Israeli strikes in Gaza kill more than a dozen

Ukraine destroys scores of Russian drones

'Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia were used by Cong as pawns'

Stand with 'Haryana ka Laal' **Arvind Kejriwal: Sunita urges**

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HTBRIEFS

Rare snake

JORHAT: Debashish Dutta, a student of Bahona College (Amalgamated) here found a rare snake in his house at Gohain Tekela village on Saturday, which was later identified by his college faculty as Salazar Pit Viper. The snake has been handed over to the forest department. It may be mentioned that the Salazar Pit Viper named after Salazar Slytherin from the popular Harry Potter series, was found in Kaziranga National Park in July this year. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had tweeted about the sighting.

One held

JORHAT: As part of the ongoing drive by police against online trading scam in the state, a youth identified as Abinash Pardhiya of Garajan, under Borholla police station in Titabar subdivision of the district, was arrested Saturday. According to sources, Pardhiya, who runs a tuition centre from his house was allegedly running an online trading scam under the banner of Good Luck Tutor Centre Private Limited. He has reportedly collected about Rs 1 crore of money as investment from about 250

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PRICE ₹8

CM Himanta hints at recommending CBI probe Illegal online trading scam: 59 arrested; 22 look-out

circulars issued •SIT formed for investivation

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said the government will recommend a CBI probe into the illegal online trading scam unearthed in the state, if required at a later stage.

A top police officer said so far 59 arrests have been made, 22 look-out circulars issued, and 14 Special Investigation Teams (SITs) formed in connection with the

Reports indicate that several online trading firms operated in the state without adhering to SEBI or RBI guidelines, leading to significant investor losses. A number of traders involved in these firms have been apprehended, while oth-

ers remain at large. "Assam Police has set up Special Investigation Teams (SIT) to monitor the cases of illegal online trading. The Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax have been taken into confidence. At the district level, the district police is han-



dling it and the CID is tackling it at the headquarters level," Sarma

told reporters here. "If required, the Assam government will recommend a CBI probe also," he added.

Asked how some of the alleged kingpins have evaded the police net so far, the CM replied, "No one can evade the police for long."

Meanwhile, DGP GP Singh in a series of posts on X said police action against unregulated deposit

Upadhyay said the Himalayan

"The EPG was formed based on

nation has yet not received the re-

port prepared by the Eminent Per-

consensus between the prime min-

isters of the two countries to re-

solve issues between Nepal and

India," the former bureaucrat said.

from the Nepali side to receive the

report. Maybe the Indian side will

arrange an appropriate time for it,"

he said, adding that "it will be eas-

ier to discuss the pending issues

between the two countries" after

the Himalayan nation received the

Land-locked Nepal relies heav-

"There was no issue of timing

sons Group of Nepal and India.

schemes has been carried out in 14 districts, leading to 28 cases being registered and 59 arrests made.

"For those who have not joined investigation despite Notices, 22 Look Out Circulars (LOC) have been initiated. The cases have been registered under Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act 2019 and appropriate sections of Bhartiya Nyaya Samhita," he said. "For proper investigation of the cases (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Assam Cong questions state Cabinet's authority on Clause 6 recommendations accused in Dhing rape

DIBRUGARH, Sept 7: Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah on Saturday questioned the state cabinet's decision to implement the recommendations of the Justice Biplab Sarma Committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, claiming that only the Centre has the authority to act on these suggestions.

Borah also dismissed chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that the previous Congress government had obstructed the grant of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities

Clause 6 of the Assam Accord states that appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards will be provided to protect the cultural, social and linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

Addressing a press conference here, Borah said, "After the last cabinet meeting at Lakhimpur, the CM told media that it has decided to implement 57 clauses of the Biplab Sarma committee recommendations. We don't even know for sure which the 10 clauses that have been excluded are.'

He questioned the timing of the cabinet decision and said, "The committee was formed in 2019 and report submitted in February 2020. After gathering dust for so long,

COME AUTUMN



suddenly the government is talking

Borah maintained that the decision to implement the recommendations was taken to tide over growing political pressure from different quarters, including the Congress, various organisations and even ULFA, and reports of the "family's corruption", though he did not mention whose family he

had referred to. He also cast doubts on the cabinet's authority to decide on the committee's report and added, "The Centre had formed the committee. Unless the Union cabinet discusses and decides on it, we don't think any decision of the

state cabinet holds any good." Borah also claimed that implementing Clause 6 of the Assam Accord (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Two absconding incident arrested

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Two persons accused of raping a minor in Assam's Dhing in Nagaon district have been arrested, a fortnight after the incident took place, police said. Assam witnessed massive protests over the incident.

One of the accused was arrested from Dimapur in neighbouring Nagaland and the other from Assam's Morigaon district on Friday.

"Assam Police have arrested both absconding accused in the Dhing rape incident," chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X. The duo has been brought to the Nagaon Sadar police station for interrogation. Both the accused have been absconding since the in-

cident took place on August 22. The prime accused was arrested on the night they had allegedly committed the crime but, police said, he jumped into a pond when he was taken to the incident site for recreation of the crime scene.

A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three persons who came on a motorcycle and surrounded her while she was returning home from tuition classes on her bicycle at Dhing.

The incident led to widespread protests in the state with the chief minister directing Director General of Police G P Singh and Minister for Water Resources Pijush Hazarika to visit Dhing and take immediate action. (PTI)

Gateway to the Northeast Guwahati Airport to get major infrastructure boost

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Guwahati International Airport Limited (GIAL), a subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings Limited, on Saturday scheduled major upgrade and development of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati.

As per the official statement, the master planning earmarked an infusion towards the development of infrastructure and facilities worth ₹ 6,100 cr.

"GIAL has started Cargo Operations from interim facilities and has planned for the construction of an Integrated Cargo Complex with an annual capacity of 43,260 MT," it added.

The statement further stated that initiatives like DigiYatra, Passenger Wi-fi and other IOT-based projects are planned in order to create a best-in class experience for passengers.

Air Traffic Movements (ATM) at LGBIA is expected to increase to approximately 82,000 per annum in FY27 from around 48,000 per annum in FY20. This growth requires substantial revamping of airside infrastructure. "On the Airside, GIAL has pro-

Problems between Nepal-India can be resolve through open dialogue: Oli sustaining power," Oli said. icised India for allegedly interfering in Nepal's internal matters.

KATHMANDU, Sept 7: Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said on Saturday that the problems between Nepal and India could be resolved through open dialogue and warmheartedness.

"There exist few problems, not many, between Nepal and India, and they can be resolved, if we maintain warm heart and open dialogue," Oli said here at the launch of former administrator Surya Nath Upadhyay's book titled 'International Watercourses Law: A Perspective Nepal-India Cooperation'.

"India is our friendly neighbour and Nepal and India have rich cultures so we should have an open dialogue. The blame cannot be merely imposed on the geopolitical situation for our inability to speak openly. We should not be involved in any game meant for gaining and

"Earlier, foreign relations were maintained and dominated by the country's strengths. After the IInd World War, a country should present its national interests reasonably and justifiably in line with international treaties and agreements."

"There should not be a unilateral approach while working on common resources. It should be done based on consensus and bilateral discussion", Oli asserted.

Ties between the two countries came under severe strain in 2020 after Kathmandu published a new political map that showed the three Îndian territories - Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh - as part of

The then Prime Minister Oli attempted to use the issue to fend off increasing domestic pressure. Oli in the past had publicly crit-

ily on India for the transportation Kahua bon (Kans Grass) heralding the advent of the autumn season, seen in full bloom of goods and services. Nepal is in Mushalpur on Saturday. UB Photos also (CONTD. ON PAGE-2) Assam to ramp up actions against illegal infiltration from Bangladesh: Himanta

J-K heads for historic assembly polls under national flag, Constitution: Amit Shah



JAMMU, Sept 7: Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday assured people about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood after the assembly election, which he said is the first under the national flag and the Constitution following the abrogation of Article 370 by the

Narendra Modi government. He accused the Congress-National Conference alliance of attempting to revive the "old system" and pushing Jammu and Kashmir into terrorism and corrup-

The NDA government will not allow the revival of terrorism, "autonomy" and injustice with any community, including Gujjars, Pahari, Bakerwals and Dalits who were granted reservation by the BJP dispensation, he said.

Shah was in Jammu on a twoday visit to boost the BJP's election campaign for the three-phase assembly polls, beginning Septem-

He released the party's manifesto on his first day of visit on Friday and also chaired two crucial meetings with senior leaders to discuss the campaign strategy.

"The upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir are historic because, after Independence, the polls are happening for the first time under our national flag and Constitution, unlike the past practice of two flags and two constitu-

"From Kashmir to Kanyakumari we have only one prime minister and he is Modi," Shah told a BJP workers' rally here on Saturday before leaving for Delhi.

Taking a dig at the National Conference-Congress alliance, he alleged they are trying to push Jammu and Kashmir into the fire of corruption and terrorism once again while the BJP-led government has brought down terror incidents in the Union territory by 70

"The National Conference and the Congress will never be able to form a government in J-K, be confident about it," Shah told BJP workers, encouraging them to ensure the success of the party candi-

dates to form the next government. Shah started his over half-anhour speech by paying tributes to Bharatiya (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, Sept 7: The Assam government will intensify efforts against illegal infiltration from Bangladesh in the state with a slew of measures, announced chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sat-

Sarma said that the detection of illegal immigrants entering Assam through its international borders has long been a critical responsibil-

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: From a

house fly sitting on the withered

paw of an adult tigress to a tiger

cub taking a quick dip before set-

ting out for his next prowl, nothing

can miss the keen eyes of famous

wildlife photographer Aarzoo Khu-

rana whose ambitious initiative

'ATR' saw her documenting

"All Tiger Reserves: Through

The Lens", currently underway at

Bikaner House, showcases over 50

breathtaking photographs, giving

visitors an opportunity to experi-

ence India's rich wildlife heritage

through the lens of the photogra-

pher who ventured into the heart of

the country's most protected land-

"The idea was to showcase peo-

ple about the species that are left

behind and the tiger reserves that

somehow do not get that kind of at-

tention. There are 55 photographs

and 55 tiger reserves, and it took us

about seven months to complete a

37,000 km journey covering the

length and breadth of our beautiful

India's 55 tiger reserves.

ity of the Assam Police Border Organisation. However, recent reports indicate an increase in the number of illegal immigrants being detected, necessitating intensified efforts across the state.

He shared data which showed from January this year to date, a total of 54 illegal immigrants have been detected--48 in the Karimganj district, 4 in Bongaigaon district, and one each in Dima Hasao and

The exhibition, inaugurated by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav

Photo exhibition spotlights India's

wilderness via its 55 tiger reserves

"And the fact that I am the first

woman photographer to do so

gives me immense happiness and

sense of accomplishment," the ad-

vocate-turned-photographer told

Union environment minister Bhu-

pender Yadav on Friday, is divided

into five zones -- West, Central,

South, East and North -- and its

layout maps the itinerary of the ac-

tual ATR travel.

The exhibition, inaugurated by

"Of these, 45 individuals were successfully pushed back into their country of origin, while nine were arrested in Karimganj. Additionally, there have been reports of suspected non-Indian nationals and foreign-origin individuals in certain areas of the State, particularly in Upper Assam and North Assam districts. The detection of such individuals is critical, given the po-

Photographs from both, known

and lesser known tiger reserves,

are featured in the exhibition, in-

cluding Assam's Kaziranga Tiger

Reserve, Maharashtra's Melghat

Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand's Cor-

bett Tiger Reserve and Madhya

Besides the big cats, Khurana's

oeuvre also features photographs

capturing rare candid moments of

peacocks, sloth bears, rock

pythons, otters, golden langurs,

elephants (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Pradesh's Satpura Tiger Reserve.

the chief minister said during a press conference in Guwahati. He also stated that Assam Police

tential threat to national security."

was directed to take all necessary preventive and precautionary measures to intensify detection and proactively curb the movement of illegal migrants, while taking steps to repatriate these individuals. The patrolling and surveillance in areas under the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

posed an (CONTD. ON PAGE-2) Abu Dhabi prince to begin official visit to India today

'India-UAE ties have recently deepened across politics, trade, investment, and more'

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Crown companied by several ministers Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will begin a two-day maiden visit to India on Sunday to hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

The visit of Al Nahyan will further reinforce strong ties between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and open avenues for partnership in new and emerging areas, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing the trip.

Prime Minister Modi and the Crown Prince will hold talks on Sunday covering a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation, it

Besides bilateral issues, the two leaders are also expected to deliberate on the overall situation arising out of the Israel-Hamas

The visiting leader is also scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu. He will visit Raighat to

pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. The Crown Prince will be acfrom the UAE government and a business delegation. After concluding the Delhi leg

of his visit, Al Nahyan will travel

to Mumbai to participate in a business forum on Monday. Top business leaders from both countries will participate in the forum. "At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, will pay an official visit to India on September 9 and 10," the MEA said on Saturday. The MEA also referred to the boosting of bilateral cooperation in

a range of areas in the last few "India and UAE share histori-

cally close and friendly ties. In recent years, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and the UAE has deepened in a wide range of areas including political, trade, investment, connectechnology, tivity, energy, education, and culture," it said. Following (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



'A medical device must be approved by regulatory authorities before it can be promoted'

Govt notifies uniform marketing code for medical devices sector

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: The government has notified a uniform code for marketing practices for the medical device industry in

order to curb unethical practices. In a notification, Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has asked the medical devices association to prohibit organising workshops abroad for healthcare professionals, offering them hotel stays or monetary grants.

"All associations should constitute an ethics committee for marketing practices in medical devices (ECMPMD), upload it on their websites along with a detailed procedure of complaints, which will be linked to the UCPMP portal of Department of Pharmaceuticals," the notification

The DoP has also sought disclosures form medical devices firms for particulars related to distribution of evaluation samples and expenses incurred on conferences,

Affordable green city

township launched in

Neral Mumbai under PMAY

NERAL, MUMBAI, Sept 7: SBD Group, a promi-

nent name in real estate since 1997, is set to launch

its latest affordable housing project, Green City

Neral. This ambitious development intends to revo-

lutionise the concept of accessible housing in the

Located in the town of Neral, the project offers 1

BHK flats starting at ₹14.99 lahks, after incorporat-

ing a direct subsidy of ₹2.5 lahks under the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. This pricing strategy, coupled with a zero-stamp duty policy, po-

sitions Green City Neral as an attractive option for

Green City Neral Brings Affordable Home

The project's strategic location, within walking

distance of Neral Railway Station, ensures excellent

connectivity to Mumbai and Pune. Its proximity to

major industrial hubs like Badlapur and Ambernath

MIDC creates an environment of residential comfort

Green City Neral is designed as a self-sufficient

township with a wide array of amenities. Residents

will have access to a clubhouse, swimming pool,

gym, jogging track, and cricket turf. The develop-

ment also includes essential facilities such as a

school, hospital, grocery stores, and other daily ne-

cessities, fostering a complete community living ex-

perience. Set against the backdrop of the Matheran

Hills, the project offers a serene living environment,

making it an ideal choice for those seeking a balance

between urban conveniences and natural surround-

ings. The emphasis on green spaces and sustainable

development aligns with the growing demand for

About 'Pehla Ghar' PMAY Lottery Campaign

To make homeownership even more accessible,

SBD Group is introducing the 'Pehla Ghar' PMAY

Lottery Campaign. This initiative will run from Oc-

tober 1st to December 31st, 2024, with results an-

nounced on January 1st, 2025. The lottery system

aims to provide a fair chance for aspiring homeown-

ers to secure their dream home at the special price of

Adding to the project's appeal, SBD Group is of-

fering a 36-month interest-free EMI option, further

easing the financial burden on buyers. This customer-

centric approach reflects the company's commitment

to making homeownership a reality for a broader

Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

first-time homebuyers.

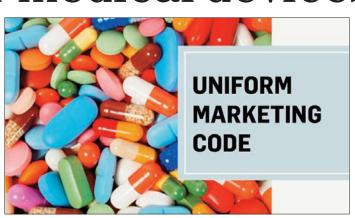
and career opportunities.

eco-friendly living options

segment of society. (PTI)

₹14.99 lakh.

Ownership



As part of the code, a medical device must not be promoted prior to receipt of product approval by the regulatory authority, the notification said.

"The word safe or safety must not be used without qualification and it must not be stated categorically that a medical device has no

their family members for attending conferences, seminars workshops etc," it said.

Besides, the companies or their representatives should not extend hospitality like hotel stay, expensive cuisine, resort accommodation etc to healthcare professionals or their family members, it added.

The companies or their representatives should not pay cash or monetary grants to any healthcare professional or their family mem-

The DoP has asked medical devices companies to upload the Uniform Code for Marketing Practices in Medical Devices (UCMPMD) 2024 on their website along with the detailed procedure for lodging of complaints with a link to the UCMPMD portal of the department.

Earlier this year, the DoP had notified the Uniform Code for Pharmaceuticals Marketing Prac-

cilities inside or outside the countices (UCPMP) 2024. (PTI) adverse consequences," it stated. try to healthcare professionals or Byju's auditor suggested backdating reports;

Moreover, no gift should be of-

fered or provided for personal

benefit of any healthcare profes-

sional or family member by any

medical device company or its

tives or any person acting on their

behalf should not extend travel fa-

"Companies or their representa-



leged on Saturday. audit firm, Byju's CEO Byju Raveendran told PTI that the auditors are the first to know about insolvency proceedings but they did not inform about it to the court-appointed insolvency res-

Raveendran said the auditors asked for a forensic audit of the transaction with a Middle East-based partner that was approved in June but the auditors did not make any progress on

a time when we were not on the board. We are still not on the board. They should have informed the board. In the last 45 days, they have not communicated anything to the board. It is not just baseless, it is legally untenable whatever they have done.

"Auditors are the first one to know about IRP but they have not communicated anything

Byju's is undergoing insolvency following a



NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Byju's audit firm BDO had suggested backdating of reports, which the company refused, and their resignation is more of optics, a top official of the edtech firm al-

Speaking on the resignation of BDO as its olution professional (IRP).

"They have asked us to do multiple backdating of reports. All that happened recently. We did not agree. We have nothing to hide," he

MSKA & Associates, which handled audits of Byju's as a BDO India affiliate, has resigned as the auditor of the firm.

"This is escaping... baseless and they did at

to the IRP," Raveendran said.

resignation more of optics: Byju Raveendran

Supreme Court order based on an appeal filed by US-based lender representative Glas Trust. Byju's management in a separate statement said the company has complied with every request made by BDO, except those that would require crossing ethical and legal boundaries.

'The real reason for BDO's resignation is Bviu's firm refusal to backdate its reports, while BDO went to the extent of recommending a firm that could facilitate such an illegal

"Multiple call recordings exist, where BDO representatives explicitly suggest backdating these documents, which Byju's refused to do.

Byju's strongly believes that this is the main reason for their resignation," the management of Think and Learn, which owns the edtech firm, said in a statement.

The Byju's management said the company entered insolvency proceedings on July 16, 2024, due to a legal dispute with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), triggering the appointment of an IRP. The company's board was suspended following the insolvency proceedings.

"Just a day later, on July 17, BDO sent an email to the suspended board of Byju's seeking certain clarification regarding historical transactions that Byju's had undertaken with a partner based in the Middle East," the statement

Byju's management said the audit firm in the same email on July 17, threatened to resign if they did not receive the requested clarifications

"Notably, BDO failed to mark the IRP in this email, despite being aware that as of that date. the IRP was in control of Byju's and the board had been suspended. BDO eventually resigned after the 45-day window expired, citing the suspended board's failure to provide the requested clarifications," it said.

According to the statement, during the first meeting of the Committee of Creditors on September 3, 2024, the IRP explicitly noted that he had repeatedly reached out to BDO for clarification during the last 45 days but received no response.

"BDO's lack of communication with the IRP is surprising and suspicious," the statement

Carlyle-backed Hexaware Tech Files Draft Papers with Sebi for ₹ 9,950 Crore IPO

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Private equity major Carlyle Group-backed Hexaware Technologies has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi for floating a ₹ 9,950 crore initial public offering (IPO). The initial share-sale of the Mumbai-headquartered company is a complete offer for sale (OFS) by promoter CA Magnum Holdings, part of Carlyle Group, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Friday.

CA Magnum Holdings has 95.03 per cent stake in the IT Company

Since the entire issue is an OFS, all the proceeds from the IPO will go directly to the selling shareholder, rather than to the company.

Explaining the reason for going public, the company said it is aimed at achieving the benefit of listing equity shares on stock exchanges and carrying out OFS for the selling shareholder.

If successful, Hexaware's maiden public issue would be the largest in the country's IT services sector since Tata Consultancy Services' ₹ 4,700-crore IPO over two decades ago. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1..

Himanta hints at recommending

registered in connection with Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 14 SITs have been formed which would report to Supervision & Monitoring group at @AssamCid Hq ADGP & IGP CID," Singh added.

He also said a case registered in Dibrugarh police station against a prime accused in one of the major scams has been transferred to the police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), with the CID instructed to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case.

The DGP also said action against two police personnel has been initiated for involvement in these schemes. "Lance Naik Saroj Deka of @AssamCid who has been found to be actively involved in unregulated deposit schemes has been dismissed from service today under Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution of India and Rule 10(ii) of the Assam Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1964," he said.

"In view of allegations of unwarranted proximity with certain persons involved in unregulated deposit schemes & pending drawal of Departmental Proceeding, Inspector Jitumoni Deka, O/C Golaghat PS of Golaghat DEF has been placed under suspension with immediate effect," Singh said in another post. (PTI)

Assam Cong questions state Cabinet's

and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) were contradictory to each other as the provision in the Accord seeks to give protection to indigenous people of the state, while the CAA is a "challenge to it". He also dismissed Sarma's claim that the six communities of the state demanding for ST status have been

denied it due to problems in a proposal forwarded to the Centre by the then-Congress government. Lok Sabha MP Pradyut Bordoloi, also present at the press conference, added, "When the Congress government had sent the proposal, our present chief minister was my colleague in the cabinet then."

He maintained that the Congress government's proposal was clear in stating that it had no problem in granting ST status to the six communities without adversely affecting the benefits being availed by the communities al-

Problems between Nepal-India can

important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two

countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.

Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. (PTI)

Guwahati Airport to get major

extension of the runway, construction of a part parallel taxiway and link taxiways, construction of the second part parallel taxiway, construction of a rapid exit taxiway, development of Apron 2, construction of an isolation pay, apart from other initiatives," the statement added.

It further said that the cargo operations at airports provide an impetus for economic growth, adding,"Along with passenger growth, as the 'Gateway to the Northeast,' LGBIA has witnessed a growth in the movement of cargo from Guwahati and nearby areas".

Moreover, GIAL is focused on green initiatives for sustainable growth. This includes moving towards the use of Electric Vehicles, limiting the use of high Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants, and promoting other social awareness programmes. The construction of a New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB), conceptualised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), was initiated in 2018. Construction of the NITB is underway and is slated for completion in FY25.

Assam to ramp up actions against illegal

jurisdiction of Border Outposts will be increased to detect and prevent illegal border crossings and a stronger coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF) and other Central agencies will be established to facilitate seamless information sharing and joint operations for enhanced border security, he said.

Additionally, according to chief minister, the intelligence-gathering mechanisms, focusing on cross-border networks and infiltration routes will be enhanced with deployment of trained personnel in key areas to gather and process actionable intelligence for timely intervention.

"We are intensifying efforts to remove illegal immigrants from Assam. The State Government is initiating a series of coordinated actions that include enhanced surveillance, closer coordination with central agencies, additional deployment of force among others," he wrote on X.

Moreover, additional force will be deployed in the border districts as per ground level assessment to assist the Border Police in these sensitive border districts vulnerable to illegal influx, the chief minister said.

Sarma further said that the superintendent of Police of the border districts shall review the current strength one in the border areas and take additional sum

J-K heads for historic assembly

Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and Baba Daleep Singh Manhas and extended greetings to the nation on Ganesh Chaturthi and the Jain community on Paryushana Parva.

"This election is being held outside the shadow of Article 370. We have seen its miracle in the Lok Sabha elections when 58.46 per cent of voters exercised their franchise unlike in the past when 10 per cent voting was being celebrated by the previous governments in Delhi.

"This is the biggest success of democracy," he said, reiterating that there will be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism ends and peace is restored. On the opposition's poll promise of statehood restoration, Shah said, "I want to ask Farooq Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi, who is going to restore the statehood. You cannot give it back. Why are you misleading the public?"

"It is the central government and BJP and I have already said inside Parliament that we will restore statehood at an appropriate time after assembly elections. They should hear my speech on August 5 and 6 (2019)." He also criticised the NC for its promise of releasing "stone-pelters and terrorists" from jails and alleged that their aim is to revive terrorism in the peaceful Poonch, Rajouri and Doda districts of Jammu.

Kashmir has borne the brunt of terrorism because there were governments that used to close their eyes and the people at the helm used to flee.

"If NC-Congress returns to power, consider this as a revival of terrorism. Jammu and Kashmir, especially Jammu has to decide whether they want terrorism or peace and development... Nobody dares to infiltrate when there is the BJP. 'When the Modi government took over (in 2014), it spelt destruction for those funding terrorism by sending

them to jails. They are talking about starting suspended LoC trade, the dividends of which go to terrorism," he said. Referring to the NC's promise of implementation of the autonomy resolution, Shah said no power can talk about autonomy as more than 40,000 people have lost their lives to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In June 2000, the National Conference government under Farooq Abdullah passed a resolution in the Assembly seeking to restore the pre-1953 constitutional position in the state. It was, however, rejected by the Union Cabinet headed by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

"I am reading the writing on the wall that NC and Congress will never form a government. They are the people who forced Maharaja Hari Singh to exile and only his ashes could be brought back after his death," Shah said. Continuing his tirade against the NC, Congress and the PDP, he accused the three families of mass corruption. The corruption by these families is equal to that in the entire country, the Union home minister alleged. "Had the money taken by them been utilised for development of the region, no work would have been left incomplete in Jammu and Kashmir."

Shah said the goal of the BJP is overall development. "I want to remind the youth of Kashmir that you gave power to them but Abdullah and his family fled to England in the face of terrorism while the youth fell to terrorism which we wiped out. Vote anyone you want but do not make them win as their agenda will bring back terrorism and stop development," he added. (PTI)

Abu Dhabi prince to begin official

the landmark visit of Modi to UAE in August 2015, bilateral relations between the two countries were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both countries signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in February 2022 and a

Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System in July 2023 to promote the use of Indian Rupee and AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) for cross-border transactions. The two countries are among each other's top trading partners with a bilateral trade of about USD 85 billion in 2022-23, according to official data.

The UAE is also among the top four investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments in 2022-23. About 3.5 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in the UAE. The UAE was invited as special invitee for G20 during India's Presidency of the grouping.

In Feb 2023, the India-UAE-France (UFI) trilateral was formally launched. With India's active support, the UAE joined SCO as dialogue partner in May 2023. The UAE also joined BRICS as a member on January 1 with India's support.

The India-UAE defence cooperation has also witnessed a renewed momentum in the last few years.

In January 2024, the first India-UAE bilateral army exercise 'Desert Cyclone' was held in Rajasthan. (PTI) Photo exhibition spotlights India's

and more. A wall, featuring a giant display of India's map along with a collage of photos of Khurana and her

team, gives visitors a peek into the different aspects of the arduous journey, be it about the challenges or the fascinating people they met along the way. All profits from the sales of the photos, ranging from ₹ 11,500 to ₹ 2.5 lakh and above, will be donated towards wildlife conservation. (PTI)

Tata Power awards contracts worth ₹ 11,481 crore to local suppliers

BHUBANESWAR, Sept 7: Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms have awarded contracts worth ₹ 11,481 crore to local contractors and suppliers, an official said. The joint ventures between Tata Power and the Odisha government, placed orders worth ₹ 8,690 crore with local MSMEs and ₹ 2,791 crore to non-MSMEs by the Discoms over the past three years since taking over the state's power distribution operations.

These contracts, spread across two major categories like materials and services, have been awarded to local contractors and suppliers. Odisha discoms - TP Central, TP Southern, TP Northern, and TP West-

ern Odisha Distribution Limited have forged agreements with 6,645 local vendors and suppliers, the official said. The company in a statement said that these collaborative partnerships serve as the backbone for day-to-day operations and services, with a spe-

cial emphasis on encouraging local vendors to employ residents from the

nearby regions. Within the service sector, covering meter reading, billing,

network maintenance and others, the discoms have awarded contracts to 4,347 vendors with a total value of ₹ 7,560 crore.

Similarly, in the materials supply category, including distribution transformers, cables, poles and others, the discoms have assigned 2,298 contracts valued at ₹ 3,921 crore for its operations.

Contracts in the materials domain encompass essential components like distribution transformers, cables, poles, LT and HT hardware, lap-In the service domain, contracts cover a wide range of activities, in-

cluding meter installation, billing, collection, call centre operations, meter reading, and administrative roles such as housekeeping and catering. "This initiative not only aligns with Make in Odisha vision but also

plays a pivotal role in driving Odisha's economic progress. It has transformed the business landscape, significantly contributing to the economic prosperity of local communities," the company said. (PTI)

'These investments reflect the increasing confidence in the project' Dholera SIR attracting ₹2,000-3,000 cr investment

annually in land and plots, says developer

MUMBAI, Sept 7: Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) in Gujarat is attracting fresh investment of ₹ 2,000-3,000 crore annually in realty assets, with investors primarily from North acquiring land and plots, according to a realty

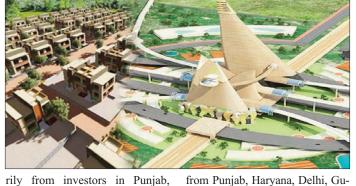
developer. These investments reflect the increasing confidence in the project, the developer said

The Dholera SIR project is being jointly developed by the central and Gujarat governments about 100 km from Ahmedabad, through a special purpose vehicle, DICDL (Dholera Industrial City Development Ltd).

owned 51 per cent by the Gujarat government and 49 per cent by the central government.

Formed in 2016, DICDL is

The majority of investments are flowing into land and plots, prima-



from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Gurugram and Noida," Aaiji Group Harvana, Delhi, Gurugram, and founder Lalit Parihar said. Noida, Ahmedabad-based devel-

According to him, investors can oper Aaiji Group said in a stateget a good return on their earlystage investment in Dholera SIR, a "Annually, we are seeing fresh investments to the tune of ₹ 2,000 – project under Delhi-Mumbai Indus-3,000 crore in land and plots mostly trial corridor, in a few years.

phase infrastructure for the project has already been completed by the Gujarat government, the group said, adding the Dholera Smart City offers attractive investment opportunities for potential investors. In June this year, Tata Electronics

Around 95 per cent of the first

signed an initial pact with California-headquartered semiconductor design and engineering firm Synopsys, to collaborate on various technological verticals. This includes, Synopsys' offerings being used in Tata Electronics

upcoming USD 10.9-billion semi-

conductor fabrication plant, in Dholera. Aaiji Group also said it has completed two projects in Dholera SIR - Aaiji Airport Villa and Aaiji Residency - while two more realty proj-

ects are under development. (PTI)

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

HT Correspondent
DIBRUGARH, Sept 7: The key

accused and the mastermind in multi-million online investment trading fraud Bishal Phukan was forwarded to jail on Saturday for judicial custody. He was produced at court after the end of three days police remand. The next date of hearing of Bishal Phukan's case has been fixed by court on September 18, 2024.

Bishal Phukan was arrested for duping hundreds of people by promising attractive returns in a short period of time through investments in the stock market. It is said that Phukan was able to amass crores from investors before his fraudulent activities came to light.

Dibrugarh police have seized a total of four cars in connection with the case of Bishal Phukan. The luxury cars are- fortunar (AS-06-AJ-0006), MG Hector (AS-06-AK-0006), KIA (AS-06-AL-0006), and MG Astor (AS-06-AL-6734).

Phukan was arrested under various sections of the law, including the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Act, 2019.

Pramod Boro launches 'Janatar Darbar' to address public grievances

BTC chief listened to the public requests and complaints

HT Correspondent KOKRAJHAR, Sept 7: To build a closer relationship between the general public and the Bodoland Territorial Council administration. Pramod Boro has initiated a special program called 'Janatar Dar-Under this program, Pramod Boro personally visits various areas within BTC to hold discussions with different groups, organizations, and local residents one to one. Through these meetings, the BTC Chief becomes aware of their grievances, demands and takes necessary actions to address their requests and con-

As part of the initiation of 'Janatar Darbar,' on August 27, in the Bodoland Guest House located in Bhargao of the Udalguri district, BTC Chief Pramod Boro listened to the



complaints.

He was accompanied by BTC EM Daubaisa Boro and BTC EM Wilson Hasda, MCLA Dilip Kumar Boro, and MCLA Madhav Chandra Chhetri. From 10 pm to 1:30 am, various groups, village committees, clubs, and leaders

sented their concerns, and steps were taken to address

After the Janatar Darbar programme on September 3 at Gossaigaon Circuit House, Promod Boro attended another 'Janatar Darbar' held on September 4 at the forest departRunikhat, located on the India-Bhutan border of the Chirang

The BTC Chief was supported by MP Jayanta Basumatary, BTC EM Ranjit Basumatary, MCLA Saikhong Basumatary and MCLA Madhav Chandra Chhetri. The session lasted until around 1 AM.

Local residents and organizations expressed satisfaction with the opportunity to meet directly with the Pramod Boro in their area and see their issues being addressed. They have requested that the process of addressing issues continue through such 'Janatar Dar-

This initiative, aimed at building a progressive BTC, generated enthusiasm among the public, with calls for similar programmes to be organized across all BTC re-

Special training program on fish farming

HT Correspondent
NAGAON, Sept 7: A four day long training and exposure visit on decentralized renewable energy for the farmers was organised under the pilot project 'decentralized renewable energy (DRE) technologies to strengthen the fishery value chain in Assam' at Hotel Lee Palace, Biswanath on September 4 and 5, 2024 and at Hotel Rishiraj in Nagaon on September 6 and 7, 2024.

The training was organised by Kalong-Kapili', a pioneer NGO working to promote aquaculture among grassroots people in Assam and the north-east region, and also serving as the brand ambassador of the Department of Fisheries, government of Assam, supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the German Agency for International Cooperation. Over a hundred fish farmers from Nagaon, Sonitpur, Biswanath, and East Karbi Anglong district participated in the

The main objective of the project is to romote and implement self- sustainable DRE technologies that include solar water pumps, solar aerators, solar dryers and solar refrigerators to enhance extension services in fish value chain and reduce dependency on diesel in rural settings, and create a scalable as well as a replicable business model for fish farmers, farmer producer organisations, financial institutions, and NGOs, asserted in a press note

The training began with a welcome speech by a representative of the DRE project of GIZ, India in which he mentioned the role and objective of the DRE project under GIZ. He also expressed his sincere gratitude and thankfulness to the farmers for their participation in the training event. He emphasized the need to scale up the DRE technologies for fish farmers in the state. The training programme started with the participants' expectation mapping where they shared their expectations from the training.

Following the training session's exposure visit was conducted to 10 DRE technology intervention sites under the pilot project to demonstrate the technologies.

Jyotish Talukdar, the director of Kalong-Kapili conveyed the sincere thanks to all participants and stakeholders for attending the programme and he also emphasised that in the upcoming days decentralised renewable energy will help to increase the fish production of the

Former ABSU president death anniversary observed



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Sept 7: The 24th death anniversary of Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary, former ABSU president and noted political thinker was observed at his burial place Habrubari near Serfanguri in Kokrajhar district on Saturday with remembering his contributions towards the welfare and integration of the

Notably, Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary was death on 7th September (2000) after shot at by unknown

Basumatary was the former president of the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) and former president of PDF (now defunct) and dedicated wholeheartedly towards the welfare and uplift of the Bodo and other down trodden communities in his days.

Widow of late Basumatary, Raktima Basumatary lit the lamp at the tomb amidst presence of peoples gathering cutting across the organisations and communi-

The anniversary was organised jointly by Ramfalbil anchalik committee of ABSU and Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary Trust to remember ideology and philosophy of Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary, who was regarded as one prominent thinker personalities of the Bodos.

ABSU vice president, Khwrwndao Wary, ABSU general secretary Khanindra Basumatary, MLA Lawrence Islary, several leaders representing various organisations including Tribal Sangha, Dularai Bodo Harimu Afad were attended the event, and offered floral tributes to the great leader Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary.

Wary while recalling the contributions and sacrifice of Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary, former ABSU president and noted social thinker, on his anniversary, said that Basumatary was a great leader who rendered his dedication and services for bringing healthy development and integrity of the Bodos and other down trodden communities

He said that the Bodos and other down trodden communities will be remembered his ideology and philosophy as he shouldered the responsibility of bold leadership of Bodos during the Bodoland Movement.

He said that the students union and Bodo society will keep alive the ideology and contributions of late Basumatary

During the occasion, MLA Lawrence Islary inaugurated the newly constructed statue of Daoharu Garlabata Basumatary amidt august presence of huge gathering.

Last year,the chief executive member of Bodoland Territorial Region, Pramod Boro announced to construct a statue of the great leader, and subsequently the statue was inaugurated on Saturday

BJP blamed for failing to provide ST status to 6 ethnic groups

HT Correspondent DIBRUGARH, Sept 7: The

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Bhupen Borah on Saturday blamed BJP government for allegedly failing to provide ST status to the six-ethnic groups of Assam. Addressing a press confer-

ence in Dibrugarh Bhupen Borah said, "When our government was in power in Assam, we have taken the matter seriously and started process to provide ST status to the six-ethnic community of Assam. Now, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma blamed us that due to our mistake, they could give ST status to the six ethnic groups, which is a false state-

"We have met with top BJP leaders including Rajnath Singh and apprised them about the issue but nothing fruitful has been comes out and now they are blaming us.



Actually, they do not want that the six-ethnic groups of Assam should get the ST

Senior Congress leader and Nagaon MP Pradyut Bordoloi came down heavily on Himanta Biswa Sarma for delaying in providing ST status to six-ethnic groups of

"Nine years ago, before parliamentary election, PM Modi have promised that if

their government will comes into power then within 100 days, six-ethnic groups of Assam will be granted ST status but now BJP is in power both in state and centre but they could not grant ST status to the community. Congress always wants that these communities should tag as Scheduled Tribe because they are the indigenous people of Assam," Bordoloi said.

He said, "We want that ST

status should be granted to the six-ethnic groups and if necessary Assam should be declared as a tribal state and we have no problem".

"Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been trying brand himself as a Hindutav leader and he believes in casteism who don't want ST status to be granted to six-ethnic groups," Bordoloi alleged.

Notably, all the six communities meet the five criteria for ST classification, which include evidence of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographic isolation, reluctance to contact with the general population, and backwardness, according to central government norms.

In 2019, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) had approved that these communities possess the characteristics qualifying them for inclusion in

Dhing College earns accolades HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Sept 7: Dhing College, a primer institution of higher education in greater Dhing areas, the western zone of the district clinched the 2nd runners up at national level festival for social works among colleges organized by Bhavishya Bharat recently at Nagindas Khandrawala College, Malad in Mumbai. Dhing College was the lone representative of the entire Northeast region which was nominated for the catagory of 'Best social initiative for tribal'. Snigdha Mahanta, vice principal of the college who brilliantly presented PPT based yearlong NSS activities being carried out at adopted tribal village of the college,

EM Swargiary highlights BTC's commitment for empowering youths HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Providing the right equipment is essential in enhancing the capabilities of aspiring sports persons, said BTC EM Nilut Swargiary at the Football and Jersey Distribution Program held on September 7 at the Borobazar Model Rural Library Auditorium Hall under Rowta constituency, the programme aimed to empower BTR youth and boost grassroots sports development. Swargiary remarked our youth in BTR have remarkable potential in sports, and these footballs and jerseys will play a crucial role in nurturing their talent. He underscored the importance of such initiatives in encouraging young athletes and enhancing their sporting capabilities. He further elaborated equipping our young talents with the necessary resources will significantly boost their ability to participate and excel in sports. Swargiary highlighted the vision of Pramod Boros commitment for promoting sports infrastructure in BTR and engaging youth across the region. The distribution program was attended by the local youth and was aimed at promotingsports culture and fostering grassroots-level sports development within the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated in Diphu



HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 7: With the rest of the country Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated in Diphu town, with devotees visiting Ganesh mandir and at Ganesh puja pandals (temporary structures) offering puja and seeking blessings from Lord Ganeshji.

The festival is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Ganesh, the son of Shiva and Parvati. He is revered as the god of wisdom, prosperity and good

In Diphu town a large number of devotees irrespective of community, caste and languages congregated at Ganesh mandir (temple) near DIG bunglow, Dillaji, Diphu- Manja Road. From the morning people from all walks of life thronged to the mandir. Particularly women and young girls who brought fruits, ladoos, milk and ghee to offer to Lord Ganeshji. At the mandir prasad (food offering to gods) was distributed among the attendees.

Attending in the celebration at the Ganesh Mandir, the Bevasta Prabhari of Ekal Vidiyalay (Purvatar Janjatiya Siksha Samiti), Ramjilal Moond said it one of the most popular festivals in India commemorating the birth of Lord Ganesh. In early morning devotees from Diphu reached the Ganesh mandir on foot in a procession. There were hundreds of devotees coming to offer puja and prayer. Apart from the Ganesh mandir, there were other places where Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated.

"Though the celebration lasts 10 days, we could not do it here. People continue to celebrate the festival in their homes for days. On this Ganesh Chaturthi we pray for prosperity, purity of heart and free us from all difficulties," Moond said.

Pawan Kumar Sharma, priest of Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Diphu, Parsotom Sastri Puri explained the character and physical structure of Lord Ganesh, saving that the elephant-headed and large-eared god is a symbol of strength, patience, and the ability to listen. His large body inspires one to alert and always ready to face all situations and difficulties. His small face also indicates being small, logical and soft-spoken.

Lord Ganesh is worshipped and revered first for man's success in his daily work, for happiness and prosperity, for the development of intelligence and knowledge, he said.

A puja mandal was erected in front of Latika Cinema Hall to allow devotees to offer offerings and

NF Railway to operate puja special trains

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to operate three pairs of puja special trains to clear the extra rush of passengers during the forthcoming Puja season.

The puja special trains will run between Katihar - Amritsar - Katihar, Rangapara North – Prayagraj Jn.– Rangapara North and Narangi – Gorakhpur - Narangi Festive Special train no. 05736 (Katihar -

Amritsar) will run for eleven trips leaving from Katihar at 21:00 hours on all Wednesdays from September 18 to 27 November, 2024 to reach Amritsar at 09:45 hours on Fri-

In return direction, Festive Special train no. 05735 (Amritsar – Katihar) will run for eleven trips leaving from Amritsar at 13:25 hours on all Fridays from September 20 to November 29, 2024 to reach Katihar at 23:45 hours on the next day. The train will run via Arariya Court, Forbesganj, Darbhanga Jn, Gorakhpur Jn., Gonda Jn., Bareily, Roorkee and Jalandhar

City stations during its both way journey. Festive Special train no. 05831 (Rangapara North – Prayagraj Jn.) will run for ten trips leaving from Rangapara North at 09:00 hours on all Sundays from September 29 to December 1, 2024 to reach Prayagraj Jn. at 12:40 hours on the next day.

In return direction, Festive Special train no. 05832 (Prayagraj Jn – Rangapara North) will run for ten trips leaving from Prayagraj Jn. at 17:40 hours on all Mondays from September 30 to December 2, 2024 to reach Rangapara North at 22:50 hours on the next day. The train will run via Rangiya Jn, New Bongaigaon, Fakiragram, New Jalpaiguri, Aluabari Road, Naugachia, Khagaria Jn, Hajipur Jn, Patliputra and Buxar stations during its both way

> Another Festive Special train no. 05633 (Narangi – Gorakhpur) will run for four trips leaving from Narangi at 13:20 hours on all Thursdays from October 3 to 24, 2024 to reach Gorakhpur at 13:00 hours on the next day. In return direction. Festive Special train no. 05634 (Gorakhpur - Narangi) will run for four trips leaving from Gorakhpur at 20:55 hours on all Fridays from October 04 to 25, 2024 to reach Narangi at 23:10 hours on the next day. The train will run via Rangiya Jn, Kokrajhar, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Katihar, Khagaria Jn, Barauni Jn, Sonpur, Chhapra and Siwan Jn stations.

> The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available in IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Specialised adoption agency inaugurated in Hojai

HT Correspondent **HOJAI, Sept 7:** Newly established Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA) run by Life foundation NGO was officially inaugurated by MLA, Ramkrishna Ghosh, in the presence of Adv Samir Sarkar, chairman of child welfare committee,

Hojai at Dakhin Golaghatia Basti, Hojai on Saturday. All the officials of district child protection unit, child welfare committee and other dignitaries from various de-

partments were present during this time. Talking to this Correspondent, Advocate Samir Sarkar said, "The State Child Protection Society, Assam has recognised Life foundation NGO, Hojai to run Specialised Adoption Agency under the Mission Vatshalya Scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of

"The agency will facilitate Adoption of Orphan, Abandoned and surrendered children under the Juvenile Justice Act through the legal process of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). Any childless couple can approach the Life Foundation SAA for online registration of Adoption of Children", he added.

Conference on Resurgent Bharat: Insights from Northeast

TEZPUR, Sept 7: Tezpur University (TU) in collaboration with Students for Holistic Development of Humanity (SHoDH) kick started a two-day conference titled "Resurgent Bharat: Insights from Northeast on Saturday. The conference brought together scholars, academicians, policymakers, and thought leaders to discuss and explore the unique contributions and perspectives of Northeast India in the context of a resurgent nation.

The event was inaugurated by vice chancellor of TU, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh. Other distinguished guests present on the occasion were Rita Moni Baishya, associate professor, department of Hindi, Gauhati University, rahul rana, student leader and activist from central university of Himachal Pradesh, Arjun Anand-National convenor of students for SHoDH and Swathi Chintala-convenor of Northeast universities workshop.

Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof Singh in his address focussed on the development story of the Northeast. "A resurgent



Bharat is not possible without the development and prosperity of Northeast", he said.

The Vice Chancellor, however, noted that the region is unique, and its potential can only be harnessed through concerted efforts that address the unique challenges faced by the region. Prof Singh emphasised the importance of education in bringing transformation.

Rita Moni Baishya spoke on the historical significance of Northeast India in shaping the

country's identity. She said that saint-scholar & reformer Srimanta Sankardev envisioned a united Bharat with cultural integration. Ashish Chauhan, National Organising Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) speaking on the topic "Idea of Bharat" explained India's richness in wisdom, with a heritage deeply rooted in ancient traditions, philosophies, and knowledge systems. Explaining the topic "Narrative", Social activist Sunil Mohanty said that narratives are ideas always controlled by those who are powerful. Therefore, the British had created their own narratives to suit their interest. Calling Northeast an integral part of India, he said that scriptures like Mahabharata, Ramayana have several mentions of Northeast.

The conference was attended by students from Nagaland University, Manipur University, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram University, Tripura University, Cotton University and Gauhati University. A series of panel discussions and interactive sessions covering a wide range of topics shall be discussed in the next two days.

Two cyber criminals in police net

HT Correspondent SIVASAGAR, Sept 7: Karnataka Police, with

the help of Sivasagar Police on Thursday night, arrested two cyber criminals on the basis of an FIR from a reputed Doctor in Karnataka against the duo for fraudulently withdrawing huge amount of money from his account. One Jakir Alam Bora of Dhailai(38) and a teacher Pawan Borpatra Gohain(58) of Panbessa, allegedly withdrew ₹ 1 Cr 28 lakh from the Doctor's account through unauthorized phishing

Karnataka Police swung into action with the help of the latest technology and detected their locations. According to sources, Jakir Alam Bora had a close connection with a racket of cyber criminals of Nagaon who duped a section of easy-money-seekers into accessing their bank accounts. Pawan Borpatra Goghain was one such person into whose account the money from the Doctor was transferred recently. Jakir Alam's team later re-transferred the amount into several other accounts after leaving a good amount for the teacher. Karnataka Police took the two criminals into their custody and left for Bengaluru from Dibrugarh airport on Friday.

Editor's pick

India bolsters 'act east' policy

By: Kumardeep Banerjee

rime Minister Modi is wasting no time in walking the talk as far as his foreign policy goals are concerned. This week, with a clear focus on Look East policy the Indian PM was in Brunei and Singapore. The Brunei visit was the first state visit by an Indian Prime Minister, after establishing diplomatic relations in 1984. The Indian Mission in Brunei came nearly a decade later in 1993. PM Manmohan Singh had visited Brunei Darussalam in 2013 to attend multilateral meetings of ASEAN and East Asia Summit.

Highlighting the importance of the first bilateral visit to Brunei, India's High Commissioner Alok Amitabh Dimri, told news agency ANI "In our four decades of diplomatic relationship, this is the first bilateral official visit by the Prime Minister of India to Brunei Darussalam.

It is a historic moment in our bilateral relationship and also for the Indian community in Brunei Darussalam that high-level bilateral engagement between Prime Minister Modi and His Majesty the King is going to take place. This visit is historic in many ways that Brunei and India have been civilizational neighbours as you know that India shares deep historical roots and bonds with Southeast Asia.

The Malayan tradition of this geography which is located in the Borneo Island of Southeast Asian Seas derives deep linkages be it, linguistic, anthropological, ethnic, architectural, religious motives, customs and traditions, norms from India, South India." Defence relations between the two countries have been on an upward trajectory since the establishment of formal diplomatic ties.

There have been several official-level defence exchanges and visits of navy, coast guard ships and joint exercises. India has MoU in in defence sector with Brunei till 2026. Several Indian Navy ships and coast guard ships such as INS Rana, INS Airavat, INS Shivalik & INS Kadmatt, and Samudra Pahereda to name a few, have been in Brunei waters, given the maritime security concerns. The trade relations between the two countries are not what one can boast of, however, it is of strategic

The recently concluded Brunei trip by the Indian PM has enhanced and deepened the partnership between the two countries. The joint statement issued after the leader's meeting stated "Both leaders held discussions for enhancing cooperation on a wide range of issues including defence, connectivity, trade and investment, energy including renewables, space, ICT, health and pharmaceuticals, education and capacity building, culture, tourism, youth and people-to-people exchanges, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest."

However, the real area of cooperation would be in maintaining international rules of law deep in the Indian Ocean. Brunei is located in the South China Sea region, where China has a significant presence and has been increasingly threatening the bordering countries with its coercive tactics. These issues were raised by the Indian PM in his meeting with his Counterpart on Darussalam.

The joint statement read, "Both leaders reiterated their commitment to work closely together in mutually beneficial areas to further strengthen the ASEAN - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, as well as respecting freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce, consistent with international law, notably the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. The leaders also urged all parties to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, particularly UNCLOS 1982." The first state visit by an Indian PM to Brunei just months after taking charge for a third time is a long-term strategic move to secure India's interests for the future. (Courtesy: The Pioneer)

Assam's Amrit Yatra towards inclusive prosperity

Assam can be a net supplier of human resources to the rest of India" -Hon'ble CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The powerful words and vision of our Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, in his recent Assembly speech, were not just an address but a comprehensive vision for Assam's future. "Assam can be an economic sweet spot by providing the best human resources," the Hon'ble CM stated, highlighting the state's potential to become a hub for skilled professionals and a driver of economic growth. His strategic approach outlines a robust framework aimed at addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing our state today, particularly in the areas of education, human resource development, and economic sus-

The transformative vision of Adaraniya Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from the "Look East Policy" to the "Act East Policy," has catalyzed unprecedented growth and development in the Northeast region. The Act East Policy has created new opportunities for Assam's youth, farmers, entrepreneurs, and artisans, enabling them to tap into global markets and forge new partnerships with Southeast

Under the far-sighted guidance of the Hon'ble CM, who follows the principle of Rajdharma, the state can explore possibilities and initiatives that can transform this vision into reality, marking a clear indication that Assam is poised to become a beacon of human capital excellence, shaping the future of India's workforce. As a fellow minister in his government, I am both inspired and driven to support this visionary roadmap,

By: Dipak Kurmi

to parents Nilakanta and Shantipriva Haz-

arika. In 1929, Hazarika's family relocated

to Guwahati in pursuit of better opportuni-

ties, subsequently moving to Dhubri and

then Tezpur. It was in Tezpur that a pivotal

moment occurred in his life when he was

discovered by two prominent cultural fig-

ures of Assam, Jyotiprasad Agarwala and

Bishnu Prasad Rabha, while singing a

borgeet, devotional songs composed by

Sankaradeva and Madhavadeva. This en-

counter proved to be transformative as it

opened up numerous new avenues for him.

In 1936, he accompanied them to Kolkata

and recorded his first song at the Aurora

Studio for the Selona Company. Addition-

ally, he was given the opportunity to lend

his voice to two songs for Jyotiprasad

Agarwala's film, "Indramalati." These

songs were "Kaxote Kolosi Loi" and

Bhupen Hazarika's talents extended be-

vond the cultural realm; he was also aca-

demically accomplished. He completed his

Intermediate Arts education at Cotton Col-

lege, Guwahati in 1942, followed by earn-

ing his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in

Political Science from Banaras Hindu Uni-

versity. In 1949, he received a scholarship

to pursue his Ph.D. at Columbia University

in New York City. In 1952, he successfully

earned his Ph.D., with his thesis titled 'Pro-

posals for Preparing India's Basic Educa-

tion to use Audio-Visual Techniques in

Adult Education.' Furthermore, he was

honored with the Lisle Fellowship from the

University of Chicago, allowing him to ex-

plore educational project development

Before embarking on his journey to New

York, Dr. Hazarika briefly worked at the

All India Radio station in Guwahati and

taught at Gauhati University. However, he

later relocated to Kolkata to kickstart his

career, ultimately establishing himself as a

successful music director and singer. No-

tably, Hazarika composed the anthem for

Gauhati University, titled "Jilikaba Luitare

Paar." He also forged strong connections

with the cultural association IPTA (Indian

People's Theatre Association) and assumed

the role of Secretary for the Reception

Committee of the third all-Assam Confer-

ence of IPTA held in Guwahati in 1955.

Adding to his remarkable achievements, he

secured a seat in the Assam Legislative As-

sembly as a member representing the

Naoboicha constituency in 1967. Further-

more, in 1993, he was elected as the Pres-

claim for his melodious compositions and

singing in multiple languages. His lifelong

Dr. Hazarika achieved international ac-

ident of the Asam Sahitya Sabha.

through cinema.

'Biswo Bijovi Naujawan.'

which is built on five critical pillars: Talent Mobility, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, and Tourism.

1. Talent mobility: Assam's strategic advantage

In a world where natural resources are finite and often unevenly distributed, the Chief Minister has rightly identified human resources as Assam's most valuable asset. Assam has positioned itself to build an economy based on mobilizing skilled human resources globally. The interest from the Singapore government in our nursing graduates is a clear indication of the quality and potential of our workforce.

By aligning our nursing education with international stanincluding English dards, proficiency, we are opening doors for our youth to serve DEGREE OF THOUGHT

and excel glob-

ally. This ap-

proach not only addresses unemployment but also brings much-needed foreign exchange into our state, boosting our economy. As an added advantage to job seekers, the Assam Government has executed a MoU with Naukri.com, facilitating continuous updates through text messages on job alerts and vacancies in various sectors directly to students registered under the Assam employment exchange portal.

Our government has also successfully neared the mark of one lakh government jobs for the youth of the state and is now targeting doubling this number by 2026. I am extremely pleased to share that this entire process has been completed with utmost transparency and accuracy, providing students with ease and positively diverting them from protests and other unlawful activities towards education, fos-

tering a mindset of healthy competition in cracking various

2. Skill development: The foundation of future indus-

The Chief Minister's emphasis on skill development as a cornerstone of Assam's future is both timely and essential. With the establishment of the Skill University in Mangaldoi, we are on the path to empowering 10,000 youth annually with cutting-edge skills in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, financial inclusion, and stock market operations. These are not just the skills of today but the competencies required for the industries of tomorrow

The collaboration with Tata Technologies to reform and modernize our ITIs and Polytechnics is a testament to our

commitment to

Bv: Ashok Singhal Industry 4.0. By automating these institutions and introducing advanced training in AI and augmented reality, we are ensuring that Assam's youth are not just participants but leaders in

the global industrial revolution. Assam's upcoming semiconductor manufacturing plant, the first in the Northeast, is poised to revolutionize the region and employ around 27,000 youths. Under the resolute leadership of Hon'ble CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, our government has made significant strides in tackling insurgency, ushering in an

3. Entrepreneurship: Building an industry of the brain

era of peace and stability.

The third pillar, entrepreneurship, is where Assam's unique challenges turn into opportunities. Given our state's limited natural resources, the Chief Minister has wisely advocated for a shift towards industries power, attracts millions of devotees and tourists alike, showcas-ister of Govt. of Assam)

Bhupen Hazarika: Melodious maestro and cultural icon

that rely on intellectual capital rather than physical resources. In a flood-prone region like Assam, traditional industries may struggle, but the "industry of the brain" – encompassing AI, augmented reality, software development, and other future industries – can thrive. This focus on intellectual industries is a forward-thinking strategy that will not only provide sustainable employment but also position Assam as a hub for innovation and technology.

4. Agriculture: Revitalizing the backbone of Assam's econ-

Agriculture remains the backbone of Assam's economy, and the Chief Minister's initiatives in this sector are groundbreaking. The agreement with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure that Assam supplies its own Public Distribution System (PDS) rice is a game-changer. This decentralized procurement model empowers local farmers and ensures that the economic benefits of agriculture remain within the state. The efforts to procure 4 lakh metric tons of paddy this year, coupled with rising private sector interest, signal a positive shift in the agrilandscape. The government's consideration of further subsidies to cover transportation costs for farmers is a much-needed step that will encourage greater participation

and productivity in this sector. 5. Tourism: A boon for eco-

nomic growth Assam's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty are set to propel the state's tourism sector to new heights, driving economic growth and development. The revered Kamakhya Temple, a centuries-old symbol of spiritual significance and feminine ing Assam's unique history. Meanwhile, the state's vibrant cultural landscape is being shared with the world through the recent world-record-breaking Bihu performance. Our HCM eagerly wishes for the Jhumur dance to be the next art form to go global.

Furthermore, the Assam government's tourism portal is facilitating the development of 5,000 homestays, providing visitors with immersive experiences and generating income for local communities. The majestic Kaziranga National Park, a UN-ESCO World Heritage Site, remains a crown jewel, drawing wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers from around the globe. As tourism flourishes, Assam's economy is poised for a significant boost, creating new opportunities and cementing the state's position as a premier destination for cultural, spiritual, and wildlife exploration.

The Chief Minister's speech outlines a comprehensive and forward-looking plan that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of Assam. By focusing on skill development, talent mobility, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and tourism, we are building a resilient and diversified economy. This vision not only aims to solve the unemployment problem but also positions Assam as a key player in the future industries of India and the world.

As a member of his cabinet, I am committed to supporting and implementing these initiatives, ensuring that the people of Assam reap the benefits of this visionary leadership. Together, we will transform challenges into opportunities and pave the way for a prosperous and sustainable future for our state. (The author is a Cabinet Min-

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has crossed all limits of Muslim bashing

By: P. Sudhir

The situation in Assam has steadily deteriorated due to growing tensions between communities and certain campaign in order to cover-up incidents being used to divide the failure of his government on people on communal and chauvinistic lines. The chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, and the BJP-led government are solely responsible for the current state

Himanta Biswa Sarma has crossed all limits in his Muslim baiting campaign and his divisive rhetoric of 'indigenous versus outsiders'. Not a day passes without Sarma making some wild allegations against people belonging to the religious minority community whom he calls as 'outsiders' His deliberate resort to divi-

sive politics and incendiary

speeches have incited sections of the people to create an atmosphere of violence and targeting of minorities. This is evident in the way two cases of sexual assault were handled. The assault of a seventeen year-old girl by two persons belonging to the Marwari business community in Sivasagar town flared up with certain outfits issuing a threat against 'outsiders'. Instead of demanding firm action against the culprits involved, the entire Marwari community was blamed for this crime. It turned into a major protest against non-Assamese businessmen in upper Assam and ended with representatives of the community being forced to kneel and apologise in Sivasagar town in the presence of a state cabinet minister and the superintendent of police.

Another more serious incident minor girl by three alleged Musderogatorily termed as 'Miyas'. RSS and BJP issued threats and them to leave upper Assam. workers of the 'Miya' commuup, thousands of Bengali-speaking Muslims had to flee from

upper Assam districts. Biswa Sarma, stated in the as-

and would not let 'Miya' Muslims "take over Assam". The chief minister Sarma has gone into a full-scale Muslim baiting all fronts. It has miserably failed to protect women in the state with horrific incidents of rape and violence steadily mounting. The demand for granting ST status to six backward communities remains unresolved. The demand for preservation and distribution of land to landless people residing in Assam for decades since March 1971 is totally neglected. The government has done precious little to address the alarming problems of floods and erosion; the figures of unemployment are steadily rising.

It is in this background that Sarma and the BJP government have launched a brazen communal campaign. Although the spate of crimes, including the crimes against women, were committed by people belonging to almost all communities, only the Muslims are being dubbed as criminals. Even the term 'flood iihad' was coined by Himanta Sarma to cover-up the problems of artificial flooding in the capital city of Guwahati.

Himanta Sarma has transgressed all constitutional norms while holding the constitutional position of chief minister. He has brazenly violated the oath of office he had taken as chief minister – "That I will do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law without fear of favour, affection or ill-will". The chief minister's utterances, both outside and inside the assembly, have been in violation of this oath of office. He has set a disgraceful record by trampling upon political and constitutional

morality. That is why eighteen opposition parties have submitted a memorandum to the president of India on August 29, through the office of the Assam governor, asking her to dismiss chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for promoting communal hatred and violation of constitutional

If there is a fit case, to act against a chief minister for gross violation of the constitution and the oath of office he has taken, this is such a case. (IPA Service)

affinity for music began early, notably through his association with cultural lumir. Bhupen Hazarika, widely known naries Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Bishnu as the "Bard of Brahmaputra" and Prasad Rabha. His time at Columbia Uni-'Sudhakantha" (the Nightingale), versity exposed him to the Afro-American was a luminary in the realm of Assamese political tradition, and his bond with the culture. His talents were diverse and renowned American artist and civil rights activist, Paul Robeson, profoundly influspanned multiple domains, excelling as a singer, musician, poet, lyricist, actor, filmenced his musical journey. Notably, his iconic song "Bistorno Parare" was inspired maker, professor, and politician. His fame and dedicated following reached far beby Robeson's "Ol' Man River." This comyond the borders of Assam, resonating position garnered immense popularity and across the entire nation and even making a was subsequently translated into Hindi and significant impact on the global stage. Bengali, further extending his musical in-Bhupen Hazarika was born on September 8, 1926, in the town of Sadiya, Assam,

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was a humanist, elebrated not just for his melodious compositions but also for the profound and thought-provoking lyrics of his songs. His lyrical themes encompassed communal harmony, optimism, justice, protest, revolutionary spirit, and empathy among people. His songs

spanned various topics, including contemporary issues, patriotism, the splendor of nature, matters of human concern, and love, among others. His music drew inspiration from traditional folk melodies, infusing his creations with a rich blend of cultural influences.

(If people don't think of their fellow people with a little sympathy, then who will? Tell me o friend!)

The lyrics of the song "Manuhe Manuhor Babey" represented a significant artistic intervention in a society and nation marked by tension and divisions. This song, eventually translated into numerous languages, garnered recognition as the song of the millennium by BBC Bengali Service. Several other songs by Dr. Hazarika conveyed similar emotions, including "Bistirno Paarore" and "Sitore Semeka

Axom amar rupohi Gunoru nai xexh Bharotore purbo dixor

hurivo utha desh ("Our Assam, situated in the eastern part of India where the sun rises, is a land of immense beauty and abundant virtues.") Sri Hazarika's songs have the remarkable ability to evoke deep feelings of pride and love for one's homeland in their listeners. His songs delve into the cultural, social, and aesthetic aspects of not only Assam but also other states in North-East India, extending their impact to the entire nation.

Shillongore godhuli Xopun sohoror moromi xorotor Xuworoni xunali Shillongore godhuli

(In an evening in Shillong, the city of dreams; during the lovely autumn, memories are golden)

Bhupen Hazarika's songs achieved renown for their vivid portrayal of Assam and the North-eastern states, with a particular emphasis on Shillong's captivating beauty and warmth. Nature served as a recurring motif in his compositions, providing a constant source of inspiration. Additionally, his songs often delved into the theme of love, exploring the depths of this emotion. Examples of such songs include "Xoixobore Dhemalite" and "Tumar Premor Bhogjorati."

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika stood as a prominent cultural icon, not only in Assam but throughout the entire North-eastern region. He championed the values of brotherhood and unity among the diverse tribes of the region, recognizing the importance of preserving and promoting the languages and cultures of these states to foster camaraderie and goodwill. He actively engaged with local communities in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Meghalaya, immersing himself in their rich cultures. His songs served as a bridge, incorporating various tribes and communities.

> Assam, as well as others Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram Through music, he illuminated their cultures, ways of life, traditional attire, and enchanting

> > ral world.

beauty of the natu-

including the Missing,

Karbi, Bodo tribes of

A versatile scholar and musical genius, Dr. Hazarika was a prolific composer in multiple languages, including Bengali and Hindi. Among his famous compositions are "Dil Hoom Hoom Kare," "Manush Manusher Jonno," "Oo Ganga Beheti Ho Kyu," and "Gonga Amar Ma." Many of his songs found resonance in neighboring Bangladesh, and it's worth noting that friends and admirers from Nepal presented him with his distinctive black Nepali cap as a symbol of their esteem. Additionally, several of his songs were translated into different languages, extending their reach and impact.

Bhupen Hazarika's contributions extended to the world of cinema, where he played diverse roles in various films. His journey began with his association with the film "Indramalati" in 1939. Over the years, he ventured into producing, directing, and composing music for numerous films in different languages. In the realm of Assamese cinema, he made his mark as a director, producer, and in various technical capacities for films such as "Era Bator Sur" (1956), "Shakuntala" (1960), "Pratidhwani" (1964), "Lotighoti" "Swikarikota" (1986), and "Siraj" (1988), among others. His cinematic talents extended to documentaries as well.

Notably, he produced and directed the lyrical documentary "Emuthi Saular Kahini," centered around the cooperative movement of the Government of Assam. In 1977, he crafted the documentary "Through Melody and Rhythm" for Calcutta Doordarshan Kendra, showcasing the folk songs and dances of Northeast India. Furthermore, in 1981, he produced and

at promoting tourism on behalf of the Government of Assam. His artistic legacy transcends across a wide spectrum of Hindi, Bengali, and regional films. In Bengali cinema, his musical contributions graced films such as "Mahut Bandhure" (1959), "Ekhane Pinjar" (1971), "Simana Periye" (1978), "Ek Pal" (1986), and "Gajamukta" (1994), among others. In the world of Hindi cinema, his association extended to films like "Rudaali" (1994), "Darmiyaan" (1997), "Gaja Gamini" (2000), "Kyun' (2003), and several more. Beyond these, he also lent his talents to

a Bodo movie, "Jiuni Simang" (1987), and Bhojpuri movie, "Chhath Maiya K Mahima" (1979). Dr. Hazarika's versatility shone as he directed, composed music for, and produced Arunachal Pradesh's first color Hindi feature film. "Mera Dharam Meri Maa" (1976), featuring the iconic song "Arunachal Humara," now the de facto state song of Arunachal Pradesh, translated into numerous tribal languages. Prior to this, he directed the documentary "For Whom the Sun Shines" (1974) for the government of Arunachal Pradesh, focusing on tribal dances and songs.

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika garnered numerous prestigious awards throughout his illustrious career. Some of the most notable recognitions include the President's Medal for his contributions to films like "Shakuntala," "Pratidhwani," and "Lotighoti," the National Film Award for Best Music Direction for "Chameli Memsahab" (1975), and the esteemed Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1992). He was also a recipient of several high-profile civilian honors, including the Padma Shri (1977), Padma Bhushan (2001), Padma Vibhushan (2012), and Bharat Ratna (2019), the latter two conferred posthumously.

In 2011, the Government of Bangladesh posthumously honored him with the prestigious "Muktijoddha Padak." Additionally, various organizations recognized his exceptional contributions, such as the Bengal Journalist's Association Indira Gandhi Smriti Puraskar (1987), the Best Music award for his film "Rudaali" at the Asia Pacific International Film Festival, Japan (1993), and an Honorary Doctorate from Tezpur University (2001).

In honor of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, India Post issued two commemorative stamps in 2013 and 2016. Additionally, the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, which stands as the longest road bridge in India built over water and links the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, has been officially named the "Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Setu.

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was a remarkable institution unto himself, making substantial contributions to the advancement of Assam and the entire Northeast in various capacities. This cultural icon's passing on November 5, 2011, in Mumbai, created an immense void in Assam's music and cultural landscape. His songs resonated with millions worldwide, serving as a unifying thread that transcended communities and borders, forging invisible connections through the universal language of music. His enduring legacy continues to bring joy, instill hope, and inspire people everywhere. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmiglpltd@gmail.com)

that took place was of the gang rape of a fourteen year-old lim youths in Nagaon district. The outrage against the incident was turned against Muslims of East Bengal origin who are Some organisations backed by intimidation to 'Miyas' asking After an incident of construction nity being mercilessly beaten

The chief minister, Himanta

Jyotiprasad's plays: A brief overview

<u>Bhuyan</u>

yoti Prasad's plays are an innovative creation in the world J of Assamese culture. This innovation is based on Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad's originality and artistry inseparable theatrical talent of Jyotiprasad can be judged through the selection of subject matter, presentation, language, planning, music, stage direction and the clean expression of the philosophy that shines in this

In fact, Jyoti Prasad, like other works, wrote drama as a means of expressing a clear and transparent basic view of life and the world. Jyoti Prasad, an unborn artist with a deep respect for art, was naturally very conscious of his artistic qualities. These two things summarize that Jyoti Prasad wrote songs, poems and plays as a means of expressing his basic thoughts and views on life and the world and gave sufficient practice and respectful attention to transform these works into works of art of the highest quality. From Sonit Kunwari to Nimati

Kaina, Jyoti Prasad did not follow his predecessors in any way. However, each play contains a clear expression of Jyoti Prasad's own thoughts, which he developed through various experiments. In the words of Dr. Hiren Gohain -"His plays are also plays of awakening, plays of elevation of consciousness. In Sonit Kunwari, beauty conquers demonic instincts through the love of Usha and Anirudha in the mission of Chitralekha They are intoxicated with lust. In Nimati Kaina, the family not only hears the voice of Nimati, but is impressed by the true identity of the neglected artist and in Lavita, an ordinary Assamese girl emerges from ordinary life and gains a modern experience of selfdiscovery and self-confidence."

Based on the basic thoughtful views expressed in Jyoti Prasad's speeches, it can also be thought that the artistic form of human being has evolved through the presentation of various forms of man's eternal instinctive conflict in each play; this is a play on the journey of humanity from evil to universal thought to culture. One of the most notable aspects of Jyoti Prasad's plays is the theme. Every play except Lavita has a 'fictional' or 'mythical' theme.

'Fictional' or 'mythical' does not mean unrealistic. We can understand the subject as follows: Jyoti Prasad's plays are different from the stories or themes based on the contemporary Assamese literary genre. Although the theme of Sonit Kunwari is based on a popular mythological narrative centered on Tezpur, it does not have the romantic sentiments of contemporary theatre. The play is the human soul brought about by



the battle of Harihar (heroic humor, often religious ideology) is not the main theme; the play focuses on the love story of Usha and Anirudha

Through a kind of reconstruction of mythology, Jyoti Prasad expresses his own thoughts based on contemporary social realities. Therefore, Chitralekha is not a magician as in mythology; Chitralekha is a human artist - an artist of transformation who can find the address of the beautiful.

Similarly, Usha's anxiety to find Anirudha is not just an instinctive desire of a beautiful girl; it is the expression of man's 'infinitely dissatisfied' and 'ever anxious' self. There are many ways to get a job, but the most important thing is to get a job. There are many ways to get a job, but the most important thing is to get a job.

"Karengor Ligiri" is considered by most critics to be Jyoti Prasad's best play. The play seems to be about a social conflict over the love of a prince (Sundar Konwar) in a completely fictional story set in the Ahom era. But on closer inspection, you can see that Jyotiprasad's purpose is to expose the 'nature of the absorbed consciousness hidden behind the individual mind' besides the conflict between individual consciousness and social traditions. Therefore, theater critic Pona

Mohanty has called this fictional play "the pioneer of socially problematic, realistic dialogue plays in Assamese stage and theater literature Konwar's insistence that he will not marry does not mean his mother's insistence that her son marry according to her choice and his passion for Shewali. There is anger towards his mother. This anger turns into hatred of women. 'In short, beautiful is the victim of repressed anger and affection."

The prince who left Kanchanmati in the forest with her former lover Anangaram for the crime of loving one and marrying another, is guilty of the same crime of marrying Kanchanmati in spite in love with Shewali. This play also reflects Jyoti Prasad's philosophy of

Just as the realization of the prince's inner self through Shewali's self-sacrifice represents the awakening of the consciousness of

The story of Rupalim is also based on the arrogant conflict of love and power in a fictional, feudal environment. The playwright states in the introduction that 'the purpose of the play is not to show the ideal character, but to show the characteristics of the character. Rupalim, Manimugdha, Rukmi Raja, Mayab', Junapha etc. Each character is alive with human simplicity, weaknesses and faults. The selfless love of Rupalim and Mayab has not been destroyed by the royal power and earthly power

reflected in Kanchanmati's logic

about marriage and love.

Rupaleem's personality and the tragic yet strong expression of the determination of chastity, which is illuminated by true love, has disarmed the powerful Manimugdha with brute force. We can see nimati koina too that after giving up in the voice of nimati brides, the power, ability, wealth and unsuspecting life, the songs of the destitute artist Rupkonwar have proved their victory in the field of

The rigorous practice of sophisticated art consciousness will be the great mantra of transformation. It is not in the pursuit, but in the pursuit that the mantra of excellence of man is hidden – it is also presented here. The main point of the above discussion is that every play of Jyotiprasad is a conscious manifestation of Jyotidarshan

Lavita is an exception to the theatrical style that Jyoti Prasad introduced through the plays under discussion. This is a realistic play with a direct reflection of contemporary events. The play is named after a character, but in the words of the playwright, the protagonist is the Assamese people.

The death-defying participation of the people in the mass movement of the forties increased Jyoti Prasad's respect for the 'people' Jyoti Prasad's thoughts of 'the world of artists' are also expressed in the theatrical form of the combined forces of the struggling masses and the transformational

Lavita, the central character of the drama, is much more confident, brilliant and courageous than the brave female characters in his other plays. Just as Lovita, who is progressive in the spirit of the era, about the battle of Hari-Har, but deep crisis, so the inner culture is has taunted her loveone Gulap as

'a young man who has not ignited the fire of revolution in his heart, he cannot be the young man of today', so too has the customary rules and regulations, caste and

Jyotiprasad has placed the essence of humanity above the religious consciousness by the human beauty of the character Ilahibaksh. The famous writer and critic Mahendra Bora said of Lavita: "The most modern of all Jyoti Prasad's plays, the most experimental, the most valuable to artistic consciousness, Lavita is the most daring work of Jyoti Prasad's playwright's life "The Abandoned.

Jyoti Prasad's plays are characterized by the predominance of female characters. They are named after the female characters of Sonit Kunwari, Lavita, Rupalim, Kareng Ligiri and Nimati Kaina. Jyoti Prasad considered female characters more suitable for expressing culture and philosophy. This is because women play a significant role in the preservation, enhancement and transformation of cul-

As we must have noticed in the above discussion, each female character is inseparably involved in the expression of the dramatic plot and its underlying emotions. The characters are easily oppressed and humiliated in the feudal and imperialist systems, but they are the basis of the immense affection and commitment of

Therefore, it is important to understand the importance of these two aspects of the plays of Jyoti Prasad. But it must be remembered that Jyoti Prasad is not a blind imitator of any theatre; in each of his works, he has enriched the basic theatrical thought with the synthesis of that Western theatrical genre, but he has not performed his plays with Western theatrical thought alone. In the context of Karengor Ligiri, Mahendra Bora says, "...that is, the play is not exclusively an imitation of Ibsen's theatrical ideals. Rather, it is similar to Shakespeare's tragedy in terms of characterization and adaptation of narrative.

The long and proportional stage direction is a notable feature of Jyoti Prasad's plays. This aspect is best reflected in the Ligiri of the Kareng. In the words of Mahendra Bora, "...this characteristic is reminiscent of the similar characteristic of Shaw's plays.

However, this characteristic of Jyoti Prasad's plays is self-conceived. Mahendra Barah discusses the fundamental differences between the stage directions of George Bernard Shaw and Jyoti Prasad. The stage direction of Shaw plays has often become a means of presenting his theory, while Jvoti Prasad's annual stage direction is always aimed at highlighting the characters, none of Assam)

which goes beyond the boundaries

By carefully reading the description of the Sundar Konwar or Kanchanmati's bedroom that one can understand the ambience and importance of the artistic narrative of stage direction.

The musical sweetness of Jyoti Prasad's plays has already been discussed. It is no exaggeration to say that Nimati Kaina is a metaphorical musical play. One of the main aspects of the play that stirred the contemporary intellectual community was its innovative music. The play is based on mythological themes and the songs of modern stories are rich in modern metaphors and imagery. Overall, the songs incorporated into each play undoubtedly help to convey a dramatic moment.

Dr. Hiren Gohain rightly says of the song 'Jai Alokmay' in Rupalim's play: "No dialogue or confession could have conveyed the deep change of heart of Manimugdha who was forced to bow to the inflexibility of Rupalim's unwavering love and determination Toe.'

The playwright mentions in the introduction of Rupalim that Matterlink's Mennavena has had a slight influence on his work. However, Mahendra Bora and Satyendra Nath Sharma discuss in detail that this effect is similar to a kind of intellectual synthesis that occurs in any literature in the world. Satyendra Nath Sharma writes, "In reply to a letter from this author, he (Jyoti Prasad) wrote that he was not directly influenced by any character or story of Western drama; but Western drama was not without the help of technique.

Therefore, it is important to understand the importance of Jyoti Prasad's plays in the long tradition of Assamese dramatic literature. Some critics also argue that only Jyoti Prasad's plays can be given literary status among modern Assamese drama. That may be an exaggeration: however. importance of Jyotiprasad's entertaining, expressive language is reflected in such comments.

Jyotiprasad had the kind of language he needed to convey the brave, powerful and sensitive story of Kareng's wife. Jyotiprasad also possessed the unique beauty of poetic expressive language necessary for a sweet story expressing cultural philosophy like Nimati Kaina.

Overall, the playwright Jyoti Prasad's in-depth study and inquiry into world Theater certainly helped to shape his inseparable personality. This is the reason why Jvoti Prasad became the pioneer of modern Assamese drama. The originality and latest styles of his plays are also evidence of this. (The writer is CRCC of Nalbari Cluster. Biswanath Block, Education Department,

Waiting for what? The theatre of nothingness in 'Waiting for Godot'



By: Karan Chetri

t has been 72 years since Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot was first published and it still stands as a cornerstone of modernist literature, a play that defies traditional narrative structures and plunges deep into the human psyche. Its significance transcends mere theatrical performance, serving as a profound meditation on existential despair, the search for meaning, and the cyclical nature of human existence. In this analysis, I will explore the thematic, structural, and philosophical layers of the play, considering how Beckett's minimalist approach amplifies the work's existential resonance.

The absurdity of existence

At the heart of Waiting for Godot is the concept of absurdism-a philosophy that recognises the inherent meaninglessness of life in a universe that offers no clear purpose or direction. This idea, rooted in the works of existentialist philosophers like Albert Camus, is embodied in the endless waiting of Vladimir and Estragon for the mysterious Godot. Their wait, devoid of any certainty or outcome, reflects the human condition: an endless quest for meaning in a world that remains indifferent to human desires.

Beckett's characters are trapped in a state of perpetual inaction, their lives punctuated by routines that mask their despair. The repetition of their actions - conversing, contemplating departure, and yet never leaving - symbolises the futility of human endeavours in the face of an unyielding universe. This endless loop mirrors the 'Sisyphean' struggle described by Camus, where individuals are condemned to repeat the same tasks without hope of fulfillment or res-

Structure and Minimalism

The structure of Waiting for Godot is as radical as its content. The play is divided into two acts, both of which mirror each other in their events and dialogue, reinforcing the theme of cyclical stagnation. The stage is sparse, often described as "a country road, a tree", providing little in the way of visual distraction. This minimalism is not just an aesthetic choice but a deliberate attempt to strip the narrative down to its most essential elements, thereby forcing the audience to confront the raw, unadorned realities of existence.

Beckett's language is similarly pared down. The dialogue is repetitive, often circular, with characters speaking in a fragmented, disjointed manner that mirrors their fragmented understanding of the world. This linguistic minimalism serves to underscore the emptiness of their existence and the inadequacy of language as a tool for conveying meaning. The silences and pauses in the dialogue are as significant as the spoken words, highlighting the characters' inability to articulate their thoughts and fears fully.

The search for meaning

The figure of Godot, who never appears, serves as a powerful symbol of the elusive nature of meaning in human life. For Vladimir and Estragon, Godot represents hope, salvation, or a purpose that will give their lives meaning. However, the fact that Godot never arrives suggests that such meaning may be unattainable, or perhaps does not exist at all. This aligns with existentialist thought, particularly the ideas of Jean-Paul Sartre, who posited that life is inherently meaningless and that individuals must create their own meaning in a world without inherent purpose. The ambiguity surrounding

Godot's identity and purpose further deepens the play's philosophical complexity. Is Godot a representation of God, as some critics suggest, or is he a more abstract symbol of the unattainable goals and desires that drive human action? Beckett himself refused to provide a definitive answer, allowing the character to remain an open-ended symbol that can be interpreted in multiple ways. This refusal to clarify the nature of Godot reflects the play's broader refusal to provide easy answers to the questions it raises, mirroring the uncertainty and ambiguity of life

The role of time

Time in Waiting for Godot is both cyclical and stagnant, contributing to the sense of existential despair that pervades the play. The characters seem to exist in a temporal loop, with each day repeating the same events, yet they are also acutely aware of the passage of time. Vladimir and Estragon often struggle to remember past events or to distinguish between days, suggesting that time is both fluid and meaningless. This manipulation of time serves to reinforce the play's central themes of repetition and futility.

The cyclical nature of time in the play can be seen as a reflection of Friedrich Nietzsche's concept of "eternal recurrence", the idea that life endlessly repeats itself without any progression or final resolution. For Vladimir and Estragon, the possibility that they might be trapped in an eternal loop of waiting is both terrifying and inevitable, a reflection of the human condition as one of endless striving without the possibility of ultimate fulfillment.

The human condition: Loneliness and Companionship

Despite the pervasive despair in Waiting for Godot, Beckett also explores the human need for companionship. Vladimir and Estragon's relationship, though fraught with tension and irritation, is also one of mutual dependence. They bicker and contemplate separation, yet they remain together, bound by a shared fear of isolation. Their relationship suggests that in a meaningless world, human connection, however imperfect, is one of the few sources of comfort and stability.

The characters of Pozzo and Lucky further complicate this theme. Their relationship is one of master and servant, marked by cruelty and degradation, yet it also reflects a twisted form of dependence. Lucky's monologue, a stream-of-consciousness outburst that descends into incoherence, symbolises the breakdown of communication and the failure of language to bridge the gap between individuals. Pozzo and Lucky's dynamic serves as a darker reflection of Vladimir and Estragon's relationship, highlighting the various ways in which humans seek connection, even through domination and submission.

The Impact of Waiting for Godot Waiting for Godot has left an in-

delible mark on modern theatre, influencing countless playwrights and directors. Its rejection of traditional plot structure, its embrace of ambiguity, and its exploration of existential themes have made it a seminal work in the Theatre of the Absurd. Beckett's play challenges audiences to confront uncomfortable truths about the human condition, questioning the very foundations of meaning, time, and existence.

Critics have lauded Waiting for Godot for its innovative approach to theatre, though it has also been met with confusion and resistance. The play's refusal to adhere to conventional storytelling or to offer clear resolutions has puzzled some viewers, yet it is precisely this ambiguity that gives the play its power. By refusing to provide easy answers, Beckett forces his audience to engage with the play on a deeper level, to grapple with its themes and to confront the unsettling possibility that life itself may be as inscrutable and absurd as the world he depicts.

Conclusion

Waiting for Godot is a masterful exploration of existential despair, the search for meaning, and the human condition. Beckett's minimalist approach, combined with his profound philosophical insights, creates a work that is both intellectually challenging and emotionally resonant. The play's themes of absurdity, time, and human connection continue to resonate with audiences today, making it a timeless piece of literature that remains as relevant now as it was when it was first performed. In its refusal to provide easy answers or clear resolutions, Waiting for Godot invites us to confront the uncertainties and ambiguities of our own lives, challenging us to find meaning in a world that often seems devoid of it.

Shift boys' mindset in early age and domestic servitude. Traffickers often target girls By: Narvijay Yadav ated several measures, including the suspension of

espite the presence of CCTVs, Nirbhaya guideines, and various legal acts, these measures will be ineffective unless boys are taught from a young age about respect for women and the distinction between right and wrong.

The safety of girls in India remains a significant concern despite various legal frameworks and initiatives aimed at their protection. The situation is complex, and while there have been improvements in certain areas, challenges persist, making safety a pressing issue. Sexual violence against minors, including rape, molestation, and sexual harassment, remains alarmingly high. Many cases go unreported due to social stigma, fear

of retribution, and lack of awareness about legal rights. Recent incidents of child abuse in India, such as the case in Badlapur, highlight ongoing concerns about the safety of minors, particularly young girls.

In Badlapur, two kindergarten girls, aged three and four, were allegedly sexually assaulted by a male school attendant recently. The incident sparked widespread outrage among parents and the local community, leading to protests, including a 10-hour blockade of railway tracks. The accused was arrested and has been remanded to judicial custody.

In response, the Maharashtra government has initi-

school staff and police officers and the formation of a special investigation team to ensure a thorough probe. The case has also led to calls for stricter safety protocols in schools to protect children from such heinous acts.

Judges from the Bombay High Court emphasized that laws alone won't curb sexual crimes without a fundamental shift in mindset from an early age. In light of a recent case involving the sexual assault of two preschool girls in Balapur, the judges pointed out that societal issues like male chauvinism and dominance persist in the public consciousness.

Educating children about equality at home and in schools is crucial. Despite the presence of CCTVs, Nirbhaya guidelines, and various legal acts, these measures will be ineffective unless boys are taught from a young age about respect for women and the distinction between right and wrong. Instilling these values in children should begin in preschool.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act 2012 provides punishment for sexual offenses against children.

However, the effectiveness of this law is often hindered by delayed justice, poor implementation, and victim-blaming attitudes.

Minor girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for purposes such as sexual exploitation, forced labor, from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

While there are efforts to rescue trafficked girls, the rehabilitation process is usually inadequate, with many victims facing difficulties reintegrating into society. Many minor girls face barriers to accessing education, which can include societal attitudes that prioritize

boys' education, financial constraints, and safety con-

cerns related to traveling to school. Schools are meant

to be safe spaces, but incidents of harassment and abuse

within educational institutions are reported. Minor girls, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, often suffer from malnutrition, which impacts their physical and mental development. Malnutrition also makes them more vulnerable to illnesses and

less resilient to physical and psychological stress. With the growing use of the internet and smartphones, minor girls are increasingly exposed to risks like cyberbullying, online harassment, and grooming by predators. The lack of digital literacy among children and parents contributes to this vulnerability.

There is a critical need for education on digital safety for both minor girls and their guardians, as well as for stricter regulation of online content and platforms. India's patriarchal social structure often limits the freedom and safety of minor girls. (The writer is a Delhibased senior journalist)

POETRY

Somewhere, Always Somewhere

By: Mowsam Hazarika

Wherever I am, some-In the depths of water's embrace, In the shadows of the towering mountains, In the whispering leaves of the ancient forest, Or in the still silence of the cemetery.

Wherever I am, some-On the battlefield, with dust and echoes,

In the winds that carry forgotten names, In the tears of those left behind, Or in the hope that flickers in the dark.

Wherever I am, somewhere, I am the breath that stirs

the quiet, The echo that lingers, long after the sound, The spirit that never I am somewhere, always

somewhere.

Superstition By: Khemu Parashar

Superstitious man torn into pieces

this is the thought of every wise man there is no love in it at all there is some basis for it somewhere in the uni-

Being associated with this makes a per-

this is just a weapon of destruction

heaven was turning into hell. when its light is clearly visible Gods and Goddesses had banned this made a big love verse

> Who challenged superstition did a bigger edge than this life became very sweet superstition is very deadly move away from life quickly

6 THE HILLS TIMES

The 9 day campaign run by the UN health agency and its partners began last Sunday and aims to vaccinate 640,000 children under the age of 10

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill more than a dozen as health workers press on with polio vaccines

DEIR AL-BALAH, Sept 7: Israeli air raids in the Gaza Strip killed more than a dozen people overnight into Saturday morning, hospital and local authorities said, as health workers were wrapping up the second phase of an urgent polio vaccination campaign designed to prevent a large-scale outbreak in the territory.

The vaccination drive was launched after health officials confirmed the first polio case in the Palestinian enclave in 25 years, in a 10-month-old boy whose leg is now paralysed. The nine-day campaign run by the UN health agency and its partners began last Sunday in central Gaza and aims to vaccinate 640,000 children under the age of 10, an ambitious effort during a devastating war that has destroyed Gaza's health care system and much of its infrastructure.

The second phase of vaccinations in the southern part of the strip was in its final day Saturday, the Gaza Health Ministry said, before moving to the north and concluding on Monday. The ministry designated dozens of points across the southern cities of Khan Younis and Rafah for people to visit with their children to receive the vac-

Israel meanwhile kept up its military offensive. In central Gaza's urban refugee camp of Nuseirat, Al-Awda Hospital said it

Gaza and other issues.

Biden to host

British PM Starmer

next week for White

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement that the Oval Office

visit, the second by Starmer since he was

elected earlier this summer, will focus on con-

tinuing Western support for Ukraine as it tries

to repel Russia's invasion, ongoing efforts to

secure a hostage and cease-fire deal between

Israel and Hamas, threats to commercial ship-

ping in the Red Sea posed by the Houthis, an

Iranian-backed group, as well as shared con-

had received the bodies of nine people killed in two separate air

One had hit a residential building in the early hours of Saturday. killing four people and wounding at least 10, the hospital said, while another five people were killed in a strike on a house in the western part of Nuseirat.

Separately, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, central Gaza's main hospital in the town of Deir al-Balah, said a woman and her two children were killed in another strike on a house in the nearby urban refugee camp of Bureij early Sat-

In the northern part of the Gaza Strip, an airstrike on a schoolturned-shelter for displaced people in the town of Jabaliya killed at least four people and wounded about two dozen others, according to Gaza's Civil Defence authority, which operates under the terri-

The war began when Hamas and other militants staged a surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, primarily civilians. Hamas is believed to still be holding more than 100 hostages. Israeli authori-

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The ministry reports more than 94,000 people have been wounded since the start of the war.

ties estimate about a third are

Violence has also spiked in the occupied West Bank, with a more than weeklong military operation in the town of Jenin leaving dozens of dead and a trail of de-

On Friday, a 13-year-old girl and an American protester were

Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, 26. of Seattle, who also holds Turkish nationality, died after being shot in the head on Friday, two Palestinian doctors said. Witnesses to the shooting said she had posed no threat to Israeli forces and was shot during a moment of calm following clashes earlier in the after-

The White House has said it was "deeply disturbed" by the killing and has called on Israel to investigate. The Israeli military said it was looking into reports that troops had killed a foreign national while firing at an "instigator of violent activity" in the area of the protest.

Separately, Palestinian health officials said Israeli fire had killed a 13-year-old girl, Bana Laboom, in the West Bank village of Qaryout, south of Nablus, on Friday.

The Israeli military said on Saturday that an "initial inquiry indicates" security forces had been deployed to disperse a riot involving Palestinian and Israeli civilians that "included mutual rock hurling." The security forces had fired shots in the air, the military

"A report was received regarding a Palestinian girl who was killed by shots in the area. The incident is under review," the mili-

tary added.

raeli settlers living in the West Bank, a territory captured by Israel in 1967. Increasing Israeli raids, attacks by Palestinian militants on Israelis and attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians have left more than 690 Palestinians dead since the Israel-Hamas war began in October, according to Palestinian health officials.

Israel has been under increasing pressure from the United States and other allies to reach a ceasefire deal in Gaza, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on a demand that has emerged as a major sticking point in talks continued Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor, a narrow band along Gaza's border with Egypt where Israel contends Hamas smuggles weapons into Gaza. Egypt and Hamas deny it.

Hamas has accused Israel of dragging out months of negotiations by issuing new demands, including for lasting Israeli control over both the Philadelphi corridor and a second corridor running across Gaza.

Hamas has offered to release all hostages in return for an end to the war, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants — broadly the terms called for under an outline for a deal put forward by US President Joe

Ukraine destroys scores of Russian drones as it continues to face new wave of long-range attacks

KYIV, Sept 7: Scores of drones were shot down over Ukraine Saturday as the country continues to face increased long-range bombardment from invading Russian forces.

The Ukrainian Air Force said that 67 drones were launched over the country overnight, with air defences active in 11 regions across the country, including in the capital, Kyiv.

Fifty-eight drones were shot down, with three more destroyed by electronic weapons systems, it said.

Debris drone was p h o tographed on the street outi d e Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. Ukraine's

parliamentary press service confirmed that drone fragments had been found but said there were no casualties and no damage to the parliament building.

The bombardment follows a week of increased long-range attacks across Ukraine, including a missile strike on a Ukrainian military academy and hospital Tuesday in the city of Poltava that killed 55 people and wounded 328 more

Another attack Wednesday on Lviv — a city near the border with NATO member Poland and far from

ple, including a mother and her three daughters.

The deaths had a profound impact on the city, which had largely been spared the worst of the attacks that typically target infrastructure and are focused with greater intensity in the east of the country.

The attacks have also underscored Moscow's long-range capabilities as Ukraine braces for what will likely be another difficult winter as Russia continues to smash Ukraine's power

> grid, knocking out some 70 per cent of generation capacity and rupturing heat water

Meanwhile, Kyiv

Russia. In the Russian border region of Voronezh Saturday, Gov. Aleksandr Gusev said that a drone strike had sparked a fire and the detonation of "explosive objects."

ued to launch its own strikes against

Writing on social media, he said that a state of emergency had been declared for the region's Ostrogozhsky district and that several villages had been evacuated.

He did not provide the names of the villages affected and urged followers not to share photos or videos of fire that could be geolocated on-

Libya's coast guard intercepts 64 Europe-bound migrants, days after a deadly shipwreck

CAIRO, Sept 7: Libya's coast guard intercepted dozens of Europe-bound migrants on a boat and returned them to shore, authorities said on Saturday, a few days after a shipwreck off the North African country left nearly two dozen dead or missing.

The boat was carrying 64 migrants and was intercepted Friday off the northwestern town of Sirte, according to the town's coast guard unit. It posted images on Facebook showing dozens of migrants, including at least one woman and a child, upon their return. The coast guard also set the migrant boat on fire, a procedure aimed at preventing its reuse by

On Wednesday, a boat carrying 32 migrants from Egypt and Syria capsized off Libya's eastern town of Tobruk, leaving 22 missing and presumed dead. The Libyan coast guard said it rescued nine people and recovered one

Libya, which has borders with six nations and a longshore on the Mediterranean, plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. Since then, the oil-rich country has emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East and seeking better lives in Europe.

Human traffickers in recent years have benefited from the disorder in Libya, smuggling in migrants across the country's lengthy borders. The migrants are crowded onto illequipped vessels, including rubber boats, and

for Migration's missing migrants project, at least 434 were reported dead and 611 missing off Libya between January and August this year while more than 14,100 migrants were intercepted and brought back to shore.

ernment-run detention centres rife with abuses, including forced labour, beatings, rapes and torture - practices that amount to crimes against humanity, according to UNcommissioned investigators. The abuse often accompanies attempts to extort money from the families of the imprisoned migrants before releasing them or allowing them to leave Libya on traffickers' boats to Europe. (AP)

Typhoon Yagi makes landfall in northern Vietnam; authorities shutter airports and order evacuations

House talks Yagi made landfall on Satur-WASHINGTON, Sept 7: President Joe Biden day afternoon in northern Vietnam where authorities will host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer shuttered airports and evacufor talks in Washington next week that are expected to touch on the wars in Ukraine and

ated the most vulnerable. The typhoon, described by Vietnamese meteorological Next Friday's meeting with the leader of authorities as "one of the most one of America's closest allies comes as Biden powerful typhoons in the relooks to step up engagement on the internagion over the past decade," tional stage in his final months in office. U.S. made its way to the Southeast allies and adversaries are also intently watch-Asian country after it left ing how the race to succeed Biden between three people dead and nearly Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and a hundred others injured in the Republican former President Donald Trump Chinese province of Hainan.

Yagi landed at Vietnam's coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 149 kilometres per hour (92 miles per hour), state media reported. Before landing, strong winds felled a tree, killing a woman in the capital, Hanoi, local media said Saturday.

Quang Ninh is home to the cerns about the Indo-Pacific. UNESCO World Heritage site Starmer visited the White House two Ha Long Bay, known for its months ago for one-on-one talks with Biden many towering limestone iswhen he was in Washington for the NATO lands. Hundreds of cruises

call for cease-fire in Gaza

site before the typhoon landed, according to local media. Haiphong is an industrial hub, home to large factories, including EV maker VinFast and Apple supplier Pegatron.

The typhoon has also triggered power outages in large parts of Quang Ninh and Thai Binh provinces.

Earlier, the government issued several alerts, and those vulnerable to floods or landslides were evacuated. Four airports were shuttered, including in Hanoi, and Haiphong.

Hanoi to make them less susceptible to falling, but wind and rain knocked over several along with billboards in northern cities. Local media reported that

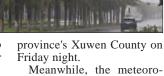
Authorities pruned trees in

many moored boats were swept out to sea. Yagi struck the Chinese city

Wenchang in Hainan province on Friday afternoon with wind speeds of up to about 245 kph (152 mph) near

Authorities said the typhoon left three people dead and injured at least 95 others and that it affected over 1.2 million people as of noon Saturday, according to the local

Global Times newspaper Some 420,000 Hainan residents were relocated before the typhoon's landfall. Another half a million people in Guangdong province were evacuated before Yagi made a second landfall in the



logical observatory of the city of Haikou downgraded its typhoon signal from red to orange on Saturday, as it moved further away. Before leaving Hong Kong,

Yagi forced more than 270 people to seek refuge at temporary government shelters on Friday, and over 100 flights in the city were cancelled due to the typhoon.

Heavy rain and strong winds felled dozens of trees,

and trading on the stock market, bank services and schools were halted. Yagi was still a storm when

it blew out of the northwestern Philippines into the South China Sea on Wednesday, leaving at least 20 people dead and 26 others missing mostly in landslides and widespread flooding and affecting more than 2.3 million people in northern and central provinces.

More than 82,200 people were displaced from their Philippine provinces, and classes, work, inter-island ferry services and domestic flights were disrupted for days, including in the densely populated capital region, metropolitan Manila.

Warm waters in oceans power storms, and as they become warmer because of climate change, a UN climate change report warned that intense typhoons are becoming more common, especially in

Heads of CIA and MI6 issue joint Kenyan officials remove bodies as they try to confirm death toll from school dormitory fire

American and British foreign intelligence agencies said on Saturday they are "working ceaselessly" for a ceasefire in Gaza, using a rare joint public statement to press for peace.

CIA Director William Burns and MI6 Chief Richard Moore said their agencies had "exploited our intelligence channels to push hard for restraint and de-escalation. In an opinion piece for the Financial

Times, the two spymasters said a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war "could end the suffering and appalling loss of life of Palestinian civilians and bring home the hostages after 11 months of hellish Burns has been heavily involved in

efforts to broker an end to the fighting, traveling to Egypt in August for highlevel talks aimed at bringing about a hostage deal and at least a temporary halt to the conflict. So far there has been no agreement,

deal is close. U.S. President Joe Biden said recently that "just a couple more issues" remain unresolved. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, has said reports of a breakthrough are "exactly inaccurate." The U.S. and the United Kingdom are both staunch allies of Israel, though

Monday by suspending some arms exports to Israel because of the risk they could be used to break international Burns and Moore also stressed the strength of the trans-Atlantic relationship in the face of "an unprecedented

London diverged from Washington on

campaign of sabotage" across Europe and the "cynical use of technology to spread lies and disinformation designed

and the constant threat from interna-

tional terrorism — all complicated by



to drive wedges between us." Moscow of meddling in American elections, and this week the Biden administration seized Kremlin-run websites and charged employees of Russian broadcaster RT with covertly funding social media campaigns to pump out pro-Kremlin messages and sow discord around November's presidential con-

attacked its neighbor in February 2022. "We saw it coming, and were able to warn the international community so we could all rally to Ukraine's defense," they said.

no quick end in sight, the spy chiefs Ukraine remained vital.

They said the conflict has brought an unprecedented mix of conventional weaponry, fast-evolving technology in the form of drones and satellites, cyberwarfare and information operations "at

"This conflict has demonstrated that technology, deployed alongside extraordinary bravery and traditional weaponry, can alter the course of war," they said, praising "Ukraine's resilience, innovation and elan." (AP)

NAIROBI, Sept 7: Officials began removing the bodies of children who burned to death in a school dormitory in central Kenya on Sunday as they tried to account for dozens of boys who are still missing.

Journalists were moved to wait outside the school compound as a team that included morticians from the Nyeri provincial hospital set up tables outside the dormitory on

Eighteen boys aged between 10 and 14 are known to have died and 27 were hospitalised after the Thursday night fire at Hillside Endarasha Primary school, but 70 others are still unaccounted-for.

The country's president, William Ruto, has declared three days of mourning. Police are still investigating the cause of the fire.

Anxious parents who had been waiting all day for news about their children were on Friday evening allowed to see what remained of the dormitory. Some parents broke down as they left the scene. The government has urged

school administrators to enforce boarding guidelines that require dormitories to be spacious, with three doors and no grills on the windows for easy escape in case of fires. School fires are common in

Kenyan boarding schools, often caused by arson fuelled by drug abuse and overcrowding, according to a recent education ministry report. Many students board because parents believe it gives them more time to study without long commutes.

Some fires have been started by students during protests over the workload or living conditions. In 2017, 10 high school students died in a school fire in Nairobi started by a student.

Kenya's deadliest school fire in recent history was in 2001, when 67 students died in a dormitory fire in Machakos county. (AP)

set off on risky sea voyages to Europe. According to the International Organisation

The intercepted migrants are held in gov-

Boeing's troubled capsule returns to Earth empty, 2 astronauts left behind in space Williams stayed up late to see said at a news conference early Sattives wrote.

NEW MEXICO, Sept 7: Boeing's first astronaut mission ended on Friday night with an empty capsule landing and two test pilots still in space, left behind until next year because NASA judged their return

Six hours after departing the International Space Station, Starliner parachuted into New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range, descending on autopilot through the desert darkness.

It was an uneventful close to a drama that began with the June launch of Boeing's long-delayed crew debut and quickly escalated into a dragged-out cliffhanger of a mission stricken by thruster failures and helium leaks. For months, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams' return was in question as engineers struggled to understand the capsule's problems.

Boeing insisted after extensive testing that Starliner was safe to bring the two home, but NASA disSpaceX instead. Their SpaceX ride won't launch until the end of this month, which means they'll be up there until February — more than eight months after blasting off on what should have been a quick trip.

So with fresh software updates, the fully automated capsule left with their empty seats and blue spacesuits along with some old station equipment.

Williams radioed as the white and blue-trimmed capsule undocked from the space station 260 miles (420 kilometers) over China and disappeared into the black void.

good landing, pretty awesome," said Boeing's Mission Control. Cameras on the space station and

how everything turned out. "A

There were some snags during reentry, in-

cluding more

Starliner made "bull's-eye landing, s a i d NASA commercial

gram manager Steve Stich. Even with the safe return, "I think we made the right decision not to have Butch and Suni on board," Stich

there's a piece of us, all of us, that we wish it would have been the way we had planned it.' Boeing did not participate in the

Houston news briefing. But two of the company's top space and defense officials, Ted Colbert and Kay Sears, told

urday. "All of us feel happy about

the successful landing. But then

employees in a note that they backed NASA's ruling.

this may not have been originally

since two seats are reserved for Wilmore and Williams for the reenvisioned

billion.

As veteran astronauts and retired Navy captains, Wilmore and

Starliner's crew demo capped a

journey filled with delays and set-

backs. After the space shuttles re-

tired more than a decade ago,

NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX

for orbital taxi service. Boeing ran

into so many problems on its first

test flight with no one aboard in

2019 that it had to repeat it. The

2022 do-over uncovered even more

flaws and the repair bill topped \$1

SpaceX's crew ferry flight later

this month will be its 10th for

NASA since 2020. The Dragon

capsule will launch on the half-year

expedition with only two astronauts

Williams anticipated hurdles on the test flight. They've kept busy in space, helping with repairs and ex-



though United States officials insist a

array of threats," including an assertive Russia, an ever-more powerful China

rapid technological change. They highlighted Russia's "reckless



U.S. officials have long accused

The article is the first joint opinion piece by the heads of the two spy agencies. The two directors pointed to a new era of openness in their secretive field, noting that the CIA and MI6 both declassified intelligence about Russia's plan to invade Ukraine before Moscow

Two and a half years into a war with said "staying the course" in supporting

incredible pace and scale.'

agreed and booked a flight with

Wilmore and Williams should have flown Starliner back to Earth by mid-June, a week after launching in it. But their ride to the space station was marred by the cascade of thruster trouble and helium loss, and NASA ultimately decided it was too risky to return them on

"She's on her way home,"

a pair of NASA planes caught the capsule as a white streak coming in for the touchdown, which drew

thruster is-

crew pro-

the test flight concluding, we support NASA's decision for Starliner and are proud of how our team and spacecraft performed," the execu-

Anti-drone system deployed in Manipur: IGP



IMPHAL, Sept 7: Manipur Police on Saturday said it deployed antidrone systems in response to recent drone and rocket attacks on civilians, the announcement coinciding with reports of fresh violence in Jiribam district that

Briefing reporters here, inspector general of police (Intelligence) K Kabib said a robust anti-drone system has been deployed and police are in the process of buying additional weapons to counter the attacks on civilians.

"The state force is closely monitoring the situation and senior officers have been deployed on the ground. Due to the recent drone atbeen deployed and the state police are in the process of purchasing additional anti-drone guns, which will be deployed soon," he said.

are conducting aerial patrols, and security personnel have been deployed in vulnerable areas.

tions on both sides—hills and valley-have been intensified, focusing on areas from which long-range rockets and drones were fired. These operations will

Kabib explained, "The combing operations aim to prevent any further attacks from areas where rockets were fired and drones were launched, both in the hills and the

Regarding the outbreak of viotacked Nungchabi village, resultKulendra Singha, aged 63.

There was also an exchange of fire between village volunteers and unidentified miscreants near Rashidpur village, which led to the death of one person, B. Lakhikanta Sharma, he said. The district police, led by its SP, responded to the situation, and later three bodies of miscreants in camouflage uniforms were found. Details are yet to be ascertained, he added.

He said, "We have activated our social media monitoring cell to identify instigators. We have identified some people who incite and manipulate public emotions, creating lawlessness. We are identifying them on social media and warning that they will be held accountable under relevant sections of the law.' The IGP said, "Last evening,

there was an attempt to loot arms at the 7th Manipur Rifles Khabeisoi and the 2nd Manipur Rifles in Imphal. The combined forces successfully dispersed the mob. Some vehicles belonging to the miscreants were damaged. Two state police personnel were injured after being fired upon by miscreants; they have been admitted to a private hospital and are reported to be out of danger.'

The senior police officer said during two combing operations on Saturday morning at Loibol Khullen and Tingkai Khullen, which border Kangpokpi and Bishnupur districts, a significant cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition was recovered.

This included nine sophisticated arms, a modified sniper rifle, 21 different types of ammunition, 21 explosives and grenades, and a

Fresh violence in Jiribam claims five

3 bunkers of militants destroyed by security forces

Five people were killed in fresh violence in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday, police said. On the other hand, security forces destroyed three bunkers of militants in Churachandpur district on Friday after the insurgents launched rocket attacks in adjoining Bishnupur that killed one person and injured six others.

On Saturday, one person was shot dead in his sleep while four others were killed in a subsequent exchange of fire between people of two warring communities in Jiribam district, a police officer

Militants entered the house of the person who lived alone at an isolated location around 5 km from the district administration headquarters and shot him dead in his sleep, he said.

After the killing, a heavy exchange of fire took place between people of the warring communities in the hills around 7 km from the district administration headquarters, leading to the deaths of four armed persons, including three hills-based militants, the officer

Earlier this week, fresh arson

Manipur CM calls

emergency meeting

IMPHAL, Sept 7: Manipur chief

minister N Biren Singh called an

emergency meeting with MLAs

from the ruling coalition, which

comprises the BJP, Naga People's

Front, and National Peoples Party

(NPP), on Saturday evening to dis-

cuss the prevailing law and order

situation in the state, official

sources said. The meeting, sched-

uled to take place at the chief min-

ister's bungalow, is expected to

focus on critical decisions concern-

ing the recent attacks on civilians

by armed men from elevated hill

areas, sources added. Additionally,

the legislators, along with Singh,

may also meet the governor, though

this is yet to be confirmed. (PTI)

took place in the Jiribam district after suspected 'village volunteers' burnt down an abandoned threeroom house of a retired police officer at Jakuradhor in Borobekra police station area.

NORTHEAST

Notably, the tribal body Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (Pherzawl and Jiribam) denied any involvement in the incident.

The district witnessed fresh violence despite representatives of the Meitei and Hmar communities reaching an agreement to restore normalcy and "prevent incidents of arson and firing" in a meeting held

Assam's Cachar on August 1. In the meeting moderated by the Jiribam district administration, Assam Rifles and CRPF personnel, and representatives of Hmar,

Meitei, Thadou, Paite and Mizo

communities of Jiribam district were also present. The agreement was, however, denounced by several Hmar tribal bodies based outside the Jiribam district saying they did not have

Meanwhile, security forces conducted operations in Mualsang and Laika Mualsau villages in Churachandpur district on Friday and

any knowledge about it.

destroyed three bunkers of mili-

"Militants deployed long-range rockets among the civilian population in two locations of Bishnupur district in one of which one senior citizen civilian expired and six other civilians were injured," a police statement said.

Police teams and additional security forces conducted a combing operation in the adjoining hill

"Two bunkers at Mualsang village and one bunker at Laika Mualsau village of Churachandpur were destroyed," it said.

Police teams including the Bishnupur SP rushed to the area and were fired upon by suspected militants but the law enforcers retali-

ated and repelled the attack. A military helicopter has been deployed to conduct aerial patrolling, it added. High-level security meetings have been held to take stock of the law and order situation, it said.

Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, and the police are prepared to respond to any contingency that may arise, the statement

Suspected militants fired two

Friday, killing one person and injuring six others, as tension gripped Imphal Valley following high-tech attacks over the past few

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Multiple drones were sighted at Narainsena and Nambol Kamong in Bishnupur district and Pukhao, Dolaithabi and Shantipur in Imphal East district creating panic among residents, they added.

More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last

Ethnically-diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by ethnic violence in Imphal Valley and adjoining hills, erupted in violence after a 59-year-old man belonging to one community was killed allegedly by militants of another community in June this year.

Thousands had to leave their homes and relocate to relief camps due to incidents of arson by both sides. A CRPF jawan was also killed in an ambush by militants during patrolling by security forces

Enrolment ratio of girl students rises: Tripura CM

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Sept 7: Tripura chief minister Manik Saha announced that the Gross Enrolment Ratio of female students in higher education has increased in the state on Saturday. Dr Saha said this while attending the Platinum Jubilee Programme at Ramkrishna Mahavidyalaya in Kailashahar of Unakoti

During the event, Dr. Saha also inaugurated a photo exhibition and a blood donation camp, both celebrating the rich history of the institu-

Addressing the gathering, Dr Saha mentioned that the Maharajas of the Ramakrishna Mission Ashram had shared the ashram's history with

"I have been informed about the encroachment on the land belonging to the Ma-

havidyalaya. I assure you that no one will be allowed to take this land illegally. I will ensure it is freed from encroachment. Education and healthcare are priority sectors for us, and we will not compromise on these. Our government is committed to the state's development. We do not just speak; we act," he said.

Dr. Saha who is also the education minister of Tripura, highlighted that from 2022, girl students in general degree colleges no longer have to pay fees, leading to an increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio of girls in higher education

'We always promote the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, and in line with that, we have taken several initiatives, such as 33% reservation for women in government jobs, the establishment of 'pink toilets,' and 50% reservation for women in government stalls. We are

dedicated to the welfare of women," he stated. Dr. Saha further credited Prime Minister Modi for making the National Education Policy (NEP) a reality, which the state government has implemented in all colleges.

"Thanks to NEP, the next generation will benefit greatly. We have also introduced the 'Lakshya' scheme to help students prepare for competitive exams like the UPSC. The Dhamma Dipa University is set to open in Sabroom, and we are making progress on Techno India University and Aryavart International University. Additionally, we have Maharaja Bir Bikram University and Tripura Central University. Our aim is to transform Tripura into an educational hub in the Northeast. We now have dental and nursing colleges as well. It was not an easy task, and we faced many challenges, but we have succeeded," he concluded.

M'laya police intensify crackdown against miscreants



SHILLONG, Sept 7: Meghalaya has witnessed frequent attacks on police stations this year, the latest being a few days ago when miscreants committed an arson attack on the Rynjah police

Given these attacks, Meghalaya police have decided to go all out in nabbing perpetrators of arson attacks on police stations.

Mawlai police station, Sadar police station, and Laitumkhrah police station were also made soft targets by arsonists earlier during the months of April-May. East Khasi Hills SP Sylvester Nongtnger said that a case has

Woman sentenced to

life imprisonment

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Sept 7: The Addi-

tional Sessions Judge Court of

Bishalgarh in Sepahijala District

sentenced a woman to life impris-

onment on Saturday for killing her

daughter-in-law, who was 10

Speaking with reporters, public

prosecutor Goutam Giri stated that the deceased, Eti Saha Barman, had

married Dhananjoy Barman in 2011

ganagar Village under the Bishal-

Sepahijala District. After their wed-

ding, Dhananjoy and his mother,

Parul Barman, subjected Eti Saha

Barman to both mental and physical

abuse. On May 21, 2015, the

mother-in-law, Parul Barman,

poured kerosene on Eti and set her

on fire. She was rushed to GB Panth

Hospital and was fighting for her

life. During her treatment, Tripura

Police recorded her testimony, in

which she levelled serious allega-

tions against her mother-in-law,"

After hearing the case, the addi-

tional sessions Judge sentenced

Parul Barman to life imprisonment

and imposed a fine of ₹50,000.

said the prosecutor.

garh sub-division of Tripura's

"They were residents of Dur-

following all traditional rituals.

months pregnant.

been registered regarding the arson attack on Rynjah police station, and an investigation is in progress. He assured them that they would 'definitely' get the

He informed that police have taken stringent action against such arson attacks on police sta-

"In the Laitumkhrah police station case, the culprits are still in jail for the past 4-5 months," the SP said while sending a strong message, "Whoever commits a crime, police will act. We may not get you today and we may not get you tomorrow but every day we will be running after you

"As police, we must do our job. Whoever commits crimes, we will go after them," he added.

Nongtnger also stated that the Police department is considering the installation of CCTVs in all police stations as a top priority.

"CCTV is our priority. Hopefully, we can repair and install new ones," he said. (NNN)

Ulama-I-Hind demands apology from MLA

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Sept 7: Tripura State Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind on Saturday strongly condemned the statement reportedly made by BJP MLA Tafajjal Hossain in the recently concluded Tripura Legislative Assembly, where he allegedly claimed that the Muslim community is involved in various criminal activities in the country and state.

In view of his opinion, the organization has demanded a public apology from the MLA. In a statement, the Tripura State Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind expressed concern over media reports that the MLA from Boxanagar Assembly Constituency, Sepahijala District, had generalized the Muslim community in his remarks during the assembly session, implying their involvement in criminal activities.

"The Muslim community has been deeply hurt by his remarks," the statement said. "Within the Muslim religion, there are revered figures such as scholars, philosophers, spiritualists, and patriots who have dedicated their lives to the nation's freedom and progress. The contributions of Muslims to India's freedom and growth cannot be denied. Figures like Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed have made tremendous efforts against terrorism and crime. MLA Tafajjal has no right to malign an entire community in this way.'

The organization further demanded proof of the MLA's claims, stating, "If his words are based on evidence, we ask him to present it. If his statements were true, how could he, as a member of the Muslim community, have been elected as a legislator? Additionally, why are leaders from the Muslim community being appointed to positions such as Waqf Committee Chairman, State Haj Committee Chairman, and Minority Morcha Chairman? His past actions and statements do not align with the views of the educated and intellectual members of the Muslim community."

The statement emphasized that India is a secular state, and the Constitution guarantees equal rights to all communities. It urged the MLA to issue a public apology to the Muslim community for his remarks, which were described as "baseless and defama-

The Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, the largest Muslim organization in the country, condemned Tafajjal Hossain's statement, asserting that it has defamed not only the Muslim community but also his political party and the Legislative Assembly.

The statement concluded by noting that the nation will not forgive such unfounded accusations, and many people have already

expressed their disapproval of his remarks.

4 B'deshi arrested HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Sept 7: In a significant development, Tripura Police apprehended four Bangladeshi nationals early Saturday for illegally crossing into India. The arrests took place in Kumarghat, Unakoti District after the group was found wandering suspiciously following their reported entry from Bangladesh through a border town. The arrested individuals have been identified as Mohammad Hanif (50) from Muralganj Bagerhat, Mohammad Yusuf Ali (35) from Gopal Pani Bagerhat, and two women. Parul Begum and Jasmine HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

National Olympiad Programme 2024-2025 in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, **Junior Science**

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding National Standard Examinations (NSEs) (for science subjects) on November 23 and 24, 2024. conducted by the Indian Association of Physics

Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding International Olympiads of 2025.

NSEs: https://www.iapt.org.in (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2024)

https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in For more details: https://www.iapt.org.in CBC- 48143/12/0010/2425

No. DME/UG/17/2024/535433/10

Akhtar, both from Jamalatila

Bagerhat in Bangladesh.

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE

2ND ROUND ONLINE COUNSELLING FOR ADMISSION INTO 1ST YEAR MBBS/BDS COURSES IN THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL & DENTAL COLLEGES OF ASSAM, FOR THE **SESSION 2024**

This is for information of all concerned that the 2nd round Online Counselling for Admission into the vacant MBBS/BDS seats in the Government Medical and Dental Colleges of Assam for the session 2024 under State quota seats, is going to be held under this Directorate. Candidates who have qualified in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG-2024) conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) may participate in the Online counselling provided they fulfill all eligibility criteria mentioned in the Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges of Assam (Regulation of Admission into 1st year MBBS/BDS courses) Rules, 2017 amended upto 2024, as well as meet the cut-off score in NEET-UG-2024.

Online Portal for the counselling will be available at the official website of this Directorate www.dme.assam.gov.in from 11/09/2024 to 13/09/2024 (11:55 PM). The candidates who have already registered and participated in Round 1 state counselling need not register again and shall be able to take part in the Online choice filling of 2nd Round of Counselling for fresh allotment or change of College. After completion of Online Registration process, Online Filling of Choice will be available from 14/09/2024 to 17/09/2024 (10:00 PM), Locking of choice will be available on 17/09/2024 (5 PM to 11:59 PM), after which the choice will be locked automatically if not locked earlier by the candidate. Processing of seat allotment will be from 18/09/2024 to 19/09/2024. After processing the data, the result will be displayed along with modalities of admission on 20/09/2024. The provisionally selected candidates shall have to get admitted in the respective allotted institutions as directed between 25/09/2024 to 26/09/2024.

SI. No.	Schedule	Date
1	Online Registration	11/09/2024 to 13/09/2024 (11:55 PM)
2	Online filling of Choice	14/09/2024 to 17/09/2024 (10:00 PM)
3	Online Locking of Choice	17/09/2024 (5 PM to 11:59 PM)
4	Processing of Seat Allotment	18/09/2024 to 19/09/2024
5	Result	20/09/2024
6	Reporting/Joining	25/09/2024 to 26/09/2024

Candidates are directed to visit the official website of this Directorate www.dme.assam.gov.in regularly for updates.

Janasanyog /D/5302/24/8-Sep-24

Director of Medical Education, Assam

Dimapur pledges on clean air project 'Invest in clean air now'



HT Correspondent DIMAPUR, Sept 7: Students and

teachers from 20 schools in Dimapur, Dimapur district administration officials and Dimapur Municipal Council (DMC) councillors, among others, came together at Livingstone Foundation International School Dimapur on Saturday to take a pledge at an awareness campaign on national clean air programme on the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies to protect Dimapur and the country from air pol-

The campaign was organised by the Dimapur district administration, in collaboration with Livingstone Foundation Society and Breeze Women Welfare Association

Besides the clean air pledge, a clean air signature campaign, inter-school painting and science project competition on clean air, and tree plantation were organised to mark the day.

Speaking on the occasion as the special guest, DMC chairman Hukheto

Yepthomi said this year's theme of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies "Invest in clean air now" reminded that the time is to act now.

"Together, we can ensure that the air we breathe is clean and safe. Together, we can secure blue skies for all," he Yepthomi lauded the Nagaland Pol-

lution Control Board, the district administration, Breeze Women Welfare Society and institutions like Livingstone Foundation International for their efforts towards bringing about transformative change in ensuring clean air. He assured the DMC's support for

the clean air initiatives. In his address, Livingstone Foundation Society chairman Dr Andrew Ahuto Sema called for working together hand in hand to ensure a beautiful environment through clean air for future generations.

"We must understand that global warming is a serious issue," he stressed. Nagaland Pollution Control Board scientist Yanthan Kithan pointed out that the air quality in Dimapur and Kohima is beyond the permissible limit set by the Central Pollution Control Board. "We must work together as a team to

ensure clean air in the state," Kithan

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resulted in five deaths.

tacks, an anti-drone system has

He added that army helicopters He added, "The combing opera-

cover a minimum of 3-5 km, concentrating on these areas."

lence in Jiribam district, Kabib said suspected Kuki militants at-

ing in the death of an elderly man,

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Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia were used by Cong as pawns: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

GONDA (UP), Sept 7: Vinesh ogy...This team of Rahul, the Conplogat and Bajrang Punia were gress keeps doing these things," he used by the Congress as "pawns" in a "conspiracy" to take control of the Wrestling Federation of India and attack the BJP, former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said on Saturday

A day after Olympians Phogat and Punia joined the Congress party, the senior BJP leader reiterated that former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was behind the plot against him as he had defeated his son Deepender Singh Hooda in the 2012 WFI elections. "They (Punia and Phogat) were faces... they were mohrey (pawns). They were used like pawns by (former Haryana chief minister) Bhupinder Hooda, the Congress and the Congress family," he told PTI Videos. "This was all conspired to gain a hold on the Wrestling Federation of India and to attack the BJP and its ideol-

AIMIM will chart its own

course if MVA doesn't revert

by Sep 9 on alliance: Jaleel

NAGPUR, Sept 7: The AIMIM has given a proposal

to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for an alliance but

will move on its own if the opposition bloc doesn't

respond by September 9, party leader Imtiaz Jaleel

said on Saturday. Jaleel said they are keen on contest-

ing from a handful of seats where the Hyderabad-headquartered All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul

Jaleel told reporters in Nagpur that they feel that

the BJP-led Mahayuti, also comprising Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and NCP headed by Ajit Pawar,

align with the MVA out of "political compulsions" and in the interest of farmers and the people of the

state. Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly will likely be held in a month or two. Jaleel said they have had some talks with the lead-

not propose too many seats," he said.
"We have waited a lot. What if they refuse to take

us on board at the last minute? If they don't respond

by September 9, we will start distributing forms for our

aspiring candidates. We will decide how many seats

AİMIM will contest in the state. We are reviewing our

position," he said. In the 2019 assembly elections.

AIMIM contested 44 seats and won two. Of the main

players, BJP bagged 105 seats, followed by undivided

dais... that of Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and

Nana Patole (state Congress chief). They don't want us to be the fourth party on the dais," he said.

Jaleel, who earlier represented the Aurangabad Lok

Sabha seat, said his party may not benefit much from

an alliance with the MVA, but the opposition grouping

could suffer huge losses if it doesn't take AIMIM

along. Asked if "bulldozer justice" will abate in the

country in the wake of the Supreme Court coming hard

on it. Jaleel said he doesn't think the action would stop.

"Such observations have been made earlier too. But

"It looks like they want only three chairs on the

NCP (56) and Shiv Sena (54), and Congress (44).

should not form the government in Maharashtra. Despite a mismatch in the ideologies of AIMIM and Shiv Sena (UBT), Jaleel said they are ready to

Muslimeen (AIMIM) has strong influence.

It was in 2012 when Singh first got control of WFI after a bitter turf war with Hooda. He had a vice-like grip on the body before the protest against him started last year for allegedly sexually harassing and intimidating women wrestlers. Phogat and Punia, who is an Olympic bronze-medallist, along with another Olympic bronze-winner Sakshi Malik spearheaded the agitation.

As a result, Singh, who was a six-time Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh's Kaiserganj constituency, had to step down from the position of WFI head and he is also facing criminal charges in the court.

After his ouster, his close aide Sanjay Singh was elected as the head of WFI but the body has still not got recognition from the sports ministry even though the world



overning body for wrestling, UWW, has endorsed it. On Friday, both Phogat and Punia stated that they would continue the fight against Singh with the former asserting she would ensure that no

woman faces what she had to go through. The 30-year-old, who is a two-time world championships medallist besides being an Asiad gold-winner, will be contesting from the Julana constituency in the

next month.

She recently hit the headlines for reaching the Ólympic finals before being disqualified on the day of the summit bout for being 100gm overweight. Singh was expectedly dismissive of her statements.

"What happened with her? The incident that she alleges happened at a time when I was in Lucknow. Time will tell the truth," he said. Punia, on the other hand, has been made working chairman of

the All India Kisan Congress. In contrast, Malik has steered clear of joining politics, saying she would continue the agitation without aligning herself with any outfit

despite being offered to do so. However, the Rio Games star, who quit the sport after Sanjay Singh's election as WFI head, has offered her best wishes to the two grapplers, calling their decision a

opposition leaders in jail.

BJP poaching leaders, polarising people ahead of assembly polls in Jharkhand: D Raja

RANCHI, Sept 7: CPI general secretary D Raja on Saturday accused the BJP of poaching leaders from other parties and raking up issues like infiltration to polarise people ahead of the assembly polls

Raja arrived in Jharkhand earlier in the day to discuss the party's strategy for the assembly elections in the eastern state

"The BJP and its conservative allies are targeting ruling parties in Jharkhand. In order to cripple functioning, they poach leaders from ruling parties if possible. This is happening in Jharkhand," he told reporters here.

'On the issue of infiltration, if they are serious about it, the Union home minister should give an explanation to the country. Instead, they are targeting some states in order to create confusion and conflict among communities," Raja alleged.

The saffron party has been making allegations of increased infiltration in Jharkhand, especially in the Santhal Par-



the BJP would face defeat in the upcoming assembly elections Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Maharashtra.

"The way the wrestlers were treated during their protests at Jantar Mantar Delhi was shameful. Now, there is anger not only among sports persons but also

Raja also said there is "resentment" among people of Maharashtra, who are now "questioning the policies of the central government".

among people of Haryana," he said.

He said the Communist Party of India (CPI) would try to unite all secular democratic parties, which have come under the banner of the INDIA bloc, to win the assembly polls in Jharkhand, and "teach a lesson to the BJP and right-wing

Attacking the Centre, Raja asserted that unemployment and rising inflation are two major issues the country is fac-

"Due to misrule and misgovernance of the central government, prices of all essential commodities have gone up. The Narendra Modi government has completely failed to address the issue of unemployment, too," he alleged.

Raja said the CPI has been holding countrywide protests in the first week of September against several issues, including unemployment, inflation and

Stand with 'Haryana ka Laal' Arvind Kejriwal: Sunita urges voters

Dubbing her husband Arvind Kejriwal as "Haryana ka laal" (son of Haryana), Sunita Kejriwal on Saturday urged people to stand against the ruling BJP by voting for the AAP in the upcoming assembly

Claiming that the Delhi chief minister was put behind bars in a fake case, the AAP leader said, "Your son is a lion and he will not bend before (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji.

"I, your daughter-in-law and your sister, want to ask, will Haryana tolerate this insult? Will you remain quiet and will you not support your son (the Delhi CM)," she asked while addressing a gathering here.Sunita Kejriwal also slammed Haryana's ruling party BJP, alleging it only wants to "remain in power" and has "no interest" in working for the welfare of society. She also said the BJP only knew how to break parties and put

She asked electors to ensure that not even a single vote goes to the BJP, which has been in power for the last 10 years

Hitting out at the BJP, the AAP leader asked people if they saw any improvement in the education and health sectors in the last 10 years."Has the condition of government schools improved? Is there any hospital in your area where good medical treatment is provided, free medicines are given," she asked.

'Are you getting free and roundthe-clock electricity? There is nothing as such," she said, adding that these facilities are being provided in Delhi and Punjab where the AAP is in power.

Sharpening her attack on the ruling party, she said the BJP just wanted to remain in power.

"It only knows how to break parties and put opposition leaders in jail. They (BJP) have no interest in working for (the welfare of) the society," she alleged. She said her husband Arvind Kejriwal was "Haryana ka laal" (son of Haryana), adding that he was born in Siwani village and was brought

organisation equally opposed to

the LDF and UDF. An IPS officer,

under the Chief Minister, had met

versial meeting had links to the

"Nobody could imagine in their dream that Haryana's son would become Delhi CM," she said, adding, "It is not an ordinary thing and it is not less than a miracle.'

"Arvind ji was born on August 16, 1968. On that day, it was 'Krishna Janmashtami'. I feel that God wants to get something special done through Arvind ji," she said. He started with zero and he floated his own party and became the chief minister of Delhi in the first election, she said.

Kejriwal did things which even the big parties and big leaders could never do, she said.

"Because of all this, (PM Narendra) Modi ji is jealous and is scared of your son and your brother (Kejriwal). He (Modi) cannot do such work," she said.

The prime minister cannot ensure good education and medical treatment. To stop Arvind Kejriwal's work, he put him into jail in a fake case, she alleged.

The Delhi chief minister, who is also the AAP national convenor, is currently in judicial custody in an excise policy-related case.

His wife, during the rally, said, "They call Kejriwal a 'chor (thief). I say if he is 'chor' then nobody is honest in the world.

"You have to ensure the victory of AAP," she said, urging people to press the 'jharoo' button on October 5.It is not about Kejriwal, it is a question of Haryana's honour, she further said.

Speaking about her party's 'guarantees' for Haryana, Sunita Keiriwal said like Delhi and Punjab, there will be free electricity and round-the-clock power supply in the state.

There will be 'mohalla clincs' in cities and villages and the condition of government hospitals and schools will be improved, she added. Free and good education will be provided to children, she

Each woman will get Rs 1,000 per month, she said, adding that the scheme will soon be implemented in Delhi and Punjab by the AAP government.Employment will be given to each unemployed youth,

The senior CPI leader also claimed that Cong to form coordination committee for seat-sharing

ers of MVA – Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena RANCHI, Sept 7: The Congress on Saturday said a (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) - over coordination committee would soon be formed to dis-AIMIM's proposal to fight on seats where the party cuss the seat-sharing formula with allies in Jharkhand ahead of the assembly polls. MVA had sought some time to discuss AIMIM's proposal but that has not happened, he said. "We did

The announcement was made by AICC secretary Saptagiri Shankar Ulaka, who is also the Jharkhand coincharge, after a meeting of the party here. "A coordination committee will be formed after dis-

cussions with our general secretary, who is coming to Jharkhand on Sunday. The committee will deal with the seat-sharing issue

(for the polls)," he said.
Ulaka said the party would declare how many seats it would contest after the panel members discuss the

'The committee will decide the seats with the JMM and other parties that would contest under the banner of the INDIA bloc. We want the seat-sharing arrangement to be a win-win situation for all the allies in order to win the assembly polls," he said.

The assembly elections are scheduled to be held later this year. The Congress had contested 31 out of the 81 seats in the 2019 polls in alliance with the JMM and RJD. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) had contested 43 seats and the RJD seven.

Jharkhand Congress president Keshav Mahato Kamlesh said the party would pitch for a caste census in the

state after the assembly polls.

He also said it would demand for the creation of a

with RSS leader draws flak in Kerala THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Sept 7: The controversy surrounding IPS officer M R Ajith Kumar's alleged meeting with a senior RSS leader escalated on Saturday, with a section of the media reporting that the ADGP admitted to the Chief Minister's office that his visit was personal, drawing sharp reactions from the ruling party ally CPI and the opposition Congress.

As per media reports, Kumar, a close confidant of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, offered an explanation to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) that he had met with RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale in Thrissur last May, but clarified that it was a "personal

However, a CMO source said they "lacked clear information" about the ADGP's explanation.

The controversy took a turn a day after ruling CPI (M) had termed as a "lie and pure nonsense" the opposition Congress' charge that Ajith Kumar acted as a 'middleman' between the CM and the RSS to disrupt the iconic Thrissur Pooram festival to secure the Lok Sabha poll victory of the BJP candidate in Thrissur.

Meanwhile, the ADGP's explanation didn't go well with CPI, the second largest coalition partner in the LDF, which said today that the reported meeting of the top officer with the RSS leader amounted to creating doubt among the people.

CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam sounded tough about the media reports over the ADGP's explanation and sought to know what vijnanam" (knowledge) that the law and order ADGP had shared with the organisational leaders of Vijnana Bharathi, an RSS wing.

People of the state would naturally wonder why the ADGP met the RSS leaders and what was the reason for the secret meeting, the leader told media. He made it clear that the LDF

and RSS had nothing in common, including politics or ideology. Senior Congress leader K Muraleedharan questioned the reported explanation of the ADGP.

the national leader of such an outfit. Shouldn't he inform the CM or the DGP before the visit?" he asked. Muraleedharan also reiterated his allegation that the contro-

ADGP's explanation to CMO on meeting

Thrissur Pooram in April. He also demanded a judicial probe into the allegations. However, the ruling CPI (M) was reluctant to give a clear reply on the ADGP's reported explanation to the CMO and adopted a stand that the officer's visit had

nothing to do with the party. CPI (M) state secretary M V Govindan wondered why the party should answer if the ADGP had visited someone.

"So what?" he asked when the media sought his reaction over the

officer's reported explanation.

LSGD Minister MB Rajesh said ADGP Ajith Kumar is not a CPI (M) leader. While reporters sought his reply, the minister said the ADGP had gone to visit anyone by himself.

"The ADGP is not a CPI (M) Leader.... Everything will come under the probe... None of our leaders have ever stood with folded hands before the photo of RSS leader Golwalkar," Rajesh added. Govindan had on Friday said that the controversy was a false narrative peddled by the Congress to cover the actual reasons behind its poor showing in the Thrissur LS seat where it came

His remarks were in response to the recent remarks by Leader of Opposition in the state assembly V D Satheesan demanding to know if the CM had dispatched ADGP Ajithkumar, his trusted confidant, to meet with RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale in Thrissur May last year.

The meeting was intended to avoid the investigation by central agencies against the CM and to enter into a political understanding during the election, Satheesan had

those underestimating party will regret it



certainty over an alliance with the Congress for the assembly polls in Haryana, AAP on Saturday warned that those who "underestimate" the party would "regret" it.

AAP national secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said during a press conference that the party was ready to contest from all 90 seats in the Haryana elections with full force.

"We are fully prepared and waiting for the party's order. As soon as we get the 'go' word, we will announce everything. We are prepared to fight the elections with full force on all the seats and those who underestimate us will themselves regret it in the future,"

Pathak said. Alliance talks between AAP and the Congress have hit an impasse over seat sharing. AAP has demanded 10 seats while the Congress is offering five to seven,

insiders have said. Haryana goes to the polls on October 5. The last date to file nomi-

nations is September 12. Earlier in the day, AAP chief national spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said talks were underway and expressed hope that there would be "some conclusion".

"Talks are ongoing, so it's too early to comment," she said when asked about the number of seats AAP would contest if it struck an alliance with the Congress.

AAP has been on a continuous campaign in Haryana. Sunita Kejriwal, wife of party chief Arvind Kejriwal, is scheduled to hold public meetings in the state on Saturday. "We are ready to contest on all 90 seats," Kakkar said.

AAP sources on Friday claimed that the talks over an alliance were on the verge of "collapse".

They had also claimed that the party was planning to contest 50 seats and might announce its first list of candidates on Sunday.

INDIA bloc constituents AAP and the Congress contested the Lok Sabha polls in an alliance in Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi. (PTI)



On the second anniversary of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the yatra proved that Indians were inherently loving people and "today our mission remains to ensure that the voice of love is heard in every corner of the country'

Congress president Mallikariun Kharge said the distance covered on foot by Rahul Gandhi and Bharat Jodo Yatris from Kanyakumari to Kashmir awakened an unprecedented public consciousness of love, mutual harmony and brotherhood in the hearts of crores of people.

"On the occasion of the second anniversary of Bharat Jodo Yatra, I only appeal to the people of the country to continue the struggle to preserve the Constitution and democracy," Kharge said in a post in Hindi.

"Our struggle continues on the real issues of economic inequalities, inflation, unemployment, social injustice, destruction of the Constitution, centralization of power," the Congress chief said.

The resolve to protect our con-

stitutional values '?'?of justice, freedom, equality and brotherhood must be stronger, he said. "We will not let the agenda of

hatred and division succeed. The victory of love and humanity is certain. The Congress Party will not stop, it will not pause. The voice of Mother India is our voice," he said. "As the Bharat Jodo Yatra marks

a milestone, we celebrate the resilient tapestry of unity and inclusivity it has woven across India's diverse landscapes," Kharge said. "Let us reaffirm our commitment to justice and a brighter fu-

ture, where every thread counts

and every voice matters," he said. Posting a video montage of the yatra on X, Gandhi said, "The Bharat Jodo Yatra taught me the beauty of silence. In the midst of cheering crowds and slogans, I discovered the power to tune out the noise and focus entirely on the person next to me -- to truly listen.'

"In those 145 days, and the two years since, I've listened to thousands of Indians from diverse backgrounds. Each voice has carried wisdom, teaching me something new, and each has represented our beloved Bharat Mata," the former Congress chief said. The yatra proved that Indians are inherently loving people, he

"When I started this journey I said love will conquer hate and hope will defeat fear, today our mission remains the same -- to ensure the voice of Bharat Mata, the voice of love is heard in every corner of our beloved country," Gandhi said, using the hashtag 'Bharat judne tak'

Congress general

Jairam Ramesh said the yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir was a "massive booster dose" for the party and heralded a change in the country's politics.

"Today is the 2nd anniversary of the start of the truly transformational Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra. Over 200 Bharat Yatris led by Rahul Gandhi completed the 4000 km long yatra, overwhelmingly on foot, over a period of 145 days and covering 12 states and 2 UTs," Ramesh said.

"This vatra led to unprecedented connectivity and collectivity and was a massive booster dose for the Indian National Congress. It heralded a change in the politics of our country as well," he said.

It provided the impetus for the Manipur to Mumbai Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra during Jan-March 2024, Ramesh added. The Congress, in a post on X,

said that as the Bharat Jodo Yatra marks a milestone, "we celebrate the resilient tapestry of unity & inclusivity it has woven across India's diverse landscapes".

"Let us reaffirm our commitment to justice & a brighter future, where every thread counts & every voice matters," the party said.

In another post, the Congress said, "Today and every day, we celebrate the unstoppable spirit of Bharat Jodo Yatra and its unwavering commitment to a united India!" Gandhi launched the yatra from Kanyakumari on September 7, 2022. It culminated on January 30, 2023, as he capped the ambitious 145-day journey in Srinagar.

During the course of the march, Gandhi addressed 12 public meetings, more than 100 street corner meetings and 13 press conferences. He had over 275 planned walking interactions and more than 100 sitting interactions With more than 4,000 kilome-

tres under his belt, Gandhi managed to catch the attention of his supporters as well as detractors. The march witnessed participation from a cross-section of society, including film and TV celebrities such as Kamal Haasan, Pooja Bhatt, Riya Sen, Swara Bhasker, Rashami Desai, Akanksha Puri and Amol Palekar.

Besides, writers and military veterans, including former Army chief Gen (Retd) Deepak Kapoor and ex-Navy chief Admiral (Retd) L Ramdas, and noted people such as former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan and exfinance secretary Arvind Mayaram also participated in the yatra.

Opposition leaders such as the National Conference's Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, People's Democratic Mehbooba Mufti, Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Aaditya Thackeray, Priyanka Chaturvedi and Sanjay Raut, and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leader Supriya Sule also walked alongside Gandhi at various points during the march. (PTI)







Ganesh festival begins in Maharashtra amid fanfare

Ganesh festival began in Maharashtra on Saturday, with idols of the deity being installed in homes and at public pandals across the state amid fanfare and gaiety.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Families, including children and elderly members, stepped out of their homes early morning to bring their beloved god home amid chants of "Ganpati Bappa Morya" and the beating of drums.

Many people were seen carrying the idols of Lord Ganesh in autorickshaws, cars, and other modes of transport.

Traditional 'dhol-tasha' (drum) troupes accompanied the processions which began in the morning.

Many mandals - groups that celebrate the festival in public places - brought in their Ganesh idols with grand processions in the last The idols will be installed at

homes and in pandals with rituals. Devotees thronged vegetable and flower markets, sweet shops and roadside stalls for buying

Programme for

conservation of

vultures begins

NAGPUR, Sept 7: The Pench

Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra's

Nagpur on Saturday launched an

initiative for the conservation of

critically endangered vultures,

under which villagers will dump

carcasses of animals at designated

conservation and restoration of the

critically endangered vulture

species," Deputy Director of Pench

Tiger Reserve (PTR) Prabhu Nath

vultures) were brought from the

Jatayu Conservation and Breeding

Centre from Pinjore in Haryana,

and placed in a pre-release aviary

in East Pench in Pipariya in Janu-

These vultures were kept in this

aviary before they were released

into their natural habitat in the

PTR. Over the past few months,

these vultures have been interact-

ing with wild vultures outside the

aviary, and based on these interac-

tions, the PTR administration and

BNHS decided to release them into

The extinction of traditional car-

cass dumping sites due to cultural

change has diminished the food

available to vultures, he said,

the wild on August 10.

6), he said. (PTI)

Ten long-billed vultures (Indian

Shukla said in a release.

ary this year, he said.



flowers, puja materials, sweets and decorative items.

Several politicians and celebrities from Bollywood install idols of the deity of wisdom and knowledge in their homes every year.

In Mumbai, around 15,000 police personnel besides senior officials have been deployed for security during the 10-day festival. As many as 32 Deputy Commissioners of Police, 45 Assistant Commissioners, 2,435 officials,

12,420 constables, home guards and personnel of the State Reserve Police Force, Rapid Action Force and Riot Control Unit will be on the streets, an official said.

More than 2,500 Ganesh mandals and lakhs of households in the financial capital of the country will be celebrating the festival.

Authorities received 3,358 applications from Ganesh mandals, and permission to put up pandals was granted to 2,635 mandals as nicipal Corporation (BMC) official

Bright, coloured lights have already lit up streets and bylanes in Lalbaug, Parel, Girgaon, Andheri, Chembur, Fort and other areas of Mumbai which house famous Ganapati mandals

Lakhs of devotees visit some of the popular pandals such as 'Lalbaugcha Raja' during the festival.

Other well-known mandals in the area include Chinchpokli, Ganesh Gully and Tejukaya.

The Matunga-based GSB Seva Mandal, known for its Lord Ganesha adorned with gold jewellery, is considered one of the wealthiest mandals. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday urged people to celebrate the Ganesh festival in an eco-friendly

In a statement on the eve of the commencement of the ten-day festivities, Shinde expressed hope that the elephant-headed lord would

Heritage and culture of Maharashtra are on display during this festival, he said, and appealed to people to preserve its legacy.

He also asked Ganesh devotees to extend assistance to the needy

and deprived sections of society. Meanwhile, the BMC has asked people to be on guard against stingray and jellyfish bites during Ganesh festival idol immersions. Hundreds of big idols are im-

mersed in the Arabian sea. Harmful fish that can bite Ganesh devotees during immersion have been found in large numbers in 'trial netting' conducted by the Maharashtra government's Fisheries Department, a BMC release said.

The trial netting was done off the coast at Girgaon and Dadar and fish like Dhomi, Kolambi, Shingti, Blue Jelly Fish, Ghoda Masa, Chhote Ravas etc were found along with jellyfish and stingrays, it said. Citizens should take precaution during Ganapati immersion, the BMC said. (PTI)

shower blessings on everybody. Two coaches of Indore-Jabalpur Express train derail; no passenger injured

JABALPUR, Sept 7: Two coaches of Indore-Jabalpur Express train derailed on Saturday morning when it was approaching the Jabalpur station in Madhya Pradesh, railway officials said.

No passenger was injured in the derailment that occurred around 5.40 am, they said.

Restoration work is underway and a committee has been formed to probe the incident, according to them.

Jabalpur station falls under the West Central Railway (WCR) zone. "Two coaches of the Indore-Jabalpur Superfast Express (22191) derailed when the train was approaching platform number 6 of the Jabalpur station," an official said.

The derailed coaches were positioned just behind the engine, he said, adding that the derailment took place around 50 metres away from the platform.

Talking to PTI, Madhur Verma, senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) of WCR's Jabalpur Rail Division, "The train's scheduled arrival time is 5.35 am. The derailment occurred at 5.38 am when the train was about to enter the Jabalpur station. The loco pilot immediately stopped the train and saved other coaches from getting dragged.'

Two coaches adjoining the engine got derailed, but fortunately, no passenger was injured in the in-

The passengers got off the train

"A multi-departmental inquiry committee has been constituted to carry out a probe," he said.(PTI)

cident," he said.

and traffic on the adjoining tracks was stopped for around half an hour. Verma said.

have made since," he said.

of nationalism and those who venture to do it will face the "spiritual Dhankhar, who was in Gorakhpur to inaugurate the Uttar Pradesh

No compromise on anti-nationalism, spiritual

backlash awaits those who do: VP Dhankhar

GORAKHPUR (UP), Sept 7:

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar

on Saturday asserted there should

be "no compromise" on the issue

Sainik School, also said that with

foreign exchange reserves of USD

680 billion, India has come a long

way since the early 1990s when it

had to pledge its gold to tide over

"How can one even imagine that

a country like India, with a vibrant,

thriving democracy, could face the

same situation as were witnessed

in neighbouring countries. This is

"Compromising with national-

ism would be akin to betraying the

nation. There is a need to counsel

those who are doing this else they

will have to face 'adhyatmik

pratighaat (spiritual backlash)'

from the masses. We shouldn't tol-

erate anyone who casts aspersions

or raises doubt on the country," he

Last month, while attending the

platinum jubilee celebrations of the

Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur,

the VP had expressed concern over

"anti national forces" trying to

build a narrative that India could

also face a situation similar to what

happened in Bangladesh, which

saw its Prime Minister ousted by a

on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and UP Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath for bringing about a

"turnaround" in the country's for-

tunes. "Today's India is not the

same as it was 10 years ago. There

was a time when the same country,

which was referred to as 'sone ki

chidiya,' had to pledge its gold in

foreign banks. Back then, our for-

eign exchange was between USD

"Today, it is USD 680 billion.

Look at the kind of progress we

billion and USD 2 billion.

Dhankhar also showered praise

mass uprising.

backlash" of the nation.

a financial crisis.

not done," he said.

changed political and administrative scenario in Jammu and Kashmir. "A deserted Srinagar welcomed me when I visited Kashmir in 1990. Now, over the last two to three years, two crore tourists have visited it.

Article 370, which the makers of the Constitution called "temporary," was considered "permanent" by some. "In this decade, it has been abolished. This is today's India," he added.

developed nation by 2047, he said, make India a developed nation."

days as a student of Sainik School in Chittorgarh, and underlined the impact of his alma mater in shapbirth was at Kithana village, my real birth took place at Sainik School Chittorgarh," he said.

tenure, the VP said there has been qualitative growth in education, other fields after 2017.

in the grip of fear. Law and order was troubled," he said.

miraculous work is heard everywhere, it was difficult and unimaginable to build and run a Sainik School in three years. There was always this faith that Chief Minister Yogi would do it," he said.

has been built at a cost of Rs 176 crore. Established with the mission of "Yuvaaon ko Shiksha, Desh ki Raksha," it will offer residential education for boys and girls from classes 6 to 12. (PTI)

Stalin meets BNY Mellon executives in US, invites them to invest in TN



places to ensure availability of food for these scavenger birds. The programme is titled 'Jatayu CHENNAI, Sept 7: Chief Minis-Gram Mitra', an official said. ter M K Stalin, currently on a tour "The Pench Tiger Reserve, in to the US, invited senior officials collaboration with Mumbai-based of BNY Mellon (The Bank of Bombay Natural History Society New York Mellon Corporation) to (BNHS) is working towards the make new investments in Tamil

> Had a productive discussion with BNY Mellon on exploring potential AI investment opportunities, he said on Saturday.

> "Let's embrace the future through technology, harnessing AI's transformative power!" the chief minister said in a post on the social media platform 'X'.

> Stating that the chief minister net senior executives of BNY Mellon and invited them to make new investments in Tamil Nadu, an official release here said the government achieved various milestones in the industrial sector over the past three years under the leadership of Stalin.

"Each step taken to attract investments is driven by a grand vito create more job opportunities. The state's initiatives have caught the attention of global corporations, drawing them toward Tamil Nadu for their in-

adding the PTR initiated the vestments," it said. 'Jatayu Gram Mitra Programme' Currently, the Tamil Nadu govon this year's Vulture Conservation ernment is implementing several Day (celebrated on September 7) strategic plans to enhance growth to support their conservation. The in rapidly advancing sectors like programme will be held till next information technology, IT-enyear's Vulture Day (on September abled services, electronics, innovation, and startups. To prepare for

future technological changes, the government has launched the large-scale skill development programme 'Naan Mudhalvan' to train the youth of Tamil Nadu, enabling them to develop their skills.

The CM's official visit to the USA was to create numerous job opportunities for skilled youth and further promote industrial growth in the state, the release said.

BNY Mellon, headquartered in New York, has several branches in India. Plans are being made to introduce advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence in banking services in Tamil Nadu.

BNY Mellon has chosen Chennai as one of its six key hubs. Given Tamil Nadu's substantial pool of engineering graduates, the company is planning to establish a state-of-the-art exploration centre in the city, the release further said.

"They are also looking into partnership opportunities with top research institutions to advance cutting-edge technology solutions, including AI," it added.

State Industries Minister T R B Rajaa, BNY Mellon's Deputy Chairman Senthil Kumar, Head of the Artificial Intelligence Division Sarthak Patnaik, Secretary of Industries, Investment Promotion, and Commerce V Arun Roy, and Managing Director and CEO of Guidance Tamil Nadu V Vishnu, were among those present during the meeting. (PTI)

All states, UTs achieve over 50 pc tap water

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: All states and Union territories have more than 50 per cent coverage of tap water connections in rural households, according to official data.

Under the Har Ghar Jal scheme, all rural households will be provided with tap water connections by the year-end

As of now, all states and Union territories (UTs) have more than 50 per cent coverage of tap water connections in rural households with 11 states and UTs having 100 per cent coverage.

The states and UTs with 100 per cent coverage of tap water connections in rural households are Goa; Andaman & Nicobar Islands; Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu; Haryana; Telangana; Puducherry; Gujarat; Puniab: Himachal Pradesh: Arunachal Pradesh: and Mizoram.

The least coverage has been recorded in West Bengal at 52.30 per cent, Rajasthan at 52.91 per cent, Kerala at 53.62 per cent, Jharkhand at 54.26 per cent, and Madhya Pradesh at 64.84 per cent, according to the data.

Out of a total of 19,33,38,234 (19.33 crore) rural households, 16,09,75,396 (16.09 crore) have been provided with tap water connections so far.

The Har Ghar Jal scheme was initiated by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019 with the aim to provide 55 litres of tap water to every rural household per capita per day by 2024.

According to an official, beyond

was visible in flood-prone areas such as Assam, where climateadaptive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) structures were in place to ensure access to clean

"The programme in Assam, for example, is seen as a lifeline for communities regularly affected by monsoon floods," the official said.

A Har Ghar Ial certification initiative has been introduced to promote community involvement, encouraging gram sabhas to verify tap water coverage and ensure service levels were maintained.

coverage in rural households: Official data the numbers, the mission's impact

water even during natural disas-

This has already been adopted in states such as Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram, the official

After sudden cheetah deaths in Kuno, Centre turned to Reliance's wildlife facility for help

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: After three cheetahs died in just over a month last year in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, the National Tiger Conservation Authority in May 2023 called in experts from Reliance's wildlife facility in Gujarat to review health monitoring protocols, official records show.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) Assistant Inspector General of Forests Abhishek Kumar wrote to the CEO of Reliance Industries' Jamnagarbased Greens Zoological Rescue Rehabilitation Centre (GZRRC) on May 11, 2023, requesting that a team of experts be sent to Kuno to "review health monitoring protocols" and provide advice to "ensure the welfare of the cheetahs" following the deaths of three cheetahs between March

27 and May 9. Kumar's letter said Project Cheetah was the first intercontinental reintroduction of a wild, large carnivore species with "no comparable historical precedent" and it was not surprising that a project of such a "magnitude and complexity would face many challenges". "Due to careful planning and execution, all 20 cheetahs survived the initial capture, quarantine and lengthy transport to the purpose-built quarantine and larger acclimatisation enclosure in Kuno. We are given to understand that Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre has expert veterinarians who are handling a substantial number of cheetahs in captivity," read the letter, seen by PTI. GZRRC director Brij Kishor Gupta wrote back on May 24, 2023, saying a four-member team would visit Kuno on May 25-26.

The team included "senior veterinary officers" Jorge Francisco Soares and Nitin Yashwant Tambe, lab in-charge Mandeep and Gupta himself.

In response to PTI's question via email, Gupta said, "The National Tiger Conservation Authority requested GZRRC last year to assess the healthcare protocols of cheetahs being followed at Kuno, we sent our team of experts veterinarians and (the) director and found that they are following the right protocol for health care management of cheetahs."

GZRRC experts visited Kuno only once, Gupta said but gave no clear answer on whether they were providing any guidance or support

to the project at present. Gupta added that all forms of interaction, engagement and knowledge exchange conducted by the GZRRC with government and non-government entities in the fields of animal welfare, research and conservation were carried out "strictly on a non-commercial basis". As part of the first ever intercontinental translocation of big cats, a total of 20 cheetahs -- eight from Namibia in September 2022 and 12 from South Africa in February 2023 -- were brought to Kuno. Since their arrival, eight adult cheetahs -- three female and five male -- have died. Seventeen



cubs have been born in India, with 12 surviving. This brings the total number of cheetahs, including cubs, in Kuno to 24, all of which are currently in enclosures.

Three cheetahs -- one male and two female -- died between March 27 and May 9, 2023.

According to Project Cheetah's annual report for 2023-24, Namibian female cheetah Sasha died due to "chronic renal insufficiency" on March 27, 2023, becoming the first mortality in the project.

"Sasha developed kidney problems after her arrival and received continuous care for two months but, unfortunately, she did not respond positively to the treatment and passed away," the annual report says.

South African male cheetah

Uday "suddenly died" on April 23, 2023, within the larger acclimatisation enclosure "without displaying any prior symptoms". South African female cheetah Daksha died on May 9, 2023, due to injuries from a violent encounter with a male coalition during a mating attempt, according to the report. The GZRRC experts' visit was immediately preceded by the death of three cubs born to Namibian cheetah Jwala between May 23 and May 25 due to extreme heat.

Bhopal-based wildlife activist Ajay Dubey questioned the need to involve GZRRC in the project when "top wildlife experts from the NTCA, Wildlife Institute of India, South Africa, and Namibia are already part of it".

"The government even sent staff

from the Madhya Pradesh wildlife department for training in cheetah management in South Africa and Namibia. What did they learn?" he asked. "And even if you have approached GZRRC, why keep it a secret? There is no mention of the support sought from Reliance Industries' wildlife facility in the annual report of Project Cheetah," he added. The minutes of the Cheetah Project Monitoring Committee meetings, obtained by PTI through an RTI application, also do not mention this involvement.

Besides wildlife experts from NTCA, the Wildlife Institute of India and other government facilities, Kuno currently has a dedicated team of four veterinarians for Project Cheetah.

It has also received veterinary support and guidance from wildlife veterinarians in South Africa and Namibia, including Adrian Tordiffe, hospital director at Onderstepoort Veterinary College, South Africa; Mike Toft from Kifaru Wildlife Veterinary Services, South Africa; Andy Fraser from Rooiberg Veterinary Services, South Africa; and Ana Basto from the Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia. GZRRC director Gupta told PTI that they had more than 40 cheetahs rescued from different

captive facilities. All the cheetahs are captive born in the country of origin of the captive facility. There have been "no mortalities of cheetahs at GZRRC till date" and all the animals are all "faring very well", he said.

Gupta said they had "some of the best veterinarians in wildlife health management"

He said the cheetah project had been "doing very well". "It has been noted that birth of several cubs has taken place on Indian soil and the survival rate is good in comparison to similar projects in other parts of the world.'

When asked about the challenges of cheetah management based on their experience, Gupta said, "GZRRC specialises in the study, management, care and research of cheetahs within captive environments. The primary focus areas for cheetahs in captivity include veterinary care, nutrition, housing, exercise and enrichment. GZRRC has successfully established optimal standards across all

these domains." He emphasised that "the operation and management of a captive programme differ significantly from those of a re-wilding programme". The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) granted approval for the setting up of GZRRC on February 14, 2019, and accorded it recognition on August 17, 2020. According to its 2023-24 an-

nual report submitted to the CZA, new facilities such as Rescue Centre for Herbivores, Asiatic Lion Care, Medical Research and Hospital, Cheetah Conservation and Research Centre, Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre and multi-specialty hospital were added to GZRRC in 2023-24. (PTI)

serves jumped by USD 2.299 billion to a new high of USD 683.987 billion for the week ended on Au-

The VP also remarked on the

On India's target of becoming a 'The Sainik School will contribute through its students in this marathon march of ours. I request everyone to participate in the 'havan' that is being performed to

Dhankhar also recalled his own ing his personal and professional journey. "While my biological

On UP under Adityanath's medicine, entrepreneurship, and

"Before that, Uttar Pradesh was was not good, the common person

"Although the echo of Yogi ji's

Spread over 49 acres, the school

CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL & OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS E-Tender No. RE-NJP-TENDER

ENGG-WT-299; Dated: 02-09-2024 E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works Name of work: At Chaparmukh Construction of boundary wall of stat quarters and approach road of SSI (Jakhalabandha, Puranigudam, Amon Tarabari, Batadrawa and Senchoa with all other ancillary works in Lumding Division of N.F. Railway in connection with Railway Electrification work Advertised value: ₹84,84,237.87 Earnest Money: ₹1,69,700.00; Etenders will be closed 12:00 hrs. on 25 09-2024. The complete information and tender document of e-Tender wi be available at www.ireps.gov.in CEE-II/CON/Maligao

NAME CORRECTION

Northeast Frontier Railway

I, AYNUL HOQUE do hereby declare that I am a permanent resident of the below mentioned address. That my actual and correct name is AYNUL HOQUE . That my name has been recorded in the High School leaving certificate Mď. Aynul hoque.That AYNUL HOQUE and Md. Aynul hoque is the same and one person. I signed an Affidavit at Notary Public, Darrang Mangaldai on 07/09/24.

AYNUL HOQUE S/O Abdul Khaleque R/O village- Niz Shyamabari PO - Balabari. Dist -Darrang (Assam)

NAME CHANGE

I, AYUBUR RAHMAN do hereby declare that I am a permanent resident of the below mentioned address. That my actual and correct name is AYUBUR RAHMAN. That my name has been recorded in the school documents as AYUBUR RAHMAN. That MD AYUBUR RAHMAN and AYUBUR RAHMAN is the same and one person signing an Affidavit at Mangaldai on /0509/24.

AYUBUR RAHMAN S/O Late Abdul Latif R/O village- Niz Shyamabari PO - Balabari . Dist -Darrang (Assam)

It was a dream for me: Ananya Panday on working with Vikramaditya Motwane for next film 'CTRL'

MUMBAI, Sept 7: Actor Ananya Panday says she was in disbelief when filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane approached her to star in his next feature film "CTRL".

The cyber-thriller movie marks her maiden collaboration with Motwane, known for directing critically-acclaimed movies such as "Udaan", "Lootera" and "Trapped".

Panday said she has been a fan of Motwane's work as a filmmaker, starting from his 2010 debut movie "Udaan"

"'Udaan' is my and my mother's favourite film to watch together, so it was a dream for me... I actually did not believe for the longest time that he was actually asking me to be a part of the film. I was like, 'You are just going to be there, you are not actually directing the film?' He said, 'I'm directing it'," the 25-year-old actor told PTI.

Also starring Vihaan Samat, "CTRL" has been described as a cutting-edge thriller that will challenge the way people view their reliance on technology.

In the movie, the two actors star as Nella Awasthi and Joe Mascarenhas, a couple who create content together and are loved by their Internet audience.

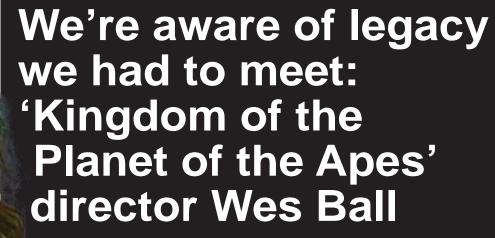
"But what happens when they break up? In a world where data is power, how much sharing is too much? How much of your life are you willing to share, and do you slowly lose control in the process?" read the official synop-

Panday said she had a "wonderful and different" experience while working on "CTRL" with Motwane.

"It was a different experience for everyone, given the kind of film it is. You will see more of it when it starts coming out. But he (Motwane) as a person is just wonderful, he is one of those directors who are in the moment. But the more time I spent away from him, I realised how much I learned from him. He is outstanding," she added.

"CTRL" is set to arrive on streaming service Netflix on October 4. It is produced by Saffron and Andolan Films. Panday currently features in debut

series "Call Me Bae", which is currently streaming on Prime Video. The comedy drama show is written by Ishita Moitra, Samina Motlekar and Rohit Nair, and directed by Colin D'-Cunha. (PTI)



NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Taking on a beloved franchise with a history of over 55 years and forging a new path is challenging but filmmaker Wes Ball says he approached "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" with a lot of respect.

Right from the first film, the 1968 Charlton Heston movie "Planet of the Apes", to the more recent trilogy, starring Andy Serkis, the franchise has done "interesting and challenging things" with its storyline, the director said.

"I grew up watching the original movie and that was my introduction to 'Planet of the Apes' movies. And then, of course, what Rupert (Wyatt) did on the 'Rise...' and Matt (Reeves) did with 'Dawn' and 'War'

"This franchise has always done interesting things and challenging things with its storyline. And it's just captivated audiences for close to 60 years. So, we're very aware of the legacy that we had to try to meet... We approached it with a lot of respect but also tried to be confident with our take," Ball told PTI in an interview.

The franchise started with the 1968 movie "Planet of the Apes", starring Hollywood Heston as an astronaut who crash lands on a planet dominated by evolved Ape species. The commercial and critical success of the movie spawned four sequels, before Tim Burton tried to reboot the series with his 2001 movie but it was a major box office misfire. The series was revived again successfully in 2011 with "Rise of the Planet of the Apes", kicking off a trilogy about the rise of intelligent apes led by Caesar, who was played by Serkis through motion capture. It was followed by two equally-successful installments -- "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" (2014) and "War for the Planet of the Apes" (2017).

The task at hand with "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" was to do a "soft reboot", said Ball, best known for directing the "Maze Runner" film trilogy. "We didn't want to abandon all the goodwill from the Caesar storyline. I didn't want to leave that universe, but we did need to kind of chart a new path into a

"It was a real challenge, but we all kind of kept our heads down and took the confidence and ran. We were lucky enough to continue on the storylines of these characters and go where ultimately we see it going. I think it's going to be another great set of stories in this awesome franchise.

"Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes", which currently streams on Disney+ Hotstar, is set many generations after the reign of Caesar and follows Noa (Owen Teague), a young ape and Maeve (Freya Allen), who go on a journey that lead them to discover the past, forcing them to make choices that will define the future for apes and humans alike.

As someone taking a pre-established story forward, Ball said there is always the burden of "what came before".

"I felt like it was important to cut forward and jump into this biblical story of these apes and how they rose to these incredible heights. So that was a kind of bold swing to take that approach of making this story bigger than one ape named Caesar.

Unlike Serkis' Caesar, who was a burdened leader in the earlier trilogy, the new movie is more a coming-of-age story of Noa. (PTI)



DILJIT DOSANJH JOINS CAST OF **'BORDER 2'**

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Actor-musician Diljit Dosanjh has boarded the star-studded cast of war drama "Border 2", the makers announced on Friday.

Dosanjh, currently basking in the glory of back-to-back successes of "Amar Singh Chamkila" and "Crew", will feature alongside Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan in the follow-up.

"The Border 2' family just got bigger! Welcoming the incredible Diljit Dosanjh to the epic saga," T-Series posted on its social media handles. Deol had also headlined the 1997 original, which was helmed by JP Dutta and became a major box office hit. The sequel, to be directed by Anurag Singh, is backed by Dutta alongside Bhushan Kumar.

Dosanjh said he is honoured to be a part of the movie.

"Pehli Goli Dushman Chalaega aur Akhri Goli Hum! Honoured to stand with such a powerful team and walk in the footsteps of our Soldiers! #Border2," the Puniabi superstar posted on Instagram. Deol welcomed Dosanjh in a post on Instagram. Welcoming Fauji @diljitdosanjh to the Battalion of #Border2," he wrote. "Border 2" is scheduled to be released in theatres on January 23, 2026. Dosanjh was most recently seen "Jatt & Juliet 3", the third part of his Punjabi movie series. He will next star in "Sardaar Ji 3", which will be released in theatres in June 2025. (PTI)

'Sector 36' will be important at any point in time: Vikrant Massey

MUMBAI, Sept 7: Actor Vikrant Massey believes his latest "Sector 36" is a film that will always remain important to people due to the persistent and pervasive nature of crimes against women and children.

Based on true events, the crime thriller is directed by Aditya Nimbalkar and features Massey as a serial killer who targets children.

"This film is not just important right now. Unfortunately, it will be important at point in time. I say this with a very heavy heart beca live in. If I can very briefly tell you about crimes against women and children, these are very pertinent issues that we are dealing with day in and day out, Massey told PTI in an interview. His comments come against the backdrop of two cases that have shaken the nation -- the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, as well as the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls at a school in Badlapur, Maharashtra. Massey said though India has made great strides in other fields, there are still a lot of things that people of the country "need to work on collectively". "We have reached the moon, we are one of the largest democracies. We are everywhere and an emerging superpower... As much as we want to entertain, we also want to sort of leave you with a thought, 'Is this really the world that we want to live in? Is this the direction that we need to head into?" the actor said.

WHEN SUSHMITA SEN AGREED TO BE PART OF SRIJIT MUKHERJI'S 'SHEKHAR HOME'

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Not many know that Bollywood star and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen has a blink-andyou'll-miss-it cameo in "Shekhar Home", a detective web series inspired by the literary works of Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle.

Directed by Srijit Mukerji and Rohan Sippy, the West Bengal-set series is a Hindi adaptation of Sherlock Holmes stories starring Kay Kay Menon as the titular sleuth.

Set in the early 1990s, "Shekhar Home" is written by Aniruddha Guha and Niharika Puri with dialogues by Vaibhav Vishal.

In one of its six episodes, a black-andwhite picture of a young Sen makes a guest appearance. Her historic win as the first Miss Universe from India in 1994 is shown a few years away as per the events in the show.

When Shekhar looks at the photograph, he remarks: "Isko toh Miss Universe hona chahiye (She should become Miss Universe)"

Asked how it all came to be, Mukherji said he secured due permission from Sen, who did her first and only Bengali film "Nirbaak" with him back in 2015.

"We are good friends. I had to call up Sush and take permission for that. When I called her, she said 'Now, instead of casting me you've started casting my pictures!' the director told PTI in an in-

Not just Sen but Indian cricketers R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja also find a place of honour in the JioCinema series.

"Shekhar Home" has two cops Ashwin and Jadeja named after the top spinners, who earlier this year went past the Anil Kumble-Harbhajan Singh duo to become the most successful Test bowling pair for India.

As cricket buffs, Mukherji said he and Guha wanted to give the game a hat-tip.

"I have played cricket at the university level and have also done commentary in the Indian Premier League. I read and write a lot on cricket too. We thought this would be a cheeky tribute to the sport."

Dialogue writer Vishal also gets his moment in the sun when his "poem" on Rabindranath Tagore, the Nobel laureate and literary icon of Bengal, plays a key role in the season one finale of "Shekhar Home". The director said it was Guha's idea to include Vishal's name as a reference. "There used to be many Hindi songs where the name of the lyricist used to be hidden in one of the stanzas of the song. For example, the lines 'O 'Neeraj' naina wali suno' from the song 'O Meri Sharmeelee' are written by Neeraj for the film 'Sharmeelee'. Then in 'Bazaar', lyricist Makhdoom Mohiuddin is referred to in one of the songs 'Phir Chhidi Raat'.

Mukherji admitted it's the "writers' age" as full-fledged documentaries on the masters like Salim-Javed (Prime Video's "Angry Young Men") are being developed

"So, this is absolutely the writers' age. We needed poetry (like that) and it sounded pretty much like a conservative, shuddh Hindi take on Tagore," he

"Shekhar Home" also stars Ranvir Shorey, Rasika Dugal, Kirti Kulhari, Kaushik Sen, Rudranil Ghosh, and Shernaz Mukherji, who had previously worked



"Ray", said he has been a huge fan of his intensity as an actor.

"I first thought of Kay Kay as a detective when I got an offer to do Feluda (a popular detective figure in Bengali literature) in Hindi. There was some talk around eight years ago. He looks very similar to the sketches by Satyajit Ray.

"When I was conceptualising 'Shekhar Home', I was like 'Wait, he has the piercing look of a detective, he has sharp features, he is Shekhar Home'. It was a very automatic casting. From day one, we couldn't think of anyone else. Shekhar Home is Kay Kay Menon and Kay Kay Menon is Shekhar Home,"

> The casting of Dr Jayvrat Saini, the Hindi version of Sherlock Holmes' partner Dr John Watson, was a bit tricky but their

search ended

adding Menon and Dugal will reprise their roles in a potential follow-up chapter. Next up for Mukherji is "Tekka", a Bengali feature film starring Rukmini Maitra and Swastika Mukerjee, set to be released on the occasion of Durga Puja next month. On streamer Hoichoi, there is the Kashmir-set series "Bhuswargo Bhayankar" in the "Feluda" franchise starring Tota Roy Chowdhury of "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani" fame.

in on Ranvir and he also got excited. He

Dugal was the perfect fit as the myste-

has a malleable face which could go in

rious Iraboty Adhyo, a Hindi derivative

books. "There is the inimitable charm of

any direction. It's an asset to have."

of Irene Adler from Conan Doyle's

Rasika Dugal post 'Delhi Crime' and

'Mirzapur'. I have always been a huge

one of my firm favourites in the series.

She's also a huge name in the OTT

space. "Rudraneil Ghosh is a well

gal and an incredible theatre

fan of her acting prowess. Then, Kirti is

known and veteran actor in Bengali cin-

ema. Kaushik Sen is a thespian of Ben-

practitioner. He is one of my favourite

actors," Mukherji said. The season one

of "Shekhar Home" has an open ending

but with a twist. If there is a second sea-

son, how will the series move forward?

"We will revert to the pre-twist sce-

nario with a new cast," the director said,

zeroed

Haaland kept scoreless by Kazakhstan's five-man defense in Nations League; Italy and Belgium win

ROME, Sept 7: Maybe the English Premier League teams struggling to contain Erling Haaland should consider employing the 5-4-1 formation that Kazakhstan used against Norway on Friday.

Kazakhstan's yellow-clad defenders swarmed around Haaland for the full 90 minutes of a 0-0 draw in the Nations League and kept the striker scoreless following his consecutive hat tricks in the Premier League.

Haaland failed to hit the target with any of his four shots during a match in which Norway had 65% of the possession and produced 19 shots to Kazakhstan's four.

Haaland has seven goals in three Premier League matches for Manchester City this season and hadn't been held scoreless for nearly a month — since City won the Community Shield in a penalty shootout over Manchester United on Aug. 10. Haaland did find the target in the shootout of the Community Shield, though.

Haaland has been the joint top scorer with six goals in each of the past two editions of the Nations League. Overall, he has 31 goals in 34 matches for Norway.

He still needs two more goals to match Norway record-holder Jørgen Juve, who scored 33 from 1928-37.

On Wednesday, Haaland was among the 30 players nominated for the Ballon d'Or.

Norway is in League B of the Nations League, in a group with Austria and Slovenia, who drew 1-1 after both sides advanced to the knockout stages of the European Championship Italian style

Italy turned on the style to beat France 3-1 in Paris for the first time in 70 years.

After Bradley Barcola put France ahead 13 seconds in, Italy struck back with goals



from Federico Dimarco, Davide Frattesi and Giacomo Ras-

Barcola's first international goal came after Italy full back Giovanni Di Lorenzo lost possession, allowing Barcola to advance on goal and shoot past the Gianluigi Dononrushing

DiMarco's equalizer was an extraordinary angled volley into the far corner following an exchange with Sandro Tonali, who provided the assist with a backheel flick.

Frattesi scored his sixth goal in 20 appearances — impressive production for a midfielder by redirecting a cross from

Then Raspadori, a substitute, sealed it by concluding a coun-

Spalletti's youth movementAfter losing to Switzerland in the round of 16 at Euro 2024, Italy coach Luciano Spalletti eliminated over-30 players like Francesco Acerbi, Jorginho, Matteo Darmian and Stephan El Shaarawy from his squad.

Dimarco is 26 and Frattesi and Raspadori are 24.

"It was not easy to get back on track after the Euros," Dimarco said. "We needed this victory to raise the morale of the team." De Bruyne braceKevin De Bruyne scored twice for Belgium in a 3-1 win over Israel in

De Bruyne put Belgium ahead after being set up by his Manchester City clubmate Jeremy Doku and converted a secondhalf penalty.

Youri Tielemans restored Belgium's advantage following an own goal for Israel by Belgium full back Timothy Castagne.

The game was in Debrecen after the Belgian soccer federation said in July "no local authority in Belgium considers it possible" to stage a game against Israel for security rea-

League B Euro 2024 quarterfinalist Turkey was held to 0-0 at Wales after playing the final half hour

Yilmaz was sent off for two yel-

Former Wales captain Craig Bellamy made his debut as Wales coach — his first senior coaching role.

Iceland beat Montenegro 2-0 with goals from Orri Steinn Oskarsson and Jon Dagur Thorsteinsson.

League CRomania won 3-0 at Kosovo and Cyprus beat Lithuania 1-0.

The European qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup will be drawn in Zurich in December, likely with seedings decided by FIFA world rankings updated in November after Nations League group play ends.

Fritz wins an all-American matchup against Tiafoe in 5 to reach the US Open final against Sinner

NEW YORK, Sept 7: When Taylor Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, and Frances Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland, strode under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights Friday night for the first U.S. Open semifinal matching two American men in 19 years, the crowd might have been forgiven for not knowing which to support.

There was a burst of clapping right before the initial point, a curtain-raiser befitting the show about to unfold. Once the contest got going, maybe the momentum shifts made it tough to choose between a pair of close pals who've known each other since they were playing tournaments for kids younger than 14.

In the end, the roars were for Fritz, who surged with a six-game run against a fading and frustrated Tiafoe to come out on top 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 and reach his first Grand Slam final.

"It's the reason why I do what I do," Fritz told the fans, his voice cracking during a post-match interview. "It's the reason why I work so hard."

The No. 12-seeded Fritz's momentum-shift-filled victory against No. 20 Tiafoe earned a howdown against No. 1 Jannik Sinner for the championship on Sunday, "He was overwhelming from the baseline so much ... and I just tried to tell myself to stay in it and fight," said Fritz, who was two games from losing in the fourth set. "I told myself that if I didn't give it absolutely everything I had to just stick with it and see if his level might drop a little bit — then I was going to regret it for a long

He will be the first U.S. man to appear in a major final since Andy

From J&K battlefield to Paralympics bronze:

Wimbledon in 2009. And if he can get past Sinner, Fritz would become the first U.S. man to win a Slam trophy since Roddick got his 21 years ago at the U.S. Open.

"It's a dream come true. I'm in the final. So I'm going to come out and give everything I can possibly give," Fritz said. "I can't wait."

From 4-all in the fourth set Friday, he seized control as Tiafoe's strokes and usual confidence betrayed him. After Tiafoe's doublefault handed over a break to make it 4-0 in the fifth, more than three hours into the proceedings, he chucked his racket. Fritz repaid the favor by double-faulting to end the next game, but broke right back and soon it was over. They met at the net for an embrace.

Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy exonerated in a doping case less than three weeks ago, finished off a 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory over No. 25 Jack Draper on Friday that featured simultaneous treatment of both competitors by trainers deep in the 1 1/2-hour second set.

"It was a very physical match, as we see," said Sinner, who won the Australian Open in January. "I just tried to stay there mentally.'

He got his left wrist massaged after falling during a point he managed to win; Draper needed medical attention after vomiting twice in a game with the temperature in the high 70s and the humidity above 60%. During that break in the action, a vacuum was used to clear the ground behind the baseline and finish the cleaning job Draper, a 22-yearold from Britain, tried to do himself by wiping his, um, mess with

There was none of that sort of drama away from the actual play

World Cup 2026 qualifiers: Rodrygo scores as Brazil beat Ecuador 1-0



CURITIBA, BRAZIL, Sept 7: Real Madrid star Rodrygo scored a goal in the first half, helping

day and end a three-match losing streak in South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

scored with a shot from outside the box that was deflected by a defender to the right post in the 30th

Five-time world champions Brazil lost consecutive matches to Jruguay, Colombia and Argentina at the end of last year and were in sixth place in the standings after six rounds. The Brazilians now have 10 points and are in fourth

The Ecuadorians had a fivegame unbeaten streak snapped and remained with eight points in sixth place, the last direct qualifying spot from South American for the World Cup which will be played in the United States, Mexico and Canada in 2026.

Earlier, striker Luis Suarez retired from his national squad as Uruguay settled for a 0-0 draw at home against Paraguay.

The team managed by Marcelo Bielsa that finished in third place at the last Copa America has 14 points, four fewer than leaders Argentina. The 37-year-old Suarez had announced that the match against Paraguay was his last with Uruguay. The former Liverpool and Barcelona player retired with 69 goals scored for the national



PARIS, Sept 7: On a quiet October day in 2002, a young soldier's dreams were shattered in a heartbeat in the volatile terrain of Jammu and Kashmir's Chowkibal. An unexpected explosion ended the ambition of Havildar Hokato Hotozhe Sema to join the Special Forces.

That landmine blast during an anti-terrorist operation claimed his left leg below the knee, inflicting immense physical pain

Sema's world went dark, or everyone thought so.

But for Sema, it was the beginning of an extraordinary journey of resilience, courage, and fierce determination to rebuild life -- a process he went through at the Army Paralympic Node, BEG Centre in Pune.

Twenty-two years later, at the swank State de France, the 40year-old Indian shot-putter came up with his career-best throw of 14.65 metres to secure a bronze each of his six throws was a man-

He quickly distinguished himself with his sheer willpower in the F57 category, which includes athletes with limb deficiencies and impaired muscle power.

Sema was encouraged by senior army officials at the Punebased Artificial Limb Centre to take up shot put after seeing his fitness as he embraced the sport

in 2016 at the age of 32. That year, he travelled to Jaipur to compete in the National Para Athletics Championships. A silver at the Morocco Grand Prix in 2022 was followed by a bronze medal at the Asian Para Games in

Hangzhou. He narrowly missed a medal at the 2024 World Championships, finishing fourth. But Sema's determination never wavered.

The defining moment came during his Paralympics debut, when he battled against a fiercely competitive field.

at the Paralympics to swell the strength. He touched the 14m country's medal haul to 27 (six mark on his second throw and gold, nine silver and 12 bronze). then improved further with a His rise in para-athletics has heave of 14.40m. Sema achieved tempt, bettering his personal best to 14.49m en route to the bronze.

Iran's Yasin Khosravi, the 31vear-old two-time para world champion, clinched the top spot with a Paralympic record of 15.96m, while Brazil's Thiago Dos Santos took the silver (15.06m). Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Sema's win a "proud moment" for the nation while hailing his incredible strength and determination.

"A proud moment for our nation as Hokato Hotozhe Sema brings home the Bronze medal in Men's Shot Put F57! His incredible strength and determination are exceptional. Congratulations to him. Best wishes for the endeavours ahead," PM Modi wrote on X.

Sema has been supported by the Khelo India initiative and his training, boarding, and lodging were taken care of by the Na-Strapped to a throwing chair, tional Centre of Excellence

Sports powered the positive outlook of India with a decade of transformational performances: Sonowal

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 7: The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal visited the ongoing National Football Championship (Sub Junior - Boys) to encourage the young budding footballers here on Saturday. As many as 15 states of India are competing in this tournament which is likely to boost the talent in the football scenario while uplifting the sports sector in the region, remarked Sonowal while witnessing the match between Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

Sonowal also remarked that he hoped from such tournaments help players get more exposure which ultimately enhances the standard of football. Sarbananda Sonowal remarked that this competition will provide a major flip

to the talent development from the grassroots level in Assam.

Organised by the Jorhat District Sports Association under the aegis of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Assam Football Association (AFA), the tournament is being held from September 7 to 20 at the Jorhat Stadium and Bapuji Stadium in

The event has garnered significant enthusiasm from sports enthusiasts. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "In the words of the legendary Dr Bhupen Hazarika, the world is a playground and sports is the arena of peace. Sports has always inspired humanity towards peace, harmony and a pursuit of physical and mental wellness.

Sporting events not only pro-



vide athletes with a platform to showcase and develop their talents, but they also play a vital role in fostering growth. Assam has hosted numerous significant sporting events over the years.

With the National Football Championship standing out, this event has significantly enhanced the quality of football in the state, cultivating a more sophisticated sporting culture.

It will inspire and nurture new sports talent, contributing to the broader sports environment. Entrepreneurs, in particular, are grateful for this development. By recognising the importance of sports and integrating them into our daily lives, we all must contribute to building a healthy and harmonious society. India always had rich talent, it was only a matter of finding them, honing their skills and empowering them to deliver world class perform-

Since 2014, our players have stepped up with remarkable performances with the support of many government sponsored programmes. They have inspired a billion Indians and more to be empowered with a positive outlook, which has transformed how India stands today in the world,

under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji." Speaking further, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Over the past decade, Assam, along with the rest of India, has experienced a paradigm shift in the sports sector. Since the BJP government came to power, Assam's sporting achievements have been note-

The successful hosting of numerous national and international tournaments, such as the South Asian Games in Guwahati, the third Khelo India Youth Games, FIFA U-17 World Cup matches, and the AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship, has positioned Assam as a key hub on the nation's sports map. Additionally, since 2016, the state government's ambitious initiatives—such as upgrading hun-

dreds of rural playgrounds under the 'Mukhyamantri Samagra Gramin Vikas Yojana', establishing the Sri Sri Aniruddha Dev State Sports University in Chabua, organising the All Assam Traditional Sports Festival, and formulating the State Sports Policy— have played a pivotal role in nurturing and producing a steady stream of talented athletes in Assam." The programme was attended by MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa; MLA Naba Kumar Doley; MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi; Rana Goswami, Shantanu Pujari, Lakhya Konwar, Akash Phukan, Ajay Bharali, Lalit Borah, Jule Khaund, Utpal Borah, Dipak Saikia, Nani Dutta, Parikshit Dutta, Tapan Dutta, Sarat Hazarika, Hiren Gogoi among other notable per12 THE HILLS TIMES

with an overhead six off Kuldeep

up the mini milestone with a sin-

scooping a simple catch to substi-

tute Kumar Kushagra in his at-

any lingering doubt about the first-

upcoming two-Test series against

(3/60) and Mukesh Kumar (3/62)

shared six wickets among them

equally as India A were bowled out

for 231 after resuming from

Their biggest hope to close the

gap with India B was the presence

of KL Rahul (37) and Riyan Parag

They looked determined too in

their 89-run alliance for the third

wicket despite the bowlers giving

them some troubles from both

As was the trend in the match,

Parag gave a catch down the leg

side to Pant off Yash Dayal and

Rahul soon followed the suit, miss-

ing a sweep off off-spinner Wash-

The wicket reduced India A to

169 for five and they had a big dis-

Shivam Dube (20) played some

typically powerful shots, but his

edge off Mukesh ended in the

hands of Nitish Kumar Reddy at

slips as India A went into the lunch

In the whole of first session,

Kotian, a handy lower-order bat-

ter from Mumbai, tried to steer the

ship with a 71-ball 32, but left-arm

spinner Sai Kishore induced a thin

edge for Musheer to take a good

reflection catch at forward short

It also ended their fight for the

they made 74 runs in 27 overs los-

at a wobbly 208 for seven.

ington to get bowled.

tance still to cover.

ing five wickets

overnight 134 for two.

tempt to sweep the spinner. By that time, Pant, who was tidy

Bangladesh.

Duleep Trophy: Pant's fifty, Sarfaraz's aggression give India B control



BENGALURU, Sept 7: The audacity of Rishabh Pant, who made a fifty, and Sarfaraz Khan helped India B waddle past persistent India A pacers to post a momentum grabbing second innings total of 150 for six after Day 3 of the Duleep Trophy match here on Sat-

India B are now ahead by 240 runs with Washington Sundar (6) at crease after bowling out their rivals for 231 in their first innings to take a 90-run lead. Pant was the headliner of the day with a 61 off 47 balls (4x9, 6x2).

But that lead suddenly looked so feeble when pacers Khaleel Ahmed (2/56) and Akash Deep (2/36) combined to reduce India B to 22 for three inside eight overs, overall lead standing at 132 at that

Manay Suthar's seven-for rattles India D as India C win in Duleep Trophy

ANANTAPUR (ANDHRA PRADESH), Sept 7: Taking up from where he left off in the first innings, young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar grabbed seven wickets to engineer India D's batting collapse and fashion a fourwicket win for India C in the Duleep Trophy here on Saturday.

Chasing 232 on Day 3, the India C top-order got the job done with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad (36), Aryan Juyal (47) and Rajat Patidar (44) playing vital knocks.

India D resumed the day at overnight score of 206 for eight, with Axar Patel and Harshit Rana at the crease.

The pair added 30 runs on the day before Suthar dismissed Axar (28) and Aditya Thakare (0), as India D ended their second innings

Beginning the chase, Gaikwad and Sai Sudharsan (22) forged a 64-run opening stand before Saransh Jain got rid of the latter to break the partnership. Four overs later, Gaikwad also fell prey to the

Skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran first innings centurion Musheer Khan (0) fell to Akash Deep, while Yashasvi Jaiswal perished to Ahmed, and all three catches were taken by stumper Dhruv Jurel. India B went to tea at 33 for three.

In that context, it would not have been entirely out of place to imagine for Pant and Sarfaraz (46, 36b, 7x4, 1x6) to knuckle down and take their team to safer ports as the ball was still darting around appreciably.

However, both of them were irreverent to the situation, conditions, and bowlers.

The right-left combination ham-

match completely in favour of

Sarfaraz was brutal on Akash, smoking him for five consecutive fours around the park while Pant neutralised Ahmed with a late cut and punch through the covers that galloped to the fence for bound-

Sarfaraz, who was dropped on 28 by Ahmed off his own bowling, creamed a flat six off the left-arm seamer over cover, evoking a wowing response from a good holiday crowd.

But he soon fell to Avesh Khan, snicking a climbing delivery on the off-stump to Jurel behind the

However, Pant did not slow

ACT Hockey: India look to Paris Paralympics: start fresh after Olympic bronze, eye title defence



HULUNBUIR (CHINA), Sept 7: The Indian men's hockey team will look to press the restart button after a successful Olympic campaign and defend its Asian Champions Trophy title when it open its campaign against hosts China here on Sunday.

After bagging back-to-back Olympic bronze medals, India will start as favourites to defend their ACT title against top hockey playing nations of Asia in the form of China, Japan, Pakistan, Korea and Malaysia.

Last year, India won the title at home, making them the only team to bag four titles in the history of the tournament.

Back from a short break after the Paris Olympics, India skipper Harmanpreet Singh is keen on continuing their dominance in the continental championships.

"The Asian Champions Trophy last year gave us the right momentum going into the Asian Games and followed it up with the Olympic Games triumph of standing on the podium yet again. This time too, we want to begin the fresh Olympic cycle by winning this tournament," Harmanpreet said ahed of their tournament opener. "While we have 10 members from the Olympic side playing in this tournament, we have a few youngsters trying to make their impact in the team.

"In terms of game point-of-view, our attacking and penalty corners are our forte but we will be looking to play a structured defence, particularly against teams like Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan. This is an important tournament for us in terms of world ranking points and we are ready for the challenge," he added.

After China, India will take on Japan in their second match on September 9, followed by games against last year's runners-up Malaysia on September 11, Korea on September 12 and arch-rivals Pakistan on Sep-

The semifinal and final are scheduled for September 16 and 17. Young India midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad, who has been named as Harmanpreet's deputy for this tournament, said this would give them a chance to see other teams' progress ahead of the 2026 Asian Games.

"This tournament is one of the most exciting ones in the Asian Hockey calendar. We will also get to see the progress the Asian teams are making in the new cycle as they will play with a fresh group of players keeping in mind the Asian Games in 2026," said Vivek, who will replace Hardik Singh as vice-captain.

Vivek is mesmerised by the scenic view and facilities on offer here. "We arrived here earlier this week and have got good time on the pitch. The weather is suitable for us, but it gets a bit cold in the evening. The facility is incredible and perhaps one of the most beautiful hockey venues in the world. (PTI)

Suyash Jadhav fails to enter swimming final PARIS, Sept 7: India's campaign

in the Paralympics swimming ended when Suyash Jadhav failed to enter the final of the men's 50m butterfly S7 here on Saturday.

Competing in Heat 1, the 30year-old finished in the fifth spot with a timing of 33.47, a 10th-spot finish overall. The top four swimmers from the two Heats make it to the final. Jadhav is a gold medal winner in Asian Para Games, Winter Open Polish Championships and IWAS World Games.

Hailing from Solapur, Maharashtra, Jadhav accidentally touched an electric line while playing with an iron rod when he was in sixth grade.

Subsequently, both his hands were amputated below the elbow.

He became the first Indian para swimmer to achieve the 羨' qualifying mark in three straight Paralympics -- Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

The S7 category is for para swimmers with movement affected from a low to moderate level in arms, trunk and legs, moderately down one side, those with short stature, or the absence of limbs.

India has won only a medal in the sport in Paralympics to date, with Murlikant Petkar winning a gold in Heidelberg Games 1972. (PTI)

Nikita bags silver, Neha bronze in U20 WWC

PONTEVEDRA (SPAIN), Sept 7: Nikita won a silver in the women's 62 kg freestyle category, while Neha clinched a bronze as India finished overall second with five medals at the U20 Wrestling World Championships here.

Nikita, a former gold medalist at the U20 Asian Championships last year, went down to Ukrainian wrestler Iryna Bondar 1-4 in the final. Fresh from her gold medal at the U17 World Championships last month, Neha claimed a bronze, overpowering Gerda Terek of Hungary 10-8 in the women's 57 kg freestyle.

India signed off their campaign with five medals -- one gold, one silver, and three bronze. (PTI)

Experience of playing in NZ: Afghan batter Rahmat

batter Rahmat Shah said his team's "past experience" of playing in India will give them an edge over New Zealand in the one-off Test, beginning in Noida from Monday.

that played Tests in Bengaluru (2018 vs India), in Dehradun (2019 vs Ireland) and in Lucknow (2019 vs West Indies).

"Our past experience in India will help us. We had our home ground in Noida and in Lucknow, and we have played a lot of

and pitch conditions of India, so we certainly have an edge," Shah told Cricbuzz.

ons, a tough time. "We will try to give them a tough time. They have won the ICC Test Championship and we tried to have the best of preparations

The 31-year-old top-order batter said he has made some technical changes to adapt to



Earlier my shoulder used to get open and I

"When the fast bowler used to come, I used to move towards off stump a bit more and as a result I used to fall down.

India will give us edge over

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Veteran Afghanistan

Shah was a part of the Afghanistan sides

matches here and done a lot of camps here. "We are also accustomed with the weather

Shah, the leading run-scorer for Afghanistan in Tests and ODIs, wanted to give the Kiwis, the inaugural WTC champi-

and we are looking forward to the challenge that is lying ahead," he said.

the conditions here.

"I just tried to concentrate more and prac-



but now I am trying to take my feet and just worked hard to get it into my batting tem-



tried to make it sideways and tried to straighter my alignment.

"I used to play my shot through my wrist

plate," Shah added. (PTI)

Ashwin favours DRS in domestic cricket, calls it a helping agent to young batters



NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin lauded BCCI's move to have DRS in the ongoing Duleep Trophy, saying it will help an upcoming batter to make necessary technical tweaks before his possible initiation into international cricket.

Ashwin was pinning his argument on the leg before dismissal of India D batsman Ricky Bhui against India C left-arm spinner Manav Suthar in the Anantapurleg of Duleep Trophy on Friday evening.

Bhui was batting on 44 and looked flu- -- 'Padams' ent but he stretched forward to play a defensive prod, and got pinged on his pads.

The on-field umpire initially didn't give him out as the bowler was forced to resort to the Decision Review System, which favoured the bowler's plea for a leg before "DRS for domestic cricket is not just

for the right decisions to be made. Ricky Bhuvi's (Bhui) dismissal last evening against Manav Suthar is a classic case of a batter who will get away with this technique 10/10 times in FC cricket," Ashwin wrote on his official X handle.

"This was not a faulty technique pre DRS but now it is. Back in the day batters were given not out just because they managed to get on the front foot," he added.

Ashwin's observation was spot on because in earlier days, umpires hardly gave a batter out if he had plonked his front foot forward, using pad as the first line of defence while tucking the bat behind the

In pre-DRS days, the former West Indian batter Jimmy Adams employed this technique quite routinely to escape from lbw, so much that he received the moniker

But now, the bowlers have the option of leaning on DRS to overturn the on-field decision, and the batters will have to adjust their style of play accordingly early in their career.

Ashwin alluded to that. "Now, keeping your bat behind the pad

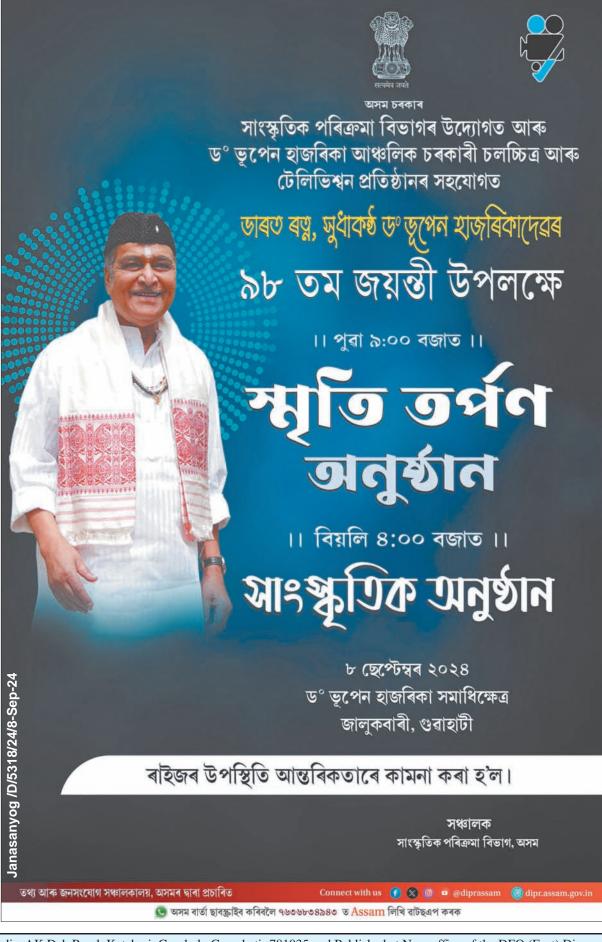
can be fatal, imagine someone making the climb to international cricket without getting this experience Ricky got yesterday. "He could very well take an entire Test series to understand what he needs to

over," he wrote. However, the DRS, first introduced in the domestic circuit during the 2019-20 season, is yet to be fully implemented in

work on and his career could well be

domestic matches. It is still restricted to big-ticket domestic matches such as Ranji Trophy semifinals and finals.

Initially, the DRS came without the UltraEdge feature and it was later added to the system during the 2022-23 domestic season, albeit only for the final. But the full version of the DRS is available for the ongoing Duleep Trophy matches in Bengaluru and Anantapur. (PTI)



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