:** No Nikola Jokic, no problem. Even with its best player sitting out this summer, Serbia is going to play for gold at the Basketball World Cup.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 23 points and Serbia defeated Canada 95-86 in the World Cup semifinals on Friday. Ognjen Dobric and Nikola Milutinovic each scored 16 for Serbia, the best-shooting team so far in the tournament — making 55% of its shots coming into the day, then connecting on 62% to end Canada's hopes of gold. Serbia (6-1) is in the World Cup final for the second time in the last three tournaments. It lost to the U.S. in the 2014 final, and will face either the Americans or Germany on Sunday night in the title game at Manila. RJ Barrett scored 23 for Canada (5-2), which was bidding to make the World Cup final for the first time. It'll face the Germany-U.S. loser for the bronze on Sunday, when the Canadians will try for their most significant international medal since winning silver at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Dillon Brooks scored 16 for Canada and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander finished with 15 — 10 below his tournament average entering the day.

Jokic decided not to play this summer after leading the Denver Nuggets to the NBA championship back in

June, giving himself time to rest before the looming title defense. Serbia moved on, and then had to regroup again in this tournament after the shock of losing reserve forward Boris Simanovic after he wound up needing a kidney removed after getting elbowed in a game against South Sudan.

Come Sunday, they'll have a medal anyway. Gold or silver, that's the only question.

Canada started the tournament with an emphatic 95-65 win over reigning Olympic silver medalist France, and had the second-lowest odds — behind the U.S. — of winning gold. But it got into a slew of foul trouble early Friday, which kept the defense from getting on track, which in turn kept the offense from getting easy baskets. And Serbia feasted off all of that. Serbia's lead was 52-39 at the break, and Canada was fuming over the foul situation.

It was called for 17 fouls — including a technical late in the half on coach Jordi Fernandez — in the first 20 minutes compared to 11 for Serbia, and all five of its starters had at least two fouls by the break. Gilgeous-Alexander got his second foul with 3:27 left in the first; Serbia responded with a 9-0 run and kept the lead for the rest of the half. (AP)

ficial explained.

"When Australia came for a Test series earlier this year, Vidarbha's Mahesh Pithiya and Jammu and Kashmir's Abid Mushtaq were there with the team helping during nets. They roped them through their contacts, something the Dutch won't have," he added.

"Maybe they want some quality travelling net bowlers because you always won't get best net bowlers at all venues."

"It is better to carry at least a few permanently. With so much of travelling and matches on the bounce, the main squad bowlers of all teams won't go full throttle at nets and might not bowl on non-match days. What do you do then?"

Perhaps the weakest among the 10 countries involved in the 50-over global meet starting October 5, Netherlands cricket establishment still works in a semi-professional set-up with more than 70 per cent players earning their livelihood through different vocations and in the whole country, not even 10 players having central contract.

Most of the players get a chance to practice during day time only on weekends while on week days, they finish their 9-5 job and train indoors in the evening. (PTI)