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'No resolution on Article 370, statehood demand huge setback'
PM Modi proposes holding NDA leaders conclave twice every year

HT BRIEFS Farmers support JORHAT: The Assam Agricultural University (AAU) on Friday signed an MoU with the UK-based CAB International...

CBI likely to quiz Bishal, Sumi, Tarkik today

Online trading scam: Dibrugarh police hand over files to central probe team
DIBRUGARH, OCT 18: A five-member CBI team arrived in Dibrugarh on Friday as part of their investigation into a multi-crore online trading scam...

Nov 13 elections to be held according to pre-delimited constituencies: CEO Over 9 lakh voters ready for Assam bypolls

GUWAHATI, Oct 18: Over 9 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the upcoming bypolls to five Assam assembly constituencies on November 13...

Heroin worth over ₹ 5.5 crore seized

GUWAHATI, Oct 18: Heroin worth over ₹ 5.5 crore was seized, and two persons nabbed in Guwahati city, police said on Friday.

Dhankhar flags human rights violations against Hindus in neighbourhood

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday flagged human rights violations against Hindus in India's neighbourhood...

CM launches CMAAA 2.0 to fuel entrepreneurship in Assam

GUWAHATI, Oct 18: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday launched the Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan (CMAAA) 2.0 at a function held at Lok Sewa Bhawan...

Fight to protect 'Mati, Beti, and Roti' NDA partners to contest 13 seats in J'Khand polls: Himanta



RANCHI, Oct 18: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, also the BJP's co-in-charge for Jharkhand Assembly elections, on Friday said National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituents AJSU Party will contest 10 seats...

Personal laws can't hinder law preventing child marriage: SC

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: The Supreme Court on Friday said the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act cannot be stunted by traditions under any personal law...

Focus is on greater inclusivity and equitable education for all IITs undertake measures for reserved category students

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country are offering fee concessions and relaxation in already lower cut-off to students from reserved categories to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all...

OM With deepest sense of grief and sadness, we like to inform you that my dearest Husband/Father/Father-in-law/Big Brother/Big Uncle / Grand Father Aja Kumar Dey left for his heavenly abode on the 7th of October 2024...

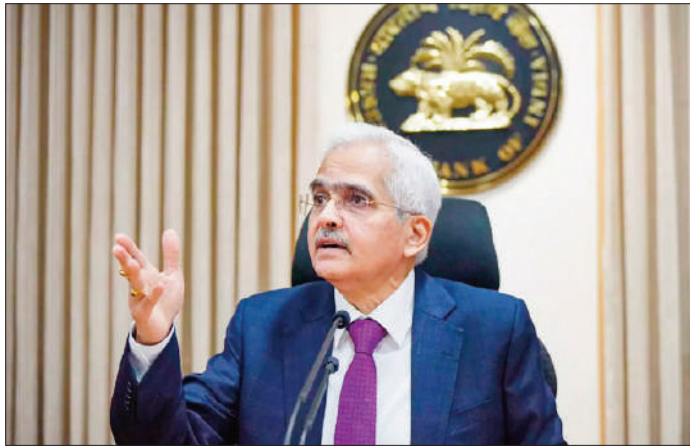
Central bank would take action on the basis of the incoming data and outlook Interest rate cut at this stage could be premature, risky: RBI Guv Das

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said that this stage would have been "premature" and "very very risky" as the retail inflation is still high, and future monetary policy action would depend upon the income data and outlook.

Earlier this month, the RBI continued to maintain the status quo in the short-term lending interest rate (repo), citing inflationary concerns, though it changed the monetary policy stance to neutral.

The next bi-monthly monetary policy will be announced on December 6.

Participating at the India Credit Forum hosted by Bloomberg, Das said the September inflation was high and the next print too is expected to remain elevated before



moderating. "So therefore, rate cut at this stage will be very premature and can be very, very risky when your inflation is five and a half and next print is also expected to be

high," Das said. Refusing to give any indications about rate cuts in future, the governor said the central bank would take action on the basis of the incoming data and outlook.

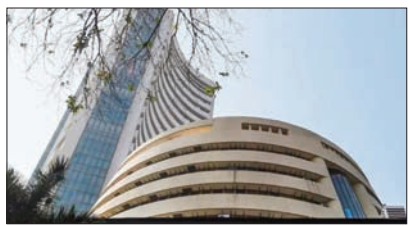
Das also said the Reserve Bank does not act like a policeman, but it maintains tight vigil on the financial market and takes regulatory action whenever necessary.

The remark came a day after the central bank directed Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv and three other NBFCs to cease and desist from sanctioning and disbursing loans effective from the close of business of October 21 on material supervisory concerns, including usurious pricing.

"No...we are not policemen. We are watching. We are watching very closely. We maintain vigil over the credit markets and...when it becomes necessary, we take action," he said at the India Credit Forum.

Observing that this is India's moment, Das said the country's growth story is intact. (PTI)

Sensex, Nifty snap 3-day slide on value buying in banking, metal shares



MUMBAI, Oct 18: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Friday after three days of fall, led by value buying in banking, financials and metal stocks and firm global market trends.

Recovering from its early lows, the BSE Sensex climbed 218.14 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 81,224.75. During the day, it jumped 384.54 points or 0.47 per cent to 81,391.15.

The NSE Nifty ended 104.20 points or 0.42 per cent higher at 24,854.05.

Also, buying by domestic institutional investors supported market recovery.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Axis Bank jumped nearly 6 per cent after the company's consolidated net profit for the September quarter rose by 19.29 per cent to Rs 7,401.26 crore.

ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, NTPC, JSW Steel, State Bank of India and Adani Ports were the other big gainers.

Among the blue-chip pack, Infosys tanked over 4 per cent after its second quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

India's second-largest IT services exporter on Thursday reported a near 5 per cent rise in its second quarter net profit and raised revenue guidance for the year on broad-based recovery in demand particularly from its key financial industry clients.

Asian Paints, Nestle, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the other big laggards.

"After the morning sell-off, the market bounced from the oversold level driven by

selective buying in financials, auto and metals stocks. Initial set of results from private banks were positive, building an expectation that the upcoming set of financial results in the weekends will also be optimistic," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.21 per cent while smallcap gauge dipped 0.16 per cent.

Among the indices, bankex jumped 1.84 per cent, metal climbed 1.65 per cent, financial services (1.12 per cent), commodities (1.02 per cent), utilities (0.91 per cent) and auto (0.58 per cent).

IT fell by 1.73 per cent, teck (1.37 per cent), oil & gas (0.13 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.10 per cent).

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined 156.61 points or 0.19 per cent and the Nifty went lower by 110.2 points or 0.44 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 7,421.40 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. DIIs, however, bought equities worth ₹ 4,979.83 crore.

"Markets reversed the 3-day fall as investors resorted to value buying in banking, metals and realty stocks which had seen sharp downfall in recent sessions. Geo-political uncertainty coupled with sluggishness in the Chinese economy and persistent FII outflows from the domestic markets have led to caution," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled sharply higher while Seoul ended lower.

European markets were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended mostly higher on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.07 per cent to USD 74.40 a barrel. (PTI)

Rupee slips 1 paise to 84.07 against US dollar

MUMBAI, Oct 18: The rupee traded on a flat note to settle just 1 paise lower at 84.07 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday as lower crude oil prices and a weak greenback offset the impact of persistent foreign capital outflows.

A positive momentum in the domestic equity markets supported the local currency and restricted its fall, traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 84.06 against the greenback and stayed almost flat during the entire session. The unit finally settled at 84.07 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 1 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee weakened by 4 paise to close at 84.06 against the US dollar.

A recovery in the domestic markets and softness in the US dollar prevented a sharp fall in the rupee, Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

He said that the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias on the overall strong dollar amid renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East following Israel's killing of a top Hamas leader.

"Volatility in crude oil prices may also weigh on the rupee. However, any intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹ 83.90 to ₹ 84.30," he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down by 0.14 per cent to 103.50 points.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, dropped 0.16 per cent to USD 74.33 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 218.14 points, or 0.27 per cent, to 81,224.75 points. The Nifty also rose 104.20 points, or 0.42 per cent, to 24,854.05 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹ 7,421.40 crore, according to exchange data. (PTI)



Gold inches closer to ₹ 80k-mark; silver at ₹ 94,500/kg

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Gold hit a record high of ₹ 79,900 per 10 gram on Friday in the national capital, rising by ₹ 550 on strong festive season demand, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹ 79,350 per 10 gram in the previous trade on Thursday.

Rallying for the third consecutive day, gold of 99.5 per cent purity bounced ₹ 550 to hit a fresh high of ₹ 79,500 per 10 gram. It had settled at ₹ 78,950 per 10 gram in the previous session.

Meanwhile, silver leapt ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 94,500 per kilogram. On Thursday, silver remained flat at ₹ 93,500 per kg.

In futures trade, gold contracts for December delivery were trading at ₹ 77,620 per 10 gram on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). During the day, the gold futures touched a lifetime high of ₹ 77,667 per 10 gram.

Market experts said the demand for precious

metals has strengthened to a record level in the domestic market, with a boost in customer buying during the festive season. Investors are treating the yellow metal as safe haven amid uncertainty due to ongoing tension in the Middle East and upcoming US presidential polls.

On MCX, silver contracts for December delivery sprung ₹ 1,231 or 1.34 per cent to Rs 92,975 per kg.

Major Western central bankers are pursuing dovish monetary policy, which also supports gold prices, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities, HDFC Securities, said.

Manav Modi, Senior Analyst - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said: "Gold prices hit a record on both Comex as well as on domestic front benefiting from safe-haven demand with just weeks left to

a closely contested US presidential election, while an interest rate cut by the European Central Bank also helped."

Globally, Comex gold futures increased 0.76 per cent to USD 2,728.10 per ounce.

"Gold prices reached an all-time high, surpassing USD 2,700 per ounce fuelled by heightened safe-haven demand amid Israel's military actions in the Middle East," Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Silver futures climbed 1.70 per cent to USD 32.32 per ounce in the Asian market hours.

Despite strong US retail sales and labour market data, "this robust strength is largely driven by the expectation of ongoing interest rate cuts in the US, with further reductions anticipated in the near future," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said. (PTI)



'Biopharma industry is increasingly recognising the value of Indian CDMOs' India may account for 8-10% of global work share to CDMOs by 2033: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: India could potentially account for 8-10 per cent of work share outsourced to CDMOs globally by 2033, an outcome of a significant amount of work shifting from EU and the US to Asia, a report by McKinsey & Company has said.

The global CRDMO (Contract Research Development & Manufacturing Organisation) industry is about to witness a re-distribution of outsourcing work across several Asian countries, with India and Korea emerging as new powerhouses by 2033, the report said.

According to a McKinsey analysis, by 2033, India could potentially account for 8-10 per cent share of work outsourced to CDMOs globally.

"This growth is largely driven by the evolving geopolitical environment with most Indian CRDMOs expecting 20-40 per cent of their



new business to stem from these changes," the survey stated.

As per market estimates, the global CDMO industry is estimated at \$224 billion which is expected to rise to \$465 billion by 2032.

McKinsey & Company Partner Anirudh Roy Popli said the bio-

pharma industry is increasingly recognising the value Indian CDMOs bring to the table.

"With a strong focus on value and innovation, Indian CDMOs are well-positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of healthcare," he added.

Eight Roads Ventures Senior

Partner, Head of India & India Healthcare Investments Prem Pavor said the living geopolitical landscape and impending legislation presents a significant opportunity for the Indian CDMO industry, one that could be truly transformative.

"We're already seeing leading Indian bio-pharmaceutical companies receive more request-for-proposals, especially from US customers. Though these customers may be adopting a wait-and-watch approach for now, it's clear that, amidst global uncertainties, they will seek to diversify their outsourcing footprint," he added.

This creates a huge opportunity for India, but also a challenge because Indian CDMOs will need to be prepared with the right infrastructure and services to meet this increased demand, Pavor said. (PTI)

Roadways Solutions India Infra gets projects worth ₹ 4,700 crore in Maharashtra

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Roadways Solutions India Infra Ltd (RSIL) on Friday said it has secured projects worth ₹ 4,700 crore for Pune Ring Road as well as Jalna-Nanded Expressway from Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC).

The infrastructure company in a statement said the Pune Ring Road project aims to enhance connectivity within the Pune metropolitan area, addressing the increasing traffic demands and contributing to regional economic development.

This project is expected to significantly reduce travel time and improve safety for commuters, it

added. Concurrently, the company said, Jalna-Nanded Expressway will facilitate smoother transportation between these two vital cities, promoting trade and enhancing accessibility in Maharashtra.

The statement said with this new addition to its portfolio, RSIL's order book has now surpassed ₹ 10,000 crore. Ameet H Gadhoke, Managing Director of RSIL, said, "Our focus remains on contributing to India's transportation network while ensuring sustainability and innovation in all our endeavours."

RSIL is an infrastructure company based in Pune, Maharashtra. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

CBI likely to quiz Bishal,

funds were redirected into private unlisted companies, defrauding over 1,500 investors.

Many victims have recounted desperate measures taken to invest, including taking out loans and selling personal belongings. While initial returns were reportedly given to some investors, payments ceased as investments grew, leaving many in financial ruin. According to police, Sumi Borah played a pivotal role in attracting investors, leveraging her public image to establish credibility.

Over 9 lakh voters ready for

and Lok Sabha seats at 14, while revising the nomenclature of one parliamentary seat and 19 assembly constituencies. Poll notification was issued on Friday but no nominations were filed on the first day. The last date of filing for nominations is October 25, scrutiny on October 28 and the last date of withdrawal on October 30, he added.

The ruling alliance has decided that the BJP will contest from three seats - Dholai (SC), Behali, and Samaguri, while AGP will contest from Bongaigaon and UPPL from Sidli (ST).

The seats fell vacant after Dholai (SC) BJP MLA and former cabinet minister Parimal Suklabaidya was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Silchar (SC) parliamentary constituency, while his party colleague Ranjit Dutta from Behali won the Sonitpur seat.

NDA's alliance partner AGP's sitting MLA from Bongaigaon, Phanibhushan Choudhury, was elected from Barpeta Lok Sabha seat. Additionally, Joyanta Basumatary from the United Peoples' Party, Liberal (UPPL), was elected from the Kokrajhar (ST) parliamentary constituency.

Congress MLA from Samaguri, Rakibul Hussain, won the Dhubri parliamentary seat by a record margin of over 10 lakh votes. (PTI)

Dhankhar flags human rights violations

who seek to make a name for themselves. "Time to shame them. They try to create havoc with the economic system of the country". Underlining the safety of minorities in India, he said the country is way ahead of others when it comes to preserving human rights, particularly those of minorities, the marginalised and vulnerable sections of society.

He also noted that on the domestic front, some were trying to use human rights to further their political agenda. In the course of his address, Dhankhar said, "Evidence in episode after episode" is piling up that the "deep state" is engaging in efforts against rising powers. Human rights, Dhankhar underlined, cannot and should not be used as a tool of foreign policy to exert power and influence over others.

"Naming and shaming is a degraded form of diplomacy. You have to preach only what you practice," he said. "Look at our school system- we don't have the kind of shootings that some countries claiming to be very developed have on a regular basis. Think of those nations that turn Nelson's eye to such horrendous transgressions of human rights," he said.

Dhankhar was of the view that the rights of other non-Hindu refugees are repeatedly invoked, "surprisingly, also in the name of human rights, when cases are filed in the Supreme Court."

This, he asserted, exposes a political agenda aimed at disrupting the demographic balance of the country, which could have global repercussions. History is testimony that nations have completely lost their identity by not addressing this issue. It has global repercussions from the perspective of human rights, he warned. (PTI)

CM launches CMAAA 2.0 to

18 November for registration. He, however, said that in the five districts where bye-elections have been declared, applicants will get a chance to register for CMAAA 2.0 once the election model code of conduct comes to an end. Sarma also mentioned that many new additions have been made to CMAAA 2.0 based on previous experience. He said, "Taking experience from CMAAA 1.0, the eligibility age for the applicants has been raised to 45 years which was earlier 40 years. The applicants must have the skill/experience and knowledge to perform income-generating activity and they must have a scheduled commercial bank account opened before April 1, 2024."

He also said that to be eligible for CMAAA 2.0, the applicants should not be a defaulter in loan repayment taken from any scheduled commercial bank and the applicants' household member spouse or sibling must not be a beneficiary of CMAAA 1.0.

The spirit of Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan is to empower the youth of the state and inculcate in them entrepreneurial skills. He stated, "Through the abhijan efforts will be made to make the beneficiaries eligible and competent for Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, a flagship scheme of the Central Government which facilitates micro credit/loan up to Rs 10 lakh to income generating micro-enterprises."

Sarma further said that CMAAA has been envisaged to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurs by providing financial support to the beneficiaries. He said that through CMAAA 2.0, the government will try to unleash Assam's entrepreneurial spirit and drive the state's growth.

The chief minister on the occasion also presented authority letters to CM Fellows, the 130 mentors who have been selected for mentoring the beneficiaries of the CMAAA 1.0 and helping them to become prospective entrepreneurs. Industries and commerce minister Bimal Bora also spoke on the occasion, which was attended among others by finance minister Ajanta Neog, environment and forests minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, revenue minister Jogen Mohan, chief secretary Dr. Ravi Kota, vice chancellor, Gauhati University Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta and a host of other dignitaries.

Personal laws can't hinder law preventing

often increase the risks of early marriage," the CJ said. Preventive strategies should be tailored to the unique needs of various communities besides focusing on addressing the root causes of child marriage, such as poverty, gender, inequality, and lack of education, the judgement said. "The PCMA as a social legislation will only succeed through the collective efforts of all stakeholders to address the issue within a broader social framework, which emphasises the need for multi-sectoral coordination," it added.

According to the top court, the scenario necessitated the enhancement of reporting mechanisms, expansion of public awareness campaigns and investment in the training and capacity building of law enforcement.

"The implementation of these guidelines is to prioritise prevention before protection and protection before penalisation. We are cognisant of the impact that criminalisation has on families and communities. To ensure effective use of the penal provisions in the PCMA, it is imperative that there is widespread awareness and education about child marriage and the legal consequences of its commission," it said.

The apex court, however, clarified that it should not be understood that prosecution of those who commit illegal acts is discouraged.

Further, it opined the law enforcement machinery ought to make the best efforts to prevent and prohibit child marriage and not solely focus on prosecution. The judgement came on a PIL filed by the Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action seeking effective implementation of the law to prevent child marriages. (PTI)

192 workers from BJP, APHLC join

"In the last 10 years of BJP rule, aside from the Aronudhoi Scheme, which provides just Rs 1200 per month to women, no productive schemes have been launched," he added.

"People had high hopes when the BJP came to power, but they have only witnessed misery and frustration. The BJP government has hindered people's ability to earn a living. Contractors are left unpaid for their work, leading many into debt. The purchasing power of the people has diminished, benefiting only a handful of BJP leaders," Rongpi concluded.

NDA partners to contest 13 seats in

INDIA bloc, which he blamed for the misrule in the state, would be ousted.

Mahto claimed that corruption reached its peak during the JMM-led alliance's rule in Jharkhand, affecting all sections of society. (PTI)

IITs undertake measures for reserved

in applying for the seat. The SC, ST and PwD students pay only 50 per cent of the acceptance fee of regular candidates. Kamakoti said that in the absence of the seat acceptance fees, it was observed in the past that the candidates blocked the seat but did not turn up on when the classes started, leading to many seats lying vacant. "Since in the seat allocation process, the seats reserved for SC and ST can be allocated only to them, a vacant SC or ST seat results in the denial of a precious IIT seat to another deserving reserved category candidate," he said.

"If a student's parental income is less than Rs 1 lakh, irrespective of which category, the full tuition fee is waived by all the 23 IITs. Further, a full tuition waiver is also provided for students from the SC, ST and PwD candidates," he said.

Students from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) with parental income between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5 lakh have two-thirds of their tuition fee waived, he added. (PTI)

Cachar DC Mridul Yadav inspects Central Jail Silchar

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 18: In a proactive move to enhance inmate welfare and improve prison infrastructure, Cachar district commissioner Mridul Yadav visited the Central Jail in Silchar on Thursday. The visit aimed to assess the overall facilities, with a special focus on the well-being of women, children, and the healthcare services available to the prisoners. During his visit, DC Yadav inspected the jail hospital, reviewing the quality of healthcare services provided to the inmates. He visited both the male and female wards to assess the prisoners' health conditions and interacted with children living with their mothers in the facility. His inquiries into the availability of education and other support services for these children underscored the district's commitment to safeguarding their well-being. Additionally, the district commissioner inspected the community kitchen to ensure the quality of food and the efficiency of the distribution process. He also reviewed key infrastructure within the jail premises, in-

cluding the DLSA Chamber, Video Conferencing Room, Karagar Se Karigar Skill Development Centre, and religious spaces such as the temple and mosque. During the inspection, several concerns were raised by jail authorities, including the lack of vehicles, delays in ongoing building projects, kitchen repairs, and waste management issues. DC Yadav assured that these issues would be addressed swiftly, with a particular emphasis on improving basic facilities. As part of a forward-looking initiative, Mridul Yadav expressed his intention to introduce a manufacturing unit within the jail, aimed at providing vocational skills training to inmates. This initiative would equip prisoners with valuable skills, enabling them to earn a livelihood and reintegrate into society upon release. This visit underscores Cachar district's ongoing commitment to improving prison conditions, focusing on both the immediate needs of inmates and long-term skill development to promote rehabilitation.

Women organisations submit memorandum to Gov



HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 18: Several women's organisations of Karbi Anglong setting aside their party affiliation have submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Assam through the District Administration (DC) here on Saturday regarding crime against women and child labour. The leaders of the women organisations like Karbi Nimso Chingthur Asong (KNCA), Rasinja Asong, Karbi Anglong Women Justice Forum, Karbi Anglong District Mahila Samiti, BJP Mahila Samiti, Karbi Anglong District Congress Mahila Committee, AIPWA, Serdihun Serpindeng Asong have jointly submitted the memorandum to the Governor. While submitting the memorandum the DC, Nirola Phangchopi had a meeting with the women leaders and discussed how crimes against women and child labour can be curbed with the joint effort of all sections of society. In the memorandum women leaders have urged upon the Governor for an end on crime against women and to check child labour. The women leaders also urged taking prompt action by law and order authority in nabbing the culprits and award them punishment. The memorandum listed incidents of Rina Rongpipi, Baithalangso rape case, Dillai rape of a 12 year old girl and Virvar case, where the accused Joying Engthi had reportedly attempted to rape a woman and child abuse cases of Phuloni and Dokmoka and demanded that the culprits should be immediately arrested. KNCA president, Maikon Rongpharpi said there is suppression of women. Case of child labour is increasing. Children are being kept as domestic helps, where the house owners inflict severe mental and physical abuse on the children. She also expressed that girls staying in rented houses are also inviting crime. The owner of the rented house should enforce strict discipline and timing for them to go out and return for their safety. Another faction of KNCA president, Protima Enghipi also stated that there is an increased rate of crime against women in recent days. In the name of sending children to schools, children staying in others homes as domestic helps are becoming bonded labourers. "We urge upon the DC and KAAC authority to build social security and normalcy so that women can move out without any feeling of insecurity." She also blamed the law and order authority for their weakness as they failed to take prompt action on any incidents. Investigation should be fast, she demanded. She also said in the case of murder of Rina Rongpipi, where three suspects involved in the crime have been arrested. Police said there is one more. That fourth person should also be arrested immediately to award punishment. Compensation should be given to the victim's families. KNCA president, Protima Enghipi and another KNCA faction president, Maikon Rongpharpi and secretary, Kajek Tokbipi; BJP Mahila Morcha president, Roshmi Teronpi; Karbi Anglong District Mahila Congress Committee president, Purnima Teronpi; Karbi Anglong Women Justice Forum president, Beulet president and several members were present.

AASU celebrates SC verdict, honours Assam Movement martyrs



HT Correspondent
NAGAON, Oct 18: Members and activists of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) expressed joy after the Supreme Court upheld Clause 6 of the Citizenship Act as constitutionally valid. To mark the occasion, the Nagaon district unit of AASU led a candlelight tribute to the martyrs of the Assam Movement near Nagaon's Nehrukali field on Friday. Similar events were organised by AASU activists from Kaliabor, Puranigudam, Kampur, Raha, Hatisung, Nagaon Sadar Anchalik

unit, Dhing, Rupahi, and South Nagaon, each paying homage to the movement's martyrs in their respective areas. The Nagaon district AASU welcomed the Supreme Court's decision, calling it a historic judgement that affirms the legitimacy of the Assam Movement. The organisation also urged the central and state governments to implement the Assam Accord within the specified timeframe. Prominent attendees at the candlelight ceremony in Nagaon Nehrukali included Gourishankar Shaikia, finance secretary, AASU; Seemanta Bora, president, Nagaon district AASU; Kankanjyoti Baruah, general secretary, Nagaon district AASU; Dr Sarat Barkataki, leader of the Assam Movement and the retired principal of Nowgong College; and Dipika Laskar, former student leader and retired principal of Nagaon Government Boys HS School.

UPPL worker passes away

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Oct 18: Swmdwn Khunggur Boro, an active worker of the Sukhanjhora Primary Committee, UPPL party under Banargaon block, expired on Friday morning after a stroke. According to family members, he suffered a stroke on Thursday evening at his residence and was immediately rushed to the hospital in Kokrajhar, later being admitted to a private hospital in Coochbehar for treatment, where he breathed his last on Friday morning around 10:30 am. He was a social worker and was associated with social

organisations. He was also serving as a teacher at a private school in Magurmari. The funeral was performed after completing the rituals at the village graveyard. The greater Sukhanjhora area lost a good social worker with the demise of Swmdwn Khunggur Boro. People from across communities and organisations, including UPPL and ABSU, have extended their deep condolences. The UPPL party extended deep condolences to the bereaved family members of Swmdwn Khunggur Boro and prayed for his eternal peace in the heavenly abode.

Mother arrested for alleged murder of son in Margherita

HT Correspondent
MARGHERITA, Oct 18: Supriya Chakraborty has been arrested for the alleged murder of her five-year-old son, Abhimanyu Chakraborty, following his disappearance during the Durga Puja celebrations on October 11. Abhimanyu, who resided at 1 Lazum, Ward No 4, near the old playground of Ramkrishna Vidyalaya School, was reported missing on the morning of the eighth day of Durga Puja. His body was later recovered from the banks of the Buridehing river on October 14. The tragic incident has sparked outrage among local residents, who are calling for a comprehensive investigation. Initial reports indicated a frantic search for the missing child, but the investigation soon took a grim turn, revealing that the boy's mother may have played a role in his death. "How can a biological mother be so cruel? What kind of brutality drives a mother to kill her own child?" questioned a local resident.



On October 11, a missing person's complaint was lodged at the Margherita Police Station. Shocking revelations during the investigation led to the arrest of Supriya Chakraborty after extensive questioning on Friday, with authorities citing substantial evidence linking her to the crime. A case, numbered 144/2024 under Section 103, Clause 1/238 BNS, has been registered at the Margherita Police Station. Following her appearance in the Margherita Sub-Divisional Magistrate Court, Supriya Chakraborty was remanded to judicial custody in Tinsukia on Friday afternoon. Dinesh Pratap Singh Rathod, Margherita co-district police officer, commended the Margherita police for their efficient work in apprehending Supriya Chakraborty. He confirmed that the case is still under investigation and assured that further details will be released in due course.

Training programme

HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 18: In encouraging more people to take up coffee plantation in the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong as it has economy potentiality and viability of the crop, the Regional Coffee Research Station (RCRS) at Six Miles, Diphu-Manja Road, has organised an awareness training programme on coffee cultivation on October 22, 23, 24, 25, 29 and 30 to be conducted at RCRS, Six Miles, Diphu - Manja Roa. The Deputy Director, Dr. Atiqur Rahman Bora has informed that interested persons wanting to participate in the training programme can choose either any of the dates

mentioned above. "There are six days mentioned, if you are interested in taking up coffee cultivation and want to know the process and method to grow coffee, then you can enroll yourself for the free training programme on coffee cultivation and choose any of the dates convenient to you. The training is only one day for each trainee. Time is from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.," the Deputy Director informed. Maximum number of participants for each batch is 20. Registration for training can be filled through online rcrsdiphu@gmail.com or offline in the RCRS office.

Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka felicitated at Mangaldai



HT Correspondent
MANGALDAI, Oct 18: On Friday, a number of public organisations and institutions from Darrang district extended heartfelt congratulations to senior BJP leader and recently appointed Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka. Deka had previously served two terms as the representative of the recently dissolved Mangaldai parliamentary constituency. In this connection, a public function was organised here at the district library auditorium under the aegis of the Mangaldai town unit of 'Darrangi Kala Kristi Ummayan Sanggha'. Speaking on the occasion, Dilip Saikia, MP for the Darrang-Udalguri parliamentary constituency, shed light on the long and challenging political journey of Ramen Deka since he was a student following the ideology of rich 'Bharatiya Rastrabadi' thoughts. He termed Ramen Deka as a leader of ethics who never compromised his principles. He observed that the youths who want to pursue politics should follow his path for success. Earlier, senior journalist Bhargab Kr Das, in his address, gave a brief account of Deka becoming the ninth Assamese Governor in history after a few stalwarts of state politics, including Bishnu Ram Medhi, Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, Hiteswar Saikia, and others. Sipajhar MLA Paramananda Rajbongshi, senior leader of the state BJP Bijoy Gupta, president of Darrang BJP Amarendra Sarma, vice chairperson of the State Women's Commission Nilima Devi, and president of the organising committee Rajib Kr Deka also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, nearly one hundred organisations, like Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Sahitya Sabha, Mangaldai Media Circle, Mangaldai Sports Association, Youth Club, RSS, and Vishwa Hindu Parishad, accorded felicitation to Ramen Deka with Assamese xorai, gamosa, japi, mementos, etc.

Cachar celebrates Kati Bihu with farmer engagement & MSP promotion

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 18: Embracing the spirit of the agricultural festival, Kati Bihu, the Agriculture Department of Cachar district celebrated the occasion with a series of programs across three agricultural subdivisions: Silchar, Sonai, and Lakhapur. The events, marked by cultural festivities and farmer awareness campaigns, aimed to bring the agricultural community together and promote recent government initiatives. At Durga Nagar village near Udharbond, district commissioner Mridul Yadav, who attended as the chief guest, encouraged farmers to take advantage of the increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 2300 per quintal for paddy. He announced that four paddy procurement centres have been established across the district, emphasising the importance of ensuring fair prices for farmers. Yadav extended his best wishes for the upcoming harvesting season, expressing hope for bountiful yields and successful storage across Cachar.



The Durga Nagar event was attended by notable guests, including district agricultural officer Dr AR Ahmed, sub-divisional agricultural officer Joynal Abedin, and Cachar lead bank manager Dinesh Gupta, alongside various agricultural officials and social workers. In Sonai's Mazirgram, assistant commissioner Jonali Devi led celebrations at the Agriculture Knowledge Center. Joined by Dr Nikhil Chandra Das, sub-divisional agricultural officer, and Himanshu Mishra, senior scientist at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Devi highlighted various schemes available to support local farmers. Attendees were briefed on the PM Kisan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card, and

Nano Urea initiatives, aimed at maximising productivity and sustainability in the region. Over in Lakhapur, the Naamghar of Salamatpur hosted a cultural celebration attended by additional district commissioner Yuvraj Borthakur. Here, farmers were recognised for their contributions with traditional 'gamosas', and a spirited Bihu dance competition added to the festive atmosphere. District agricultural officer Dr AR Ahmed and SDAO Dr Rahul Chakraborty joined in the celebrations, ensuring farmers were well-informed about the government's efforts to support them. Across all three sub-divisions, the events concluded with traditional lamp-lighting rituals, as farmers lit lamps in front of tulsi plants and 'Akash Banti' in their fields, symbolising hope and prosperity. Local artists performed traditional Bihu and folk dances, making the Kati Bihu festivities memorable for the entire community.

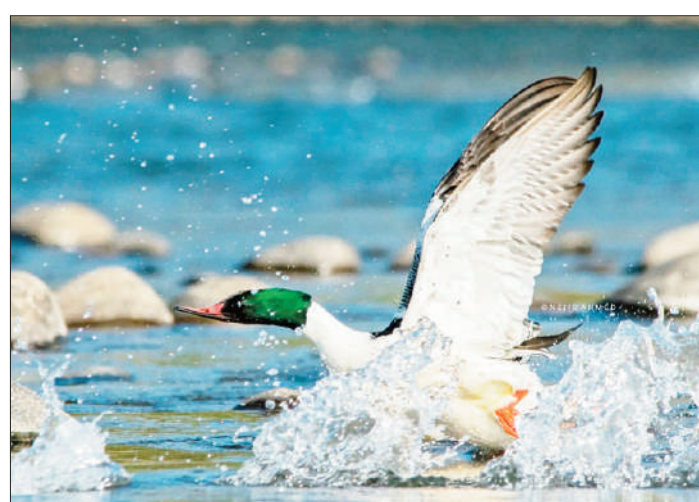
Doctor's body found in Dibrugarh Town Protection Drain

HT Correspondent
DIBRUGARH, Oct 18: On Friday, a dead body was found in the Dibrugarh Town Protection Drain (DTP) in the Paltan Bazar area, alarming local residents. The discovery was made by the public, prompting authorities to initiate an investigation to determine the identity of the deceased. A crucial lead surfaced from a missing person re-

port filed at the Barbari Police Outpost concerning Dr Pratyush Kumar Debroy, an 80-year-old physician from Jalan Nagar, who has been missing since 5:00 pm on October 11, 2024. His wife reported that Dr Debroy went out that evening to visit Durga Puja pandals and has not been seen since. Among the items recovered with the body was a card identifying him as 'Dr

Aaranyak urges collective action to protect migratory birds

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 18: As the winter season is set to bring comfort to the atmosphere in Assam, the time has come for winged visitors from faraway places to flock to the state's numerous forest areas and wetlands. These migratory birds add to the richness of the state's biodiversity during winter, making the destinations more attractive for nature lovers and significantly enhancing the tourism potential of the state. The region's premier research-based biodiversity conservation organisation, Aaranyak, has called for concerted efforts by all sections of society in the state to ensure the safety of these winter-season winged visitors, which contribute immensely to the state's in-situ biodiversity. From November 2024 onwards, Aaranyak is organising a series of birdwatching events, as well as bird counts at various locations across Assam. "Migratory birds that visit different areas of the state during winter are valued guests, and we



all should safeguard them during their stay. The people of the state, in general, should also remain sensitive to the protection and conservation of natural areas frequented by these migratory birds," said Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, secretary general and CEO of Aaranyak. Dr Talukdar informed that Aaranyak will be eager to extend as much cooperation as possible to

bird lovers who wish to observe these wonderful winged visitors more closely. "Assam is home to over 900 of the 1,377 bird species recorded in India so far. The diversity of habitat and altitudinal range, coupled with the location encompassing two biogeographic zones, explains this diversity and the high number of breeding birds in the state. Aaranyak has undertaken crucial ecological research on some globally threatened birds, such as the White-winged Wood Duck, Bengal Florican, Greater Adjutant, and White-bellied Heron. We have also pioneered genetic research on the critically endangered White-bellied Heron. "Besides scientific research, Aaranyak has been using bird-watching as a tool to connect people with nature and contribute to citizen-science-based initiatives. Aaranyak's biologists, members, and volunteers have contributed to the development of checklists of birds for several Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Assam," Borthakur said. Regarding the importance of birds and migratory birds to ecosystems, Aaranyak researcher Karishma Sharma Chamlagain

said, "Birds are vital agents for critical ecosystem services such as pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, and nutrient cycling. In many regions, migratory birds further amplify these benefits, connecting ecosystems across continents. Their migratory routes span thousands of miles, demonstrating nature's intricate interconnections. In places like Assam, where biodiversity is particularly rich, birds play key roles in maintaining ecological health, supporting human livelihoods, and enriching cultural heritage." "Migratory birds, in particular, are a vital link between different ecosystems. They contribute to global biodiversity by transporting genetic material across geographic regions and enriching ecosystems far from their breeding grounds. "However, despite their ecological importance, birds and migratory birds face significant threats due to habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and human activities. Protecting them is critical not only for biodiversity but also for sustaining ecosystem services that benefit humans," she added.

Tezpur University observes Hindi Pakhwada



HT Correspondent
TEZPUR, Oct 18: Tezpur University concluded its fortnight-long Hindi Pakhwada on Thursday, with a valedictory function. The Pakhwada was organised between September 14 and 30, 2024, during which various competitions and activities were held. During the fortnight arranged by the Hindi Cell of the University, many competitions of different categories were organised for employees and their children. Competitions such as draft writing and translation, quizzes, Hindi typing, and poetry recitation were organised. Gracing the valedictory function, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, vice chancellor (VC) of the University, said that Hindi, far from being a rival to other languages, is

a valuable complement to them. "It serves as a bridge, uniting people from diverse linguistic backgrounds and brings a sense of national unity," the vice chancellor remarked. Addressing the gathering, Prof KC Biswal, registrar of the University, said that when Hindi is used alongside regional languages, it enriches cultural exchange and promotes a more inclusive society. The winners of all the competitions were awarded cash prizes and certificates. Shields were given by the vice chancellor to the Establishment Section and the Research and Development Office of the University for the best implementation of the official language. Apart from the VC and the registrar, Dr Biren Das, controller of examinations, Dr Braja Bandhu Mishra, finance officer, Prof MK Sarma, dean, Office of Research and Development, and Prof Pramod Meena, head of the Hindi department, were also present along with other staff and faculty members. The event was coordinated by Dr Kul Prasad Upadhyay, Hindi officer of the University.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

To be free is to have achieved your life:
-Tennessee Williams

Spying an art

The allegation by the Canadian Prime Minister Justine Trudeau involving Indian diplomats of the high commission in the killing of the Sikh extremist Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, last year and also in the assassination attempt on another Sikh lawyer G S Pannun in USA, has created a storm in the global diplomatic community. India-Canadian ties have reached its lowest ebb with the expulsion of diplomats by both governments. What is more, the name of the Indian Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, has come up in the mails accessed by the Canadian authorities in the course of investigation. For India, and, especially, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the diplomatic situation is terrible, with India's trusted strategic partner United States endorsing the Canadian position. Additionally, Canada has also got the support of its other allies of the 'Five Eyes' group — UK, Australia and New Zealand. This means that most of the West is positioned against India on this spat with Canada. India is a member of four-nation QUAD led by the US. Two QUAD members USA and Australia have taken position against India.

What is the big deal about Indian government taking actions in foreign land against known terrorist? Every country does it; the only thing, it has to be foolproof and not messy. The fault with the Narendra Modi Government is that its officials and agents messed up, and the work was so shoddy that even the instructions made by the Home Minister could not be kept secret; those were intercepted by the Canadians. Just imagine how Indira Gandhi led India to win the India-Pakistan war in December 1971 not only through bigger military might, but also by perfect use of Indian intelligence agencies, who befitted the CIA agents about the strategy for war to liberate Bangladesh. Indira Gandhi used a RAW agent to secure the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after the end of the war. It was done through a lady friend of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Indira Gandhi had her strategy team led by P. N. Haksar, consisting of T. N. Kaul, K. B. Lal and R. C. Dutta. The RAW agents were performing at their peak under the leadership of PMO. Compared to that, the present PMO consists of men far less in calibre. Modi's PMO has hijacked all the foreign policy directions, sidelining the external affairs ministry. Foreign policy and diplomacy have been the victim of myopic political approach. In fact, spying has been a staple since the ancient times, ever since the small kingdoms came into existence. In India, the Rig Veda, the most influential document of Vedic age, contains references to spies or "Spasa" being used by the god Varuna for acquiring information. Historians take it as the oldest existing reference to espionage. As far as epics go, Mahabharata and Ramayana, both ancient classics, are full of references to spy networks that was an essential part of statecraft. Similarly, the ancient Greek and Roman periods contain tales full of spies whose lives have been depicted in great epics of that period. Hanuman of Ramayana was the golden spy in the war of Ram against Ravana. Our ancient treatise Manu Smriti and Kautilya's Arthashastra elaborate on facets of the working of spies and diplomats. Kautilya's Arthashastra has one hundred and fifty parts that make up this document, over 50 of them have references to espionage and the use of spies. In the work, ancient Indian thinker Kautilya elaborates on the precise ways in which a king is to rule, including modes of administration, means of warfare, diplomatic strategy and economic policies. He provides what is perhaps the first ever professional classification for spies.

SC upholds 1971 cutoff: Assam's legal win, indigenous struggles continue

The Supreme Court's historic judgment, delivered on October 17, 2023, has reaffirmed the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act of 1955. This judgment upheld March 24, 1971, as the cutoff date for determining the eligibility of citizens in Assam under the Assam Accord. The ruling marks a significant moment in Assam's history, affirming the state's long-standing battle with illegal immigration from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). For decades, Assam has grappled with the challenge of migration, and the Supreme Court's decision seeks to solidify a legal foundation for addressing this contentious issue.

The cutoff controversy: 1951 vs. 1971

The debate surrounding the cutoff date for the detection and deportation of illegal migrants has persisted for decades. During the Assam Movement, which lasted six years, indigenous groups, led by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), originally demanded 1951 as the cutoff year.

However, political negotiations during the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985 led to the acceptance of 1971 as the definitive cutoff. This agreement, while resolving some immediate political tensions, has remained a source of disagreement among various sections of society.

The Supreme Court's recent judgment settles the legal controversy by reinforcing 1971 as the valid cutoff. This decision ensures that those who entered Assam before March 24, 1971, are considered le-



gitimate citizens, while those who migrated after that date are considered foreigners and subject to deportation. The ruling thus provides clarity, ending years of speculation and legal ambiguity.

National Register of Citizens (NRC) and its implementation challenges

Despite the finalization of the cutoff date, implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) based on the 1971 date remains a challenging task. The NRC, aimed at identifying and listing all legitimate citizens of Assam, has been fraught with difficulties, legal challenges, and inefficiencies.

The government has proposed a 20% revision of the NRC in districts bordering Bangladesh and a 10% revision in other districts. This proposal reflects the recognition that the initial implementation of the NRC may not have been entirely accurate. However, political disagreements have delayed this process.

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has already

filed a petition in the Supreme Court, requesting a comprehensive review of the NRC. The government, though supportive of this review, has yet to take concrete steps to move the process forward.

DEGREE OF THOUGHT
Dipak Kurmi

As it stands, over 19 lakh people have been excluded from the NRC, raising concerns about the status of these individuals.

Deportation and Foreigners' Tribunals: A legal conundrum

The process of detecting and deporting illegal migrants has proven to be one of the most challenging aspects of Assam's legal and political landscape. The Foreigners' Tribunals, set up to adjudicate cases of illegal immigration, have been slow in delivering judgments.

Thousands of cases are pending, and even when individuals are declared foreigners, deportation has proven to be nearly impossible. One of the primary reasons is the lack of cooperation from the Bangladeshi government, which refuses to accept many of those identified as

Bangladeshi nationals.

The judiciary's involvement in settling these issues has added another layer of complexity.

While the tribunals have declared a small percentage of individuals as foreigners, the vast majority remain untraceable. Many are believed to be still residing in India. This reflects the limitations of the existing legal framework, which lacks the necessary mechanisms for efficient deportation.

Lt. Gen S.K. Sinha's proposal: An alternative solution

Amid the challenges of deportation, a novel proposal by former Assam Governor, Lt. Gen S.K. Sinha, has gained renewed attention. Lt. Gen Sinha suggested that instead of focusing on deportation, which has proven to be largely ineffective, the government should consider making illegal migrants stateless citizens.

Under this proposal, foreigners would be allowed to live and work in Assam but would be denied voting rights. This measure, Sinha argued, would reduce political patronage for illegal migrants, which is one of the primary reasons why

the issue has remained unresolved for so long.

Clause 6 of the Assam Accord: Safeguarding indigenous rights

Beyond the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants, the Assam Accord's Clause 6 focuses on providing constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people of Assam. The Central government formed a committee, headed by retired justice Biplab Sharma, to recommend measures for implementing Clause 6. The committee's report includes provisions for the protection of land rights, the preservation of cultural heritage, and reservations in political and educational institutions for indigenous people.

While the Assam government has begun implementing some of these measures, such as land protection, many key recommendations, such as the reservation of seats in Parliament and the introduction of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, require constitutional amendments. These recommendations aim to protect the cultural and political rights of indigenous Assamese in the face of ongoing migration.

Economic empowerment as a solution

While legal and political measures are crucial, they alone cannot solve the deep-rooted challenges faced by Assam's indigenous population. Economic self-reliance is seen as a vital aspect of building resilience against the socio-political pressures exerted by migration. Many indigenous people in Assam remain dependent on traditional farming, which has become increasingly non-remunerative. The

younger generations are migrating out of the state in search of better opportunities, leaving the agricultural economy in decline.

One pragmatic solution lies in diversifying the economy by engaging every household in income-generating activities. Women, in particular, can play a significant role in improving household incomes through skilled and unskilled work. Economic empowerment will allow the Assamese people to strengthen their cultural identity and heritage while securing their political future.

A multi-faceted approach

The Supreme Court's judgment on the cutoff date for citizenship is a major step towards addressing Assam's long-standing issue of illegal migration. However, legal rulings alone cannot solve the deep-seated socio-economic and political challenges faced by the indigenous population.

The combined efforts of the state and central governments, along with active participation from civil society, are necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the NRC, the Foreigners' Tribunals, and Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

Simultaneously, the Assamese people must strive for economic self-reliance to protect their cultural identity. Only by addressing both the political and economic aspects of the issue can Assam hope to build a resilient and prosperous future for its indigenous people. *(The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)*

Omar Abdullah has tough task as Chief Minister of J&K sans statehood

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

Omar Abdullah has become the first Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir sans statehood. With it comes numerous challenges and responsibilities. Administering this Union Territory as chief minister will be just like serving two masters simultaneously – the Centre's diktat on the one hand and People's mandate to uphold democracy and federalism on the other.

People of Jammu & Kashmir have rejected the very idea of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's New Kashmir, and trusted the leadership of the National Conference, that had promised not only restoration of statehood for Jammu & Kashmir during the Vidhan Sabha election but also passage of a resolution for restoration of the Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India, that Modi government had abrogated in August 2019.

In pursuance of PM Modi's idea of New Kashmir, Jammu & Kashmir's statehood was done away with the abrogation of the Article 370, and the region was split into two Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Peace and development was the major political plank of the BJP during the elections, which has remained elusive so far. People mandated the National Conference with majority as against the BJP's peace and development plan, which shows the people's preference is fundamentally their political aspirations.

It is here, the challenges and responsibilities of Omar Abdullah lie from which emerges the thorny tasks of administering the troubled Union Territory. To keep National Conference's promises during the elections, Omar Abdullah led government will have to pass resolution for restoration of Article 370 and statehood. Given the majority in the Vidhan Sabha, it would not be numerically very difficult. However, the sensitiveness of the issues may bring troubles for him – chiefly from the Centre's representative Lieutenant Governor as true administrator of Jammu & Kashmir. The Centre is totally against restoration of Article 370, though it had promised statehood without any timeframe.

Congress, though NC's ally in INDIA bloc, has kept mum on restoration of Article 370, but has been demanding restoration of statehood. It is yet to be seen, what

would be the nature of restoration of statehood – whether the resolution would only be for statehood of the bifurcated Jammu & Kashmir or the restoration of statehood as it was prior to 2019 when the region had lost it.

Statements made so far regarding restoration of statehood are somewhat vague on this point. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while congratulating Omar Abdullah for becoming CM said that "government formation without statehood felt incomplete today" adding "Democracy was snatched from the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and today we renew our pledge to continue our fight until statehood is fully restored." Omar Abdullah replied, "Thank you very much Rahul Gandhi and thank you for joining us today. The people of J&K look towards you for your continued support as we work to get out statehood back."

Nevertheless, neither restoring the statehood nor the passage of resolution to bring back now abrogated Article 370 will be easy. In the name of peace and security of Jammu & Kashmir Centre would continue to dominate, and a chief minister of this troubled region will certainly be reduced to a status of powerlessness in administrative and legislative matters.

PM Narendra Modi is not a person who accepts democratic defeats lying prostrate. We have seen it in Delhi, which is also a Union Territory with an assembly. His government has clipped the powers of the Chief Minister of Delhi by bringing several legislations and executive orders. Lieutenant Governor is calling the shots, while the officers were not taking orders from the elected state government ministers. There have been intermittent rifts between the Lieutenant Governor and the elected Delhi Government triggering litigations that went even to the Supreme Court of India, which ruled in favour of democracy and federalism. However, administering Delhi remains very tough for the elected government on account of interference of the Centre through Lieutenant Governor.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir has said, "From my side, there will be no cause of confrontation." Even though his statement is not trust worthy given the track record of Modi government. The Centre has recently amended the rules of the "Transaction of

Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir" to ensure that Lieutenant had even more administrative and legal powers. The new changes bestow on the LG the power to transfer IAS and IPS officers, control J&K Police and law and order, and have a say in the appointment of judicial officers, including the advocate general. The Anti-Corruption Bureau, prosecution matters and prisons will also be now under LG's ambit.

It would then be naive to believe that situation would be different than Delhi in Jammu & Kashmir and for the elected government led by Omar Abdullah. He will have to walk on fire, on several issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir including of protecting the democracy and federalism. Centre's grip over Jammu & Kashmir administration is more likely to be stronger since people's mandate clearly shows their political aspirations intact and they did not go for PM Modi's development plank.

Thorny political issues apart, Omar Abdullah will have to navigate the political landscape of every region of the Jammu & Kashmir. He has shown promise in this regard just by incorporating ministers from Jammu and Chhamb region, which may address the old grievances of these regions that they suffered neglect over Kashmir region. It is a very good beginning, but he will have to work hard to ensure development of all regions in the months to come.

Security will remain in the hand of the Centre, and hence, CM Omar Abdullah will be spared for numerous security related troubles. Nevertheless, policing the state will not be an easy task. Only a perfect co-ordination between the Centre and the State can solve the problem, but it should be based on the principle of democracy and federalism as provided by the Constitution of India.

CM Omar Abdullah himself has put the challenges in these words, "In my first innings (2008-2014) I was CM of the most empowered state. But now J&K is the country's most disempowered Union Territory. Also, while the win is humbling, the expectations of the people are scary as they are enormous." However, he has promised a "clean government with will to deliver on expectations of the people." *(IPA Service)*

March 25, 1971 - The Citizenship cutoff

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

March 25, 1971, holds a special significance in the history of Assam, not just as a date but as a critical legal and emotional marker that defines the state's identity and relationship with citizenship. It is this date that marks the cutoff for determining legal residents from illegal immigrants in Assam, as enshrined in the Assam Accord, signed in 1985. This agreement was a response to years of agitation and unrest, and the decision to set March 25, 1971, as the cutoff date was both a practical and political solution to the inflamed tensions around identity and migration that have plagued Assam for decades. The consequences of this decision continue to reverberate, most recently highlighted by the Supreme Court's reaffirmation of this cutoff in its judgments, underlining its importance in shaping not just Assam's past but its future.

The roots of this cutoff date can be traced back to the tumultuous events surrounding the Bangladesh Liberation War, which saw millions of refugees fleeing violence in what was then East Pakistan. The war culminated in the independence of Bangladesh in December 1971, but before that, starting from March 25, 1971, the crackdown by the Pakistani military on Bengali nationalists and civilians triggered a mass exodus of refugees into neighboring regions, particularly Assam and West Bengal. This influx of refugees was unprecedented, placing immense pressure on the local infrastructure, economy, and social fabric of Assam. For the indigenous Assamese, who had long felt that their identity was being diluted by waves of migration from Bengal, this refugee crisis deepened the sense of existential threat.

Before delving into the specifics of March 25, 1971, it is important to understand the demographic and political backdrop of Assam. The state's proximity to the Bengal region meant that migrations between the two areas were common, especially during the British colonial era, when the colonial administration encouraged Bengali migration into Assam to work in tea plantations and agricultural fields. Over time, however, the influx of Bengali-speaking people, particularly Muslims from East Bengal, al-

tered the demographic balance in Assam. This created anxiety among the indigenous Assamese population, who began to feel marginalized in their own land. The Assam Movement, which gained momentum in the 1970s and culminated in the Assam Accord of 1985, was rooted in these demographic fears and sought to protect the political and cultural identity of the Assamese people.

The core demand of the Assam Movement was the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants. For the movement's leaders, any person who had entered Assam after 1951, the year of India's first census after independence, was considered an illegal migrant. However, the situation became more complicated with the Bangladesh Liberation War and the refugee crisis it created. By the time the Assam Accord was signed, the Indian government and the movement's leaders reached a compromise: March 25, 1971, the day the Pakistani military launched its operations in East Pakistan, would be the cutoff date for determining citizenship. Those who had entered Assam before this date would be granted Indian citizenship, while those who arrived after would be deemed illegal immigrants.

The significance of March 25, 1971, is therefore multifaceted. Legally, it serves as the basis for the determination of citizenship in Assam, but it also has deeper symbolic meanings. For many indigenous Assamese, this date represents the last stand in their effort to preserve their cultural and linguistic identity. The fear that unchecked migration would lead to their political marginalization and the erosion of their culture was the driving force behind the Assam Movement. Setting March 25, 1971, as the cutoff date was, in their eyes, a necessary step to protect the future of Assam.

The Assam Accord was intended to bring peace and resolution to a region torn apart by years of agitation, violence, and unrest. However, implementing its provisions proved to be a monumental task. One of the key challenges was the updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a process aimed at identifying illegal immigrants and distinguishing them from legal residents. The first NRC was compiled in 1951, but with the signing of the Assam Accord, it became necessary to update the list to reflect the March

25, 1971, cutoff date.

The process of updating the NRC has been fraught with controversy, delays, and legal challenges. Many residents of Assam, particularly those from marginalized communities, found it difficult to produce the necessary documentation to prove their lineage or presence in the state before the cutoff date. The bureaucratic process was cumbersome, with many facing the risk of being left stateless despite having lived in Assam for generations. This led to widespread fear and uncertainty, as individuals and families awaited the outcome of the verification process.

The final NRC list, published in August 2019, excluded nearly 1.9 million people, sparking protests and legal challenges. For those left off the list, it meant the possibility of losing their citizenship, being declared illegal immigrants, and facing deportation or detention. The exclusion of such a large number of people also raised concerns about the fairness and transparency of the NRC process, with critics arguing that many genuine residents were being unfairly penalized.

It is in this context that the Supreme Court's recent rulings reaffirming the March 25, 1971, cutoff date take on added significance. The Court's judgments have essentially upheld the provisions of the Assam Accord, confirming that those who entered Assam after this date cannot claim citizenship. While this ruling has brought some clarity to the legal framework surrounding citizenship in Assam, it has also reignited debates about the fairness of the cutoff date and the humanitarian consequences of denying citizenship to people who have lived in Assam for decades.

The Supreme Court's judgments underscore the delicate balance that must be struck between preserving the cultural and political identity of Assam and upholding the rights of individuals who find themselves stateless. The Court's decision to uphold the March 25, 1971, cutoff date has been hailed by some as a victory for the indigenous Assamese people, who have long feared being outnumbered and politically marginalized. However, for others, particularly those who have been excluded from the NRC, the ruling has raised concerns about the potential for human rights abuses and the creation of a large state-

less population.

March 25, 1971, remains a contentious date not just because of its legal implications but because of the emotional and political baggage it carries. For many Assamese, it is a date that symbolizes the defense of their identity in the face of overwhelming demographic changes. For others, it represents an arbitrary line drawn in the sand, one that has the potential to create a humanitarian crisis by denying citizenship to people who have lived in Assam for decades but cannot prove their presence before the cutoff date.

The debate over March 25, 1971, also reflects larger questions about citizenship, migration, and national identity in India. Assam's struggle to balance its cultural identity with the realities of migration is not unique; similar debates are playing out in other parts of India and around the world. The question of who belongs and who does not, of who has the right to citizenship and who is considered an outsider, is one that cuts to the heart of modern nation-states.

As Assam moves forward, the legacy of March 25, 1971, will continue to shape the state's political and social landscape. The challenge for policymakers and citizens alike is to find a way to balance the need to preserve Assam's unique cultural identity with the imperative to respect the rights of all residents, regardless of their origin. The NRC process, while flawed, represents an attempt to address these competing concerns, but it is clear that the debate is far from over.

Ultimately, the significance of March 25, 1971, lies not just in its legal standing as the cutoff date for citizenship in Assam, but in its role as a symbol of the state's ongoing struggle to define its identity in a rapidly changing world. For the indigenous Assamese, this date is a reminder of their long fight to protect their culture and heritage. For others, it represents the complexities and challenges of migration, citizenship, and belonging in a world where borders and identities are increasingly fluid. The story of March 25, 1971, is far from finished, and its impact will be felt for generations to come. *(The writer is Editor in Chief of the Assamese E-Magazine SAMPROTIK. He can be reached at himangshur1989@gmail.com)*

Career in Hydraulic Engineering

By: Kaustov Kashyap

Hydraulic engineering is the study of how water interacts with its environment and human-made structures such as dams, bridges and piping systems. Hydraulic engineers study the effects of water on specific materials and environments, the science of moving water for power or relocation and the methods of controlling or redirecting hydraulic flow.

Hydraulic engineering is a sub-discipline of Civil Engineering. It is used extensively in the construction of dams, bridges, canal, sewers etc there are many opportunities in this area. Hydraulic engineering uses fluid mechanics as its foundation, to deal with problems of collection, storage, segre-

gation, measurement, transport, control and use of water.

How to become a Hydraulics Engineer

Initially one has to attain a high school diploma with Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics as their major subjects. Following which an aspirant is expected to take up their bachelors in Civil Engineering. Several institutes provide a specialization in Hydraulics in undergraduate level, but these are mostly available abroad.

A Master degree is required in the field of hydraulics, which will give the aspirant a more clear view of the field that they will be working on. The aspirant can continue their studies in the field of hydraulics and get their post-doctoral degree and continue with re-



search.

It is advised to get an apprenticeship or an internship with an organization or a company that deals with hydraulics for a better experience and a higher chance of employability in the future.

Job Opportunities in Hydraulic Engineering

As a Hydraulic Engineer, one will focus on the building of dams, hydro-electric power development, water distribution networks, water collection networks, sewage collection, sediment transport and many other projects that involve transportation and Geotechnical Engineering.

In the past few decades, there is an increase in the need for hydraulic engineers with respect to the ascending requirement for environment conservation.

The effects of climate change and global warming can be seen in the day-to-day life, in catastrophic measures. In this area of work, engineers form plans to preserve the natural environment and save the people, property, flora and fauna from the increasing damage.

Research in the field of hydraulic engineering is also an area of interest. Fluid mechanics and fluid dynamics are extensively used in various other disciplines of engineering such as flood mapping, shoreline management, coastal protection etc.

Hydraulic Engineer's Job Role & Salary Structure?

A Hydraulic engineer has very important role to play when it comes to the management and development of water resources. Jobs in various small and big private companies as well as government jobs are easily available to hydraulic engineers.

Hydraulic Engineers supervise the construction of hydraulic structures like dams and bridges and perform routine inspections as well as maintenance

on these systems.

Salary of a Hydraulic Engineer
A Hydraulic Engineer earns an average salary of ₹ 20,000.00 - ₹ 53,707.34 a month in India. The salary of a hydraulic engineer rises steadily for more experienced workers which may go upto ₹ 1.5 Lakhs to ₹ 11.0 Lakhs with an average annual salary of ₹ 3.3 Lakhs.

Top Institutes in India providing Hydraulic Engineering are- IIT Madras, NIT Karnataka, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Uttar Pradesh, SAITRA University, Tamil Nadu & SRM University, Chennai. *(The author is an HR & Career Consultant who can be reached at pragatigroup08@gmail.com)*

Army Welfare Education Society recruitment 2024 – PGT, TGT & PRT posts

Last Date: 25/10/2024

Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) has released an advertisement for the recruitment of PGT, TGT & PRT vacancy in various Army Public School across India affiliated to CBSE. Accordingly, an Online Screening Test (OST) will be conducted for potential teachers/ teachers under various categories. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Post Graduate Teacher (PGT)

No of posts: N/A

Educational Qualification: Post Graduation in the subject concerned with 50% marks and B.Ed with 50% marks.

2. Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT)

No of posts: N/A

Educational Qualification: Graduate in the subject concerned with 50% marks and B.Ed with 50% marks.

3. Primary Teacher (PRT)

No of posts: N/A

Educational Qualification: Graduation with 50% marks and D.El.Ed/ B.Ed with 50% marks.

A Post-Graduate with less than 50% marks in Graduation, but more than 50% marks in Post-Graduation with the subject applied for shall also be eligible.

Helplines: +91 7969049941 | awes.helpdesk@smartexams.in

Other Criteria of Army Welfare Education Society Recruitment

CTET/ TET: CTET/TET is not mandatory for appearing in the Online Screening Test. However CTET/ TET conducted by Centre/State government is mandatory for appointment as TGTs/PRTs. Those not qualified in CTET/ TET but found fit in all other respects may be considered for appointment on vacancies which may be adhoc in nature till attainment of qualification.

Age Limit:

Fresh Candidates (No Teaching Experience): Below 40 Years
Experienced Candidates (05 years): Below 57 years

Age Relaxation: Age relaxation is applicable as per rules.

Exam Fee: Rs 385 (Non-Refundable).

Payment Mode (Online): Debit/Credit Cards/ Net Banking

Important Dates of AWES Recruitment 2024

Starting date of submission of online application: 10th Sep 2024
Last date of submission of online application: 25th Oct 2024
Date of release of admit card: 12th Nov 2024
Date of Examination: 23rd & 24th Nov 2024
Publication of result: 10th Dec 2024

Handique Girls' College recruitment – 4 RA & FI posts

Last Date: 25/10/2024

Handique Girls' College, Guwahati has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 4 Research Assistant (RA) & Field Investigator (FI) posts purely on temporary basis for an ICSSR-sponsored Major Research Project entitled 'Globalising North-East India through ACT East Policy: A Socio-Political and Economic Perspective'. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Research Assistant (RA)

No of posts: 1

Monthly Emoluments: ₹ 37,000 per month (Consolidated)

Duration: Initially for a period of 05 (Five) Months (may be extended based on the ICSSR) extension approval)

Educational Qualification: PhD/MPhil/ Post Graduate in Social Science Discipline with minimum 55% from recognised University/ Institutions.

Desirable Qualification: Good knowledge of MS-Excel, Stata/ SPSS packages and Research Experience (Publication) in Social Science Discipline; Knowledge of holding/ arranging meetings, seminars etc.

Age Limit: 21-37 years (upper age limit relaxation for SC/ST/OBC candidate as per Govt. Rule)

2. Field Investigator (FI)

No of posts: 3

Monthly Emoluments: ₹ 20,000 per month (Consolidated)

Duration: Initially for a period of 04 (Four) Months (may be extended based on the ICSSR) extension approval)

Educational Qualification: Post Graduate in Social Science Discipline (55% minimum) from recognised University/ Institutions.

Desirable Qualification: Knowledge of multiple languages; willingness to travel across North East India and Abroad; having valid Indian Passport and AAD-HAR card.

Age Limit: 21-37 years (upper age limit relaxation for SC/ST/OBC candidate as per Govt. Rule)

How to Apply for Handique Girls' College Guwahati Vacancy ?

The candidates are required to send their Curriculum Vitae (CVS) with supporting documents (Class X onwards by creating one PDF) along with covering letter

specifying the name of the post in the subject line via E-mail to: cbiswa.icssr@gmail.com on or before 25th October 2024 (till 5 pm).

Only the shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview and details of the interview will be intimated personally through email and mobile phone.

Notes :

- Preference shall be given to those having working experience.
- The Project Director reserves the right to terminate/discontinue the selected candidate whenever they seem unsatisfactory.

BVFCL recruitment 2024 – 27 Graduate, Diploma & ITI Apprentice posts

Last Date: 28/10/2024

Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 27 Graduate, Diploma and ITI Apprentice Posts under Apprentices Act, 1961. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Graduate Apprentice

No of posts: 8 posts

Educational Qualification: BE/ BTech in respective branch of engineering .

2. Diploma Apprentice

No of posts: 12 posts

Educational Qualification: Diploma in respective branch of engineering .

3. ITI Apprentice

No of posts: 9 posts

Educational Qualification: HSLC + ITI in respective trade.

The qualification prescribed shall be from a recognized Govt. Institute as full time, regular course in relevant disciplines with minimum 50% marks in aggregate for General & OBC candidates and 45% marks in aggregate in case of SC/ST/PwBd candidates against reserved positions.

Other Criteria of BVFCL Recruitment

Period of Apprenticeship Training: 12 months

Age Limit: Minimum 18 Years and Maximum 24 Years as on 1st October 2024.

Age Relaxation: The relaxation of upper age limit for reserved categories are as follows:

Category	Age Relaxation
OBC-NCL	3 years
SC/ST	5 years
PwBD - UR & EWS	10 years
PwBD - OBC/NCL	13 years
PwBD - SC & ST	15 years

Important Dates of BVFCL Apprentice Vacancy 2024

Starting date of submission of online registration: 8th October 2024
Closing date for submission of online application: 28th October 2024

Dhubri Judiciary recruitment 2024 – 3 Process Server, Peon & other posts

Last Date: 30/10/2024

Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhubri has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 3 Process Server, Peon & Cleaner Vacancy in the establishment of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhubri. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Process Server

No of posts: 1 (UR)

Scale of Pay: PB-1 (₹ 14000 to ₹ 70000) + GP 5200 + other allowances)

Educational Qualification:

- Applicant must be a graduate in any discipline from a recognized University.
- Applicant must have knowledge in official language of Assam.

2. Peon

No of posts: 1 (UR)

Scale of Pay: PB-1 (₹ 12000 to ₹ 52000) + GP 3900 + other allowances)

Educational Qualification: Applicant must be Class HSLC passed. Those who have passed HSSLC or Class XII or equivalent examination or above shall not be eligible to apply.

3. Cleaner (erstwhile Sweeper)

No of posts: 1 (SC)

Scale of Pay: PB-1 (₹ 12000 to ₹ 52000) + GP 3900 + other allowances)

Educational Qualification: Applicant must be Class-VIII passed.

Other Criteria of Dhubri Judiciary Recruitment

Citizenship: Candidate must be a citizen of India.

Employment Exchange Registration: The name of the candidate must be registered in the District Employment Exchange.

Age Limit: Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not more than 38 years as on 01.01.2024 (relaxation as per the existing Govt. Rules).

How to Apply for Dhubri Judiciary Recruitment ?

The applications with self-attested photocopies of all relevant testimonials regarding Educational qualification, Experience certificate (wherever applicable), Caste, Age proof, Employment Exchange Registration Card, along with 03 (three) recent passport size coloured photographs duly signed by the candidate on the reverse side, should reach the office of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhubri, D.C. Court Building, P.S. & P.O. Dhubri, PIN 783301.

The candidates can submit their applications through post or directly in the "Drop Box" of the office of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhubri.

Candidate must provide their email address and mobile phone number in the application form, without fail.

The candidate applying for the post of Peon have to furnish a self-declaration certificate along with his/her application form mentioning that "he/she has not passed HSSLC or Class XII or Equivalent examination or above".

The envelope containing the application form should mention the name of the post applied for indicating "Application for the post of Process Server/Peon/Cleaner" super-scribed on the top of the envelope.

The last date of receipt of application is 30.10.2024 till 05:00 P.M.



India Post Payments Bank recruitment 2024 – 344 Executive posts

Last Date: 31/10/2024

India Post Payments Bank has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 344 Executive Posts in India Post Payments Bank Limited (IPPB). Interested and eligible Gramin Dak Sevak engaged with Department of Posts may apply online.

Name of post: Executive

No of posts: 344 posts

State-wise vacancy:

# Andaman And Nicobar Islands: 1	# Andhra Pradesh: 8
# Arunachal Pradesh: 5	# Assam: 16
# Bihar: 20	# Chandigarh: 2
# Chhattisgarh: 15	# Dadra And Nagar Haveli: 1
# Delhi: 6	# Goa: 1
# Gujarat: 29	# Haryana: 10
# Himachal Pradesh: 10	# Jammu And Kashmir: 4
# Jharkhand: 14	# Karnataka: 20
# Kerala: 4	# Ladakh: 1
# Lakshadweep: 1	# Madhya Pradesh: 20
# Maharashtra: 19	# Manipur: 6
# Meghalaya: 4	# Mizoram: 3
# Nagaland: 3	# Odisha: 11
# Puducherry: 1	# Punjab: 10
# Rajasthan: 17	# Sikkim: 1
# Tamil Nadu: 13	# Telangana: 15
# Tripura: 4	# Uttar Pradesh: 36
# West Bengal: 13	

Age Limit: 20 to 35 years as on 1st September 2024.

Educational Qualification: Graduate in any discipline (Regular /Distance Learning) from University/ Institution/ Board recognized by the Government of India (or) approved by a Government Regulatory Body.

Experience: Minimum 2 years of experience as a GDS.

Pay: The Bank shall pay a lump sum amount of ₹ 30,000/- per month inclusive of statutory deductions & contributions as applicable to the GDSs engaged to IPPB as Executives.

Job Description:

- # Achievement of monthly revenue targets through direct sales of Bank's products.
- # Support in organizing customer acquisition events and run campaigns in the area under Branch/ Office jurisdiction to increase financial literacy.
- # Conduct periodic training and education sessions for GDS on IPPB products and services.
- # Operate seamlessly with DoP Inspectors (Sub-division) and Postmasters to drive IPPB and 3rd Party sales.
- # Assist GDS in acquiring new customers for IPPB and its Partner Organizations.
- # Assist IPPB officers in Operations.
- # Acquire, grow and retain customer relationships by organizing customer events and run campaigns in the area to increase financial literacy.
- # Develop and manage the strategic relationship with all channel partners to drive sales and disseminate marketing information, events, training and promotions which will facilitate meeting the Bank's business goals.
- # Any other duties assigned by the Bank from time to time.

Application Fee: The category-wise fees are as mentioned below.

Category	Fee
SC/ST/PWD	₹ 750.00
Others	₹ 750.00

Important Dates of IPPB Vacancy 2024

Starting date of online application submission: 11th October 2024
Last date of online application submission: 31st October 2024

Netanyahu said the death of Sinwar marks 'the beginning of the day after' for the militant group

Israel says it has killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 18: Israeli forces in Gaza killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year's attack on Israel that sparked the war, the military said on Thursday. Troops appeared to have run across him unknowingly in a battle, only to discover afterwards that a body in the rubble was Israel's most-wanted man.

Israeli leaders celebrated his killing as a settling of scores just over a year after Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in Israel and kidnapped 250 others in an attack that stunned the country. They also presented it as a turning point in the campaign to destroy Hamas, urging the group to surrender and release some 100 hostages still in Gaza.

"Hamas will no longer rule Gaza. This is the start of the day after Hamas," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. U.S. officials expressed hopes for a cease-fire with Sinwar out of the picture. But eliminating him may not end the devastating war, during which Israel has destroyed much of the Gaza Strip and killed more than 42,000 Palestinians. The Gaza Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but says more than half of those killed were women and children.

Sinwar's death is a crippling blow to Hamas, but the group, which receives support from Iran, has proven resilient to past losses of leaders. There was no

immediate confirmation from Hamas of Sinwar's death.

Netanyahu has said Israel will keep fighting until all the hostages are free, and that it will keep control over Gaza long enough to ensure Hamas does not rearm - an effective occupation that raises the possibility of months or even years of continued fighting.

Earlier this month Israel opened a new front in its war with Hezbollah, stepping up bombardment in Lebanon and launching a ground campaign against the Iran-backed militia after a year of trading cross-border fire. In his speech about Sinwar's death, Netanyahu said, "Our war is not yet ended."

President Joe Biden said Sinwar's death opens the way for "a political settlement that provides a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike." He said he would talk with Netanyahu "to discuss the pathway for bringing the hostages home to their families, and for ending this war once and for all."

Sinwar has been Hamas' leader inside the Gaza Strip for years. He was elevated to the group's top leadership position in July after his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in an apparent Israeli strike in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

In the past months, Israel has eliminated a string of senior figures from Hamas and Hezbollah with airstrikes. Israel has claimed



to have killed the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, but the group has said he survived. But in Sinwar's case, troops found him by chance.

Israel military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said that Israeli forces identified three Hamas militants running from building to building in Gaza's southernmost city, Rafah. The troops attempted to shoot them before they ran inside a building.

The Israeli military released drone video showing what it said were Sinwar's last moments: In a room wrecked by shelling, a man sat in a chair, his face covered with a cloth, possibly to hide his identity. The video showed the man, with one wounded hand, throwing a stick at the drone.

The military then fired an additional shell at the building, causing it to collapse and killing Sinwar, Hagari said. He said Sinwar was found with a bulletproof vest, grenades, and 40,000 shekels (\$10,707).

Some of Sinwar's DNA had

previously been found in tunnels near where troops found the bodies of six hostages at the end of August, Hagari said. The military believes weeks of searches in the area had pushed Sinwar to come out of hiding, he said.

Photos circulating online showed the body of a man resembling Sinwar with a gaping head wound, dressed in a military-style vest, half buried in the rubble of a destroyed building. The security official confirmed the photos were taken by Israeli security officials at the scene. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

The military said three militants were killed in the operation. Police said one of them was confirmed as Sinwar by dental records, fingerprints and DNA tests. Sinwar was imprisoned by Israel from the late 1980s until 2011, and during that time he underwent treatment for brain cancer - leaving Israeli authorities with extensive medical records.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav

Gallant addressed Hamas fighters, saying it "is time to go out, release the hostages, raise your hands, surrender."

Netanyahu said Israel had "settled its account" with the man behind the Oct. 7 attack, and that "evil has suffered a heavy blow." But, he added, "the task before us is not yet complete."

He said anyone in Hamas who surrendered weapons and assisted with the return of the hostages would be allowed to leave Gaza safely. About a third of the captives still in Gaza are believed to be dead. Hundreds of people demonstrated in Tel Aviv on Thursday night for the release of the hostages after news of Sinwar's death emerged. Some carried signs that read "Sinwar's end, end the war."

Ifat Kalderon, whose cousin, Ofer Kalderon, is being held hostage in Gaza, said he was happy that Sinwar was dead but "scared about the 101 hostages. They might murder them or do something because of the murder of Sinwar."

In the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah, one Palestinian woman displaced from her home in the north said she hoped Sinwar's death would bring an end to Israel's campaign. "What more goals do they have than that? Enough. We want to go back," said the woman, Umm Mohammed.

Some praised Sinwar as a symbol of resistance against Is-

rael's decadeslong occupation of the Palestinians in the West Bank. Ahmed Hamdouna, who also fled his home in northern Gaza, said Hamas would be able to replace him. "After the leader, a thousand leaders will come. After the man, a thousand men will come," he said.

For more than a week, Israeli forces have been waging a ground campaign in Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, saying they are battling Hamas fighters who have once again regrouped there.

On Thursday, an Israeli strike hit a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Jabaliya, killing at least 28 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Fares Abu Hamza, head of the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency unit in the north, said the dead included a woman and four children.

The Israeli military said it targeted a command center run by Hamas and Islamic Jihad inside the school. It provided a list of around a dozen names of people it identified as militants who were present when the strike was called in. It was not immediately possible to verify the names.

Israel has repeatedly struck tent camps and schools sheltering displaced people in Gaza. The Israeli military says it carries out precise strikes on militants and tries to avoid harming civilians, but its strikes often kill women and children. (AP)

UK Foreign Secy Lammy says engagement with China necessary

BEIJING, Oct 18: Britain's foreign secretary has called engagement with China "pragmatic and necessary" as he makes his first visit by a Cabinet minister since the Labor government took control in July.

David Lammy met Friday with Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang and was to hold talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi later the same day.

His two-day trip is an attempt to reset ties with Beijing after relations turned frosty in recent years over spying allegations, China's support for Russia in the Ukraine war and a crackdown on civil liberties in Hong Kong, a former British colony now part of China.

"From stopping Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, to supporting a global green transition, we must speak often and candidly across both areas of contention as well as areas for cooperation in the U.K.'s national interest," Lammy was quoted as saying in a Foreign Office news release.

The release said that Lammy would urge China to stop its political and economic support of the Russian war effort.

The U.S. sanctioned two Chinese companies on Thursday for allegedly helping Russia build long-range attack drones used in the war in Ukraine. The Chinese Embassy in Washington said the allegations were false.

Lammy will also visit Shanghai, where he will meet with British business leaders, the Foreign Office release said. China including Hong Kong is the UK's fourth largest trading partner.

Human rights groups demanded that Lammy press the Chinese government over its crackdowns on dissent in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.

The spokesperson for Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that securing the release of British citizen Jimmy Lai is a priority. The Hong Kong media publisher has been in custody since December 2020 and will testify next month in his defense at a landmark national security trial. (AP)

South Korean intelligence says North is sending troops to aid Russia's war in Ukraine

SEOUL, Oct 18: South Korean intelligence has found that North Korea has dispatched 12,000 troops including special operation forces to support Russia's war against Ukraine, news reports said on Friday, Yonhap news agency cited the National Intelligence Service as that the North Korean troops have already left the country.

The NIS didn't immediately confirm the report, but South Korea's presidential office said in a statement that President Yoon Suk Yeol had presided over an emergency meeting earlier Friday to discuss North Korea's troop dispatch to Ukraine. The statement said participants of the meeting agreed that North Korea's troop dispatch poses a grave security threat to South Korea and the international community.

But the presidential office gave no further details like when and how many North Korean soldiers

have been sent to Ukraine and what roles they are expected to play.

Ukrainian media reported earlier this month that six North Koreans were among those killed after a Ukrainian missile strike in the partially occupied eastern Donetsk region on Oct. 3.

On Thursday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his government has intelligence that 10,000 troops from North Korea are being prepared to join Russian forces fighting against his country, warning that a third nation wading into the hostilities could turn the conflict into a "world war."

"From our intelligence we've got information that North Korea sent tactical personnel and officers to Ukraine," Zelenskyy told reporters at NATO headquarters. "They are preparing on their land 10,000 soldiers, but they didn't move them already to Ukraine or

to Russia."

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said the western alliance "has no evidence that North Korean soldiers are involved in the fight. But we do know that North Korea is supporting Russia in many ways, weapons supplies, technological supplies, innovation, to support them in the war effort. And that is highly worrying." The U.S., South Korea and their partners have accused North Korea of supplying Russia with artillery shells, missiles and other equipment to help fuel its war on Ukraine.

Outside officials and experts say North Korea in exchange possibly received badly needed food and economic aid and technology assistance aimed at upgrading Kim's nuclear-armed military. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have repeatedly denied the existence of an arms deal between the countries. (AP)

US authorities charge Indian national in Pannun murder-for-hire plot

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK, Oct 18: A former Indian government official has been charged by the US authorities for his alleged role in a foiled plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurbaj Singh Pannun on American soil around the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vikas Yadav, 39, was employed by the Cabinet Secretariat, which houses India's foreign intelligence service, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the federal prosecutors claimed on Thursday in an indictment filed in a US court in New York.

Yadav faces murder-for-hire and money laundering charges in connection with his role in directing a foiled plot to kill Pannun.

He "remains at large", the Department of Justice said. Yadav had been identified only as "CC-1" (co-conspirator) in the first indictment. On Thursday in New Delhi, Exter-

nal Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to a query on the person identified in the indictment of the US Department of Justice (DoJ) in connection with the case, confirmed that the person is "no longer an employee of the government of India".

His co-conspirator Nikhil Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic last year and is languishing in a US jail after extradition.

"Today's charges demonstrate that the Justice Department will not tolerate attempts to target and endanger Americans and to undermine the rights to which every US citizen is entitled," US Attorney General Merrick B Garland said.

"The defendant, an Indian government employee, allegedly conspired with a criminal associate and attempted to assassinate a US citizen on American soil for exercising their First Amendment rights," said FBI Director Christopher Wray.

The Indian government has denied its association or involvement with such a plot to kill an American national on US soil. Following allegations by the US, New Delhi had set up an inquiry committee to investigate the matter.

The US has expressed satisfaction on cooperation from India on this. Unsealing of the second indictment comes within 48 hours of an Indian Enquiry Committee vis-

iting here to have a meeting with an inter-agency team of officials from the FBI, Department of Justice and the State Department on these issues.

"We are satisfied with the cooperation. It continues to be an ongoing process. We continue to work with them on that, but we do appreciate the cooperation, and we appreciate them updating us on their investigation as we update them on ours," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters on Wednesday.

"The meeting that occurred on Thursday - we updated - we being the US government broadly - updated members of the Committee of Inquiry about the investigation that the United States has been conducting. We've received an update from them on the investigation that they have been conducting. It was a productive meeting, and I will leave it at that," Miller said. (PTI)

China protests to India over opening of Taiwan's office in Mumbai

BEIJING, Oct 18: China said it lodged a diplomatic protest with India over the newly established office of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) of Taiwan in Mumbai.

"There is but one China in the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here on Thursday replying to a question.

"China strongly opposes all forms of official contact and interaction between Taiwan and countries having diplomatic relations with China, including the establishment of representative offices for each other. We have lodged solemn representations to the Indian side," she said.

Mao said the one-China principle is a serious political commitment made by the Indian side and serves as the political foundation for China-India relations.

"China urges the Indian side to strictly abide by the commitments it has made, prudently and properly settle the Taiwan-related issues, not to conduct any form of official interaction with Taiwan and avoid disturbing the process to improve the China-India relationship," she said.

The TECC in India opened a branch in Mumbai on Wednesday, bringing the number of its offices in India to three.

The TECC previously had its offices in Delhi and Chennai. (PTI)

Kenya's prez nominates interior minister as new deputy

NAIROBI, Oct 18: Kenya's president on Friday nominated the country's interior minister as his new deputy, hours after Rigathi Gachagua was overwhelmingly voted out as deputy president in an impeachment motion tabled in parliament over allegations of corruption and ethnic division.

President William Ruto on Friday named Kithure Kindiki to the National Assembly after Gachagua was impeached while he was in the hospital.

Kindiki had been a frontrunner for deputy president during the 2022 elections campaign. Like Gachagua, he hails from the vote-rich central region. Gachagua remains hospitalized with

what his lawyer described as "intense chest pains" related to stress. He is expected to fight his impeachment in court.

"I have received a message from his excellency the president, regarding the nomination of Professor Kithure Kindiki to fill the vacancy which has occurred in the office of the deputy president," Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula said.

The Assembly is expected to vote to approve the nomination of Kindiki. The former deputy president's supporters have criticized the impeachment process as rushed after senators voted against allowing additional days to give Gachagua time to recover and ap-

pear before the senate.

His impeachment highlighted divisions within the ruling party and friction between Ruto and Gachagua over government policy. The former deputy president had been accused of insubordination when he opposed the government's policy of forced evictions during heavy rains that caused flooding and deaths.

During his defense before the Assembly last week, Gachagua said he believed the impeachment motion had the president's nod, and he has asked legislators to make their decision "without intimidation and coercion." Ruto has not commented publicly on the impeachment. Ruto, who came to office claiming to represent Kenya's poorest citizens, has faced widespread criticism over his efforts to raise taxes to pay off foreign creditors. But the public opposition led him to shake up his cabinet and back off from certain proposals. (AP)

The youngest woman to climb all of the world's 14 tallest peaks calls for novices to be regulated

KATHMANDU, Oct 18: A British mountaineer who set the record as the youngest female to climb all the 14 tallest mountains in the world said on Thursday that inexperienced climbers should not be allowed to climb the highest peaks because they run the risk of endangering their lives and others.

Adriana Brownlee, 23, climbed Mount Everest at 20 in 2021 and earlier this month climbed Mount Shishapangma in China, completing her endeavor to scale all 14 peaks over 8,000 meters (26,247 feet) high.

She said she has seen numerous climbers who lack training in basic skills and in coping with the unpredictable slopes of the high peaks.

"I have seen many examples of people in the mountains that should not really be there, that

should have more training beforehand," Brownlee told The Associated Press on Thursday in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. "We have had to support them and have had to help with like small things like how to put on crampons, how to put on harness."

She said mountaineering authorities should ensure that climbers attempting to scale the highest peaks have at least climbed smaller mountains to ensure they can handle the altitude and have the proper skills.

Brownlee flew to Nepal this week alongside other climbers from Tibet including Nima Rinji Sherpa, who at age 18 is now the youngest person to climb the 14 peaks.

There are generally no rules besides age restrictions on people who want to climb mountains as long as they are able to pay their permit fees. In Nepal,



climbers need to be at least 16 years old.

Brownlee said she was just 8 years old when she began dreaming of becoming a mountaineer like her father, who she said was her main inspiration.

She said she now wants to scale unclimbed peaks in Nepal and explore mountains in other parts of the world.

Brownlee and her partner have opened a mountaineering company in Nepal focusing on helping customers who are

skilled and experienced enough to handle the harsh condition of the mountains.

She said she hopes to inspire other young people to pursue their dreams.

"For me the message is that in life ... you can take any path you like to reach your goal," she said. "That goal might be totally unique to you and it's very important to keep at that and not to listen to rest of society what they have to say." (AP)

Pak's Punjab province shuts schools for 2 days to contain protests over alleged on-campus rape

LAHORE, Oct 18: Authorities in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province shut all schools and universities for two days on Friday in an attempt to contain the spread of protests by students over an alleged on-campus rape.

The closures in Pakistan's most populous province affect an estimated 18 million students. Tensions have been high on college campuses since reports of the alleged rape in the eastern city of Lahore spread on social media, and protests have broken out in four cities. In Gujrat in Punjab province, a security guard died in clashes between student protesters and police on Wednesday.

Police arrested a person in connection with the death. The government and police have denied that any rape occurred on a campus of the private Punjab Group of Colleges in Lahore, the capital of Punjab. They are seeking the arrest of nearly three dozen people, including several journalists, saying they spread misinformation on social media that led to the protests.

Students, however, announced they would hold a rally later Friday to demand justice for the alleged victim in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

The decision to shut all schools in Punjab came a day after hundreds of students ransacked a college building in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Police fired tear gas and charged at the students, arresting more than 250 people.

The protests appear to have begun spontaneously, as student unions have been banned in Pakistan since 1984. There are no organizations representing students, although political parties' youth wings exist.

Separately, the political party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan announced it will hold protests across the country on Friday to oppose any amendments to the country's Constitution.

Khan's supporters say Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who replaced Khan after his ouster in 2022 in a no-confidence vote in parliament, wants to appoint judges of his own choosing and set up a new constitutional court in parallel with the Supreme Court. The government denies the allegations.

Sexual violence against women is common in Pakistan but is underreported because of stigma in the conservative country. Protests about the issue have been rare. (AP)

S'pore detains teenager for planning terror attack on non-Muslims

SINGAPORE, Oct 18: Singapore has detained a 17-year-old self-radicalised supporter of terror group ISIS under the Internal Security Act (ISA) mere weeks before his planned attack on non-Muslim males in a public housing estate.

The teenager, purportedly influenced by the ongoing Hamas strikes and developments around Syria, wanted to use either a kitchen knife or a pair of scissors from his home as his weapon, said the Internal Security Department (ISD) in a press release on Friday.

It was a "very close shave as he could have easily gone on a rampage", Singapore's Minister for Law and Home Affairs K Shanmugam said.

the planned attack.

Shanmugam pointed out that the area that the teen had intended for the attack was frequented by "thousands of people" every day, including senior citizens and young children, and that it would be even more crowded during the school holidays being a main housing estate area with shopping malls and leisure facilities.

Since 2020, the ISD has detained five self-radicalised youths who wanted to carry out attacks in Singapore using such easily accessible weapons. Such attacks require little time and preparation to execute, said the department.

In this particular case, the youth was determined to follow through with his plan and was less than a month away from executing it at the time of his arrest in August, it added. (PTI)

Students from schools to universities should be motivated and invited to participate in the festival

Promote literary activities in every educational institution: Arunachal Guv



ITANAGAR, Oct 18: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen K T Parnaik (red) on Friday emphasised the need to promote and organise literary activities in every educational institution as part of a mass movement, alongside state-level programmes.

Parnaik made these remarks during a meeting with state minis-

ter of information and public relations Nyato Dukam at Raj Bhavan on Friday.

They discussed the upcoming Arunachal Literature Festival, an annual event organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society, a statement from Raj Bhavan

said.

The governor said students from schools to universities should be motivated and invited to participate in the festival. He also suggested inviting distinguished intellectuals from the literary world to share their experiences, writings, and aspirations.

Additionally, Parnaik and

Dukam reviewed initiatives related to skill development, entrepreneurship, and innovative opportunities in industries, textiles, and handicrafts.

The governor urged the minister, who oversees these sectors, to explore new avenues for industrial development while prioritising the enhancement of traditional textiles and handicrafts.

He highlighted that a skilled youth population and an entrepreneurial spirit can significantly contribute to the state's role in the nation's economic growth, cultural diversity, and national unity.

Parnaik stressed that human resource development, skill enhancement, capacity building, and the integration of modern technology are crucial for India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047. He added that a commitment to the 'nation first' spirit from every citizen can help create a Viksit Bharat. (PTI)

Initiatives on 'Meghalayan Age' era

SHILLONG, Oct 18: Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma on Friday said that the government would plan out initiatives to create awareness on the "Meghalayan Age" era.

The chief minister made the announcement at an interactive programme with beneficiaries of CM - Elevate and Focus, which was held at Shillong and participated virtually by different districts and blocks from across the state.

The intervention was suggested by a social entrepreneur from Mawmluh village, East Khasi Hills. He said that the "Meghalayan Age" is being globally discussed by geologists and it would be apt for the people to learn about it. The past 4,200 years have been officially classified as the Meghalayan Age, marking a distinct period in Earth's history. Researchers pinpoint the onset of this era to a massive drought that ravaged ancient civilizations. (NNN)

family under the scheme.

He informed the number of registration under the MHIS/PMJAY in the district has boosted but linkages with Aadhaar is still low. The linking of MHIS/PMJAY with Aadhaar can be done at any PHC, CHC or at C&RD Block offices.

It may be mentioned that the MHIS/PMJAY is a universal health insurance scheme that aims to improve quality healthcare and reduce out of pocket health expenses. As part of the occasion, Resubelpara Awe Pedallers Club held a cycle rally sensitising people on the mandatory linking of MHIS/PMJAY with Aadhaar card.

Best performing health facilities was also awarded to Mendipathar PHC while Wagne Asi PHC and Dainadubi PHC held the 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Others who addressed the gathering on the occasion were Dr PR Sangma, DM&HO and Dr Rezia K Sangma, DIO Incharge, North Garo Hills.

PMJAY completes 6 years in North Garo Hills

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 18: The launching of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) completed 6 years in North Garo Hills, Resubelpara, the occasion of which was celebrated in the office premises of Resubelpara CHC recently.

Speaking as the chief guest on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner, North Garo Hills, Tennystar R Marak noted the Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) in the state and the PM-JAY in the centre are two components of the Health Insurance Scheme which require mandatory linking with Aadhaar card to avail benefits under the scheme.

He therefore appealed to all the MHIS beneficiaries to link their account with Aadhaar.

Dr NR Marak, SDM&HO cum district manager, MHIS, NGH highlighted the gathering on the enhanced medical coverage of upto ₹ 5.3 Lakh for one

LOST

I've lost my HS admit card, registration and provisional pass certificate bearing Roll 0532, No B0059 of 2005 under Nowgong College.

Kalyan Borah,
Nagaon (Assam).

NAME CHANGE

My actual and correct name is "Sanjeev Kumar" and my wife actual and correct name is "Rekha Rani" but in the Report Card of my son Sri Shorya Chauhan of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Diphu, vide KV CODE 1867, DISE CODE-18190503804 my name and my wife's names have been recorded as "Sanjeev Kumar Chauhan" and Reka Devi instead of "Sanjeev Kumar" and "Rekha Rani". This is true. That now I desire that my name and my wife's name may be corrected as "Sanjeev Kumar" and "Rekha Rani" and from today on I and my wife shall be known as "Sanjeev Kumar" and "Rekha Rani" for all purpose including in the school record of my son "Sri Shorya Chauhan".

TCI lauds MHA initiative for holding meeting with MLAs

IMPHAL, Oct 18: The Thadou Community International (TCI) "applauds" the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for facilitating a pivotal peace meeting in New Delhi on October 15 "that was participated by 20 MLAs from the Zo, Meitei and Naga communities of Manipur under the supervision of the Union home minister, Shri Amit Shah," a statement of the TCI said.

This initiative, which obviously is as a part of the efforts to address the ethnic violence plaguing the state since May 3, 2023, should have happened sooner, however it should be appreciated and welcomed by all right thinking and peace-loving citizens, cutting across community or political affiliations, the TCI stated.

"Based on the press note of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), it is heartening to know that the elected representatives unanimously agreed to appeal to the people to shun violence and promote peace. The meeting is a beacon of hope for Manipur's troubled landscape," the statement also said.

It then added that all the MLAs who attended the meeting deserve praise for taking the right decision in showing their wisdom and leadership by demonstrating a willingness to lead the people out of doldrums with a genuine sense of courage and truth. The TCI further said leaders must have the courage to tell the truth and give genuine hope to their people instead of giving misleading or deceptive messages with false hopes.

"Whatever may be the aspirations and rightful demands of the different groups, violence is destructive and should not be the means. Government authorities, media groups, community leaders and all concerned groups and people must pay greater collaborative efforts in playing a role in truth-telling positive messaging in the community as opposed to violence-inciting negative messaging, narratives or rhetoric," it added.

Violence in any manner must be shunned because more violence brings no gain but only more destruction and loss, said the TCI. This is especially true of the

Thadou people as we are the most affected, yet silenced victims caught up in the senseless violence, it further added.

TCI then urged people of all communities to join hands in engaging in meaningful dialogues for amicable solutions in the larger interest of all the people, especially the most affected ones. "We have consistently advocated for peaceful resolution, justice, and respect for human rights," it said.

TCI then said the Delhi meeting marked a crucial step towards healing wounds and bringing lasting peace and development in the state. TCI encouraged more such meetings in future not only between elected representatives but also between civil society organizations, community leaders, intellectuals, diasporas and members of the general public.

TCI then said it "remains committed to promoting peace, justice, and human rights. We believe that collective action and inclusive dialogue are essential to resolving the complex issues underlying the conflict". (NNN)

Arunachal minister flags off 2 battlefield treks

ITANAGAR, Oct 18: As part of celebrations of the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Walong, Arunachal Pradesh minister Dasanglu Pul flagged off two battlefield treks by a combined team of Indian Army and NCC cadets, retracing the path taken by soldiers during the 1962 Sino-India war.

The treks are in remembrance of the stiff resistance put up by brave soldiers in challenging weather and terrain and also to promote battlefield tourism in the scenic and pristine Lohit Valley. Guwahati-based Defence PRO Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said on Thursday. Rawat said the adventure treks to Jachep Tso and Kundao Tso were flagged off by Arunachal Pradesh women and child development, and cultural affairs Dasanglu Pul at Walong brigade in Anjaw district on Thursday. These high mountainous lakes among snow-covered peaks will be visited by a joint team of Indian Army, NCC cadets and citizens from Anjaw and Lohit districts.

He said through these treks, the Indian Army aims to promote adventure tourism in Lohit Valley and train local youth as tourism entrepreneurs. The army dedicated Sadbhavana projects to the local community which was received by Pul. The Operation Sadbhavana is the Indian Army's flagship programme for community development in sync with the government's Vibrant Village initiative. A cycle expedition from Namsai to Namti, a motorcycle expedition from Mipi to Meshai, white water rafting from Walong to Wakro and a half marathon from Kibithu to Walong have also been planned as part of the commemorative events, Lt Col Rawat said. (PTI)

Mizoram Power minister alleges his convoy stopped by Assam Rifles



AIZAWL, Oct 18: Mizoram power and electricity minister F Rodingliana alleged that his convoy was stopped by Assam Rifles on the outskirts of Aizawl.

However, the Assam Rifles said the minister's convoy was not intercepted during a search near Aizawl.

Rodingliana on Thursday alleged that his convoy was stopped by Assam Rifles on the outskirts of Aizawl while he was returning from east Mizoram's Champhai district, which resulted in a heated argument.

He said that the security force set up a barricade on the NH-54 between Aizawl and Tuirial on Thursday and intercepted his convoy despite explaining to them that he is a minister.

"A few metres after we passed the barricade three personnel stopped us stating that they were told to do so by their commander. I argued that I am Power minister... But the personnel did not let us go for some time," Rodingliana told PTI.

The Assam Rifles claimed that they had set up a mobile check post about 4 km from its Zokhawsang base on Aizawl-Seiling road and the minister's convoy was given a clear passage during checking. An Assam Rifles officer said that the convoy stopped on its own where civilian vehicles were being checked.

The minister's personal secretary got down from the vehicle and allegedly abused the troopers on duty, he said. (PTI)

Manipur Congress criticises BJP govt for not holding ADC elections



IMPHAL, Oct 18: Manipur Congress alleged the BJP government in the state of being "anti-tribal" and "anti-hill" people for not holding autonomous district council (ADC) elections for the last four years.

Manipur has six autonomous district councils.

State Congress president Keisham Meghachandra in a post on X said, "The BJP government is anti-hill people, anti-tribal as this BJP government has deliberately chosen not to conduct ADCs elections for the last 4 years."

Keisham also lashed out at the

govt/ eminent persons/ intellectuals and two govt nominees of the district till the ADC election is conducted.

Keisham termed the resolution as "unconstitutional, illegal and void of any source of law from the Constitution" and claimed that the HAC has no constitutional authority to pass any such resolution.

He said the last election to ADCs was held by Congress government in 2015 and its term ended in 2020. The BJP government came to power in Manipur in 2017 and since 2020 there have been no elections to ADCs for the last 4 years.

"... temporary arrangement of functioning the ADCs through illegal means of selection by the BJP government must immediately stop in the larger interests of the people of the hills of Manipur," Keisham said.

By not holding ADC elections for the last four years, the financial devolution, central grants-in-aid, central financing, MGNREGS, central schemes related to ADCs and the Finance Commission awards are being denied to the people of the hills in the state, the Manipur Congress president alleged. (PTI)

Bhairabi-Sairang railway project progressing towards completion

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 18: The Bhairabi-Sairang New Line Railway Project to connect the capital of the North-eastern state of Mizoram to the rest of the country is one such project which is at an advance stage of completion. The 51.38 Km new line between Bhairabi and Sairang is divided into four sections, namely Bhairabi-Hortoki, Hortoki-Kawnpui, Kawnpui-Mualkhangand Mualkhang-Sairang.

Bhairabi - Hortoki section which is of 17.38 km has been completed and commissioned on July, 2024 and train service is operational from August, 2024. The whole project once completed will be a game changer project in terms of communication and commerce for the people of Mizoram. The economical and environment friendly railway services will have a positive impact on almost all development works in the state.

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (Jr. Divn), KARBI ANGLONG, AT BOKAJAN.

Title Suit No. 1/2024

Savinderjit Singh Sethi
S/O - Late Pratap Singh Sethi
R/O - Lahorijan
P.S. - Khatkhati
Dist - Karbi Anglong, Assam
..... Plaintiff

-Vs-
Tarun Nandy
S/O - K P Nandy
R/O - Lahorijan
P.S. - Khatkhati
Dist - Karbi Anglong, Assam
.... Defendant

NOTICE

To,

Whereas upon motion made into this Court by the learned counsel for the plaintiff and on perusal of the application filed under Order 39 Rule 1 and-2 read with Section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 (as amended upto date) supported by an Affidavit, the Hon'ble Court has issued notice upon the defendant, you are hereby directed to appear before this Court on **21/10/2024** and file your Written Objection and show cause as to why the injunction as prayed for shall not be granted, failing which the matter shall be heard ex-parte.

In the meantime you are directed to maintain status-quo in respect of the schedule property till disposal of the Misc. (1) Case.

'Rapture' to be screened in Shillong from Nov 7-11



SHILLONG, Oct 18: The much anticipated film 'Rapture', directed by Dominic Megam Sangma, is set to screen in Shillong from November 7 to 11, 2024. This critically acclaimed film, which explores themes of cultural identity and human emotion against the backdrop of Meghalaya's stunning landscapes, has already received international acclaim after its release in France.

The screenings will take place at the U Soso Tham Auditorium, where local residents are eager to connect with a narrative that resonates with their own experiences. As the event draws nearer, the community is buzzing with excitement and engaging in discussions about the film's themes and significance.

On opening day, the auditorium is expected to be filled with families and film enthusiasts, creating a lively atmosphere. Early reactions to 'Rapture' have highlighted its emotional depth, with audiences responding to the protagonist's journey with both laughter and tears.

After the screening, viewers are likely to share their thoughts and feelings, fostering a vibrant conversation around the film's message. Director Dominic Megam Sangma is expected to be present, where he will express his gratitude for the community's support and emphasize the film's importance in celebrating their cultural heritage.

With each screening, 'Rapture' aims to unite the community, inspiring individuals to embrace their heritage and share their stories, marking a pivotal moment for Shillong's growing film scene. (NNN)

No. DA/BTC/K/Dev-82/KY-(FNS)-Pulse/2024-25/735

Dr.18 / 10 / 2024

QUOTATION

The Director of Agriculture, BTC, Kokrajhar invites Sealed quotation affixing non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight & Twenty-five paise) only from the registered firm in BTC for supply of Wheat Seeds against Cropping System Based Demonstration under Krishannatti Yojana (FNS)- Pulse for the year 2024-25 as per term & conditions and will be received up to **28-10-2024 at 3:30 PM** and the same will be opened on the same date & time. The quotationers or their representative may be present in the office of the undersigned at the time of opening.

Sl. No.	Item	Rate	Variety/Type	Tender value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Remarks
1	Cropping System Based Demonstration on Wheat	Per Kg	Wheat (Variety: HD 3171/UP-262)	Reputed company	6.4515 Lakhs

Details of quotation may be seen in the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 21-10-2024 to 28-10-2024. Sd/-

Director of Agriculture,
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/736

No.EE/MSL-11/NIT/2017-18/TeCh/65

Date 18/10/2024

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing a non-refundable Court fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five only. With a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days, which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 form are invited from the registered Contractors of Class-III and above category under PWD (Roads Department Assam and Bodoland Territorial Council) according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the work as stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00PM on 28/10/2024 and will be opened on the same date & place at 2.30 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Tender Value	(Earnest Money Deposit)	Cost of Tender Paper	Time of Completion of work
1	Temporary Restoration of Tongshi Supa to Sorbhog road under SDRF for the year 2022-23	Rs. 50,000.00	(2% for Gen) & (1% for Reserved Category)	Rs. 150.00	1 (one) Month from the date of issue of F.W.O.
2	Temporary Restoration of Uniguri to Dongpar road under SDRF for the year 2022-23	Rs. 50,000.00	(2% for Gen) & (1% for Reserved Category)	Rs. 150.00	1 (one) Month from the date of issue of F.W.O.
3	Temporary Restoration of the road portion at Ch. 3.00Km (Breached) at Patla (Barphena) under SDRF for the year 2022-23	Rs. 50,000.00	(2% for Gen) & (1% for Reserved Category)	Rs. 150.00	1 (one) Month from the date of issue of F.W.O.

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractor or their authorized agent up to 4.30 PM on all working days on 22/10/2024 & 23/10/2024 in the office of the undersigned on submission an application with payment in the form of Bank Draft duly pledged to the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mushalpur PWD (R&B) Division,
Mushalpur

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/735

No resolution on Article 370, scaling down on J-K's statehood demand huge setback: PDP

SRINAGAR, Oct 18: People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday said Jammu and Kashmir government's first reported resolution demanding restoration of statehood and not Article 370, was a "huge setback" and nothing less than the ratification of the Centre's 2019 decisions.

Another political party, the People's Conference, has also questioned the secrecy over the resolution.

The reactions came after a Jammu-based newspaper 'Daily Excelsior' carried a report that the cabinet had passed a resolution urging the Centre to restore J-K's statehood. The report also said that the chief minister will travel to Delhi to handover the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, there was no official confirmation or denial of the report so far.

"Omar Abdullah's first resolution on statehood is nothing less than ratification of the August 5, 2019 decision. No resolution on Article 370 and scaling down the demand to mere statehood is a huge setback, especially after seek-



ing votes on the promise of restoring Article 370," PDP youth president and MLA-elect Pulwama, Waheed Parra, said in a post on X.

People's Conference chief Sajad Lone wondered why the resolution on statehood passed by the cabinet was "shrouded in mystery and secrecy that only one newspaper publishes it".

"I hope the CS (chief secretary) of Jammu and Kashmir has notified as it is the protocol," Lone said on X.

Lone, who is an MLA-elect from Handwara, however, said the

resolution should have been passed in the assembly rather than the cabinet.

"I very humbly state that the will of the people of J&K is reflected in the Assembly and not in the cabinet. The cabinet is a majoritarian institution of governance. It does not reflect all shades and opinions as per the will of the people of J&K," he added.

All across the country, to the best of my knowledge, Assembly is the proper institution for addressing major issues like that of statehood or Article 370, he said.

"When the NC Government passed a resolution on autonomy, they passed it in the Assembly not through a cabinet resolution. What has changed now? Fail to understand why this resolution should not have been reserved for Assembly. Why are we so keen to trivialise everything," he questioned.

The separatist-turned-mainstream politician said he would have loved to see which way the BJP and other parties vote on statehood and on Article 370 resolution when it is presented in the Assembly.

He reminded the National Conference (NC) of its commitment, as per the party's election manifesto, to strive to restore Articles 370 and 35A, and statehood as prior to August 5, 2019, and to pass a resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly, in its first list of business after elections, against the Centre's decision to strip the region of its statehood and special status.

"We are not demanding or expecting anything extraordinary. Do what you promised the people of J&K in your manifesto," Lone said. (PTI)

Dhami receives draft of rules for implementing UCC in U'khand

DEHRADUN, Oct 18: The final draft of rules and regulations for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand was submitted to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday.

The nine-member government appointed committee headed by former chief secretary Shatrughna Singh handed over the document to Dhami at the secretariat.

Talking to reporters soon after receiving the draft, the chief minister said its objective is to give equal treatment to every section of society and empower women.

Submission of the draft on UCC to the state government paves the way for its implementation in Uttarakhand.

The state government will now study the draft and bring it before the cabinet. The UCC will be brought into force after being cleared by the cabinet.

Once implemented, Uttarakhand will become the first state in Independent India to implement the law.

The draft of rules is divided into four parts -- laying down procedures to be followed for registration of marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationships and birth and death, Dhami said.

"It (UCC) is not being brought to target any section. It is for the equality for all and security and empowerment of women," he told reporters.

The UCC will soon be implemented after discussion with the state cabinet, he said.

"We will go through it, examine its legal and other aspects, bring it before the cabinet to discuss it in detail and implement it," the chief minister said.

Officials and employees to be involved in the process of its implementation will also need to be trained, he said.

The proposed rules include cre-



ation of online facilities for the mandatory registration of marriages, divorces, and live-in relationships so that people do not have to run to government offices, Dhami said.

UCC in Uttarakhand is meant to govern and regulate the laws relating to marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationships and related matters.

Several BJP-governed states have expressed their intention to adopt it as a model.

Implementation of the UCC was a major poll promise made by CM Dhami in the 2022 assembly elections.

When the BJP stormed to power in the state for a second consecutive term with a massive win in 2022, Dhami said it was a mandate for the implementation of the UCC.

In a bid to fulfil his promise soon after assuming office for a second time as the chief minister, Dhami constituted a committee chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to prepare a draft of the UCC on May 27, 2022.

The panel of which Shatrughna Singh was also a part submitted its draft to the state government on February 2 this year.

A special session of the state assembly was summoned soon after that to pass a legislation on the UCC on February 7.

President Droupadi Murmu gave her ascent to the legislation in March. (PTI)

EC issues notification for Rajasthan assembly bypolls

JAIPUR, Oct 18: The Election Commission on Friday issued a notification for the bypolls to seven assembly seats in Rajasthan, marking the beginning of the process of filing nomination papers, a senior official said.

The last date for filing nominations is October 25.

Chief Electoral Officer Naveen Mahajan said the Election Commission of India has issued a notification for the by-elections to seven assembly seats in Rajasthan.

With this, the process of filing nominations for Jhunjhunu, Dausa,

Ramgarh, Deoli-Uniate, Khinvsar, Salumbar and Chaurasi seats has started, he said.

The last date for nomination is October 25. Nominations cannot be filed on October 20, Sunday as it is a public holiday, he said.

Nomination papers can be submitted in the office of the concerned returning officer between 11 am and 3 pm every day.

Scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on October 28. The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is October 30, Mahajan said. (PTI)

JK govt seeking restoration of statehood, not Article 370 'very painful': Engineer Rashid

SRINAGAR, Oct 18: Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Friday said reports of a resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir government seeking restoration of statehood only and not Article 370 was "very painful" and a "departure" from the principle stand of the ruling National Conference (NC).

The remarks of the Baramulla MP, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, came after a Jammu-based newspaper 'Daily Excelsior' carried a report that the cabinet had passed a resolution urging the Centre to restore JK's statehood. The report also said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will travel to Delhi to handover the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, there was no official confirmation or denial of the report.

"There are reports that a resolution has been passed to seek restoration of the statehood. It is his right to pass anything.

"But, we want to remind Ab-

dullah that you contested the election on Articles 370 and 35A and statehood. So these reports that only a resolution on statehood has been passed is very painful. It means a departure from the principle stand of his party," Rashid said at a press conference here.

He said the resolution on statehood only makes it clear that Abdullah, who is also the NC vice president, is "playing into the hands of the BJP".

"The prime minister and (Union) home minister have promised the restoration of statehood a number of times. So why is Omar seeking the same thing? Why is he seeking what the BJP is already ready to give?"

"It means he is not ready to talk about (Articles) 370 and 35A. It is just an eyewash and he is deviating from the agenda on which he contested the elections," Rashid said.

The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief said it seems "something is going on between the NC and the

PM Modi proposes holding NDA leaders conclave twice every year



NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the meeting of NDA leaders in Chandigarh on Thursday as the largest get-together of non-Congress political parties post 1975, the year Emergency was imposed, and called for holding such a conclave twice every year, a BJP statement said.

Making a point about the deeper connect his government enjoys with people compared to the previous Congress-led UPA government, he said at the meeting that he has received over 4.5 crore letters in the past 10 years compared to only 5 lakh letters received by his predecessor. Manmohan Singh headed the UPA government during 2004-14.

This reflects people's trust in his government, he said.

Modi said at the conclave attended by 17 chief ministers and 18 deputy chief ministers from the BJP and its several allies that smooth governance, fast decision-making and transparency in governance have helped in attracting investors and investment in the states ruled by the NDA.

The NDA is fulfilling the rising aspirations of the common citizens and it has been the distinction of its government to ensure the last mile delivery which has helped in building the trust in public towards the

government since 2014, he said. Modi dwelt on the concept of pro-people pro-active good governance (P2G2), stressing the need for greater interaction between all NDA-ruled states, as also among ministers and MLAs and advocated the use of social media for this.

The prime minister lauded the BJP's win in Haryana as significant and historic, saying the NDA has secured the trust and support of all sections of society.

The opposition, he said, tried to portray a false narrative of the NDA being anti-farmer whereas it was the farmers who came out in large numbers to support the ruling party. People gave a clear message that they stand with progress and the good governance agenda of the NDA.

He said good governance ultimately means finding solutions to people's problems, asserting that the solution-centric governance with focus on grievance-redressal is a distinctive identity of all NDA state governments.

The statement said, "The prime minister complimented the gathering describing it as the largest group of non-Congress political parties post 1975. A total of 17 chief ministers and 18 deputy chief ministers participated in this conclave. The PM suggested that such

meetings should be held twice every year."

A total of six resolutions were passed in the meeting, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's proposal on the celebration of 75 years of the making of Constitution of India as "Samvidhan ka Amrut Mahotsav" and Home Minister Amit Shah's proposal to observe 2025 as the 50th year of the "murder of democracy", a reference to Emergency.

Andhra Pradesh CM and NDA president N Chandrababu Naidu initiated the discussion on the concept of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and lauded Modi's initiatives.

Buoyed by its win in the Haryana assembly polls, where political experts were almost unanimous in projecting a win for the Congress, the BJP decided to hold the meeting of all NDA chief ministers, a first in many years, in the state where the ruling alliance leaders were invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new state government.

Following its relatively muted performance in the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP is looking to build on the political momentum generated by its win in Haryana ahead of the contest against the INDIA bloc in Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly polls next month. (PTI)

Opposition MPs threatening Jagadambika: Tejasvi Surya to LS Speaker

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: BJP leader Tejasvi Surya has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging some opposition members threatened Jagadambika Pal, the chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf Amendment Bill, and a witness during a sitting of the panel, and also tore up documents.

Surya, a two-term MP from Bengaluru South, claimed the opposition members resorted to unparliamentary behaviour on October 14, when the Committee had called former Karnataka State Minorities Commission chairman Anwar Manipaddy to hear his views on the Waqf land "scam" in Karnataka.

The BJP leader's missive to the Speaker came days after the opposition members' letter to the Lok Sabha presiding officer alleging "gross violation of parliamentary code of conduct" by Pal during the meeting of the parliamentary panel.

In his letter to Birla, Surya said, "During his deposition, Shri Manipaddy discussed a report he submitted in 2012 during his tenure. This report alleges large-scale encroach-

ment or sale of approximately 2,000 acres of Waqf land, valued at around ₹ 2 lakh crore, to private entities, implicating certain leaders of the Indian National Congress."

Surya claimed that as soon as this issue was brought to the Committee's attention, opposition members disrupted the proceedings, verbally threatened both the witness and the chairperson, and tore up committee documents.

"They also walked near to where the witness and chairperson were seated, tried to physically threaten both, snatched the notes and papers they had made and tore it," he said, adding that the opposition members' behaviour reflected a complete disregard for Parliamentary decorum.

Following this, they walked out of the meeting while making derogatory remarks towards other members present, he alleged.

Surya asked the Speaker to direct the opposition members to adhere to the Rules of Conduct and Parliamentary Etiquette, and initiate disciplinary action against those responsible for this unruly and unparliamentary behaviour. (PTI)

Dharavi Redevelopment project world's biggest land scam; MVA govt will scrap it: Gaikwad

MUMBAI, Oct 18: Mumbai Congress president Varsha Gaikwad on Friday termed the Dharavi slum redevelopment project as the "world's biggest land scam", and said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will scrap it if it returns to power in the state.

She also said the political rivalry between Congress and the undivided Shiv Sena was a thing of the past and now her party and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena (UBT) share a "deep and harmonious" relationship.

The opposition MVA has been alleging irregularities in the multi-billion Dharavi Redevelopment project. The Adani Group is executing the project.

In an interview to PTI, Gaikwad asked, "Why is 1,000 acres of land being given to Adani who is doing the Dharavi Redevelopment project?"

Non-development zone land, salt pan land, dumping ground is all being given for the Dharavi Redevelopment project, the Congress MP from Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha constituency alleged.

"The tender says that 7 lakh people will be rehabilitated outside of Dharavi. But the Dharavi redevelopment is an in-situ project, where the project affected should get re-



habilitated there itself. But their own tender document says 7 lakh residents will be shifted out of Dharavi," she said.

Gaikwad, a four-time legislator of the Dharavi assembly segment, said, "We (Dharavi slum) are a Rs 100 crore microfinance industry and still we are not consulted."

But after the MVA comes to power in the state, we will scrap the redevelopment project, she said.

"This project is the world's largest land scam. An inquiry should be carried out into it," she said.

Dharavi, located in central parts of the country's financial capital, is a hub for several small-scale, un-

organised industries that manufacture medicines, leather, footwear, clothes among other things. It is known as one of Asia's biggest slum clusters.

Talking about the relationship between the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), she said rivalries in politics are never personal.

"We did have ideological differences, but we have been working in harmony - be it during the MVA government and later during the COVID-19 pandemic. We helped each other during the Lok Sabha polls and people gave us a strong mandate. We have a deep relationship.

"We got maximum seats and we don't consider the Mumbai North-

West seat, where the Mahayuti won by just 45 votes, as our loss. Everyone knows what happened," she said.

"Congress and Sena (UBT) have been unitedly fighting a failed state government, which has been on a decision-making spree in the cabinet in the last fortnight. In a single cabinet meeting as many as 80 decisions were taken," she said, and wondered if this functioning was appropriate.

Talking about the next month's assembly elections, Gaikwad said a decision has been taken on 75 to 80 per cent of the total assembly seats during the MVA's seat-sharing talks.

"We hope to announce the seat-sharing formula before October 22 when the nomination process starts. Winnability is our criteria," the former minister said.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress are raising issues concerning people of Mumbai unitedly.

"Shifting of the diamond trade business and the International Financial Services Centre, the bullet train project are all meant to benefit Gujarat. We hear that funds from the fixed deposits (FDs) of the Mumbai civic body are being used and its land is also being

sold," she alleged.

The Congress leader also said that Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) exams were announced and cancelled several times.

"Can you imagine what the youth is facing?" she asked.

The people of Mumbai want the politics of betrayal to stop, Gaikwad said.

"Law and order has deteriorated, while the authorities indulge in corruption even in the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," she said.

The Lok Sabha member brushed aside speculations of factionalism in the city Congress.

"We work together. A 'Nyay Yatra' was undertaken by the Mumbai Congress, in which all leaders participated," she said.

She said the Coastal Road, Atal Setu projects were not started by the Mahayuti government. These projects and the Metro Rail were conceptualised by the Congress and only their work got over now, she claimed.

"Instead of devising strategies to stop traffic congestion, this government is taking credit for these projects. Public funds are being given to the MLAs of ruling parties," she alleged. (PTI)

AAP resumes Jai Bhim, Farishtey Yojanas, accuses BJP of stalling them



NEW DELHI, Oct 18: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced the resumption of Jai Bhim Yojana and Farishtey Yojana and accused the BJP of deliberately stalling these initiatives after his imprisonment.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said that the Jai Bhim Yojana was one of his government's major efforts to ensure equal education opportunities for underprivileged children. The scheme provides for financial assistance to students from SC, ST, OBC, and economically weaker sections for coaching in IITs and civil services exams.

"Coaching for IIT and civil services is very expensive. Our responsibility is to provide equal opportunity for poor children, and this scheme was started to fulfil that purpose. However, after I went to jail, it was deliberately stalled.

Today, we are restarting the scheme," Kejriwal said.

The scheme will continue to offer a ₹ 2,500 stipend to each student and there will be no cap on the number of beneficiaries, Kejriwal said. "We believe the government's money should be spent on education, and we do not put limits on this spending."

Farishtey, the other scheme reinstated, provides for free treatment to road accident victims in any hospital, including private ones.

According to Kejriwal, the scheme saved 26,000 lives before it was stalled. "We saved many lives through this scheme, and we will ensure it continues to serve Delhi's citizens," he said.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, who was present at the press conference, hailed the party leader and the two schemes. (PTI)

Mohan Bhagwat to visit Mathura today, will attend RSS' National Executive meet

MATHURA (UP), Oct 18: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat is set to arrive in Mathura on Saturday to attend the National Executive meeting of the Sangh and stay in the temple town for 10 days.

During his stay, the RSS chief will participate in various meetings, including the National Executive Committee meeting scheduled for October 25 and 26. He will also review the ongoing developments at the Cow Research and Training Centre.

This meeting will take place at the Deendayal Gau Vidyapeeth Research and Training Centre in Mathura, where he will stay for 10 days.

The meeting in Parkham village near the temple town will also discuss the "organisational goals" that has to be achieved by next year when the RSS completes 100 years of its foundation, according to a statement uploaded by the organisation on its website earlier.

"This year, the meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is going to be held on 25 and 26 October in Parkham village near Mathura in Braj province of western Uttar Pradesh," RSS



national media and communications in-charge Sunil Ambekar said in a statement.

All the heads of the RSS' 46 provincial units, general secretaries and pracharaks are expected to attend the meeting.

Government sources said the district officials are closely monitoring security and logistical arrangements related to his visit. They said Agra region Inspector General of Police Deepak Kumar, District Magistrate Shailendra Kumar Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey conducted a thorough inspection of the venue and Bhagwat's accommodations.

Their focus was particularly on ensuring that the safety protocols are meticulously followed with the support from national security agencies involved in his protection.

Local representative Mukesh Sharma, affiliated with the Sangh's publicity department, on Friday confirmed that Bhagwat will remain in Mathura until October 28.

Earlier this week, Agra Division Commissioner Ritu Maheshwari visited Parkham to oversee the preparations and provide essential guidelines for the upcoming events. (PTI)

NHRC chief invokes Sandeshkhali case at foundation day event

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: NHRC's acting Chairperson Vijaya Bharathi Sayani on Friday invoked the case of alleged sexual harassment of women at Sandeshkhali in West Bengal, as she recalled some of the strong words the rights panel used in its scathing report after its on-spot inquiry into the matter.

She made the remarks while addressing an event to mark the 31st anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at the Vigyan Bhawan here with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar present on the dais as the chief guest.

"NHRC has addresses a broad spectrum of human rights violations, including custodial deaths, bonded labour, exploitation of marginalised groups and denial of medical care," Sayani said.

She also recalled the case of alleged sexual harassment of women at Sandeshkhali in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, and the findings of the NHRC's inquiry report published in April this year.

"Recently, the NHRC responded to grave reports of harassment and sexual assaults against women at Sandeshkhali in West Bengal. An on-spot inquiry conducted by the NHRC members revealed a climate of fear and intimidation that prevented the victims from seeking justice," Sayani said.

The Sandeshkhali case assumed a political colour and turned into a full-blown controversy earlier this year, as a leader linked to the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal was at the centre of the charges levelled by some of the alleged women victims.

In its report that was widely published in the media, the rights panel made the observation that the "atmosphere created due to the atrocities by the alleged accused persons rendered the victims silent", while intimidation and terror made them "reluctant to seek justice".

This "climate of terror" not only "perpetuates the cycle of abuse" but also underscores the urgent need to create a safe and supportive environment for victims to "break free from the shackles of silence", it had observed.

The political face-off over the case between the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also took centre stage in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal.

On Wednesday, the NHRC said in a statement that since its inception on October 12, 1993, till September 30, 2024, the commission handled 23,05,194 cases, including 2,873 which it took up suo motu, besides recommending the payment of monetary relief to the victims of human rights violations totalling more than Rs 254 crore in 8,731 cases.

Between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, the commission disposed of 68,867 cases and recommended more than Rs 17.88 crore as monetary relief to the victims of rights violations in 404 cases, it added.

Pointing at the numbers, Sayani said that disposing of an "astounding" over 68,000 complaints shows the NHRC's "commitment to justice".

In her address, the NHRC acting chairperson also said that human rights

are the cornerstones of a just society ensuring dignity, freedom, and well-being for all, besides empowering the marginalised to assert their entitlements.

"India's progress as a nation is closely tied to its commitment to human rights, which is deeply embedded in our civilisation and enshrined in our Constitution. As a home to one-sixth of humanity, India is becoming a role model for the world in promoting individual dignity and freedom," she said.

Stating that India's rich cultural tapestry "showcases our strength and diversity", Sayani said, "Respect to individual dignity is central to the Indian ethos rooted in ancient texts such as the Vedas and the Gita.

The NHRC has conducted independent inquiries, alongside addressing complaints, while investigating human rights violations in 30 cases over the past year, Sayani added.

The acting chairperson also shared that around the time of its inception in 1993-94, it had received only 496 complaints.

"As we celebrate our achievements, we must remain committed to uplifting the vulnerable groups and prioritising their human rights with compassion for their unique situations," she said.

"Our strength lies in our unity in diversity guided by the 'Manav Dharma', placing humanity at the heart of our mission. The NHRC envisions a society where dignity and rights of every individual are respected, while promoting inclusivity and understanding," Sayani added. (PTI)

Police dog helps recover ₹ 1.07 cr stolen from Gujarat farmer's house

AHMEDABAD, Oct 18: A police dog helped crack a theft case involving ₹ 1.07 crore and led to the arrest of two persons in Gujarat's Ahmedabad district, an official said on Friday.

With the help of Penny, a Doberman, the district police on Thursday apprehended the accused and recovered the entire sum they allegedly stole on October 12, the official said.

As per an official release, the police have arrested Budha Solanki and his accomplice Vikram Solanki, both residents of Saragvala village in Dholka taluka.

A 52-year-old farmer became a millionaire overnight after selling a piece of land near the Lothal archaeological site close to his village, and it fetched him ₹ 1.07 crore, sub-inspector P N Gohil of Koth police station said.

The farmer then went to Tarapur in Anand district on October 12 for some work after locking his house, he said.

"Since the farmer was planning to buy another piece of land using

the proceeds, he stuffed the cash in two plastic bags and kept them inside his dilapidated kutchha house on October 10. On the night of October 12, some persons broke into the house by removing some bricks near the window and decamped with the bags," the official said.

Gohil said the local police found out about the theft the next day and started questioning 30 suspects and 14 history-sheeters to get some clues.

A dog squad also visited the spot with Penny to trace the route taken by the thieves, he said.

"On Thursday, Penny stopped at a spot some distance away from Budha's house. He was already on our list of suspects because he knew about the cash. When the accused was lined up with other suspects, Penny stopped near him for a while," he said.

Police raided Budha's house and recovered ₹ 53.9 lakh, and during interrogation, he confessed to the theft and the involvement of Vikram. (PTI)

Police probing possible paper leak in UPPSC exam slated for Sunday

BHADOHI (UP), Oct 18: The police have launched a probe after filing an FIR into a possible question paper leak in the UP Technical Education (Teaching) exam to be conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) on October 20, officials said on Friday.

The move followed the surfacing of a purported audio conversation between an employee of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) in Bhadohi and an unidentified individual, suggesting attempts to "undermine the integrity of the upcoming examination for personal gains", police said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Tejveer Singh said that upon discovering the alleged audio clip, IICT Director Rajiv Kumar Varshney reported the matter to the UPPSC secretary via email.

In the email dated October 14, Varshney detailed the purported conversation involving an IICT employee named Rajesh Verma, the officer said.

"The conversation suggests attempts to undermine the integrity of the upcoming examination for personal gains. The IICT director requested that the audio clip, along with a pen drive containing more evidence, be submitted for a thorough investigation," Singh said.

"Given the gravity of the matter, UPPSC Deputy Secretary Dharmendra Kumar Tripathi filed a formal complaint with the Bhadohi City police station on October 16, citing violations of Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill 2024 and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act," the officer said. (PTI)

Leopard 'suspected' to have turned man-eater shot dead in Udaipur

JAIPUR, Oct 18: A leopard "suspected" to have turned man-eater was shot dead on Friday by a joint team of forest department and police in Rajasthan's Udaipur district, an official said.

In Udaipur district, humans were hunted by leopards on September 18, 19, 20, 25, 28 and 30. In the above incidents, the place of attack by leopard were Gram Panchayat Chhali, Bagdunda, Majavad and Madar under the jurisdiction of Deputy Forest Conservator Udaipur (North).

In a fresh attack on Wednesday, the leopard attacked two women who were working in the field in Madar village of Badgaon. One of the women, who was seriously injured in the attack, died during treatment.

The leopard which was shot dead in Madar area near the city is said to be involved in these attacks.

Further confirmation will done after the sample test report will come out, Chittora added.

Chief Wildlife Warden PK Upadhyay told PTI that there could be more than one leopard, so it cannot be claimed that this is same leopard that was involved in all the attacks.

He said that there is no relaxation in vigil at the moment and a team from Gujarat was called on Thursday to be in the Madar area for seven days

Samples were collected from the attack that took place on Wednesday and from the leopard that was killed today for DNA sampling test. The final test results will confirm if it was the same animal or not, he said.

Upadhyay said that with the killing of



this leopard, the permission that we had issued earlier for shooting has expired and now no one can shoot a leopard.

He noted that the postmortem will be done according to the standard operating procedure (SOP) which is the same for a tiger and a leopard.

The DNA report will take some time to arrive and till then the team will remain deployed in the affected area, he added.

Earlier today, Divisional Forest Officer Ajay Chittora had said that the leopard was an adult male which apparently turned man-eater.

Further confirmation will be done after the sample test report will come out, Chittora had said.

The woman that was killed on Wednesday was the eighth person to die in leopard attack since September 18.

Eight victims include four women and a five-year-old child who died due to

leopard attacks in various areas of Udaipur.

Concerned over the leopard attack and growing resentment among the locals, the forest authorities placed cages, installed camera traps and sought help from the Indian Army to track the leopard last month. As a result, three leopards were captured from different places.

However, after a 55-year-old woman was mauled to death on October 1 outside her house in Suawaton ka Gudha when she was feeding fodder to livestock, authorities issued an order to shoot down the animal.

The permission was granted under conditions that an attempt should be made to tranquillise or trap the leopard. However, in case the animal cannot be tranquillised or trapped, its correct identification should be ensured before killing the animal. (PTI)

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF WORKS

KAAC::SECRETARIAT

DIPHU-782460

No. KAAC/W-1043/CDF/2024-25/259 Dtd. 07/10/2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing Non refundable KAAC court fee stamp (receipt) Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only eventually to be drawn up in form are hereby invited from KAAC registration contractor/reputed firms of Works Department and will be receive by the undersigned upto 4 P.M. on 08/11/2024 and will opened on the same date, place and the hours in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent if any.

If the day of the opening of tender happens to be any holiday/Non-working day, the tender will be opened in the next working day. The undersigned has the right to accept or reject any tender without any reason thereof and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender quoted rate.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Tender Amount	A/A Amount	Earnest Money	Time allowed for completion
1	Construction of Hongpharla, Open Stage, Waiting Shed of RSS/RWS, and MI Sheme etc. of various works in 15 (Fifteen) different constituencies of Karbi Anglong.	15,00,00,000.00	15,00,00,000.00	ST/SC/ OBC=1% General=2%	Days 30

Details N.I.T/documents and name of works amounts may be obtained from Office of the E.E. (Works) KAAC, Diphu during working hours.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

N.B.

1. The rate to be quoted as % (Percent) above/below/as per schedule rate for building/sanitary/works for all division under CPWD-2020-21.
2. Earnest money should be deposited in favour of the undersigned in the form of call deposit/bank draft & should be attached with the tender, without which no tender will be accepted.
3. The contractor shall Repair/Re-construct if the works executed failed due inferior quality of works. The KAAC Authority will take legal action if the contractor refuses to Repair/Re-construction the work.
4. The work must be carried on as directed by E.E. (W), KAAC/KAAC Authority.
5. The following upto date documents should be enclosed with the tender.
 - a. Professional Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - b. Sale Tax Clearance Certificate/GST registration.
 - c. KAAC Registration (Contractual).
 - d. Call Deposit.
 - e. Cast Certificate.
 - f. Bank Account Number & PAN Card.
6. Payment will be made subject to availabilities of fund.
7. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest quoted rate.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Works),
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council
DIPHU

RG Kar issue: Junior doctors' fast-into-death enters 14th day

KOLKATA, Oct 18: The fast-into-death by agitating junior doctors in West Bengal entered its 14th day on Friday over demands for justice for the deceased post-graduate trainee of Kar Medical College and Hospital and workplace security.

So far, six fasting junior doctors have been hospitalised after deterioration in their health condition, a protesting doctor said.

Currently, eight medics are on an indefinite fast at the protest site in Esplanade, located in the heart of Kolkata, he added.

The protesting doctors are demanding justice for the deceased woman medic and immediate removal of state Health secretary NS Nigam.

The protesting doctors said the government has not taken any concrete steps to address their 10-point charter. (PTI)

E-AUCTION FOR LEASING OUT OF VPH

E-Auction for the contract of leasing out of VPH through e-Auction by T/No. 15960/59 Kamrup Express, From Dibrugarh to Howrah and back, on round trip basis for a period of 2 years has been invited. **Description:** Parcel Space in Parcel Van. **Auction Start Date & Time:** 10:00 hrs. on 11-11-2024. **Auction Close Date & Time:** 10:30 hrs. on 11-11-2024. **Rate Unit:** Per Round Trip (Two Way).

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips/Days
AA/1	15960-15969-VP-1-DBRG-HWH-24-2 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	522

The press notification has already been uploaded in the IREPS website on 15-10-2024 through e-auction portal www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia

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Tom Holland offers update on 'Spider-Man 4': It really lit a fire in me

LOS ANGELES, Oct 18: "Spider-Man" star Tom Holland has revealed that he and co-star Zendaya have read a draft of the script for the franchise's fourth chapter.

In the new movie, Holland will reprise his role as Peter Parker aka Spider-Man from earlier three films "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (2017), "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (2019) and "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (2021).

He has also appeared in Marvel blockbusters like "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Avengers: Endgame".

During his appearance on The Rich Roll Podcast, the actor said he and Zendaya, who plays his love interest MJ in the franchise, were excited after reading the draft.

"We have a creative and we have a pitch and a draft, which is excellent. It needs work, but the writers are doing a great job. I

read it three weeks ago and it really lit a fire in me."

"Zendaya and I sat down and read it together and we at times were bouncing around the living room like this is a real movie worthy of the fans' respect," he added.

Last month, it was reported in American media that Shang-Chi director Destin Daniel Cretton was in talks to helm the fourth part, taking over the reins from director Jon Watts.

Tom also discussed the complexities of working within the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) where solo films are just one part of a much larger, interconnected Marvel storyline.

"One of the things to bear in mind with Marvel is that your film is a small cog in a large machine. And that machine has got to keep running. And you need to make sure you can fit into that timeline at the right time to benefit the bigger picture."

"That's one of the challenges

Holland will reprise his role as Peter Parker aka Spider-Man from earlier three films 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' (2017), 'Spider-Man: Far From Home' (2019) and 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' (2021)

we're facing. The time in which we need to get that done is a tall order but definitely achievable with the fantastic people we have working on it now," he added. (PTI)



You can make every character come alive if you're honest: Adah Sharma

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Actor Adah Sharma, whose latest project is the web series "Reeta Sanyal", says she strives to portray every character on screen with full dedication.

The actor, known for films such as "The Kerala Story", "Hasee Toh Phasee", and "1920", as well as web shows "Commando" and "Sunflower", plays 10 different characters in "Reeta Sanyal", an investigative mystery thriller currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

"I don't compromise on my honesty when I am performing on screen. I will do anything for a character in front of the camera to prepare for a role. I go to extreme lengths. I believe if you are honest to each character, you can make every one of them come alive," Sharma told PTI. "Whether you cry, you have to cry with full honesty... Every line you say, although it's written by somebody else, you have to deliver it with full sincerity," she added. The 32-year-old actor plays the lead in "Reeta Sanyal", which follows the story of the titular advocate who cracks cases using her "sharp mind and chameleon-like skills." Out of the 10 characters she portrays in the series, Sharma said that while each one had its challenges, wearing a fat suit for one of the roles was the most difficult. "That (fat suit) was hard to wear. It was under a saree because I was supposed to look around 120 kg. That was a tough one... Each character I play is based on somebody or on a combination of two or three people I know.

"Everything was referenced, whether it was the Haryanvi reporter or waitress... I got to speak Marathi, so there are lots of different characters," she added.

To play the waitress, the actor said she tried to imitate the voice of a Bollywood actor. "The waitress had to look really pretty, and we wanted to use a pretty voice. So, there's a Bollywood actress' voice that I've copied and used. I'm waiting for people to watch the show and figure out who I'm talking about." Last year, Sharma starred in "The Kerala Story", which sparked political controversy as it claimed that women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and were recruited by the terror group Islamic State (IS). Asked how she deals with criticism, Sharma said varied feedback is important. "Everyone has a right to say what they want. Everybody can't have the same opinion. If everyone has the same view, that means your reviews are paid. When you see only good things written about something, it means a lot of money and PR has gone into promoting it. (PTI)



AKSHAY KUMAR, R MADHAVAN, ANANYA PANDAY TO STAR IN UNTITLED FILM FROM DHARMA

MUMBAI, Oct 18: Actors Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan and Ananya Panday will feature in an upcoming movie on acclaimed lawyer C Sankaran Nair, who fought a legal battle against the British empire in the 1920s.

The film is based on the book "The Case That Shook the Empire" by Raghu Palat and Pushpa Palat.

Scheduled to be released in theatres on March 14, 2025, the untitled movie is backed by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions in collaboration with Kumar's Cape of Good Films and Leo Media Collective.

The film will mark the directorial debut of writer Karan Singh Tyagi.

"An unknown story an unheard truth. Starring Akshay Kumar, R. Madhavan & Ananya Panday - this untitled film is releasing in cinemas on 14th March, 2025. Directed by Karan Singh Tyagi,"

Dharma Productions posted on social media.

According to the studio, the film centres around the "shocking cover-up of a massacre that pushed India's top barrister C Sankaran Nair to fight an unprecedented battle against the British Empire".

"The Case That Shook the Empire" was published in 2019 by Bloomsbury India and explored the 1924 defamation trial in which Michael O'Dwyer, former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab and the architect of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, sued Nair.

Nair had criticised British atrocities in Punjab in his book, leading to the widely reported trial that exposed the brutalities of British rule in India. (PTI)

'Dune: Prophecy' trailer launch, show to premiere on JioCinema on November 18

MUMBAI, Oct 18: The official trailer of HBO Max original "Dune: Prophecy", a prequel series to Denis Villeneuve's blockbuster "Dune" movies, has been unveiled.

The Warner Bros Discovery-owned streamer released the trailer of the six-episode series, which will premiere in India on JioCinema on November 18.

The trailer of "Dune: Prophecy" promises a rich narrative filled with intrigue and power struggles within the iconic "Dune" universe, established in filmmaker Denis Vil-

leneuve's two blockbuster movies.

The show features an ensemble cast of Emily Watson, Olivia Williams, Travis Fimmel, Jodhi May, Mark Strong, Sarah-Sofie Boussina, Josh Heuston, Chloe Lea, Jade Anouka, Faoileann Cunningham, Edward Davis, Aoife Hinds, Chris Mason, Shalom Brune-Franklin, Camilla Beeput, Jihae, Tabu, Charithra Chandran, Jessica Barden, Emma Canning, and Yerin Ha.

The series is set 10,000 years before the events of Frank Herbert's seminal novel "Dune", which was re-

cently adapted by Villeneuve in two parts.

In the two films, which were released in 2021 and 2023, Charlotte Rampling played Reverend Mother Mohiam, the Emperor's Bene Gesserit Truthsayer, while Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson) was the Bene Gesserit mother of the protagonist Paul, played by Timothee Chalamet.

As per official logline, the show follows two Harkonnen sisters as they combat forces that threaten the future of humankind, and establish the fabled sect that will become known as the

Bene Gesserit.

"Dune: Prophecy", based on the novel "Sisterhood of Dune" by Brian Herbert and Kevin J Anderson, was previously titled "Dune: The Sisterhood".

In the show, Tabu plays the role of Sister Francesca, described as a "strong, intelligent, and alluring" character, who leaves a lasting impression in her wake.

"Once a great love of the Emperor, her return to the palace strains the balance of power in the capital," the character description read.

Alison Schapker is the showrunner and executive producer with Diane Ademu-John, who co-developed the series. It is co-produced by HBO and Legendary Television. (PTI)



East Bengal desperate to revive fortunes under new coach Bruzon in derby clash vs Bagan

KOLKATA, Oct 18: A beleaguered East Bengal will look to turn their season around under new head coach Oscar Bruzon when they face arch-rivals Mohun Bagan in the much-anticipated ISL Kolkata derby on Saturday.

The season's first derby, originally scheduled during the Durand Cup in August, was abandoned due to security concerns amid the RG Kar rape-and-murder protests, leaving fans eagerly awaiting for this showdown between the two Kolkata giants. Since that abandonment, fortunes have been rough for East Bengal.

Four consecutive defeats led to the departure of last season's Super Cup-winning coach Carles Cuadrat.

The Red and Gold Brigade remain the only team without a win in the 13-team standings, adding pressure on Bruzon to steady the ship and deliver results.

On the other hand, Mohun Bagan have displayed their attacking flair but have struggled defensively, conceding seven goals in their first four games.

Currently sitting in fourth place with two wins, one draw, and one loss, they will aim to tighten their defense as they head into this high-stakes derby.

Jose Molina's men will take confidence from their recent 3-0 win over Mohammedan SC, as the coach looks to secure back-to-back wins and clean sheets for the first time this season.

For the Mariners, their fortress at the Salt Lake Stadium has seen a flurry of goals.

They have scored in each of their 12 home ISL games in



2024, finding the back of the net at least twice in 11 of those matches. They have scored 29 goals at the Salt Lake Stadium in 2024, the second-highest tally for any team at a single venue in a calendar year.

Their attacking stats are equally impressive this season, averaging 7.3 shots on target per game at a staggering 55.8% shooting accuracy, which is the best in the league.

No other team has maintained these stats over a full ISL season, making Mohun Bagan a daunting prospect for any defence.

East Bengal are winless in their last eight ISL meetings with Mohun Bagan, leaking at least two goals in each encounter.

Bruzon will become the second East Bengal manager to face Mohun Bagan in his first ISL game.

The Red and Gold Brigade have historically struggled in managerial debuts in the ISL, and Bruzon will look to break this trend.

Cuatrat remains the only East Bengal coach to keep a clean sheet in his first game in charge.

Madih Talal of East Bengal has attempted 83 passes ending in the final third, more than any other player in the ongoing ISL campaign.

The Frenchman is also the player with the most successful passes in this region in 2024-25 as he will be key to the red-and-

gold's attack.

For Mohun Bagan, Dimitri Petratos has five goal contributions against East Bengal in previous derbies. Petratos will once again be the threat for East Bengal.

However, he has found the net only once in his last six ISL games and it remains to be seen if East Bengal's defence is able to mark him successfully.

After registering two assists from set pieces in his last match, Greg Stewart has been in form. His delivery from dead-ball situations will be a key factor in Mohun Bagan's attacking play.

"A team can lose all its matches in a season but it comes into a derby with a different (level of) vigour. Moreover, a

team which has lost so many matches will be more desperate to get back in form with a win here," Mohun Bagan skipper Subhasish Bose said.

"For us, the goal is clear – to keep winning games to remain on top of the table. And we will do everything possible to keep working towards that."

Mohun Bagan's attack will be further boosted by the return of Sahal Abdul Samad, the India midfielder who suffered a hamstring strain and was substituted in their 0-3 loss at Bengaluru FC.

He also missed their match against Mohammedan Sporting and could not travel with the Indian team for the Vietnam friendly. (PTI)

Inter Miami star Messi presented with inaugural MARCA America award

FORT LAUDERDALE, Oct 18: Inter Miami's Lionel Messi added another award to his collection.

Messi became the first recipient of the MARCA America Award, presented by the Spain-based media company. The award recognizes Messi's championship-laden career — one with a record 46 trophies won for club or country, and at least 56 other awards on the individual level.

"It has been quite the journey," the Argentine superstar said in Spanish during a moderated question-and-answer session at Chase Stadium, Inter Miami's home field. "We have experienced so many beautiful things but also complicated moments. In 20 years not everything is beautiful. You cannot win all the time."

For Messi, no title outshines the 2022 World Cup with Argentina that helped cement his legacy among the sport's greatest players.

However, the 37-year-old Messi has won plenty and still feels the drive to continue adding titles. Similar to his titles with Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain, Messi already has helped Inter Miami win hardware since he joined the MLS club in July 2023.

Although limited to 18 MLS matches this season because of an ankle injury and national

team commitments, Messi has 17 goals and 15 assists to help lead Miami to the 2024 Supporters Shield. Miami will have home-field advantage throughout the MLS Cup playoffs which begin next week.

"I was able to achieve the biggest prize, which is the World Cup," said Messi, who had three goals and two assists in a 6-0 Argentina romp past Bolivia in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday. "It is the trophy all of us want when we start playing and I managed to fulfill my dream. We won many titles in Barcelona, Paris. Now we are here with the objective to fight hard for another title."

Messi's contract with Inter Miami runs through next season. And, after his recent goal-scoring performance on Tuesday, Messi could remain energized in his commitments with Argentina through the next World Cup cycle.

"I still have a deep love for this sport and I will continue to aspire to win more titles," Messi said. "At this level, you have to enjoy things day by day."

Inter Miami has one regular-season match left, coming at home Saturday against New England.

If Inter Miami wins it would set the MLS single-season points mark with 72, one more than New England had in 2021. (AP)

Arjun crushes Maxime to win WR Chess Masters; closes in on 2800 Elo rating

LONDON, Oct 18: Rapidly-rising Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi clinched the WR Chess masters title after defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the Armageddon game following two draws in Classical chess during the final here.

Arjun, who was a part of the gold-winning Indian team in the Chess Olympiad recently, displayed great form and precision throughout the event to bag the winner's prize of 20,000 Euros.

With this, Arjun's live Elo rating touched 2796, moving him closer to the coveted 2800 mark. He will look to cross that milestone at the European Cup which starts from October 20. The 21-year-old defeated his friend R Praggnanandhaa in the semifinals of the knockout event before eventually getting past Vachier-Lagrave.

"I am happy that I could adapt to the new format well and win the tournament," Arjun said in a press release issued by his management team. The 16-player tournament saw Arjun score a 2-0 victory over nine-year-old Bod-

hana Sivanandan of England, who was the youngest ever to play in the Chess Olympiad for her country. Fellow Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi also fell to Arjun, who won the second game in the two-games mini-match by 1.5-0.5 margin. Against Praggnanandhaa in the semis, Arjun took an early lead by winning the first game as white and did well to draw the second game to win the match 1.5-0.5. In the final, Vachier-Lagrave put up stiff resistance against the World number four Indian but eventually crumbled in the Armageddon.

The first game ended in an easy draw for Arjun as black, while the second game featured wild complex play out of a Sicilian Najdorf opening where the Indian played white.

The dust subsided on the 21st move leading to a tricky endgame post the queen trade and the game was drawn.

Vachier-Lagrave had 10 minutes on his clock with white pieces in the finale against Arjun's six minutes and 58 seconds. (PTI)

Chelsea, Lyon and Roma stay perfect with victories in Women's Champions League

WASHINGTON, Oct 18: Chelsea, Lyon and Roma all stayed perfect in the Women's Champions League by cruising to away victories.

Roma routed Galatasaray at Istanbul 6-1, Chelsea beat Twente in the Netherlands 3-1 and eight-time champion Lyon won 2-0 at Wolfsburg.

Real Madrid claimed its first victory of the campaign by easing past Celtic 4-0.

Roma and Lyon both have six points in Group A. Two-time champion Wolfsburg and Galatasaray, the first Turkish team to reach the group stage, have no points.

In Group B, Chelsea leads with six points, with Madrid and Twente on three and Celtic last bottom without a point.

Renard strikes on Popp's day-Wolfsburg striker Alexandra Popp made her 100th competition appearance — becoming only the second player to reach the mark but it was Lyon defender Wendie Renard, the only one who has played more, who stole the show.

Renard's header found the back of the net early on in her 118th



game in the competition. U.S. international Lindsey Horan netted from the penalty spot in the second half.

Lyon is the competition's record eight-time champion but last won the trophy in 2022. It was runner-up last season to Barcelona.

Roma routIn a matchup between the Italian and Turkish champions, Roma dominated in Istanbul.

Summer signing Hawa Cissoko scored in the seventh minute to mark her debut game in the competition. The France defender who transferred from West Ham headed home off Manuela Giugliano's corner.

Valentina Giacinti made it 2-0 in the 24th minute when she was left unmarked near the spot to head in Verena Hanshaw's cross.

Giugliano failed to convert from the spot in the first-half

stoppage time but Emilie Haavi got Roma's third with a right-footed blast past goalkeeper Gamze Yaman early in the second.

Giugliano finally found the back of the net from close range for a 4-0 lead before Andrea Staskova scored the consolation goal for the hosts. Roma substitutes Marta Pandini and Alice Corelli also scored.

Blues win again under BompastorChelsea struck early in another winning performance under new coach Sonia Bompastor, who joined from Lyon.

Agnes Beever-Jones put the Blues ahead with a long-distance deflected strike in the seventh minute and Maika Hamano made it 2-0 a short time later by lifting the ball over goalkeeper Olivia Clark from outside the area.

Substitute Guro Reiten added the third in the second from the spot just past the hour mark.

On Saturday, Chelsea beat city rival Arsenal 2-1 in the Women's Super League.

Real Madrid bounces backReal Madrid scored three second-half goals in 11 minutes against Celtic in Group B. (AP)

Nadal loses to Alcaraz at Six Kings Slam exhibition event



RIYADH, Oct 18: With an eye on the Davis Cup, Rafael Nadal said he was pleased with his performance despite losing 6-3, 6-3 to Carlos Alcaraz at the Six Kings Slam.

Jannik Sinner beat Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (0), 6-4 in the other semifinal at the exhibition event that awards money but no ATP ranking points and is Saudi Arabia's latest foray into tennis.

The match against Alcaraz was Nadal's first since he announced last week that he would be retiring after playing for Spain in the Davis Cup next month. Nadal and Alcaraz played doubles together at the Paris Games and could team up again for the Davis Cup.

"I have the Davis Cup in front (of me) in a month so every day is an opportunity to be better and better and be ready for this final tournament of my tennis career," Nadal said. "I want to try my best to be ready for that and help the team in some way."

Thursday's match was the first contest for Nadal since his exit at the Paris Olympics in July.

"Carlos was too good. I haven't been on the competitive stage since a couple months ago," Nadal said.

"So yeah I think it was a good performance, even if it was not enough to play against an animal like him. But it was a positive match for me and I'm happy."

Nadal will play Djokovic on Saturday in a third-place match before Sinner faces Alcaraz.

The top-ranked Sinner was cleared in a doping case shortly before winning last month's U.S. Open, although the World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed that exoneration.

Djokovic and Sinner met for real on Sunday, when the Italian won in straight sets for the Shanghai Masters title. (AP)

Rohit Sharma took ownership of decision as a leader after wrong call at toss: Laxman

MUMBAI, Oct 18: Former India cricketer and NCA head VVS Laxman on Friday praised Rohit Sharma for taking ownership of the wrong call at the toss in the first Test against New Zealand, saying that he does a "phenomenal job" in leading by example.

Rohit's decision to bat first in the opening Test backfired horribly as India were shot out for a mere 46 inside 32 overs, recording their third lowest total in 593 Tests and lowest-ever in 293 matches on home soil.

The Indian captain fronted the media after end of play on Thursday and acknowledged that he erred in reading the M Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch, while citing that not all calls taken by leadership can always be right.

"For leaders, it's humanly impossible not to make mistakes. We won the toss and we elected to bat first and it was counter-productive (because) we were bowled out for 46," Laxman told a gathering at the Saxman Now 2024 conference by Se-

clore here.

"Who went to the press conference? It was Rohit Sharma. He accepted that 'yes, I misread the wicket'. Leaders take that ownership of (their) decisions."

"It's not necessary that every time the decisions are right, but you take the ownership and then whenever the team doesn't do well, you go and face the flak. Whenever the team does well, you promote the guy who actually requires that recognition and that limelight," he added.

While citing preparations and having a roadmap as important elements for success, Laxman said great leaders are the best performers in any team and Rohit has done a "phenomenal job" with this Indian team.

"Great leaders are the best performers in a particular team. (a) classical example is Rohit Sharma. What he has done, the way he's leading the Indian team, is just phenomenal," Laxman said.

"He (has) told (his teammates) that, 'okay, this is the style of cricket I want our team



to play', and he's going out and doing that, (the) selfless style of batting and playing the game."

"In the bargain, that can (also) impact and affect his perform-

ance. But he's making that decision and that bold statement saying 'I'll back you as long as you go out and play the brand I want our Indian team to play',"

he said.

Laxman said he was confident India can turn the tables on New Zealand in the ongoing Test even as the team was 125 runs behind at the close of play in the second essay with seven wickets in hand.

"I know Sarfaraz (Khan) is batting well and I think Virat (Kohli) is there," Laxman said shortly before Kohli was eventually dismissed.

"We believe; when I say we, you know, whether it's me or former players or Gautam (Gambhir) as the head coach, or Rohit as a captain, everyone who's playing for the country is capable of creating magic."

"I can tell with a lot of conviction that everyone (batters) will go out with only one thought, one frame of mind, which is (that) 'can I contribute to the country, can I go out and just give 100-150 runs for my bowlers'."

"And if my (India) bowlers get 150 runs, take it from me that we can win this Test match," Laxman said.

The former batter is banking on the Indian spinners to do their magic in the fourth innings.

"The ball is turning and gripping and we (have) got three wonderful, world class spinners. Whoever is going out to bat, they will go with that mindset," he added.

Laxman said backing your strength in pressure situations is key, like Sarfaraz Khan did during his unbeaten 78-ball 70.

"Sarfaraz, just before coming here, I saw (him hit) a beautiful six over point. When you're in a pressure situation, when you are facing an impossible task, can you trust your strengths?" he said.

"Sarfaraz, Yashasvi (Jaiswal) and Rohit played their natural game. Now the end result (is something that) no one can predict, but can the approach and can the frame of mind and mindset be predicted, yes."

RESURRECTION AFTER COLLAPSE

Kohli, Rohit, Sarfaraz fifties take India to 231/3 at close on Day 3

BENGALURU, Oct 18: A counter-attacking India kept alive the hopes of a miracle turnaround through free-flowing fifties from the troika of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Sarfaraz Khan, reaching 231 for three in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand here on Friday.

Kohli (70), who completed 9,000 Test runs during the course of his knock, got out to Glenn Phillips off the last ball of the day, edging him to Tom Blundell, leaving Sarfaraz (70) at the crease at close. The deficit at the end of an overcast day was a less intimidating 125.

Kohli and Sarfaraz added 136 runs for the third wicket after skipper Rohit did the early running with a fluent 52.

This was after New Zealand posted a total of 402 all out to gain a massive lead of 356 runs thanks to Rachin Ravindra (134) and Tim Southee (63), who added precious 134 runs for a flowing eighth wicket stand.

The largest deficit India has overturned to win a Test in their

cricketing history is 274 during the iconic Kolkata Test against Australia in 2001.

Such an epic is still some distance away, but hopes will be flickering after the day's effort with the bat. Amid the more coruscating fifties by Rohit and Sarfaraz, Kohli's effort still stood out for its personal and situational significance.

It was his first Test half-century of 2024, and he could not have timed his 31st in the longest format better -- literally and figuratively.

Seldom a shot describes the touch of Kohli better than the cover drive, and the moment he executed one off pacer William O'Rourke, the 35-year-old was in full flow. He took 15 balls to get off the mark.

Kohli brought up his fifty with a single off Matt Henry but at the other end, Sarfaraz resembled a race car on the tarmac.

The Mumbai man punished all bowlers with disdain and left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel was shunted off the park for two successive sixes.

Then there was a daring upper cut for maximum off O'Rourke



and fortune also blessed him as a couple of edges fell inches short of Ajaz at gully and wide of third slip. Before Kohli and Sarfaraz ran

roughsho, another old-young combination of Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal (35) gave India a solid start.

Jaiswal went through an early uncertain play-and-miss phase but he overcame that to play some sparkling shots.

Rohit had no such issues. The right-hander flicked and drove New Zealand pacers to reach a fifty off just 59 balls, and also thrilled the crowd with that patented swivel pull on one leg.

But his tenure in the middle ended in unfortunate circumstances. Rohit offered a forward defensive shot to Ajaz, but the ball trickled back onto his stumps after taking a deflection from his bat.

A few minutes before that, Jaiswal's decision to give a charge to Ajaz resulted in him getting stumped by Tom Blundell, after adding 72 for the opening wicket with Rohit.

The recovery was impressive but it could not overshadow what New Zealand accomplished earlier in the day.

Resuming the day at 180 for three, the Kiwis were halted to an extent by Ravindra Jadeja (3/72) and the other Indian bowlers who took some early wickets to reduce them to 233 for seven.

They lost Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Blundell and Henry in this period.

Jasprit Bumrah snaffled Blun-

dell while Mohammed Siraj had the number of Mitchell. Phillips and Henry perished to the crafty Jadeja.

The Blackcaps were ahead by 187 runs at that point and it was imperative for them to stretch the lead at least till the 250-mark to maintain their edge.

Ravindra and Southee exceeded the expectations during their partnership to take the lead past the 300-run mark.

Ravindra started cautiously but unfurled his full range once he and the pitch settled down past the first-hour mark.

The 24-year-old, who has his family roots in Bengaluru, showed the correct method of playing Indian spinners, either staying on the front foot or making a shimmy down to nullify the turn.

A cleanly swept four off Ravichandran Ashwin carried him to his second Test hundred.

Southee, who hammered a couple of his trademark sixes, gave solid company to Ravindra and duly completed his seventh Test fifty immediately after the lunch. (PTI)

Cameron Green's absence will change Australia's bowling dynamics, says Mitchell Starc



SYDNEY, Oct 18: The absence of allrounder Cameron Green will change Australia's bowling dynamics for the upcoming five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy and may increase spinner Nathan Lyon's workload, according to star pacer Mitchell Starc.

Green will undergo surgery to address his back-related troubles which will keep him out of action for at least six months.

While Australia have another all-round option in Mitchell Marsh ready to share the workload, Starc admitted that Green's unavailability changes the equation.

"It will always change the dynamic when you take a genuine allrounder like a Cameron Green, or with England when you take a Ben Stokes, out," Starc was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"When you have that genuine allrounder who has been part of a group for a while ... you get into a bit of a routine of having that extra bowling option.

"I don't know what the dynamic of that line-up is going to be, there is a lot of talk around that opening spot and Mitch (Marsh) bowling as well," he said.

Starc said the issue isn't something which Australia have not dealt before.

"It's not completely foreign. We've had series in the past where we haven't had an all-rounder at all," he said.

"We've had to take some of

that workload, and Gaz (Nathan Lyon) has probably had to bowl a bit extra as well.

"That's been the mindset for a number of years now, with overseas tour or a home series and the mentality of how grueling a summer or series can be."

Starc said the gap days between the five Tests against India will be crucial for the bowlers as Australia look to reclaim hold on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for first time in a decade.

"It's been spoken about, if you have four or five Tests that go four days, the extra day between games... There is obviously a big gap between the first and second Test and the third and fourth Test. That may play a part as well," he said.

"We don't know what wickets we'll get, we don't know how successful or unsuccessful we will be."

"There are too many factors to sit here at the start and say this is what is going to happen. But there are certainly times where you feel the grind of five Tests."

Starc backed young batter Sam Konstas to excel at the highest level after impressive returns in Sheffield Shield.

"There's no reason (for him) not to (handle it). He's obviously got the talent, got the work ethic, he's a lovely young man. Time will tell. If he's not picked this summer then I am sure runs on the board will help him in the long run," he said (PTI)

Guwahati City Chess Championship-2024 for U-9, U-13 begins today

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 18: The Guwahati City Chess Championship-2024 for Under-9 and Under-13 categories, organised by the Guwahati City Chess Association, will take place on October 19 and 20 at Shikshak Bhawan, according to an official press release issued on Friday.

The top four players in both the boys' and girls' sections for the Under-9 and Under-13 categories will be selected to represent Guwahati in the upcoming All Assam Inter-District Under-9 and Under-13 Chess Championship.

The tournament will follow the Swiss league system with classical time control across six rounds.

The first round will commence at 9:00 AM on October 19. The final round is scheduled for October 20, 2024, with the prize distribution ceremony set for 4:30 PM on the same day. Approximately 150 players from across Guwahati are expected to participate in the event.



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