

6 WORLD: NATO confirms that North Korea has sent troops to join Russia's war in Ukraine; Georgia's oppn plans protest against governing party's; 8 NATION: Priyanka accuses BJP-led Centre of undermining Constitutional values; SP chief calls for unity against Mahayuti for a 'positive change'

Trading scam accused to be brought to Assam

Guwahati Police gets transit remand for Deepankar Barman



GUWAHATI, Oct 28: Deepankar Barman, who was arrested in Goa for his alleged involvement in a multi-crore online trading scam in Assam, will be brought here after completing legal formalities, a top police officer said on Monday.

The multi-crore online trading scam in the state had come to light in August when investors, who had put in huge amounts of money in 29-year-old Barman's company, complained that he had not paid them the due returns and his office had been closed.

Credible information on Barman's location was received on Saturday and a four-member team, led by an additional commissioner of police, left for the western state on Sunday morning.

Rahul launches fresh attack on SEBI chief

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Stepping up his attack over conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chief Madhabi Buch, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies but actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few.

No decision yet on oppn demand for caste census

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: The much-delayed decadal census exercise and the work to update the National Population Register (NPR) are likely to begin in early 2025, and the data will be declared by 2026, thus changing future census cycles completely, official sources said.

These questions include whether the head of the household belongs to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe and other family members as asked in the previous census.

India and Spain sign MoUs on multiple fronts

VADODARA, Oct 28: India and Spain signed several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) during the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez in Gujarat's Vadodara city on Monday.

not the time for war, this cannot be resolved on the battleground. It is necessary that direct discussion takes place between both the parties," Lal told reporters.

During the meeting, it was agreed that 2026 will be celebrated as 'India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI'. Moreover, a cultural exchange program for 2024-28 was also signed to promote bilateral exchanges in music, dance, theatre, literature, museums and festivals,

Russian envoy welcomes Modi-Xi talks in Kazan

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Russian envoy to India Denis Alipov Monday termed the Sino-India pact on the border issue a positive development in bilateral ties and welcomed the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan.

India said, "We have not played any role in it but we are happy that it took place in Kazan."

Tuliram vouches for equal devp of 26 constituencies

DIPHU, Oct 28: The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) convened the 249th session to discuss on the council subjects held at the KAAC session hall here Monday, chaired by chairman, Raju Tisso.

HT BRIEFS

Review meeting

GUWAHATI: Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu conducted a comprehensive review of infrastructure development initiatives at Gauhati University, engaging with officials from the university and the Public Works Department (PWD) at Janata Bhawan, Pegu announced on Monday.

Special leave

GUWAHATI: In a heartfelt initiative aimed at fostering familial bonds and honouring parental relationships, the Assam Government has announced special leave provisions for state government employees, Lakhimpur MLA Manab Deka informed on Monday.

Three injured

DIBRUGARH: A disturbing series of accidents in Assam's Dibrugarh district on Sunday evening left three people critically injured after a young woman, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, drove recklessly through busy areas in a white Hyundai i20.

Whole world is looking at India with new hope and vision: PM Modi



AMRELI, Oct 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday the world is now listening to India with rapt attention and seriousness, and everyone is looking at the country with new hope and discussing the vast possibilities it presents in different fields.

"As we continue to develop, India's pride and influence on the world stage is increasing. The whole world is looking at India with new hope and a new vision. People have started recognizing India's potential. Today, the whole world listens to India seriously and attentively, and everyone discusses the possibilities present within India," the PM affirmed.

Five factions of KSA reconcile for unification

DIPHU, Oct 28: The leaders and members of the five factions of the Karbi Students Association (KSA) have come to a reconciliation and unanimously agreed to a unification. The meeting was convened by the Karbi Rong Asar Amei (KRAA) with the joint effort of Karbi Cultural Society (KCS) and Karbi Lammet Amei (KLA) at the KCS central committee office, Taralango here on Saturday.

yesterday (Sunday), the chairman of Team Tiger, an NGO in Karbi Anglong, Dhansing Kramsa said, "We are happy that finally the KSAs could unite. We appreciate the initiative of KRAA, KLA and KCS in uniting the KSA and congratulate the leaders and members of the five factions for the sacrifice they made for unification."

ing general secretary. Team Tiger appreciates the present leaders of KSAs for the sacrifice they made for unity. It will be an important chapter in the history of KSA," Bey stated.

This should set alarm bells ringing among decision-makers'

Greenhouse gas emissions surge to new record in 2023: WMO report

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Greenhouse gas levels surged to a new record in 2023, rising by more than 10 per cent in just two decades, according to a new report by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).



per billion (ppb) in 2023. These values are 151 per cent, 265 per cent, and 125 per cent of pre-industrial (before 1750) levels,

it said. These are calculated on the basis of the long-term observations within the Global Atmosphere Watch network of monitoring sta-

tions. "Another year. Another record. This should set alarm bells ringing among decision-makers. We are clearly off track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and aiming for 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. These are more than just statistics. Every part per million and every fraction of a degree temperature increase has a real impact on our lives and our planet," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

Sericulture is a thriving industry in NE: Union min

GUWAHATI, Oct 28: Union Minister Pabitra Margherita on Monday said sericulture has transformed into a thriving industry in the northeast, boosting the local economy.

various departments to drive sustainable silk industry growth, employment and traditional craftsmanship. Margherita also highlighted MESSO's efforts to expand Muga culture to cooler regions like Kalimpong in West Bengal and Uttarakhand to counter climate change impacts.

Sensex snaps 5-day losing streak; rises 602 pts on DII push, value buying

MUMBAI, Oct 28: Stock markets snapped the five-day losing streak on Monday with the benchmark Sensex rebounding 602 points on buying in ICICI Bank, firm global trends and continuous buying by domestic institutional investors.

The BSE Sensex jumped 602.75 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 80,005.04 as . During the day, it surged 1,137.52 points or 1.43 per cent to 80,539.81.

The NSE Nifty soared 158.35 points or 0.65 per cent to 24,339.15.

A sharp correction in global crude prices in international markets boosted sentiments, traders said.

From the 30 Sensex pack, ICICI Bank climbed 3 per cent after the private sector lender posted a 14.5 per cent growth in standalone profit to ₹ 11,746 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024.

JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors and State Bank of India



were the other big gainers from the pack.

Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the laggards.

"The market exhibited a rebound after continuous selloff last week. Positive results from banks and a slump in oil prices in expectation of an ease in retaliations in the Middle East aided investor sentiment.

index climbed 0.69 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, commodities surged 1.79 per cent, realty (1.40 per cent), telecommunication (1.37 per cent), healthcare (1.36 per cent) and metal (1.21 per cent).

Services, energy and capital goods (0.01 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher.

European markets were trading in the positive territory. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,036.75 crore on Friday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 4,159.29 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude eased 5.84 per cent to USD 71.54 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark plummeted 662.87 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 79,402.29 on Friday. The Nifty tanked 218.60 points or 0.90 per cent to 24,180.80. (PTI)

Economic performance satisfactory, demand conditions bear watching: Finmin Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: The performance of the Indian economy has been satisfactory during the first half of the ongoing fiscal year but concerns remain with regard to demand conditions going forward, the finance ministry said in a report.

The outlook for the Indian economy is good, underpinned by a stable external sector, positive agricultural outlook, expected improvements in demand supported by the festival season, and the likelihood of an increase in government spending, which will boost investment activity, it said.

However, at the margin, demand conditions in the economy bear watching, the September edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday said.

Urban demand appears to moderate due to softening consumer sentiments, limited footfall due to above-normal rainfall, and seasonal periods during which people tend to refrain from new purchases.

Further, risks to growth arise from escalating geopolitical conflicts, deepening geoeconomic fragmentation and elevated valuations in financial markets in some advanced economies, it said.

Their spillover effects on India could cause negative wealth effects, impacting household sentiments and altering spending intentions on durable goods, it said.

After two months of low inflation, consumer price inflation rose in September, primarily driven by the effects of erratic monsoon on a few vegetable supplies. Barring a sharp rise in prices of a few vegetables, inflation appears well contained, it said.

In the medium term, it said, favourable factors, such as rejuvenated reservoir levels, healthy Kharif crop sowing brightening the agriculture output prospects, and ample food grain stocks, would help contain price pressures.

Sentiment towards India among international direct and portfolio investors is positive, it said, adding that

sustaining the growth momentum is essential to turn these positive sentiments into actual direct and portfolio investments in the country.

However, foreign investors have continued selling in the Indian market, pulling out a massive ₹ 85,790 crore (around USD 10.2 billion) from equities this month due to Chinese stimulus measures, attractive stock valuations, and the elevated pricing of domestic equities.

October is turning into the worst-ever month in terms of foreign fund outflows. In March 2020, FPIs withdrew ₹ 61,973 crore from equities.

The latest outflow came after a nine-month high investment of ₹ 57,724 crore in September.

The report said the external sector continues to perform well, as reflected in rising capital inflows, a stable rupee and comfortable foreign exchange reserves. Forex reserves surpassed the USD 700 billion mark at the end of September 2024, making India one of the top four countries with more than USD 700 billion reserves.

With regards to the job market, the report said the manufacturing sector continued to show rising employment, as reflected in the Annual Survey of Industries results for 2022-23.

"High-frequency indicators, such as the net payroll additions under the Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Purchasing Managers' employment sub-index and NaukriJob Speak index, highlight a rise in formal employment generation. All that said, anecdotal reports of the deployment of Artificial Intelligence displacing workers are beginning to emerge. That needs watching," it said.

Given the overall subdued inflation, barring a few food items, the real price of money may have gone up, it said, adding, "We maintain that the Indian economy will grow between 6.5 and 7.0 per cent in the current fiscal year". (PTI)

HDFC Bank shares an important message to caution citizens against digital arrest

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 28: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, advises customers to be cautious against digital arrest fraud with an aim to increase awareness about such fraud.

In a digital arrest scam, fraudsters target individuals or businesses, posing as law enforcement or government officials. Victims are threatened with a digital arrest warrant for alleged tax evasion, regulatory violations or financial

misconduct.

The fraudsters ask for payment in the form of 'settlement fee' or 'penalty' to withdraw the digital arrest warrant. Once the payment is made, the fraudsters disappear, leaving no trace of their identity.

The victims are left with a monetary loss and sometimes an identity theft, due to the personal details shared with the fraudsters.

Cautioning on this fraud, Manish Agrawal, senior executive vice president - Credit Intelligence and

Control - HDFC Bank, said, "Fraudsters are directly targeting the emotions of the customers. When someone receives a call or message from fraudsters claiming to be law enforcement officers, always confirm their identity by independently contacting the government / law enforcement officials via proper channel. Staying vigilant and being aware of such fraudulent practices plays a very important role in avoiding falling prey to such scams."

Rupee settles on flat note, up 1 paisa at 84.07 against US dollar

MUMBAI, Oct 28: The rupee traded on a flat to positive note and settled 1 paisa higher at 84.07 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, on positive domestic markets and a sharp decline in crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee traded in a narrow range during the day as the strong dollar weighed on the local unit, while positive domestic equities, weak crude oil prices and suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) supported the local currency at lower levels. (PTI)

and to share insights on some of the most complex cases they have encountered, fostering innovation and solution-oriented discussions," the statement added.

It further said that in order to honour the invaluable contributions of these oral health experts, Sensodyne and IDA have co-created a unique platform that enables dentists to discuss the latest scientific advancements in dentistry, aimed at improving patient outcomes.

"The platform recognizes and felicitates senior dentists for their outstanding contributions to the field of dentistry and in society," it said.

This event also celebrated the contributions of local dentists, honoring individuals in four categories whereDR.

The current annual revenue of Merlin Group is about ₹ 1500 crore, he stated.

Merlin Group, with an existing portfolio of luxury residential complexes, commercial spaces, and sustainable townships across multiple cities, has executed a cumulative 20 million square feet of development over the last four decades.

Currently, 30 million square feet is under development in Kolkata and nearby areas alone, out of the total 40 million square feet in various stages of execution including other cities like Pune, Chennai and Bhubaneswar.

"We are focusing on Maharashtra as a major

growth area, with Pune and Navi Mumbai as target locations, and we are actively scouting for land parcels there. Several projects are already underway in Pune," Mohta added.

Hospitality is also a key interest for the group, which is executing the eastern region's first World Trade Centre project. The WTC is expected to house a five-star property.

"As we expand nationally and globally, we remain dedicated to turning dreams into reality. This rebranding is more than just a fresh look," said Sushil Mohta, Chairman of Merlin Group, on the occasion of unveiling the new brand identity. (PTI)

Lending company slice merges with North East Small Finance Bank

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: Merger of consumer payments and lending company 'slice' with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) has been completed, following the receipt of all requisite shareholder and regulatory approvals, a company statement said on Monday.

Effective Sunday, the merger unified the operations, assets, and brand identities of both entities into a single, integrated banking institution, it added.

The merger combined the innovation of a leading fintech with the trusted foundation of a traditional banking institution and set the base for building a tech-driven bank, prioritising stability, risk management and a robust governance framework as its key pillars, the statement said.

Commenting on the merger, Rajan Bajaj, the founder and CEO of slice and executive director of

the merged entity, said the teams at slice and NESFB worked for over a year to make the merger a reality. He expressed his gratitude to the regulatory authorities, especially the Reserve Bank of India and the Assam government, for providing the necessary approvals.

"We are especially committed to strengthening our roots in the Northeast, striving to bring more people into the formal banking system. We will place a strong emphasis on delivering exceptional customer experience while maintaining robust risk management and governance as the foundation of our operations," Bajaj added.

Satish Kumar Kalra, MD and CEO of NESFB termed the merger an important event in the banking sector, particularly for a financial institution rooted in the Northeast.

"We are thrilled to welcome slice into our journey, as their cut-

ting-edge technology and innovative approach will be instrumental in redefining banking standards across the nation," he said.

We begin a new journey with a reinforced commitment to the northeast region, while also striving to bring advanced banking services to every corner of India, the NESFB top functionary added. The merged entity will ensure the continuation of services of NESFB, and also drive strategic expansion across the region, the statement said.

It will introduce a range of banking products and services, including savings accounts, fixed deposits and credit products, among others.

Customers will continue to enjoy uninterrupted access to the services of NESFB and slice through this transition, the statement added. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1.

Trading scam accused

done once the accused is brought here. "Since there are cases registered against Barman's firm in different states and with the CBI also, other agencies will also get his custody later. We cannot divulge more details now," the CP added. While over 65 people, including those allegedly running similar scams, were arrested, Barman was at large. His parents were also arrested in connection with the case.

Assamese actor Sumi Borah and her photographer husband Tarkik Borah were among those arrested in the scam. The state government had handed over the investigation in 41 cases registered in connection with the scam to the CBI. Several firms, promoted mostly by men and women in their 20s, allegedly raised hundreds of crores of rupees from people across the state with the promise that they would get huge returns by investing in the stock markets. When these firms failed to repay their investors, the scam came to light. (PTI)

Rahul launches fresh attack

entrusted with protecting common Indians and their investments have abrogated their responsibilities and are indulging in wide-scale corruption and malpractice, he alleged. "The Congress has consistently raised these issues, is investigating these scams, and exposing the truth to the public," Gandhi said. In the video, Khera is seen explaining to Gandhi the various conflicts of interest allegations against Buch and how there were powers behind her that were at work, an apparent reference to the Adani Group.

Sharing the video, the party said the role of the SEBI chairperson is to maintain the security of the stock market and ensure investments of common Indians are not at risk. However, when the chairperson is involved in manipulating the market to benefit a single player - like the Adani Group - then everyone's money is at risk, it said. "That is what is happening with the Madhavi Buch Scandal. She has been placed in this position by PM Modi and HM Amit Shah to give Adani a clean chit in allegations of stock manipulation," it said. (PTI)

No decision yet on

the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States as readjusted on the basis of the 1971 census". It means if the census is conducted in 2025 and data is published in 2026, the delimitation exercise cannot be carried out based on 2025 census data. If it happens, then Article 82 has to be amended.

"All these questions will have to be looked into before any decision is taken on delimitation," a source said.

The 31 questions to be asked to each family under the census exercise include the total number of persons normally residing in the household, whether the head of the household is a woman, the number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household, the number of married couple(s) living in the household among others. The questions also include whether a family has a telephone, internet connection, mobile or smartphone, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle or moped and whether they own a car, jeep or van. (PTI)

Tuliram vouches for

budget in forests, works, and education departments has been taken up. "We are expecting to receive revenue from our own sources of around ₹ 300 crores. With this target we have taken up a supplementary demand for enhancement of the budget of ₹ 9 crores in works, forest, and education departments to take up development activities in all the 26 MAC constituencies," the CEM informed.

He also stated that for strengthening the Executive Committee (EC) of KAAC, a resolution has been taken up. The proposal will be sent to the government of Assam. After getting approval from the Governor the present strength of 14 members of EC will be increased to 16.

India and Spain sign

of information for prevention, detection, investigation and combating of Customs offences," the release added. It has been decided Spain will open a consulate in Karnataka capital Bengaluru, the release said, adding that India's consulate general in Barcelona was operationalised in August this year. The Spanish delegation included two ministers and 15 CEOs of leading companies there, said Lal.

The bilateral talks were followed by a banquet lunch at the grand palace hosted by PM Modi, he added. Earlier in the day, Modi and Sanchez inaugurated the Tata Advanced System Limited (TASL)-Airbus facility here to manufacture C-295 military aircraft in India. (PTI)

Addble Solutions empowers

period of two years, is crucial for creating a more democratic and inclusive e-commerce landscape in India, he added.

"This move is expected to have a positive impact on the livelihoods of countless marginalised sellers, providing them with a much-needed boost this Diwali. It also reinforces Addble's commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to building a more equitable and accessible digital commerce ecosystem," Ningthemcha said. Addble Solutions, based in Imphal West, is a cloud-based IT firm that provides B2B digital commerce platforms to companies, taking care of their entire sales management, inventory and other verticals. (PTI)

Five factions of KSA

and KCS will have 50 voters each and 10 voters from each of the five KSA groups. A total of 200 voters will cast their votes to elect the new president and secretary of the KSA," Hanse concluded.

Whole world is looking

per their (job) requirements," Modi said. The Prime Minister said Spain has made a huge investment in India and mentioned the Tata Aircraft Complex in Vadodra, India's first private facility to build military planes, where C295 aircraft will be produced.

The facility in Vadodra, inaugurated on Monday, is going to help small enterprises as they can supply different products for the manufacturing of military aircraft, Modi pointed out. Modi emphasised development of Gujarat is vital for India's growth.

"Gujarat has set an example for the country through its works in different fields. A scheme launched to transport water to houses and farmlands continues in Gujarat even today. The (water-related) projects launched today are going to benefit lakhs of people," he said.

Modi pointed out that all the projects that he inaugurated or for which he laid foundation stones on Monday in Amreli were meant to improve ease of living for people, ensure prosperity of farmers, and create opportunities for the youth.

The PM underscored the importance of public participation for water supply projects and towards conservation and recharge of groundwater through "Catch the Rain" campaign. "Ever since the BJP formed the government in Gujarat (nearly three decades ago), we have given primacy to water. We made an 80:20 scheme to encourage public participation (in projects)," he said, adding his government has succeeded in taking the Narmada river's water across each and every village of his home state. Modi pointed out that when a dairy cooperative was started in Amreli district in 2007 (when he was Gujarat CM), there were only 25 villages associated with it, but now that number has grown to 700.

Ports of Amreli district will be developed under the central government's port-led growth initiative, he emphasised. (PTI)

Greenhouse gas emissions

consecutive year with an increase greater than 2 ppm. In the last 20 years, the CO2 level has increased by 11.4 per cent (42.9 ppm) above the level of 377.1 ppm recorded in 2004 by WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch network of monitoring stations.

From 1990 to 2023, radiative forcing -- the warming effect on our climate -- by long-lived greenhouse gases increased by 51.5 per cent, with CO2 accounting for about 81 per cent of this increase, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Annual Greenhouse Gas Index cited in the WMO Bulletin. As long as emissions continue, greenhouse gases will continue accumulating in the atmosphere leading to global temperature rise. Given the extremely long life of CO2 in the atmosphere, the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero.

The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO2 was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3 degrees Celsius warmer and the sea level was 10-20 metres higher than now. (PTI)

Sensodyne in association with IDA honours dentists in Guwahati

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 28: Sensodyne, a leading oral care brand from the house of Haleon, has honoured Dentists in Guwahati on World Dentists Day, said an official statement on Monday.

Sensodyne has partnered with the Indian Dental Association (IDA) to celebrate the significant role of dentists in ensuring good oral health as part of World Dentist's Day, observed on October 3rd.

"As part of this initiative, multiple chapters are being hosted across various cities, with the most recent one held in Guwahati on October 27th at Hotel Shoolin Grand. The IDA chapter provided participants with an opportunity to discuss key oral health challenges, the importance of proactive healthcare,

Merlin Group executing projects worth ₹ 20,000cr, revenue to double in 7-8yrs

KOLKATA, Oct 28: Merlin Group, Kolkata's largest real estate developer, is currently executing projects worth ₹ 20,000 crore, which are expected to double its annual revenue over the next 7-8 years, a senior official said on Monday.

The announcement coincided with the unveiling of the company's new brand identity.

"We have been growing steadily year on year for the past 40 years. The group is currently developing 40 million square feet that is projected to yield a total sales of ₹ 20,000 crore in the coming 7-8 years," Merlin Group managing director Saket Mohta said.

UPPL president Pramod Boro expresses confidence in party's growing support Sidli LAC by-election set for triangular contest



HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Oct 28: Three candidates are in the fray to contest the upcoming by-election in the 31 No Sidli LAC (ST), scheduled for November 13 in Chirang district, along with four other constituencies in the state of Assam. The last day for the withdrawal of nominations for the by-election was Monday, and three candidates have been confirmed as valid to contest the upcoming Sidli LAC by-election. The three candidates—Nirmal Kumar Brahma (UPPL candidate backed by the NDA alliance), Suddha Kumar Basumatary (BPF), and Sanjib Wary (Congress)—are the key contestants for the Sidli LAC. Notably, a triangular contest is expected in the Sidli LAC by-election, with the ruling UPPL party, BPF, and Congress in contention.

The district commissioner of Chirang and Returning Officer of Sidli LAC stated that three candidates have been validated to contest the by-election in Sidli LAC scheduled for November 13. The Chirang district administration has prepared the necessary strategies and arrangements to conduct the by-election in a free and fair environment across the constituency. More than 216,700 voters will exercise their democratic rights at 273 polling stations across Sidli LAC on November 13, with the counting of results to take place on November 23. Meanwhile, more than 400 new members from different political parties, including BPF and Congress, have joined the ruling UPPL party at various locations under Sidli LAC ahead of the by-election. A massive campaign program

was organised by the UPPL across various primary committees within Sidli LAC, where a large number of new members joined in the presence of senior UPPL leaders. In Kokrajhar, a total of 170 new members from the BPF party joined the UPPL in the presence of state cabinet minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, MLA Jiran Basumatary, and BTR executive member Ranjit Basumatary. Over 300 new members joined the UPPL at different block committees in Sidli LAC, including Salakati, Chirang, Nishima, and Kajalgaon. The new members were warmly welcomed and felicitated with traditional aronai, phulam gamosa, and party scarves by UPPL leaders. Former state minister Chandan Brahma, UPPL general secretary

Raju Kumar Narzary, MLA Lawrence Islary, and other senior leaders addressed an election campaign meeting at Salakati in support of UPPL candidate Nirmal Kumar Brahma, backed by the NDA alliance. Pramod Boro, the chief executive member (CEM) of the Bodoland Territorial Region and UPPL president, stated that people from all communities are coming forward to support the UPPL candidate, Nirmal Kumar Brahma, in the Sidli LAC by-election. He expressed confidence that Brahma will secure a majority, as people have faith in UPPL and the NDA alliance in both the state and BTR. He also claimed that all five NDA alliance candidates, including Sidli LAC, are likely to succeed in the contesting constituencies across Assam. He added that people from various political parties and communities are increasingly joining UPPL, reflecting the party's growing popularity among citizens. According to him, UPPL is now the people's choice as the BTR government has initiated numerous welfare initiatives. "The massive joining of new members into the UPPL family is a significant reflection of the growing support for our mission and commitment to serving the community's needs. We welcome these new members and look forward to working together toward a shared vision of progress and prosperity in our region," added CEM Boro.

NFR launches steel arch bridge to ease traffic

New ROB aims to replace busy level crossing gate, enhancing safety & reducing congestion in Nagaon and Karbi Anglong

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 28: The Northeast Frontier Railway has successfully launched a bow string arch steel girder for a new road over bridge (ROB) near Kamrup Railway Station under Lumding division. This ROB is being constructed to replace level crossing gate no ST-35 at Kamrup Station on the Guwahati-Lumding BG line section. The ROB is targeted for completion by January 2025 at an estimated cost of ₹ 60 crores. The existing road on level crossing gate no ST-35 passes through the station yard of Kamrup and is situated on a state PWD road. There is significant detention of road traffic due to shunting operations, movement of trains in both directions, or stabling of trains. The gate experiences heavy traffic, with a total vehicle unit count of 1,98,181. The ROB will have an overall length of over 512.58 meters, with the main span consisting of a 42-meter bow string arch steel girder. The need for constructing an ROB in place of level crossing gate ST-35 has arisen due to road traffic congestion and increased train movement resulting from the recently completed double line in the Guwahati-



Lumding section. Once commissioned, the new ROB will facilitate smooth flow of people and vehicles during rush hours and prevent commuters from trespassing on the railway tracks. Upon completion, the level crossing gate ST-35 will be permanently eliminated, enhancing train operation safety and ensuring safer movement of road traffic and pedestrians through the ROB. The entire population of Nagaon and Karbi Anglong districts will benefit from the commissioning of this bridge.

Child protection & women empowerment awareness drive held

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Oct 28: An awareness programme on child protection mechanisms, human trafficking, safety, security, and empowerment of women and children was organised on Monday in the meeting hall of Jalah Girls' High School, Jalah, in Baksa district. The event was a collaborative effort by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Baksa, in association with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Baksa, and the ICDS project, Jalah, Women and Child Development (WCD), Baksa. The programme was chaired by Dr Lipika Barman, district child protection officer of Baksa (in charge). Kalpana Das, CDPO of the ICDS Project, Jalah, delivered the welcome address. Dr Ghritashri Bhuyan Narula, a social worker from New Delhi, at-

Teacher Sushil Singh accused of dowry demands & abuse

HT Correspondent
KHERONI, Oct 28: A family dispute has caused shock in Mailoo Basti, under Kheroni Police Station in the hill district of West Karbi Anglong. Sushil Singh, a school teacher at Dhiklempru ME School, is accused of subjecting his wife to physical and mental abuse for many years. Allegations suggest that Sushil, who married two years ago, has been demanding dowry from his wife and abusing her. Despite previously receiving Rs 5 lakh and a bike, Sushil allegedly continued to abuse his wife, demanding an additional Rs 1.5 lakh. Following an incident on October 23, a complaint was filed at the Mailoo Police Outpost. However, the family has alleged that the police have failed to register the case, raising concerns about a possible friendly relationship between Sushil and the police. Family members involved include Lalmoahar Singh, father of Sushil Singh, and Munni Devi.



Birth anniv of Pulin Das to be marked with memorial lecture

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 28: The 106th birth anniversary of renowned sports personality, organiser, and sports journalist Kirramohiruh Pulin Das, along with a memorial lecture organised by the Pulin Das Memorial Committee, will be held at the India Club premises here on November 1, 2024, at 11:30 am. Senior independent sports journalist Prarthana Hazarika will grace the occasion as the chief guest and deliver the Pulin Das Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Role of Regional Sports Journalists in Promoting Sports on a Global Platform'. Renowned photojournalist Rituraj Konwar will be present as the guest of honour, sharing his experiences from the 2024 Paris Olympics and displaying some memorable moments from the games. On behalf of the Pulin Das Memorial Committee, secretary Kalyan Kumar has appealed to all sports and cultural enthusiasts to attend the function and help make it a grand success.

'Diwali with My Bharat' prog celebration underway



HT Correspondent
NAGAON, Oct 28: To commemorate the first anniversary of the 'Mera Yuva Bharat Organization', launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, government of India, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Mariagaon, has organised the 'Diwali with My Bharat' programme, coinciding with the upcoming Diwali festivities. As part of the programme, a special training session was held on Sunday for 55 volunteers from various organisations in the Mariagaon district. District youth officer Bikash Chandra Pradhan explained the objectives of the Mera

Local holiday declared in Cachar on November 1 for Diwali festivities

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 28: In an official order released by the district commissioner of Cachar on Monday, a local holiday has been declared on November 1 throughout Cachar district in celebration of Diwali. This holiday is granted under the Negotiable Instruments Act and is applicable to all state government offices, including Revenue and Magisterial courts, educational institutions, and financial institutions. The holiday aims to allow residents and employees to partake in Diwali festivities with their families and communities. However, the order also specifies that this holiday will not impact emergency services or essential services tied to exams, written tests, interviews, and other related duties. The district commissioner's Office assured that these critical services would remain unaffected to ensure smooth operations for those involved in scheduled activities. This announcement reflects the administration's commitment to cultural celebration while maintaining the functionality of essential services.

MRF Tyres opens new service center

HT Correspondent
HOJAI, Oct 28: During this festive season, two brothers, Bijay and Ajay Gupta of Hojai, have set an example at a time when many are moving towards nuclear families. Amid this trend, the Gupta brothers work together with love, affection, and mutual respect. Emulating the ideals and principles of their father, the late Jaiprakash Gupta, they took the initiative to open an MRF Tyres and Service franchise, named 'Prakash Tyres', at JK Kedia Road (Main Road) in Hojai. MRF divisional manager Dhiraj Bhardwaj and senior district manager Porash Pratim Borah formally inaugurated Prakash Tyres by cutting the ribbon and lighting the lamp on Monday. Notably, along with sales, the showroom now provides computerised and fully equipped wheel balancing and alignment services for its customers. During the inauguration ceremony, Bijay and Ajay Gupta shared that 'Prakash Motors' was started in Hojai in 2003 with the hard work and dedication of their father, the late Jaiprakash Gupta. They stated that it is now their responsibility to elevate the establishment to even greater heights by carrying forward their parents' ideals and guidance. They further added that their main priority is to provide the best possible services to their customers.

AJYCP submits memorandum to CM

HT Correspondent
JAGIROAD, Oct 28: The Asom Jatiyatbadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), Jagibhakatgaon unit under the Morigaon District Committee, held a protest rally on Monday and submitted a memorandum to the chief minister through the Mayang revenue circle officer, demanding the retention of Bhura-gaon and Mikirbhata Revenue Circles. The union stated that the Assam government's notification regarding the deletion of the two revenue circles would cause immense hardship to the local population. Jishnu Pratim Bardoli, president, and Dulu Deka, acting general secretary of the Jagibhakatgaon unit of AJYCP, signed the memorandum.

NFR marks Vigilance Awareness Week

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 28: Observance of 'Vigilance Awareness Week' began across NF Railway on Monday. The Integrity Pledge was administered by Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, general manager of Northeast Frontier Railway, at Dr Bhupen Hazarika Sabha Griha in the NF Railway Headquarters complex, and by Arun Kumar Chaudhary, general manager, NF Railway (Construction), at the premises of the GM (CON)'s office in Mailo-gaon. All divisional railway managers in their respective divisions, along with employees of the entire NF Railway family also took the Integrity Pledge. The aim of this pledge is to foster integrity and transparency in all spheres of activity, thereby eradicating corruption in every aspect of life, including the work environment. The theme leading this 2024 awareness week is 'Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity'. The week-long campaign will conclude on November 3, 2024.



Aspiring entrepreneurs trained in Sivasagar

HT Correspondent
SIVASAGAR, Oct 28: The three-phase entrepreneurship development program for 620 beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan, held at Sivasagar Commerce College, concluded on Monday. In the final phase, 120 beneficiaries received training on agriculture, fishery, service sector, and various other subjects. Inaugurating the program, speaker Manoj Kumar Borthakur said that one must have self-belief to tread unexplored paths and establish oneself in life, regardless of their background. The abandoned low-lying swamps of Nagaon and other districts have been transformed into gold-yielding fisheries by industrious settlers from erstwhile East Pakistan, and now we, the indigenous people, are envious of them, he added.

Governor attends programme on 'Music For Harmony'

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 28: Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya attended a programme on "Music For Harmony" organised by Nobel Art Documentation and Development Foundation (NADDF) and National Foundation for Cultural Harmony in collaboration with Cotton University on Monday. The event was held at the KBR auditorium in Cotton University, Guwahati. Speaking on the occasion Governor Acharya said, "Music is a divine gift and its importance in fostering unity and cultural harmony is immense. Music is a unique gift of God to the man. It is an integral part of our culture, which is not only a source of joy but also a symbol of goodwill and unity". The Governor highlighted several key points as to how music can be helpful in strengthening unity amidst diversities. He said that music always acts as a universal language and transcends boundaries and linguistic barriers. He said that with seven musical notes and rhythms remaining constant across cultures, music creates a catharsis and augurs peace and harmony. He cited examples of how music played a crucial role in India's freedom movement through songs like "Jana Gana Mana and Vande Mataram". The Governor also emphasized India's unique classical musical repository as an important part of the nation's intangible cultural heritage. The Governor also commended the Nobel Art Documentation and Development Foundation for its decade-long commitment to promoting peace and harmony through music. The Governor also reiterated the im-



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
LANGSOLIET HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
LANGSOLIET, KARBI-ANGLONG, ASSAM

Memo No: LHSE/Appt/2023/1610 Dated: Langsoliet, 14-12-2023

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Applications are invited from the eligible candidates, who are citizens of India as defined under Article 5-8 of the Constitution of India, in the prescribed Standard Form of Application published in part IX, Assam Gazette along with copies of certificates, mark sheets, other testimonials and documents, duly attested by a gazetted officer, as well as 02 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs, contact information and valid Age/Address proof documents, for filling up of the following vacant posts at Langsoliet Higher Secondary School (newly established Adhoc - Higher Secondary Level - Arts) under the Inspectorate of School, KADC, Diphu.

Sl. No	Name of Post	GIA p.m	No of Vacancies	Minimum Educational Qualifications
1	Subject Teacher - Education	16,200	1	Masters degree with Education from recognized institution

N.B: Preference will be given to candidates with B. Ed degree, at least 50% marks, as well as verified teaching experience

Last Date of Submission of Application: 10-11-2024

Terms and Conditions:-

- Age - Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not more than 38 as on 01/01/2024 for Gen/OBC/MOBC and 43 years for ST/SC
- The ST/SC and MOBC candidates will be required to submit caste certificate along with the application
- Documents related to valid Employment Exchange Registration must be enclosed with the application
- Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected on the spot
- Application must reach the office of the Langsoliet Higher Secondary School on or before 10-11-2024. Or can be contacted to the number of Principal: 9678755391
- Application received either by post or by hand after the last date/time of submission of application will not be accepted under any circumstances
- The selection decisions undertaken by the hiring panel shall be final and binding

Sd/-
Principal
Langsoliet Higher Secondary School

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Champions keep playing until they get it right
— Billie Jean King

Kazan summit and economic ties

BRICS nations concluded their annual summit in the Russian city of Kazan on October 24 resolving to deepen economic ties. Plans to deepen financial cooperation and develop alternatives to Western-dominated payment systems were also discussed, besides offering African nations a bigger say in the changing global order. The BRICS group has become a major political force in the last two decades, building on its desire to create a counterweight to Western influence in global institutions. The group's expansion in 2023 increased its heft. After Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) joined it in 2023, the alliance that initially referred to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa has gradually become a bigger body. Russian President Vladimir Putin at the BRICS closing session in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan said all countries joining the bloc "share similar aspirations and values and a vision of new democratic global order." The three-day summit, which ended last Thursday, also provided a platform for member countries to discuss plans to deepen financial cooperation and develop alternatives to Western-dominated payment systems.

At the same time, the summit also brought out new disagreements on issues such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia's 2024 leadership could intensify the bloc's anti-West focus, including attempts to edge out the US dollar - though experts feel that it may be an uphill task. Though there are assumptions that the bloc could undermine the Western-led international order, sceptics say its ambitions to create its own currency and develop a workable alternative to existing institutions face potentially insurmountable challenges. The group's 2024 expansion comes with a range of geopolitical implications. It represents growing economic and demographic heft: the ten BRICS countries now comprise more than a quarter of the global economy and almost half of the world's population. The group is poised to exert influence over the wars in the Gaza Strip and Ukraine, the shape of the global economic system, the competition between China and the West, and efforts to transition to clean energy.

BRICS' thematic priorities are, firstly, advocate for greater representation in global organisations. The group aims both to push for reform of existing institutions, and to form negotiating blocs within those institutions. Secondly, coordinate a balanced economic policy. Thirdly and most ambitiously, work out a new global payment system to reduce reliance on the US dollar. And lastly, create an alternative finance system. Indeed, this year's Summit Declaration may offer little of substance. But there were a number of bilateral meetings before and in the margins of the gathering that are more indicative of the direction of BRICS. Perhaps most importantly, India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, and China's president, Xi Jinping, held their first face-to-face discussion in five years. A warming of relations between China and India could generate more momentum for BRICS to deliver on its ambitious agenda to develop, and ultimately implement, a vision for a new global order.

Dhanteras: The festival of rain of wealth, happiness and religion

Dhanteras is the festival of Prosperity, Happiness and Joy that can boost economic growth. Literal meaning of Dhanteras is qualitative correction of the economy. On this day, lamps of hope are decorated in homes and in markets currency is exchanged. It is believed that things purchased on this day increase manifold. It has been told in the scriptures that by taking some measures on this day, the wealth of the grain is filled eternally in the house and the grace of Mother Lakshmi remains forever. According to the Indian system, all the worship is coordinated behavior of these three forms i.e. physical, spiritual and semi-spiritual.

According to religious beliefs, in this festival Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped physically in the form of gold, silver, coins etc., and spiritually by accepting the relationship with the Divine Lakshmi. A highly auspicious and significant Hindu festival, Dhanteras is celebrated on the 13th lunar day of Krishna Paksha in Ashwin, one of the months of the Hindu calendar. This year it falls on Tuesday, 29th October. The name 'Dhanteras,' is known to be a combination of two Sanskrit words, meaning 'Dhan,' or wealth, and 'Teras,' emphasizing the 13th day.

People on this festive day indulge in the age-old ritual of buying gold and silver ornaments, vehicles, and utensils to welcome prosperity in life with their full belief and faith. It is particularly a sacred day for seeking the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi, believed to be the goddess of wealth, and Lord Ganesha, the god of knowledge.

In Hindu mythology, Dhanteras is marked as the day on which Goddess Lakshmi emerged from the ocean during the oceanic churning of the Kshira Sagar, popularly known as 'Samudra Manthan.' It was also on this day that the god of medicine, Lord Dhanvantari, emerged with the 'Amrit', known for its eternal purity, divinity, and immortality.

And so, on Dhanteras, material

wealth, health, and well-being are brought into the home, making it an immensely important day in Hindu culture. Dhanteras has great historical, mythological, and cultural importance.

The decoration of houses with flowers, diyas, rangoli patterns etc. is done to reveal the beauty of Lakshmi's spiritual form. The worship of Goddess Lakshmi i.e. abode of wealth and happiness and prosperity is done in this festival in the above three ways. When we meditate on wealth, we thank the universal soul for its abundance. We also pray for more so that we can become more prosperous. This prosperity is not only of gold and silver but also of knowledge, joy, confidence, peace and love.

Gold silver is only an external symbol. Wealth is within us. There is a lot of love, peace and joy within. What more do you want than this? Knowledge is real wealth. Your character, your peace and self-confidence are your real wealth. When you move forward in union with God, there is no more wealth than this.

This royal idea comes only when you are united with God and his infinity. When the wave remembers that it is associated with the sea and it is part of the ocean, it gives immense power.

Dharma (Righteousness), Artha (Prosperity), Kama (Pleasure) and Moksha (liberation) have been the objectives of life in Indian culture. There have always been efforts to achieve them.

Along with them religion has also been given equal importance and the need to coordinate between the two has also been expressed, but whenever their efforts to coordinate are weakened, then there is an imbalance and chaos in the society. It has been said in the scriptures that the meaning of wealth is only when the life of a person is full of virtues.

But in recent years, our society's mindset and standards regarding prosperity have changed. Today, prosperity has come to mean only financial prosperity. Human values

and ideologies have been marginalized in the society and earning money and wishing money is becoming the biggest goal. Why did this happen? Are these the seeds of this trend in our traditions or is it a result of market pressures? Where will this kind of mentality take society? These are some important questions, which need to be churned on a holy festival like Dhanteras.

Lakshmi's form is trident. She lives in body, mind and money. There are five types of happiness - body, mind, wealth, wife and children. There are eight forms of Lakshmi. Adya Lakshmi or Mahalakshmi (Virgo), Dhan Lakshmi (wealth, wealth, investment, economy), Dhanya Lakshmi (food), Gajalakshmi (animal and natural wealth), Sanatana Lakshmi (good fortune, health, age and prosperity), Veera Lakshmi (heroic) Lakshmi means Defense, Security), Vijaya Lakshmi (Digdiganta Vijay), Vidyā Lakshmi (Knowledge, Knowledge, Art Science), these eight forms combine to form the festival of Goddess Mahalakshmi.

Diwali means Festival of Lights. Wherever there is light of these eight forms; the spirit of Diwali definitely exists. Lakshmi's adobe is not restricted to a small unit. She resides everywhere. The richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor are entitled to the light and prosperity. This means that Lakshmi resides in mind. She is the confirmation of body, mind, wealth, family and children.

May this Dhanteras our prosperity be qualitative, but the new outlook that is flourishing in the name of prosperity is not only fatal but also a serious sign of danger to human existence. Capitalism riding on the back of imperialism has increased the richness of the rich on one hand and on the other hand, poverty has also increased.

The gap between richness and poverty is increasing rather than decreasing, as a result of which we

can see the horrors of war, terrorism, communalism, which have the consequences of violence, hatred, malice in society, Greed, fierce competition, relationship cracks etc. Most impacts have emerged as environmental imbalances and pollution.

Due to limited prosperity in a few hands, not only large and so-called affluent people, but a large section of the country has fallen victim to zero degeneration due to ill-humanism. Many evils came home without being called. Like world wars between Israel-Hamas and Russia and Ukraine.

We Created terrorism. Man-to-man has become insecure. Prohibitive rites such as violence, lies, theft, rape, collection have caught man. Not only the faces have lost their identity but also the character. The centers of policy and loyalty have begun to change. The foundations of faith have begun to weaken. The blind race of meaning connected the individual with collection, convenience, pleasure, luxury and selfishness.

The problem that appeared was - the less the substance, the more the consumer. Individualistic attitude awakened. In the struggle for selfishness, injustice and exploitation started happening. Everyone feel alone. Surely there is an error in our worship of our wealth and the worship that is being done to achieve it.

Our attitude towards money is dissonant. In this process, how is the true spirit of Diwali and Dhanteras celebrated? Because all the social beliefs, human values, dignities are being considered as the standard of success, whatever the amount of money collected, politics, literature, art, religion are all being weighed on the scales of money. This trend is leading to very dangerous results.

Prosperity has been the dream of every era and has been included in the essentials of life. In a relative view, prosperity is not bad, but bad is the mindset in which some peo-

ple are distinguished by the basic needs of a large number of people by virtue of their exploitation.

Bad is that glorious display of prosperity that opens opportunities for crime to flourish. There is bitterness in the relationship between your loved ones, drawing the lines of distinction. There is more competition for collections than necessary. Uncontrolled demand and sensory incontinence has risen. Rituals of violence and attachment awaken. With prosperity, a person's habit, aptitude, aspiration, and many more are affected by upscale and taken the wrong direction.

The person makes false appearances in the glare of fashion. Drinks, intoxicated by drugs. Breaks the dignity of food and drink. The so-called modern lifestyle of prosperity has led to a dislike for life values. The changing meaning of prosperity can become welfare only when character loyalty and morality are maintained along with prosperity.

It is important to adopt pure means, so that the means obtained in the form of prosperity are used with the right goal in the right direction. Awaken the consciousness of immersion with the collection. Desire is substantive restraint, moderation along with enjoyment is also necessary.

The changing patterns of prosperity give rise to formations, give creativity to the ideological outlook, and stop the evils that flourish with modernity, move forward by building faith and humanity. Where have you been safe today - with the ideal of prosperity reaching man with faith? Who moderates their facilities? Who does the immersion of goodness? Who is able to give restraint to selfishness?

Even if we do not have a car or other luxuries we must have the ability of character qualities because on the strength of this ability, we can make ourselves super powerful, only then our Dhanteras will be meaningful. (The author is a *journalist & columnist who can be reached at lalitgarg11@gmail.com*)

Dhanteras: A journey of light, wealth, and good fortune

By: Satyabrata Borah

Dhanteras is one of the most important festivals in Hindu culture, and it marks the beginning of the five-day-long Diwali celebrations. The name "Dhanteras" is derived from two words: "Dhan" meaning wealth and "Teras" referring to the thirteenth day of the Hindu calendar. This festival is celebrated on the thirteenth lunar day of the Krishna Paksha, or the dark fortnight, in the month of Ashwin. It is primarily dedicated to Lord Dhanvantari, who is considered the god of health and healing, and it also honors Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. The day holds great significance for people across India and other parts of the world, where Hindu traditions are followed.

The festival of Dhanteras is considered highly auspicious for making new purchases, especially precious metals like gold and silver, and household items. It is believed that buying new items on this day brings good luck, prosperity, and protection against negative energies. In many households, people purchase new utensils, jewelry, and sometimes even new appliances as a symbolic gesture of inviting wealth and abundance into their lives. Shops and markets are bustling with activity, and the joy of the festival can be seen in the vibrant and colorful decorations everywhere.

The legend behind Dhanteras adds to the spiritual and cultural significance of the festival. According to Hindu mythology, when the gods and demons churned the ocean (Samudra Manthan) to obtain the nectar of immortality, several divine beings and objects emerged from the ocean. One of them was Lord Dhanvantari, who appeared holding a pot of Amrit (the nectar of immortality) in one hand and the holy scriptures in the other. Lord Dhanvantari is believed to be the god of Ayurveda, and his emergence from the ocean signifies the importance of good health and well-being, alongside wealth and prosperity.

On the evening of Dhanteras, people perform a special puja (prayer) to honor Lord Dhanvantari and seek blessings for good health. Lamps are lit and placed at the entrance of homes, as well as in various corners of the house, to ward off evil spirits and bring in positive energy. This practice is symbolic of welcoming divine blessings into one's home and life. The lighting of lamps is a way of dispelling darkness and negativity, which aligns with the overall theme of Diwali, the festival of lights.

Another popular story associated with Dhanteras is the legend of King Hima's son. According to the story, it was predicted that the young prince would die from a snake bite on the fourth day of his marriage. However, his wife came up with a clever plan to save him. On the night when the fatal event was supposed to occur, she lit many lamps, placed all her gold and silver ornaments around their bed, and sang songs to keep her husband awake. When Lord Yama, the god of death, came in the form of a snake to take the prince's life, he was blinded by the bright light of the lamps

and the dazzling jewels. Unable to approach the prince, Yama left, and the prince's life was spared. This story highlights the protective and life-affirming aspects of Dhanteras, and it is believed that lighting lamps and worshipping on this day can help avoid untimely death and bring good fortune.

Dhanteras is not just a day to pray for material wealth but also a day to seek spiritual well-being. The prayers offered during the festival focus on both physical and mental health, as well as the well-being of loved ones. It is a day to reflect on the importance of health, as it is often said that health is the greatest wealth. Without good health, no amount of wealth can bring true happiness or contentment. This is why many people use Dhanteras as an opportunity to make donations or help those in need, ensuring that the blessings they receive are shared with others.

In the business world, Dhanteras is also considered a very important day. Many businesses and traders close their financial books on this day and pray for a prosperous new year. The festival symbolizes the beginning of a new financial cycle, and it is common to see accounts being balanced, and new records being started. This practice underscores the deep connection between faith, commerce, and daily life in Hindu culture. Business owners believe that by starting fresh on such an auspicious day, they are setting the stage for success and growth in the coming year. The preparations for Dhanteras begin days in advance, as people clean and decorate their homes in anticipation of the festival. Cleaning the house is seen as an important ritual because it symbolizes the removal of old, unwanted things and the clearing of negative energies. This allows for a fresh and positive start. People also decorate their homes with rangoli, which are colorful patterns made with powdered colors, flowers, or rice. These decorations are made at the entrance of homes to welcome Goddess Lakshmi, as it is believed that she visits homes that are clean and beautifully decorated. The day of Dhanteras also sees people shopping for items that they believe will bring good fortune. Gold and silver are particularly sought after because they are considered to be symbols of prosperity and are associated with the goddess Lakshmi. However, even those who cannot afford to buy expensive items make it a point to buy something new, no matter how small, as a way of welcoming positive energy into their homes. It is common to see people purchasing kitchen utensils, which also symbolize a new beginning and the prosperity of the household.

On Dhanteras, in many parts of India, people also worship cows, as they are considered sacred in Hinduism and are believed to bring prosperity and good fortune. Cows are often garlanded and fed with special treats as part of the rituals. This practice reflects the respect and reverence for animals, which is an integral part of Hindu culture and philosophy. By honoring cows on this day, people are reminded of the im-

portance of being kind and compassionate toward all living beings.

The celebration of Dhanteras varies across different regions of India, but the essence of the festival remains the same everywhere. In northern India, the day is marked by large-scale purchases of gold and silver, while in southern India, people focus more on worshipping Lord Dhanvantari for good health. In western India, particularly in the state of Gujarat, Dhanteras is celebrated with great enthusiasm, as it coincides with the Gujarati New Year. Traders and businessmen in Gujarat perform special rituals in their shops and offices, praying for a successful and prosperous year ahead.

In Maharashtra, Dhanteras is also an important day for buying new vehicles and other assets. People perform a small puja for their new purchases, believing that this will protect them from accidents and bring success in their ventures. The festival is also seen as a time for families to come together, exchange gifts, and share in the joy of the occasion. Many households prepare special dishes and sweets to mark the celebration, and the festive atmosphere is filled with love, joy, and togetherness.

The spiritual aspect of Dhanteras cannot be overlooked. While the festival is associated with wealth and prosperity, it is also a reminder of the importance of gratitude and humility. People are encouraged to reflect on their blessings, and to recognize that wealth is not just about material possessions but also about the richness of relationships, health, and inner peace. The act of offering prayers, lighting lamps, and performing rituals is a way of connecting with the divine and expressing gratitude for the abundance in one's life. In modern times, Dhanteras continues to be celebrated with great enthusiasm, though some of the customs have evolved with changing lifestyles. With the rise of online shopping, many people now purchase their gold, silver, and other items through e-commerce platforms, making the process more convenient. However, the core values and beliefs associated with the festival remain unchanged. People still view Dhanteras as an opportunity to invite good fortune, prosperity, and happiness into their lives, and they continue to honor the traditions passed down through generations.

In conclusion, Dhanteras is much more than just a day to buy gold and silver. It is a festival that celebrates the values of health, wealth, and prosperity. It is a time for families to come together, for businesses to seek new beginnings, and for individuals to reflect on the blessings in their lives. Whether through the lighting of lamps, the purchasing of new items, or the performing of rituals, Dhanteras offers a chance to start fresh and invite positivity and abundance into every aspect of life. The festival's deep connection to health, wealth, and well-being makes it one of the most significant days in the Hindu calendar, and its celebration continues to bring joy and hope to millions of people each year.

Dhanteras: Celebrating wealth, health, and divine blessings

By: Dipak Kurmi

India, a land steeped in ancient traditions and vibrant culture, celebrates a multitude of festivals that symbolize faith, devotion, and timeless customs. Among the myriad of festivals that brighten India's cultural landscape, Dhanteras holds a special place as the herald of the Diwali festivities. This festival, rich in symbolism and historical depth, is observed with immense fervor across the nation, marking the beginning of Diwali, the festival of lights. Known as Dhanvantari Trayodashi or simply Dhanteras, the festival occurs on the thirteenth lunar day (Trayodashi) of Krishna Paksha (the dark fortnight) in the Hindu calendar month of Ashwin or Kartika, depending on regional traditions.

Mythological origins and reverence for Dhanvantari
Dhanteras carries not only the spiritual weight of centuries but also embodies the reverence towards Lord Dhanvantari, the divine patron of Ayurveda. According to Hindu mythology, Dhanvantari emerged from the cosmic ocean churning, known as the Samudra Manthana, bearing in one hand the pot of amrita, the nectar of immortality, and in the other, the sacred texts of Ayurveda. Dhanvantari's role as the divine healer has made him the god of Ayurveda, celebrated for imparting the knowledge of life and healing for the benefit of humanity. Recognizing his significance, the Indian government declared Dhanteras as National Ayurveda Day, first celebrated on October 28, 2016, aiming to promote the traditional science of Ayurveda and its healing wisdom.

The essence of Dhanteras: A tribute to wealth and prosperity

At its core, Dhanteras celebrates the acquisition and renewal of wealth, symbolized by dhan (meaning wealth) and teras (meaning thirteen). Traditionally, the festival is considered auspicious for buying precious metals like gold, silver, and kitchenware. In modern times, the day witnesses a surge in purchases of various items, from jewellery and utensils to appliances and even automobiles. The day has become synonymous with financial prosperity and the start of preparations for Diwali.

The observance of Dhanteras is marked by the worship of Lord Kubera, the god of wealth, and Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity. Devotional rituals, or Lakshmi Puja, are performed in the evenings, with households adorning their spaces with clay lamps (diyas), symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness. The singing of bhajans, or devotional hymns, fills the air, and offerings of traditional sweets are made to invite prosperity and divine blessings. It is believed that bringing new wealth or acquiring items made from precious metals on this day ushers good fortune into one's life.

A Festival rooted in sacred legends

The rich mythology surrounding Dhanteras includes fascinating stories that have become an integral part of the festival's observance. One popular legend is the tale of a king's son whose horoscope foretold an untimely death on the fourth day of his marriage, owing to a fatal snake bite. Determined to thwart this prediction, his wife devised a plan to keep her husband awake through the night, narrating stories and singing songs. She further placed all her ornaments and coins at the entrance of their chamber in a dazzling heap to ward off the impending danger.

When the god of death, Yamaraja, approached in the guise of a serpent, he was blinded by the brilliance of the jewellery and became captivated by the wife's songs, ultimately sparing the prince's life. Since then, people worship Yamaraja on Dhanteras, lighting lamps outside their homes to ward off untimely death and bring longevity to family members. Another legend closely tied to Dhanteras is the story of Lord Dhanvantari's appearance during the Samudra Manthana. As the physician of the gods, Dhanvantari is regarded as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, and his emergence from the ocean with the nectar of immortality and the sacred

Ayurvedic texts symbolizes the healing power that Ayurveda brings to humanity. To honor his legacy, people worship Dhanvantari on this day, praying for health and relief from chronic ailments.

Dhanteras and modern day observances

Dhanteras, while steeped in ancient traditions, has evolved over time. The modern celebration of Dhanteras has expanded to include shopping sprees, where people eagerly purchase appliances, vehicles, and household goods. Markets bustle with activity as people make their way to stores, infusing the day with excitement and a collective sense of renewal. This tradition of buying, particularly in the form of gold and silver, continues to be associated with invoking the blessings of prosperity and abundance in one's life.

In rural areas, Dhanteras also holds significance for the agricultural community, as farmers pay homage to their cattle, which represent their primary means of livelihood. Cattle are adorned and worshipped, symbolizing gratitude for the sustenance and wealth they bring.

Cleansing, renewal, and the invocation of auspiciousness

Dhanteras embodies the themes of cleansing, renewal, and the invocation of auspiciousness. In keeping with these themes, people purchase items like brooms, which are seen as symbolic tools for sweeping away negative energy, debts, and misfortunes. The act of cleaning one's home and purchasing a new broom is believed to invite Goddess Lakshmi, who is drawn to cleanliness, into the household, bringing with her an abundance of blessings. The idea is that a clean and welcoming environment will encourage the goddess of prosperity to bestow her gifts upon the household.

Symbolism of light, dice, and the convergence of tradition

Dhanteras holds a special place in the Diwali season, marking the beginning of a period dedicated to prosperity, renewal, and divine blessings. The lighting of lamps, or diyas, outside homes not only symbolizes the banishment of darkness but also commemorates the victory of light and knowledge. One story recounts how on this day, Goddess Parvati played a game of dice with Lord Shiva and emerged victorious, adding an element of fortune and luck to the festivities. In her honor, Dhanteras is considered a day when fortune and prosperity are amplified through devotion, purity, and an adherence to tradition.

Celebrating health and longevity

As the birth anniversary of the god of Ayurveda, Dhanteras is also a celebration of health and well-being. Devotees turn to Lord Dhanvantari, seeking his blessings to ward off illness and to find healing through Ayurveda's timeless principles. The alignment of the festival with the National Ayurveda Day in India underscores the importance of holistic health, natural remedies, and the science of longevity as core values of Indian tradition. Through prayers and rituals, people express gratitude for the wisdom of Ayurveda and seek to imbue their lives with balance, vitality, and protection from chronic ailments.

The everlasting light of Dhanteras

Dhanteras, as a precursor to Diwali, illuminates not only physical spaces but also hearts and minds. It serves as a reminder of India's vast heritage, where wealth, health, and spirituality are interwoven in rituals that have been passed down through generations. This festival, with its emphasis on wealth, divine healing, and familial protection, is a testament to the enduring spirit of India's cultural and religious practices. As homes and marketplaces are adorned with lights and new treasures, Dhanteras continues to be a day that invites hope, happiness, and the anticipation of prosperity. May this Dhanteras bring an abundant shower of wealth, health, and peace into our lives, casting away darkness and ushering in the light of well-being and success. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

Dark tourism: Why people are visiting sites of military attacks, war zones and disasters



By: Juliet Rogers

There is a disturbing trend of people travelling to the sadder places of the world: sites of military attacks, war zones and disasters. Dark tourism is now a phenomenon, with its own website and dedicated tour guides. People visit these places to mourn, or to remember and honour the dead. But sometimes they just want to look, and sometimes they want to delight in the pain of others.

Of course, people have long visited places like the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial, the site of the Twin Towers destroyed in the 9/11 attacks, Robben Island Prison, where Nelson Mandela and others spent many years, and more recently, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. But there are more recent destinations, connected to active wars and aggression.

Since the Hamas military attacks of October 7, 2023, in which around 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage, celebrities and tourists have visited the related sites of the Nova music festival and the Nir Oz Kibbutz in Palestine/Israel.

The kibbutz tours, guided by former residents, allow people to view and be guided through houses of the dead, to be shown photographs and bullet holes. Sderot, the biggest city targeted by Hamas, is offering what it describes as "resilience tours", connecting tourists with October 7 survivors.

Similar places are visited in Ukraine. The "popular" Donbas war tour, for instance, takes visitors to the front lines of the conflict and offers "a first-hand look at the impact of the war on the local population", introducing them to displaced locals, soldiers and volunteer fighters. There's also a Kyiv tour, which takes in destroyed military equipment and what remains of missile strikes.

Solidarity tours

These tours have various names, but one Israeli company calls them "solidarity tours". The idea of solidarity lessens the presumption of voyeurism, or the accusation of ghoulish enjoyment of pain or suffering. It suggests an affinity with those who have died or those who have lost loved ones.

But solidarity is a political affiliation too. These tours are not only therapeutic. They are not only about "bearing witness", as many guides and visitors attest. They are also about solidarity with the struggle.

What is this struggle? Genocide scholar Dirk Moses has written thoughtfully on this after October 7. Colonial states seek not just security, but "permanent security". This makes them hyper-defensive of their borders. Israel was created as a nation by the newly formed United Nations in 1947, two years after the end of World War II and in the shadow of the Holocaust: it was an inevitable product of the Balfour Declaration (1917) that carved up the Middle East.

The creation of the Israeli state turned relationships between Palestinians and Jewish people into borders to navigate and police, producing a line of security to defend.

These borders have long been sites of humiliation

and denigration toward Palestinians, whose homelands have been now occupied for many generations.

Israeli Defense Force soldiers themselves have spoken passionately about the brutal and arbitrary violence that occurs there, including "creative punishments". These were the borders that protected the sites targeted by Hamas. The Nova music festival was five kilometres from one of these borders.

For many Israelis, any breach of those borders, any sense of loss of control, courts the terrors of the past. It raises the spectre of the Holocaust: the destruction of European Jewry, the loss of sovereignty over family, home, and over life, the loss of millions of lives, again. For Israel, as for any colonial state, security is a permanent aspiration, in Moses's terms. The stakes are high.

Dark tourism, seen in this light, is not only solidarity with those who have lost loved ones on October 7. It is solidarity with the border, with those who have lost that security. And that loss is profound, traumatic and, at least psychologically, can provoke violent reactions in an effort to have the borders - geographical and psychological - re-asserted.

'I stand with you'

Transitional justice mechanisms such as the truth commissions in South Africa, Timor Leste and Argentina apply legal frameworks to heal nations from the trauma of crimes against humanity. These mechanisms are one choice after experiences of mass violence. Ironically, their catchphrase is *Nunca Mas* (never again), which was the title of the 1984 report by Argentina's National Commission on the Disappeared.

Permanent security of the kind Israel is seeking is another choice - and its catchphrase might well be the same. Never again will Israel's borders be breached, never again will Jewish life be subjected to mass destruction with impunity.

This is what solidarity can mean: not only grieving alongside those who have suffered, but attachment to an identity and borders, which are reinforced through participation. "I stand with you" is perhaps what the visits are for. I stand with you on this land, at this time, and perhaps for all time.

But stand beside you in what now? In grief, yes. But also in rage, in pain, in vengeance and, for some, in making Israel great again.

The hashtag #stand-with-us accompanies some calls for visits to the October 7 sites, for this form of tourism. It means stand with us at Israel's border. From there, you can hear the sound of bombs falling: in Gaza, a place where no solidarity tour will go. Yet.

Memorials, grief, understanding

Dark tourism is not always for those associated with the events. Some people visit sites of disaster and loss because they want to understand the greater sadnesses of the world and its formidable brutalities. Some want to show their respect to others. It's not dissimilar to visiting memorials.

Memorials collate the disparate parts of grief and reflect it as public memory. They offer fragments of historical pain that can

be borne in more than one mind, to create a shared reality.

In Pretoria, South Africa, a memorial called Freedom Park depicts the names of every person who died in every war fought in South Africa, as well as those South Africans who died in the world wars. The names are written on a wall that circles the park. It is impossible long and circular, and you cannot measure it with your own stride. It is disorientating and interminable, like grief.

In this memorial-metaphor, you are unable to comprehend - and at the same time are awash with - a history of loss, represented by the names. The walls contain you, and then they cannot. Grief and even solidarity is not always about comprehension or containment.

Sometimes it is about proximity. Sometimes, it is about sitting with not knowing. Sometimes, it is about solidarity with something that cannot be made sense of.

Trauma, psychoanalysis tells us, is an experience of what we cannot assimilate. If you sit in proximity to people and places where traumatic events have happened, you can learn something. If you see the bullet holes at a site of loss, you can comprehend something. But not everything. Bullet holes in a wall are the very definition of a partial story.

People visit memorials and sites of loss to learn and to unlearn. Dark tourism has this quality.

Obscurity of understanding

In my field, criminology and trauma studies, we try to understand why people do the violent things they do. Holocaust filmmaker and commentator Claude Lanzmann has said we must not indulge in what he calls the "obscurity of the project of understanding" in relation to Nazi perpetrators of the Holocaust.

He regards curiosity about the minds of perpetrators and the rationale for violence as a violence in itself. Of the Holocaust, he says you cannot ask "Why were the Jews killed?". It is the result that matters. But it is also the reaction that matters. The state of Israel itself - permanent security and its attendant horrors - is part of that reaction.

But understanding can influence the reaction to violence, and contribute something to the promise of Never Again. Understanding allows us to hold more than one story in mind. It allows us to do more than count the more than 1,200 killed in Israel, or the 41,689 (plus) Palestinians killed in Gaza. Bodies are always more than numbers. But explanation is one thing, justification another. Justification is best left to the courts, international or otherwise, after the violence has ceased.

It is hard to hear about dark tourism in Israel/Palestine and in Ukraine and try to understand it. It is hard not to condemn the tourists. But we are quick to condemn at this time - and even quicker to demand others do the same.

Perhaps we should not be so righteous, and we should resist the urge to easily condemn, from our homes in what Tim Rowse has called the "ongoing colonial encounter sometimes called 'Australia'".

Indigenous people here speak of the lack of memorials on this land. But every bordered property is a site for dark tourism in Australia. Dark tourism is the effort to seek out destinations of violence and devastation, but it is not hard to see genocide from our front door in this country. (Courtesy: Scroll.in)

Childhood: A right, not a privilege

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuvan

In a world often marred by stark inequalities and unyielding challenges, the essence of childhood remains a beacon of hope and possibility. Childhood is not merely a transitional phase; it is a sacred period where the seeds of future potential are sown, nurtured by experiences of joy, curiosity, and wonder. However, this vibrant tapestry of youth is increasingly frayed by the harsh threads of exploitation, neglect, and abuse.

The notion that "Childhood is a right, not a privilege" encapsulates the urgent necessity to recognize and safeguard the fundamental rights of every child, ensuring that the joyous spirit of youth flourishes unimpeded by the burdens of adult responsibilities and societal failures.

At the heart of this assertion lies the recognition that childhood is a universal entitlement that transcends geographical, social, and economic boundaries. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) serves as a resounding affirmation of this principle, establishing a framework that guarantees the right to survival, development, protection, and participation for all children.

Yet, despite the global acknowledgment of these rights, millions of children find themselves ensnared in circumstances that deprive them of their basic entitlements. In this dissonance between ideals and reality, we are compelled to confront a profound injustice: the plight of children rendered invisible, their voices silenced amid the cacophony of adult concerns. The staggering prevalence of child labor starkly illustrates the urgent need for a paradigm shift in our understanding of childhood.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), approximately 160 million children are engaged in child labor, toiling in perilous conditions that threaten their health and well-being. These young laborers, driven by necessity, become unwitting participants in a system that prioritizes short-term economic gains over their rights and futures.

As they labor in fields, factories, and streets, they forfeit not only their childhood but also the opportunity to receive an education - a critical factor that could empower them to break the chains of poverty. The irony is both poignant and painful: families, in their desperate bids for survival, often rely on the income generated by their children's labor, perpetuating a cycle



that ensnares generations in despair.

Yet, child labor is merely one facet of a multifaceted crisis that plagues the most vulnerable members of our society. The insidious nature of child trafficking reveals another layer of exploitation that demands our immediate attention. Children, lured by promises of safety and prosperity, are trafficked across borders, subjected to horrific conditions of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

The United Nations estimates that over 1.2 million children fall victim to trafficking each year, an alarming statistic that underscores the urgent need for a concerted global response. These children are stripped of their dignity, treated as commodities to be bought and sold, their rights trampled underfoot in the relentless pursuit of profit.

Moreover, violence against children - whether physical, emotional, or sexual - remains a pervasive violation of their rights.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that one in four children experiences physical violence, while one in five girls is subjected to sexual violence. These statistics paint a grim picture of a world where children, who should be nurtured and protected, are instead caught in the crossfire of adult conflicts and societal failings.

The silence surrounding these issues is deafening, as the very environments meant to foster growth and learning often become arenas of danger and trauma. In this culture of silence, the rights of children remain unacknowledged, and their pleas for help go unheard.

To shift the narrative from viewing childhood as a privilege to recognizing it as an inalienable right, we must embark on a multifaceted journey that encompasses education, community engagement, legislation, and individual advocacy. Education emerges as the cornerstone of this transformation, serving as both a shield and a sword in the fight for children's rights.

WORLD STROKE

Regular exercise not only a preventive but also a rehab tool for stroke

By: Dr Amit Shrivastav

Stroke is a medical emergency and every 40 seconds, someone in the country suffers a stroke, and every four minutes, someone loses their life to it. This year, World Stroke Day highlights the transformative theme, "#GreaterThanStrokeActiveChallenge," a call to empower communities around the world to embrace sports and physical activity as a vital force in stroke prevention and rehabilitation. With stroke remaining one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability, this campaign underscores how an active lifestyle is not only a preventive tool but also an aid to recovery, empowering people to push beyond the limitations of stroke.

By bringing attention to the benefits of physical activity in managing stroke risk and supporting recovery, this year's World Stroke Day encourages individuals, families, and communities to come together to address stroke proactively.

Understanding stroke: The importance of immediate action

A stroke occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain is blocked, either by a clot in the case of an ischemic stroke or by a ruptured blood vessel, causing a hemorrhagic stroke. This interruption deprives brain cells of oxygen and nutrients, leading to cell death within minutes. As stroke attacks brain tissue, it can result in physical disabilities, speech and memory problems, and other long-lasting effects. The severity depends on the extent and location of brain damage, but timely intervention is crucial in reducing the chances of severe disability or death.

Raising awareness among the public about the acronym - "FAST" Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, and Time to call emergency services - can save lives. Knowing these signs helps individuals take swift action and improves the chances of timely treatment.

Physical activity as a key player in stroke prevention

Stroke is often preventable and that lifestyle choices play a major role in reducing one's risk. According to the American Heart Association, physical activity can lower the risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity - all major contributors to stroke risk. Regular activity improves cardiovascular health by enhancing blood flow, lowering inflammation, and improving the function of blood vessels.

For those seeking to prevent stroke, aiming for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week can significantly reduce risk. Activities like walking, swimming, cycling, and dancing are not only enjoyable but effective in keeping the body active. Strengthening the heart and maintaining a healthy weight have shown to be crucial factors in lowering stroke risk. But beyond these well-known benefits, sports and physical activities provide a sense of community, accountability, and motivation, helping people make physical activity a sustainable part of their lives.

The role of exercise in stroke rehabilitation

Exercise is not only preventive but a rehabilitative tool as well. For stroke survivors, engaging in movement aids in the process of neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections. Physical activity helps survivors regain mobility, strength, and confidence. Rehabilitation through exercise enhances brain function by improving blood flow to affected areas, encouraging new pathways to form and aiding the recovery of skills lost to stroke.

Rehabilitation exercises focus on controlled movement, balance, and strength training. For example, hand exercises or leg lifts can help with regaining the strength needed for daily tasks, while aerobic exercises like walking or stationary biking can improve cardiovascular health and boost mood. Simple balance exercises can also make a world of difference for survivors facing mobility challenges, and gentle yoga has been shown to reduce stress and improve flexibility.

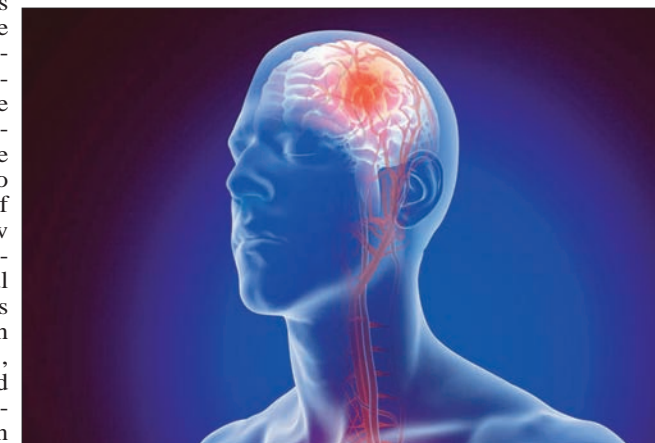
Joining a group exercise program or working with physical therapists trained in stroke recovery further amplifies these benefits, providing stroke survivors with structured and supportive environments to rebuild strength and independence.

Traditionally, stroke treatment windows were narrow, limited to 4.5 hours for intravenous thrombolysis and six hours for mechanical thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure to physically remove clots. This constrained time frame left many patients who couldn't access immediate care or who experienced strokes during sleep without critical treatment options. However, recent advancements in medical science have extended the treatment window for ischemic stroke to up to 24 hours, offering new hope to patients who would otherwise be beyond reach.

Advanced imaging tools, such as perfusion CT and MRI, can now identify "penumbra" - the brain tissue that is still viable but at risk of irreversible damage. This allows medical professionals to assess which patients could benefit from treatment, even if they arrive at the hospital well after traditional timeframes.

Mechanical thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure where doctors use a stent retriever to remove a clot, has shown effectiveness up to 24 hours after stroke onset in certain patients. This breakthrough has significantly improved stroke care, offering a new chance for recovery and a reduced risk of long-term disability for patients who might have otherwise been considered ineligible for treatment.

Yatharth Super Specialty Hospital has recently upgraded its neurosciences Department, with a full team of Senior Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, trained Spine surgeon, Neuro Intensivists taken on board, who offer a wide range of specialised Neurological, surgical, neuro intervention, and minimally invasive Surgery and Neuro critical care in this region. With the launch of its dedicated stroke clinic, the Hospital has become a 24x7 stroke ready centre. (The author is the Director and Head of Department, Neurology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida)



The trajectory of Ukraine's fight against Russia hangs on the outcome of the US election

KYIV, Oct 28: There is no doubt that the U.S. election will determine the trajectory of the war in Ukraine. The status of military aid from Kyiv's chief international backer is dependent on who becomes president, as is any prospect for a cease-fire that could benefit Ukraine.

Some in Kyiv say the country's very existence hinges on who wins the White House. As Americans vote, exhausted and outmanned Ukrainian soldiers are holding defensive lines under constant Russian fire, knowing the results will dictate their future.

The war in Ukraine is one of the most divisive issues of the Nov. 5 election: Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, advocate very different views on how much support the U.S. should continue to give Ukraine.

After a whirlwind Western tour, Kyiv's leaders have tried to promote their version of what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calls his "victory plan." They hope key decisions will be made — including Ukraine's bid for NATO membership — by the new administration.

"We believe that regardless of the last name of the future president of the U.S., the country of the United States will not give up global dominance, global leadership as such. And this is possible only through the support of Ukraine and through the defeat of the Russian Federation," said Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy.

Harris, who has decried President Vladimir Putin's "brutality," would likely carry on President Joe Biden's policy of support, albeit within the strict limits on Ukraine's ability to strike deep inside Russian territory that have frustrated Kyiv's leaders.

"President Biden has made it clear from the beginning of this conflict that his top priority has been to avoid an all-out war with Russia. I think that remains the top American priority," said Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director general at the Royal United Services Institute in London. The U.S. has provided Ukraine more than \$59.5 billion in military weapons and assistance since Russia invaded in February 2022. But throughout, Kyiv has been captive to fraught American politics that often undermined its battlefield po-

tential. Ukraine lost territory and manpower as weapons stocks dwindled during the six months it took the U.S. Congress to pass an aid package. Even promised military assistance has failed to arrive on time or in sufficient quantities.

Ukraine is still hoping for Western approval of strikes inside Russian territory with longer-range weapons supplied by its allies. It also holds hundreds of square kilometers (square miles) in Russia's Kursk region after an incursion in August.

Still, Biden's commitment to support Ukraine has never wavered. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced a \$400 million package during his recent visit. Zelenskyy said he expects another worth \$800 million, the first tranche for Ukraine's production of long-range capabilities. Still another \$8 billion is expected by the end of the year.

But for some, all that is too late. "If the amount of aid that was promised but not delivered had been fulfilled, we could have entered negotiations in a stronger position with Russia," said Gen. Lt. Ihor Romanenko, former deputy chief of the General Staff.

Trump has repeatedly taken issue with U.S. aid to Ukraine, made vague vows to end the war and has praised Putin.

He also is considered highly unpredictable. Some Ukrainian officials even privately welcome this quality, saying it could bring about results quicker. But so much is unknown about what decisions Trump would make.

"He has emphasized that he has a very different approach to Ukraine than Kamala Harris. And if what he's saying now is translated into action, then it's going to be a very rocky period for Ukraine," Chalmers said.

"Donald Trump is raising the very distinct probability that the United States will cut off most if not all military aid to Ukraine, which given that the situation

on the ground, although deadlocked, is one which Russia currently has the advantage, could tip the balance in Russia's favor," he added.

Podolyak said Trump "understands the logic" of Zelenskyy's plans after meeting with him. "Mr. Trump realized that there is no way to agree on something in this war, because it is necessary to ensure Russia's compulsion to understand what a war is, what consequences Russia will have in this war. That is, Russia can be forced to do something, but not asked." Faced with Trump's harsh rhetoric, some Ukrainian officials say that despite his stated views, his actions as president at times benefited Ukraine. Some of the toughest sanctions fell on Russia's elite during his administration.



Trump also approved the sale of lethal weapons to Ukraine, something President Barack Obama fell short of doing.

Most Ukrainians fear Trump will halt all military aid to Kyiv, and no other country can match the U.S. support. Ukrainian soldiers remain defiant, saying they'll continue to hold the line, no matter what. But the practical implications would be dire, and Kyiv may be forced to accept devastating cease-fire terms, with a fifth of its territory under Russian control.

"If the aid is stopped, the situation will become more complicated," Romanenko said. "In this case, the seizure of Ukrainian land will continue, but we do not know how fast, because their offensive potential is not unlimited."

Zelenskyy has presented his vision for ending the war to both Trump and Harris, arguing for its necessity. He said Ukraine hopes for a post-election response from Washington, particularly on the question of NATO membership, insisting that such an invitation be irreversible.

Both Ukraine and Russia are feeling considerable economic and social strain to maintain the war effort. (AP)

Rutte said that the move represents a significant escalation in NKorea's involvement in the conflict and marks a dangerous expansion of Russia's war

NATO confirms that North Korea has sent troops to join Russia's war in Ukraine

BRUSSELS, Oct 28: NATO on Monday confirmed that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia to aid in its almost three-year war against Ukraine and that some have already been deployed in Russia's Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

"Today, I can confirm that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, and that North Korean military units have been deployed to the Kursk region," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told

reporters.

Rutte said that the move represents "a significant escalation" in North Korea's involvement in the conflict and marks "a dangerous expansion of Russia's war."

His remarks came after a high-level South Korean delegation including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats briefed the alliance's 32 national ambassadors at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Rutte said NATO is "actively consulting within the alliance, with Ukraine, and



with our Indo-Pacific partners," on developments and that he is due to talk soon with South Korea's president and Ukraine's defense minister. "We continue to monitor the

situation closely," he said. Adding thousands of North Korean soldiers to Europe's biggest conflict since World War II will pile more pressure on Ukraine's weary and over-

stretched army, as well as stoking geopolitical tensions in the Korean Peninsula and the wider Indo-Pacific region, including Japan and Australia, Western officials say.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is keen to reshape global power dynamics. He sought to build a counterbalance to Western influence with a summit of BRICS countries, including the leaders of China and India, in Russia last week.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, citing intelligence reports, claimed last Friday that North Korean

troops would be on the battlefield within days.

He previously said his government has information that some 10,000 troops from North Korea were being readied to join Russian forces fighting against his country.

Days before Zelenskyy spoke, American and South Korean officials said there was evidence North Korea had dispatched troops to Russia.

The U.S. said around 3,000 North Korean troops had been deployed to Russia for training. (AP)

France's prez visiting Morocco after his Western Sahara change brings 'new honeymoon'

RABAT (MOROCCO), Oct 28: French President Emmanuel Macron arrives Monday in Morocco, where he is expected to meet with the North African kingdom's leaders and discuss partnerships regarding trade, climate change and immigration.

During the president's three-day visit to Rabat, he is scheduled to meet with King Mohammed VI and Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch and address Morocco's Parliament.

It comes months after Macron changed France's longstanding public position and backed Morocco's autonomy plan for the disputed Western Sahara.

The move endeared the country to Morocco and alienated it from Algeria, which hosts refugee camps governed by the pro-independence Polisario Front and has long pushed for a UN-organised referendum to solve the conflict.

In the days leading up to the visit, Moroccan publications lauded the "warm reunion" and a "new honeymoon" between the two countries while French flags were hung throughout Rabat.

France and Morocco have historically partnered on issues ranging from counterterrorism to Western Sahara. Morocco is the top destination for French investment in Africa and France is Morocco's top trade partner.

Morocco imports French cereals, renewable energy infrastructure like turbines and weapons. Morocco exports goods to France including tomatoes, cars and air-

plane parts.

Moroccans are among the largest foreign-born communities in France, where North African immigrants are a key political constituency and a focal point of debates about the roles of Islam and immigration in French society. In recent months, France's new Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau has pushed for the country to take a hard-line approach toward immigration and seek deals with countries like Morocco to better prevent would-be migrants from crossing into Europe.

On Macron's last visit to Morocco, he and King Mohammed VI inaugurated Al Boraq, Africa's first high-speed rail line, made possible by French financing and trains manufactured by the French firm Alstom.

Despite close ties, relations have at times been fragile between France and Morocco, which was a French protectorate from 1912 to 1956. In 2021, Morocco suspended consular relations France momentarily reduced the number of visas offered to Moroccans in protest of its refusal to provide documents needed to deport people who migrated to France without authorization.

Relations between the two countries soured further that year when a 2021 report revealed Morocco's security services had used Israeli spyware to infiltrate the devices of activists and politicians, including Macron. Morocco denied and sued over the allegations. (AP)

TOKYO, Oct 28: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling coalition lost a majority in the 465-seat lower house in a key parliamentary election on Sunday, a punishment by voters' outrage over the governing party's extensive financial scandals.

Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party remains the top party in Japan's parliament, and a change of government is not expected. But the results create political uncertainty.

Falling short of a majority makes it difficult for Ishiba to get his party's policies through parliament, and he may need to find a third coalition partner. The LDP's coalition retains a majority in the less powerful upper house.

All told, the ruling coalition with junior partner Komeito secured 215 seats, down sharply from the majority of 279 it previously held, according to Japanese media. It is the coalition's worst result since briefly falling from power in 2009.

Ishiba took office on October 1

and immediately ordered the election in hopes of shoring up support after his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, failed to address public outrage over the LDP's scandals.

"The results so far have been extremely severe, and we take them very seriously," Ishiba told Japan's national NHK television late Sunday. "I believe the voters are telling us to reflect more and become a party that lives up to their expectations."

Ishiba said the LDP would still lead a ruling coalition and tackle key policies, compile a planned supplementary budget and pursue political reform.

He indicated that his party is open to cooperating with opposition groups if that suits the public's expectations. The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, led by centrist leader Yoshihiko Noda, made huge gains to 148 seats, from its previous 98. "We accomplished our goal of preventing the ruling coalition from a majority, which

was a major achievement," Noda said.

Noda called the election a rare chance for a change of government, and said he seeks to lead a coalition with other opposition groups to do so. But his party has had trouble finding partners, and many voters were sceptical about the opposition's ability and inexperience.

For Ishiba, potential additional partners include the Democratic Party of the People, which calls for lower taxes, and the conservative Japan Innovation Party.

DPP head Yuichiro Tamaki said he was open to "a partial alliance". Innovation Party chief Nobuyuki Baba has denied any intention to cooperate. The centrist DPP quadrupled to 28 seats, while the conservative Innovation Party slipped to 38.

Ishiba may also face backlash from a number of scandal-tainted lawmakers with former leader Shinzo Abe's faction, whom Ishiba had un-endorsed for Sunday's election in an attempt to regain public support. The LDP is less cohesive now and could enter the era of short-lived prime ministers. Ishiba is expected to last at least until the ruling bloc approves key budget plans at the end of December. (AP)

Social Democrats win Lithuania's election, overcoming center-right government

VILNIUS, Oct 28: Lithuania's center-left opposition parties celebrated victory on Monday after prevailing over the center-right ruling coalition in the final round of national elections.

With 100% of votes counted from Sunday's polls, the Social Democrats won 52 seats in the 141-seat parliament, known as the Seimas, ending the four-year rule of the Homeland Union government led by conservative Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte.

The Social Democrats will start talks on forming a majority cabinet with two smaller center-left parties, the Democratic Union and the Union of Peasants and Greens, which won respectively 14 and 8 seats. The coalition is expected to control at least 74 seats.

Simonyte's Homeland Union won only 28 seats in the two-round election. Vilija Blinkeviciute, who heads the Social Democrats, thanked supporters as a cheering crowd celebrated victory in downtown Vilnius on Sunday.

"I am very grateful to the people of Lithuania who were so active today voting for us" she said adding that "the results have shown that the people want change, a completely different government."

The outcome was a surprise to the ruling conservatives, who were only two seats behind the Social Democrats after the first round.



Analysts had predicted that Lithuania is set to continue a historic pattern where voters tend to look a different way every four years.

Simonyte conceded, noting the pattern. "In Lithuania that's the way it is, every election we see the pendulum swinging in one direction or the other," she told reporters. "We respect the will of the voters."

The vote in Lithuania, which borders Russia's Kaliningrad exclave to the west and Belarus to the east, came at a time when Russia's war in Ukraine is fueling greater fears about Moscow's intentions, particularly in the strategically important Baltic region.

Analysts say there won't be any significant change in Lithuania's foreign policy. The European Union and NATO member is a staunch supporter of

Ukraine.

The outgoing government faced criticism for the strict measures it adopted during the pandemic, with many complaining that her government didn't do enough to help companies during lockdown.

Others say thousands of people didn't have proper access to health care.

Simonyte also has been lambasted for her handling of migrants arriving via Belarus. Lithuania has claimed its eastern neighbor, as well as Russia, was orchestrating the influx of people, mostly from Africa and the Middle East.

Although the country has seen annual double-digit personal income growth and has one of the lowest inflation rates in the 27-nation bloc, most voters did not seem to be impressed.

The results also mean that the new cabinet can be formed without the populist Nemuno Austra party which came in third, with 20 seats. Its leader Remigijus Zemaiteitis had to resign from parliament earlier this year for making antisemitic statements.

Following the results, Gabrielius Landsbergis, Lithuania's foreign minister, announced his resignation from the leadership of Homeland Union and said he was leaving politics.

Turnout on Sunday was 41.31 percent, among the highest for a runoff. (AP)

Ukraine.

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: Pakistan on Monday started its third nationwide polio campaign to vaccinate 45 million children against the crippling disease as the virus was detected in the environmental samples from 16 districts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the campaign during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's House on World Polio Day last week, the Dawn newspaper reported. He also administered polio drops to children there.

The week-long vaccination campaign, which will run till November 3, aims to tackle the alarming spread of polio in the country, which has reported 41 cases this year. During the drive, special teams of health departments will go door to door to inoculate more than 45 million children. Children will also be given Vitamin-A supplements during the campaign for additional immunity, according to the report.

The launch coincided with the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health confirming the detection of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in sewage samples from

Georgia's opposition plans protest against governing party's declared election victory

TBILISI, Oct 28: Opposition supporters in Georgia planned to hold a protest in the country's capital on Monday against the official results of a weekend parliamentary election in which the governing party was declared victorious amid voting irregularities and allegations of Russian meddling.

Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili said Sunday she did not recognize the official results and that the country had fallen victim to a "Russian special operation" aimed at pulling it back into Moscow's orbit and derailing its plan to join the European Union.

Zourabichvili, a fierce critic of the governing party, urged Georgians to rally on the main street of

The EU suspended Georgia's membership application process indefinitely because of a Russian-style "foreign influence law" passed in June.

Many Georgians viewed Saturday's vote as a pivotal referendum on the opportunity to join the EU.

The election campaign in the nation of 3.7 million people, which borders Russia, was marked by a bitter fight for votes and allegations of a smear campaign. European electoral observers said the election took place in a "divisive" environment marked by intimidation and instances of vote buying, double voting and physical violence.

During the campaign, Georgian Dream used "anti-Western and hostile

rhetoric ... promoted Russian misinformation, manipulations, and conspiracy theories," said Antonio Lopez-Isturiz White, the head of the

European Parliament monitoring delegation.

The election observers said instances of intimidation and electoral violations were particularly noticeable in rural areas.

Georgian Dream scored its highest share of the vote — almost 90% — in the Javakheti region of southern Georgia. In the capital it received no more than 44% in any district. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, a member of Georgian Dream, on Sunday described his party's success as "impressive and obvious," and that "any attempts to talk about election manipulation ... are doomed to failure."

Initial figures suggested voter turnout was the highest since Georgian Dream was first elected in 2012. The party has vowed to continue the push toward EU accession but also "reset" ties with Georgia's former imperial master, Russia. (AP)



Pak starts new polio vaccination drive as virus detected in 16 district samples

16 districts, the report said.

So far, 21 polio cases have been reported from Balochistan, 12 from Sindh, six from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony last week, Prime Minister Sharif underscored the importance of the campaign to prevent the disease's further spread as he stressed the urgency of the country's battle against the recent resurgence of wild poliovirus.

"Polio has re-emerged in Pakistan, reminding us of our collective responsibility to overcome this threat. Together, we must fight this battle with unity and determination until we secure a polio-free Pakistan," Geo News quoted Sharif as saying. Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq said health workers "will reach every corner of Pakistan" to vaccinate the children and secure a "healthier future" for them. "Polio has no cure, but it can be prevented with this readily available vaccine. With the threat at an all-time high, we must act as one nation to keep our children safe through vaccination," said Anwarul Haq. (PTI)

4 Indians killed in single-vehicle crash in Canada

OTTAWA, Oct 28: Four Indian nationals were killed and one injured when the car they were travelling in crashed and burst into flames in Canada's Ontario province, authorities said. The accident occurred last week on Thursday in the Lake Shore Boulevard East and Cherry Street area of Toronto city, police said in a press release.

The five people, between the ages of 25-32, were travelling in a Tesla when it "lost control and struck the guard rail and then a concrete pillar" before bursting into flames, the press release said.

"We have gathered some evidence so far to suggest that speed was a factor," Toronto Police Duty Inspector Phillip Sinclair was quoted as saying by the Toronto Sun newspaper. Four of the car occupants were pronounced dead on the scene by the police officials responding to the accident, the press release said. The fifth occupant, a 25-year-old woman, was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. She was rescued by a passing motorist who stopped to help, according to the report.

"Heartfelt condolences on tragic loss of Indian nationals in car accident that took place yesterday in Toronto," the official handle of the Indian Consulate in Toronto said in a post on X. The post added that the consulate was in regular touch with local authorities and affected families in Canada and India. "All required assistance is being provided," it said. (PTI)

BJP's membership drive in Tripura sees unprecedented public support

CM Saha hails strong public response as thousands join BJP

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Oct 28: CM Manik Saha said on Monday that the enthusiastic response from people during the membership drive will further strengthen the foundation of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He further said, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is witnessing a significant surge in public interest across Tripura as part of its ongoing membership drive. Speaking at a membership drive event on Monday in Ward No 20 and Ward No 40 under the Baradowali Mandal, CM Saha expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming response and emphasized that

this enthusiasm marks a new chapter for the party in the northeastern state. With the membership drive now in its second phase, the BJP has extended the enrollment period until November 15. Leaders and party workers are actively reaching out to communities, meeting residents, and encouraging them to join the party. CM Saha, himself, has been participating by visiting various wards, including his own assembly constituency, where he has personally enrolled new members. "The enthusiastic response during the membership drive will further solidify the foundation of the Bharatiya

Janata Party," CM Saha said, adding that people in Tripura are beginning to recognize BJP as the only viable option for development and progress. "It's the dedication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that has inspired people to join BJP, understanding it as a party committed to the people's welfare and addressing their problems," he noted. In addition to the membership drive, the Chief Minister highlighted the party's focus on strengthening grassroots connections. Leaders and karyakartas (party workers) are leaving no stone unturned, visiting every corner of the state to encourage public participation in the BJP's vision for Tripura's future. The expanding base of the BJP in Tripura reflects a growing trend in northeastern states, where people are increasingly aligning with the party's agenda of progress, infrastructure development, and economic growth. With this membership drive, the BJP aims to consolidate its base in Tripura ahead of upcoming electoral battles and establish itself firmly as a people-centric party. Political analysts view this heightened public response as a significant indicator of BJP's rising influence and as a testament to its efforts to engage citizens on a local level.

Tripura CM directs for development of new parking zones to tackle traffic woes

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Oct 28: Chief Minister Manik Saha said on Monday that the Traffic Police, Transport Department, and Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) must collaborate to alleviate traffic congestion on Agartala's busiest roads. He directed the immediate identification and development of new parking zones. "Traffic Police, Transport Department, and AMC need to work together to avoid traffic jams on Agartala's busiest roads. No-parking zones in the city should be regularly monitored, and strict action should be taken against traffic law violators when necessary," he

said. CM Saha said this during a review meeting on the traffic system within the AMC area, held at the secretariat. During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed various aspects of the traffic system in the AMC area and highlighted that the latest technology is being integrated into the traffic management system. "The state government is working on a multi-pronged plan to ensure that citizens can travel safely on the roads. Increasing the number of parking zones in Agartala city is essential to reducing traffic congestion," he said. The Chief Minister instructed the Superintendent of Traffic Police to identify

suitable locations for the new parking zone and commence work immediately. He also emphasized the importance of relocating vendors conducting business along Agartala's busiest roads and urged the AMC to facilitate their placement in designated areas. Additionally, he recommended regular surveillance in these zones. The Chief Minister further directed the Traffic Unit, AMC, and Transport Department to jointly regulate the movement of battery-operated rickshaws on Agartala's busiest streets. "All flats or multi-storied buildings under construction in urban areas should be routinely inspected to ensure adherence to parking plans."

Arunachal guv adopts 2 TB patients
ITANAGAR, Oct 28: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen KT Parnaik (retd) adopted two TB patients from Lower Dibang Valley district during a visit to the district hospital at Roing. Parnaik adopted the patients in his role as a Nikshay Mitra, an initiative that provides TB patients with nutritional, diagnostic, and vocational support. The governor also presented food baskets to the two patients, an official statement from Raj Bhavan said on Monday. Interacting with MLAs Mutchu Mithi and Puinnyo Apum and health officials, Parnaik highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal to eliminate tuberculosis from the country by 2025, ahead of the global TB-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of 2030. He urged people to unite in supporting this commitment. (PTI)

Dimapur police remind the ban on firecracker bursting

HT Correspondent
DIMAPUR, Oct 28: With the festive season approaching and in reiteration of its earlier order, the Dimapur police commissionerate reminded people on the ban on bursting firecrackers on Monday. "In order to ensure safe and eco-friendly environment, it is appealed to all the citizens to be responsible and desist from the use of firecrackers as it is not only environmentally hazardous but can cause significant stress, fear and other health-related issues in animals and humans due to its loud explosion and toxic gases," Dimapur commissioner of police Kevithuto Sophie said in an advisory on Monday. However, the advisory said, on Diwali days or any other festivals like Gurupurab when such fireworks generally take place, it would be strictly from 8 pm till 10 pm only. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, it would be from 11.55 pm to 12.30 am only, it added. Sophie said no items(s) other than the reduced emission firecrackers (improved crackers) and reduced emission firecrackers (green crackers: safe water and air sprinklers) as prescribed and approved by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (ESO) will be used during the permitted hours.

No.BDB/Tender/46/2023-24/3248 Date 25/10/2024

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender affixing a non-refundable Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only with a validity period of 180 days which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed of F-2 form are invited from the registered contractors of Class-I (A, B & C), Class-II & Class III category of Assam PWD (Roads & Building) and BTC according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the works under Cultural Affairs Deptt. BTR during the financial year 2024-25 as stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00PM on 21/11/24 and will be opened on the next date (as on 22/11/24) & place at 2.30 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of activity	Estd. Value (in Lakhs)	Tender Value (in Lakhs)	EMD/Bid Security (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender paper (in Rs.)	Pre-bid date and Time	Last date & time of bid submission	Date & Time of Bid opening	Time of Completion of Work
1.	Cons of Bodofa UN Brahma Statue at Dimakuchi Town, Dimakuchi, Udalguri	10.00L	10.00L	(for 10,000 ST/SC) 20,000/- (for OBC/General)	300	30/10/24	21/11/24	22/11/24	6 month
2.	Const. of Community Hall at Suklai near Kubir Soma, Bhergaon, Udalguri	7.00L	7.00L	(for 7,000 S/T, S/C) (for 14000/- General, OBC)	210	30/10/24	21/11/24	22/11/24	6 month

Detail N.I.T. may be seen in all working days during office hours in the office of the undersigned. Tender papers will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agents from 30/11/10/24 to 22/11/24 up to 1.30 PM. In the office of the undersigned on payment in the form of demand draft/bankers cheque from any Nationalized Bank, duly pledged in favour of the Principal Secretary, BTC Kokrajhar payable at Kokrajhar.

Sd/-
Block Development Officer,
Bhergaon Dev. Block, Bhergaon

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/799

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CUM COUNCIL HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT IRRIGATION: KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL: DIPHU.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Additional Chief Engineer cum Council Head of the Department, Irrigation Department under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, invites Application from the eligible candidates who are citizen of India as defined under Article 5 and 8 of the Constitution of India and permanent resident of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council areas comprising the district of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong in the prescribed Standard Form of Application published in Part IX of the Assam Gazette along with self attested photocopies of all testimonials and two copies of recent passport size photograph duly signed by him/her self for filling up the following vacant posts in the pay scale and pay band mentioned below.

Duly filled up application form of Grade-III & Grade-IV posts will be received from **01-11-2024** (Except Holiday) and the last date is fixed on **14-11-2024 upto 5:00 PM**. The duly filled-up Application Form will be received during Office hours from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer cum Council Head of the Department, Irrigation, KAAC, Diphu.

No Application Form will be accepted after the last date fixed by the Department:-

Sl. No.	Name of Vacant Post	Total No. of Vacant Post	Scale of Pay	Grade Pay	Minimum Educational Qualification	Other Qualification
1.	Junior Assistant (Grade-III)	4 (Four)	14000-70000	6200	A candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university or any examination declared equivalent by the Government.	6 (Six) months Diploma/Certificate in Computer Application from recognized institute.
2.	Section Assistant (Grade-III)	10 (Ten)	14000-70000	5600	A candidate must possess a Higher Secondary passed in any stream from a recognized institute or any examination declared equivalent by the Government.	6 (Six) months Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application from recognized institute.
3.	Tracer (Grade-III)	2 (Two)	14000-70000	5600	A candidate must possess a Higher Secondary passed in any stream from a recognized institute or any examination declared equivalent by the Government.	6 (Six) months Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application from recognized institute.
4.	Assistant Fitter (Grade-III)	1 (One)	14000-70000	5200	HSLC passed.	Diploma in Fitter from Govt. ITI/Institution.
5.	Power Pump Operator	3 (Three)	14000-70000	5000	HSLC passed.	Diploma in Diesel Mechanic from Govt. ITI/ Institution.
6.	Electric Pump Mechanic	1 (One)	14000-70000	5600	HSLC passed	Diploma in Electrical/ Fitter/Diesel Mechanic from Govt. ITI/ Institution.
7.	Assistant Mechanic	1 (One)	14000-70000	5200		
8.	Khalashi	4 (Four)	12000-52000	3900	Class-VIII	
9.	Switch Board Attendant	1 (One)	12000-52000	3900	-do-	
10.	Office Chowkidar	3 (Three)	12000-52000	3900	-do-	
11.	Grade-IV	1 (One)	12000-52000	3900	-do-	
TOTAL		31 (Thirty One)				

N.B: At present there are 31 (Thirty One) Nos. of vacant posts but actual posts for appointment will be determined at the time of appointment in view of Superannuation, Promotion, etc.

General Condition:-

- The candidates must be an Indian citizen as defined under Article 5 and 8 of the Constitution of India.
- The candidate must be permanent resident of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council areas comprising of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong Districts.
- All candidates must submit Application Form as per date line.
(a) Application must be signed by the candidates.
(b) No Application/Certificates/Mark sheet will be entertained after last date.
(c) Canvassing of any form will be directly disqualified.
(d) Incomplete application form will be summarily rejected.
(e) Passport Size Photograph should be attached and pasted in Standard Form of applications.
(f) Caste Certificate should be submitted in case the candidate belongs to ST/SC.
(g) In case of Candidate belonging to Person with Disability (PwD) category, Certificate of Physically-abled shall be submitted.

Age:- The candidates shall not be less than 18 years and not more than 38 years as on 01-10-2024. In case of SC/ST candidates, relaxation of 5 (five) years of age will be admissible as per existing Rule.

Written Test:- There will be Written test for the post of Junior Assistant, Section Assistant and Tracer as follows:-

Full Marks 150

- Essay - 30 marks.
- Application writing - 20 marks.
- Objective types:
(a) General knowledge - 60 marks.
(b) English Grammar - 40 marks.

Total 150 Marks.

Assistant Mechanic, Assistant Fitter, PPO and Electric Pump Mechanic:-

Full Marks 150

- English
(a) Essay - 20 marks.
(b) Objectives English Grammar etc. - 25 marks.
- Technical knowledge (Mechanic) - 40 marks.
- Arithmetic - 35 marks.
- General Knowledge (GK) - 30 marks.

Total 150 Marks.

The interview and personality test for Grade-IV modalities will be same as that of Grade-III, Junior Assistant, Section Assistant, Tracer, Assistant Mechanic, Electric Pump Mechanic, PPO and Assistant Fitter :- Viva Voce.

Other conditions:

- KAAC Revenue Receipt of Rs. 20.00 (Rupees: Twenty) only in case of General Category candidates and Rs. 10.00 (Rupees: Ten) only in case of SC/ST candidates must be enclosed along with the application.
- Application must accompany self attested copies of all relevant documents & testimonials in respect of their Educational qualification, with Diploma/Certificates as applicable.
- There will be 3% Reservation of Physically challenge candidate as per provision of relevant act & rules.
- The application must be legibly filled up in all respects by the candidate with his/her own handwriting and should be submitted in sealed envelope marking on it as "Application for the post of Junior Assistant/Section Assistant/Tracer / Assistant Mechanic/Asstt. Fitter/Power Pump Operator/Electric Pump Mechanic/ Khalashi/Office Chowkidar/Switch Board Attendant/Grade-IV" whichever is applicable and addressed to the Additional Chief Engineer cum Council Head of the Department, Irrigation, KAAC, Diphu
- The Additional Chief Engineer cum Council Head of the Department, Irrigation, KAAC, Diphu will not take responsibility to co-relate any documents sent separately.
- Applicants whose applications are found to be complete in all respects shall be issued a Receipt cum Admit Card for interview on the day of receiving of application. However, the date for written test/interview shall be notified in the Newspaper & Local Dailies in due course of time.
- No T.A. /D.A. will be paid for appearing in the interview.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer & CHD
Cum
Member Secretary, Selection Committee,
Irrigation Department

Memo No. ACEI-CHD/E/Recruitment/1/2024-25/11(A) Dated Diphu, the 25th October'2024

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Priyanka accuses BJP-led Centre of undermining Constitutional values

'No compassion towards the farmers who are toiling day and night'

WAYANAD (KERALA), Oct 28: Kicking off her second phase of campaigning, Congress candidate for the Wayanad by-election, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre, alleging that the values of the Constitution are constantly being subverted under its rule.

Addressing a corner meeting organised in Meenangadi in this hill district, the AICC general secretary referred to the violence in Manipur and alleged that "planned" attacks are taking place against minorities in the country.

"You know the BJP government at the Centre is spreading fear, anger and distress among the community. You have seen the attack on minorities. You have seen the attacks in Manipur. You have seen again and again anger, spread of hatred and fear concerted in a planned fashion," she alleged.

Priyanka also alleged that policy after policy is made to favour Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friends rather than the common people.

"There is no compassion towards the farmers who are toiling day and night. There is no understanding of tribal people, their lands are taken



away for rich people," she added.

Referring to her brother Rahul Gandhi, who vacated the seat, Priyanka said she knew what a heavy heart he had on leaving Wayanad. "I know you came here because of the love towards my brother also. He has a deep relation with all of you, that you are his family."

"Today we are fighting a very big battle and he is leading that battle. And all of us are fighting for the values on which the country was

The meeting at Meenangadi was followed by a brief 150-metres long roadshow.

Priyanka then proceeded to the next meeting at Panamaram in Mananthavady Assembly constituency at 2.30 pm. She will conclude her day with another public meeting in Pozhuthana in Kalpetta at 4.30 pm. This is her second visit to the constituency after submitting her nomination on 22 October, followed by a roadshow in Kalpetta town, which was attended by her brother Rahul Gandhi, mother Sonia Gandhi, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with the grand old party's state leaders.

"The people of Wayanad have stood with truth, justice and democracy in the past and have worked to strengthen the spirit of the Constitution. The people of Wayanad will continue to strengthen the Constitution and democracy and write a new chapter of development and progress. The zeal and enthusiasm of the people is worth seeing. Today I will interact with the people of Wayanad," Priyanka posted on her 'X' account earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, the Returning Officer accepted the nomination of the Congress leader after completing the scrutiny on Monday. She had submitted four sets of nomination papers.

The BJP had accused Priyanka Gandhi of the "non-disclosure of essential information" regarding her and her husband Robert Vadra's assets in her affidavit to contest the by-election.

Congress leaders, including CWC member Ramesh Chennithala, gave her a warm reception at the Nilgiri College of Arts and Science grounds upon her arrival by helicopter at 11.50 am.

Amid tight security, she took the time to greet party workers and students before heading to Meenangadi in the Sulthan Bathery Assembly constituency by road for her first meeting.

The by-election was necessitated after Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat following his victory in the Rai Bareilly constituency in the recent parliamentary elections. The by-election will be held on November 13. Priyanka is contesting against the LDF's veteran leader Sathyan Mokeri, a former MLA, and the BJP's Navya Haridas, a two-time councillor of the Kozhikode Corporation. (PTI)

SP chief calls for unity against Mahayuti for a 'positive change'



LUCKNOW, Oct 28: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday called for forging a collective strategy and making a united effort to oust the Mahayuti alliance from power in Maharashtra in the upcoming assembly elections.

He also slammed the BJP, which is part of the Mahayuti alliance along with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and expressed his commitment to defeating the "enemies of Maharashtra and bring about a positive change".

Yadav, whose party won two seats in the last Maharashtra polls and is eyeing a bigger share in the seat-sharing talks with its alliance partners, took to social media to share a note addressed to the "dear" people of the state and media persons.

"With your awareness, the Maharashtra Assembly elections will liberate 'Maharashtra' from the BJP's conspiracies of sabotage and its negative politics of communalism. The BJP's negative politics is unable to understand the positive strategy and mutual adjustment of the united opposition. The BJP's conspiracy to slowly destroy Maharashtra's economy has been exposed before the people of Maharashtra," he said in Hindi on X. The Samajwadi Party chief accused the BJP of having destroyed the "historic harmony and brotherhood" of Maharashtra's society as well as the political parties.

"The BJP wants to weaken Maharashtra so much -- economically, socially and politically -- that the reins of the country's economic leadership can be snatched from Maharashtra and given to someone else," he added.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said the "political, social

and economic consciousness" that has awakened among the people of Maharashtra and mediapersons who protect the state's interests would not allow this ploy of the BJP to succeed.

"The people of Maharashtra will defeat the enemies of Maharashtra's honour, livelihood, employment, trade and business. The tainted and treacherous allies of the BJP will be defeated.

"The BJP's mega-corruption did not spare even the statues of great men. Political patronage was given to those who violated the honour of girls. The combined power of the aware and progressive people of Maharashtra will defeat both the deceit and fraud of BJP," Yadav said.

The Kannauj Lok Sabha MP also hoped that the impartial media personnel of Maharashtra, endowed with a sense of responsibility, will also play their traditional glorious role of the fourth pillar of democracy and will not only prevent any kind of misleading BJP propaganda from being broadcast, propagated and published but will also refute it out loud.

"The efforts of all such true news-opinion channels, YouTube channels and journalists are commendable, who, despite not being well-equipped, are constantly exposing the 'anti-Maharashtra politics of the BJP' with their indomitable courage," he said.

"A joint and organised political strategy will bring an end to the 'Mahadukhi' period of the BJP-led 'Mahayuti'. Committed and determined to defeat the enemies of Maharashtra and bring about positive change," Yadav said.

Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly will be held on November 20 and votes will be counted on November 23. (PTI)

Govt, Mahayuti dispensation conspired for 'wholesale surrender' of Maha's interests: Cong

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: The Congress on Monday claimed that the Tata-Airbus C-295 aircraft facility inaugurated in Vadodra was earlier supposed to be set up in Nagpur and alleged that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions, the Centre and the Mahayuti dispensation have conspired to ensure the "wholesale surrender" of Maharashtra's interests.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the people of Maharashtra will give a befitting reply to the PM and his colleagues for their betrayal of the state.

The opposition party's attack came after Prime Minister Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez inaugurated the Tata Advanced System Limited (TASL)-Airbus facility to manufacture C-295 military aircraft in India. The Tata-Airbus facility is the first private sector final assembly line for military aircraft in India.

"Today, the non-biological PM is in Vadodra to launch the Tata-Airbus C-295 aircraft facility. This exact same project was supposed to be set up in Nagpur, but was shifted to Gujarat in 2022 on the eve of the assembly elections there," Ramesh said in his post on X.

One can only imagine the machinations that went on behind the scenes to ensure that Maharashtra lost out on this key investment, he said.

"This is not an exception. Under the non-biological PM's leadership and instruction, the Union Government and the Mahayuti government have conspired to ensure the wholesale surrender of Maharashtra's interests in landing new projects or seeking Central support," Ramesh said.

Listing past instances, the Congress leader said an International Financial Services Center (IFSC) has been set up only in GIFT City in Gujarat.

"Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2006 had begun the effort to set it up in Mumbai. Land in Bandra Kurla Complex had already been set aside for the IFSC. But that was sabotaged costing Mumbai potentially 2 lakh jobs," he alleged.

"Mumbai and Surat have worked together to develop India's diamond industry for decades, with Surat handling cutting and polishing, and Mumbai handling trading and export. However, a new Bharat Diamond Bourse was built in Surat. It is another matter that this move has failed entirely, with many diamond merchants moving their operations back to Mumbai," Ramesh said.

In addition to the Tata-Airbus manufacturing plant, the now-failed Vedanta-Foxconn chip factory was also diverted from Maharashtra to Gujarat, Ramesh said.

The Textile Commissionerate Office, based in Mumbai for 80+ years, was suddenly shifted to Delhi last year, for no clear reason whatsoever, despite the fact that the Mumbai metropolitan region (MMR) remains a huge hub of textiles, he said.

Ramesh said the Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development was also shifted from Nagpur to Delhi in 2021. (PTI)

Cong seeks all-party meet to clarify on whether census would include enumeration of castes

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: The Congress on Monday sought an all-party meeting to get clarity on whether the next census would include a detailed enumeration of all castes and whether the census will be used for determining the strength of each state in the Lok Sabha.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the extension of the tenure of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner has been notified and it means that the long-delayed Census that was due in 2021 will finally be conducted soon.

"But there is still absolutely no clarity on two crucial issues. Will this new Census include a detailed enumeration of ALL castes in the country, in addition to that of

scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that has been done in every Census since 1951? According to the Constitution of India, such a Caste Census is the sole responsibility of the Union Government," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Will this Census be used for determining the strength of each state in the Lok Sabha as provided for in Article 82 of the Constitution of India (which says that the first Census taken after the year 2026 and the publication of its results will be the basis of any such reconstitution)? Will this work to the disadvantage of states that have been pioneers in family planning?" the Congress leader said.

It would be most appropriate if an all-party meeting is held soon to get clarity on these two vital issues,

Ramesh asserted.

The central deputation of Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, currently serving as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, has been extended till August 2026, paving the way for him to lead the team to carry out the much-delayed decadal census of India.

"The President is pleased to extend the central deputation tenure of Shri Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, IAS (UP:1995), Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs beyond 06.12.2024 for a period up to 04.08.2026 or until further orders whichever is earlier. The Headquarters of Shri Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, IAS (UP:1995) will be New Delhi," according to an official notification. (PTI)

Bihar MP writes to Shah, claims to have been threatened

PATNA, Oct 28: Bihar MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav has shot off a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking enhanced security in view of a "threatening call from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang".

The Purnea MP shared with the media his two-page letter to Shah, copies of which have been marked to the chief minister of Bihar and other top officials in the state.

The letter, dated October 21, was made public on Monday when a section of the media also played an audio clip of the call from a purported aide of Bishnoi "made from a Dubai number".

Besides seeking upgradation of his 'Y' security cover to 'Z', Yadav also demanded "police escort" at all functions he attends across Bihar, warning "if I get murdered, the blame shall fall upon the Centre as well as the state government".

Meanwhile, Purnea SP Kartikeya Sharma said, "We have come to know about the MP's charge through the media. We are looking into it, and also ensuring that arrangements are made for his safety in accordance with his 'Y plus' security cover". (PTI)

Cong-BJP candidates file nominations for Kedarnath assembly bypoll

DEHRADUN, Oct 28: Uttarakhand BJP Mahila Morcha president Asha Nautiyal and Congress' Manoj Rawat on Monday filed their nominations for the November 20 bypoll to the Kedarnath Assembly seat in the state.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, former chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Pauri MP Anil Baluni accompanied Nautiyal to the returning officer's office in Ukhimath where she filed her nomination in the afternoon.

The Kedarnath seat, which fell vacant after the untimely death of BJP MLA Shaila Rani Rawat in

July this year, is an assembly segment under the Pauri Lok Sabha constituency held by Baluni.

Congress Rawat filed his nomination in the presence of state Congress president Karan Mahara, his predecessor Ganesh Godiyal and many other party leaders.

Both Nautiyal and Rawat, whose candidature was announced on Sunday for the bypoll to the seat, have represented the seat in the state assembly in the past.

Nautiyal won it in two successive assembly polls in 2002 and 2007 whereas Rawat won it in 2017 as a poll debutante defeating Shaila Rani

Rawat. However, he lost it to her in 2022.

Both BJP and Congress look confident about their victory from the seat.

"Not only the people of Kedarnath constituency but devotees from all over the country and abroad have seen the reconstruction work being carried out in Kedarnath for the last 10 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. People are getting the benefits of a double engine government and I am confident that the BJP will get their blessings once again," Nautiyal said soon after filing her nominations. (PTI)

BJP releases third list, two Congress turncoats

MUMBAI, Oct 28: The BJP on Monday released its third list of 25 candidates for the Maharashtra assembly polls, giving tickets to two Congress turncoats and the personal assistant of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The BJP, so far, has announced candidates for 146 seats. Polls to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly will take place on November 20, while results will be declared on November 23.

Jitesh Antapurkar, who won a bypoll in 2021 on a Congress ticket and is considered close to former chief minister Ashok Chavan, has been nominated from Deglur. Chavan had left the Congress recently and joined the BJP, which made him a Rajya Sabha MP.

Archana Patil-Chakurkar, daughter-in-law of Congress veteran and former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil, has been fielded from Latur City seat. She had joined the BJP from the Congress in March this year. Sumit Wankhede, who has served as Fadnavis's personal assistant for several years, will be the BJP's candidate from Arvi assembly constituency.

Incidentally, the BJP had given Fadnavis's former PA Abhimanyu Pawar a ticket from AUSA in 2019. Pawar had won at the time. Later, Shreekant Bharatiya was made an MLC by the party.

Borivali BJP MLA Sunil Rane has been replaced with Sanjay Upadhyay, while MLC Praveen Datke has been fielded from Nagpur Central seat. (PTI)

Maratha-OBC division likely to tilt scales in late Gopinath Munde's hometown

Consolidation of Maratha votes in favour of Sonawane evident

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Oct 28: Maharashtra agriculture minister Dhananjay Munde will have to effectively counter the Maratha vote consolidation in Parli assembly segment, the hometown of late Gopinath Munde which interestingly won't have a BJP nominee in the fray after decades.

Elections to Maharashtra assembly will be held on November 20 and votes will be counted three days later.

Just four months ago, the Maratha factor contributed to the narrow defeat of BJP candidate Pankaja Munde, cousin of Dhananjay, from the Beed Lok Sabha constituency which includes the Parli constituency.

The Maratha quota sentiment remains a strong factor to reckon with in Parli, a rural constituency dominated by issues like MSP for soybean crops and unemployment.

Political observers feel Dhananjay will have to ensure the support of the OBC community to blunt the resentment in Marathas against the BJP-led government.

In a strategic move, Sharad Pawar has fielded Rajeshaheb Deshmukh as NCP (SP) nominee against Dhananjay Munde, an Ajit Pawar loyalist and NCP candidate.

Parli is the hometown of the late Gopinath Munde, credited for expanding BJP's footprint in the Marathwada region.

With BJP nominating Pankaja as an MLC and Dhananjay already a member of the NCP camp, the Parli constituency won't have a BJP representative this time.

Pankaja Munde had scored two victories in Parli in 2009 and 2014 polls. She missed a hat-trick in 2019 when Dhananjay Munde defeated her by 30,701 votes.

The brother and sister duo have buried their differences over the last five years.

NCP (SP) nominee Deshmukh claimed Dhananjay had failed to resolve farmers' issues in Parli. He alleged local people are living in an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

Dhananjay, however, feels that the intensity of the Maratha factor has reduced over the months.

Speaking to PTI, he said the caste politics witnessed in the Lok Sabha elections was an aberration, highlighting the victory of candidates of various castes from the Beed parliamentary constituency in the past.



reservation leader Manoj Jarange.

"My fight for Maratha reservation was not considered during Lok Sabha polls. Reservation was not the only issue. There are other factors including a limited discontent among farmers," Dhananjay said analysing the Lok Sabha poll outcome.

"The intensity of the quota agitation that existed in general elections has decreased," he claimed.

Queried on whether Beed district witnessed maximum suicides by farmers, the minister listed various initiatives undertaken by the agriculture ministry headed by

him.

"The government has paid the insurance premium for farmers. I have also demanded that the import duty on soybean oil be raised. The government has also started centres for purchasing soybeans from farmers," he added.

Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) is confident to maintain the momentum it got in the recent general elections. NCP (SP) candidate Bajrang Sonawane had defeated Pankaja from Beed by a thin margin of around 6,000 votes.

The consolidation of Maratha votes in favour of Sonawane is ev-

ident as the BJP and the NCP (SP) each had secured the lead from three out of six assembly segments under the Beed parliamentary seat.

Deshmukh said he would establish the rule of law if elected from Parli.

He alleged local businessmen are relocating as fake offences are being registered.

When asked about Pankaja securing a lead in votes from the Parli assembly constituency, Deshmukh said Lok Sabha and assembly elections are distinct.

"Factors like Pankaja Munde's work and sympathy for being Gopinath Munde's daughter benefited her. On the contrary, Dhananjay Munde had betrayed Gopinath Munde. Dhananjay has done no work. Farmers are awaiting payment of crop insurance for years," he claimed.

Parli resident Chetan Saundale feels the Maratha quota issue won't affect the electoral outcome.

Being a guardian minister of Beed district, Dhananjay Munde has sanctioned an MIDC, a soybean research centre and an agriculture college, though implementation of these decisions is awaited, Saundale said, rejecting the opposition's allegations that Dhananjay is not accessible to

common people.

A journalist from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Bipin Deshpande, originally from Parli, feels Dhananjay may face a setback in elections.

"NCP (SP) nominee Deshmukh yields a slot in around 40 villages from the Ambajogai belt. Being an MVA candidate, he can secure significant votes in Parli city," he said.

Importantly, Deshmukh is connected with the Maratha quota agitation and visited its ground zero, Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district, numerous times to express solidarity with Jarange, Deshpande added.

"Dhananjay Munde's electoral success depends on deft handling of cadres of three constituents of Maha Vikas Aghadi," he said. Ashwin Mogarkar, a resident of Parli told PTI that BJP workers are dejected as the saffron party has not fielded a candidate - since the seat was allocated to Mahayuti ally NCP - after 44 years.

He said Parli will not be insulated from the Maratha quota protest and the "Jarange factor".

"The Maratha issue and loyal voters of BJP will play a key role in deciding the next MLA of Parli," he added. (PTI)

Heirs of 1857 martyr demand renaming of Indore's Residency Kothi

INDORE (MP), Oct 28: The row over the renaming of 200-year-old Residency Kothi in Madhya Pradesh's Indore took a new turn on Monday as descendants of Saadat Khan, a martyr of the 1857 mutiny, sought that the historic structure be named after him.

Khan, leading local revolutionaries, attacked Residency Kothi. The British later executed him in the historic building, and his memorial was also built there. The Mayor in Council (MIC), chaired by Mayor Pushymitra Bhargava on October 18, decided that Residency Kothi would be renamed Shivaji Kothi, officials said.

After that, "Punyashlok", a social organisation, sought the structure be named after Devi Ahilyabai, the ruler of

the erstwhile Holkar dynasty of Indore.

According to officials, members of the organisation also put a banner, "Devi Ahilya Bai Kothi", outside the main gate of this building on October 21.

Talking to PTI on Monday, Saadat Khan's descendant, Rizwan Khan, said, "We fully honour Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Devi Ahilyabai, but whenever one speaks about Residency Kothi, Saadat Khan's martyrdom is also mentioned."

"Hence, we want the building to be named after Saadat Khan," he added.

He recalled that his family and descendants of other revolutionaries have been demanding the renaming for years.

Shaheen Awais Bahadur, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Banda in



Uttar Pradesh, said one of her ancestors helped in Saadat Khan's burial.

Bahadur, president of the women's committee of "Hindavi Swarajya Ma-

hasangh", said, "We want at least one public place in Indore to be named after Saadat Khan for the coming generations to remember him."

Mayor Bhargava said, "The British ran their affairs from the Residency Kothi. To erase the bolt of slavery, we have named it Shivaji Kothi so that people draw inspiration from courage and valour."

Asked about the demand to name the building after Saadat Khan, he said, "Khan's memorial is already there. If there is a need to name a place in the city after him, we will do it. We are determined to take the message of every martyr of the freedom struggle to the coming generations."

Historian Zafar Ansari said the East

India Company started the construction of Residency Kothi in 1820, and British officers ran the princely states of entire central India from there.

"Revolutionary Saadat Khan, with armed rebels, attacked Residency Kothi on July 1, 1857, demolished its entrance and took control of the building. The revolutionaries took down the flag of the East India Company from the structure and replaced it with the flag of the then Holkar princely state," he said.

Ansari said Saadat Khan was arrested in 1874 from the then Rajputana (present-day Rajasthan). He was tried by the British and sentenced to death.

He was hanged from a tree in the Residency Kothi complex on October 1, 1874, he said. (PTI)

Modi, Sanchez launch Tata-Airbus factory to make India's first privately built military aircraft

VADODARA, Oct 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez on Monday inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex in Vadodara, India's first private facility to build military planes, where C295 aircraft will be produced.

Noting that the partnership between India and Spain is finding a new direction, Modi said the project would not only strengthen the relations between the two nations but also give momentum to the mission of 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

Modi conveyed his best wishes to the team of Airbus and Tata, and also paid tributes to late Ratan Tata.

The Airbus C295 is a medium tactical transport aircraft that was designed and initially manufactured by the Spanish aerospace company CASA, which is now a part of the European multinational Airbus Defence and Space division. The C295 can also be used for medical evacuations, disaster response, and maritime patrol duties.

Modi and Sanchez took a walk-through of the exhibition showcased on the occasion of the



facility launch.

The C295 aircraft factory is a reflection of the new work culture of New India, Modi said, adding India's speed from idea to the execution of any project can be witnessed at the factory, whose foundation stone was laid in October 2022.

Emphasizing the focus on eliminating unaccounted delays in the planning and execution of projects, Modi recalled the setting up of Bombardier train coach manufacturing facility in Vadodara as the chief minister of Gujarat.

Metro coaches made in that factory are being exported, Modi said, and expressed confidence that the aircraft made in the facility inaugurated on Monday would also be exported.

Quoting the famous Spanish poet, Antonio Machado, Modi said, "As we start treading towards the goal, the path towards the goal is created automatically."

Noting that India's defence manufacturing ecosystem is scaling new peaks, Modi said that if concrete steps were not taken 10 years ago then it would have been

impossible to reach this destination.

A decade ago, the priority and identity of defence manufacturing was about import and none could imagine that defence manufacturing could take place on such a large scale in India, Modi said.

"Our government decided to walk on a new path and set new goals for India, whose results are evident today," he said.

The transformation of India's defence sector exemplifies how a right plan and partnership can turn possibilities into prosperity, Modi said. Stressing on skilling and job creation, Modi said projects like the Tata-Airbus factory will create thousands of jobs. He said the factory will support indigenous manufacturing of 18,000 aircraft parts, providing immense opportunities for MSMEs across India.

India is among the largest suppliers of parts for the world's major aircraft companies, Modi said, adding the new aircraft factory will give a big boost to new skills and new industries in India.

Highlighting the "unprecedented growth and transformation" of India's aviation sector in the last decade, Modi said the government

was providing air connectivity to hundreds of small cities in the country, while simultaneously working to make India a hub of aviation and MRO domain.

He said this ecosystem will pave the way for the Made in India civil aircraft in the future. Noting that various Indian airlines have ordered 1200 new aircraft, Modi said the newly inaugurated factory will play a major role from designing to manufacturing civil aircraft to meet the needs of India and the world.

Modi also mentioned Father Carlos Valles, a Spanish-Indian Jesuit priest and author, who lived in India for five decades and authored various books on mathematics in Gujarati.

Father Valles had enriched the culture with his thoughts and writings, Modi said, adding the Indian government had honoured him with Padma Shri award for his contribution.

Under the C295 programme, 56 aircraft are to be delivered out of which 16 are being delivered directly by Airbus from Spain and remaining 40 are to be made in India by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, an official release said. (PTI)

BANDRA STATION STAMPEDE

Viral CCTV footage shows passengers in mad scramble to board express train

MUMBAI, Oct 28: A CCTV footage has surfaced on social media showing passengers crowding and jostling to board an unreserved express train at Bandra Terminus, which led to a stampede that left ten persons injured.

The footage, purportedly from a CCTV camera on the north end of platform no. 1 at Bandra Terminus, shows the chaos that ensued when the 22-coach unreserved Bandra-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express arrived from the railway yard around 2.44 am on Sunday. As a large number of passengers attempted to board the unreserved train, some lost their footing and fell, causing a stampede that left several injured.

However, the CCTV footage, which has gone viral on social media, does not show the stampede, as it may have taken place on the other end of the platform.

The WR is operating more than 130 festival special trains for various destinations, especially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, for the upcoming Diwali and Chhath festivals.

While the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's disaster management cell said ten passengers were injured in the incident in the early hours of Sunday, the Western

Railway's official statement

claimed only two were hurt. In the footage, passengers with bags and belongings on their heads and shoulders are seen crowding around the train's doors. Some even carrying small drums blocked the entrance, with barely anyone getting to board the train.

It also shows passengers trying to board the train before it comes to a complete halt, while some are seen attempting to enter through an emergency exit window.

In the footage from the CCTV camera, which covered only a couple of coaches, one RPF personnel is seen trying to deal with the crowd near the second coach from the engine, but a few more personnel later arrived, pushing through the crowd to help him.

In the viral footage, no one managed to enter the packed train.

Multiple videos of the incident circulated on social media on Sunday, one of which showed an injured passenger lying in a pool of blood on the platform as others continued boarding. Another footage showed RPF personnel rushing injured passengers to the hospital with the help of others on the platform. (PTI)

YouTuber moves Delhi HC alleging law abuse by TN police



NEW DELHI, Oct 28: YouTuber Felix Jerald on Monday moved the Delhi High Court alleging violation of his human rights by the Tamil Nadu police, which reportedly detained him illegally.

Following his plea, Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri granted him time to file additional documents in support of his contention.

Jerald was allegedly arrested for hosting an "objectionable" interview of another YouTuber Savukku Shankar on his YouTube channel. The interview purportedly contains objectionable remarks against the Madras High Court and the women police officers of the Tamil Nadu police.

The high court listed the matter on December 16.

Jerald, a journalist, claimed he was illegally detained for two days by the Tamil Nadu police officials and his whereabouts were not disclosed to his family members or friends with an "ill motive". He alleged non-compliance of provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure during his arrest in violation of his fundamental rights. The plea, filed by advocates Surya Prakash and Avinash Kumar, sought a direction to state of Tamil Nadu and several police officials to pay ₹ 1 crore compensation for the pain, suffering, humiliation and loss of reputation caused to the petitioner.

The plea said Jerald, owner of "RedPix 24x7" YouTube

channel interviewed a critic and journalist Savukku Shankar on April 30, highlighting the alleged targeting of Savukku Media, the latter's news outlet, by the Tamil Nadu ruling dispensation. Following the interview, Shankar was arrested by the Coimbatore police for his allegations against the women police personnel on May 4.

Jerald's channel was also made as accused in the FIR, it said. According to the plea, Jerald had an appointment with the Press Council of India chairperson on May 11 and he had planned to extend his stay in Delhi for two more days.

However, at around 11 pm on May 10, he was "unexpectedly abducted by unknown persons claiming to be from the police department of Tamil Nadu", the plea stated.

"It is learnt that they were the police personnel from Trichy Rural District, Tamil Nadu, and secured the petitioner in connection with a case of Trichy Cyber Crime Police Station, which was one of subsequently registered FIR for the same interview of April 30," it alleged.

Jerald was stated to have not been made aware of the subsequent FIR, his implication and not been served with a prior notice under Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure to appear before the investigation agency.

Further, it was alleged the petitioner was neither provided with a copy of the FIR nor informed of the grounds of his arrest. The police was accused of not informing his family about their action and not producing him before the court concerned in Delhi to carry out the transit process or before a local court in Trichy within 24 hours after his arrest.

The plea claimed after keeping his whereabouts undisclosed for 66 hours, Jerald was produced before a Tiruchirappalli court on May 13 at around 5 pm and remanded to 15 days police custody. On July 31, the Madras High Court granted him bail with a directive to shut down his YouTube channel.

The Supreme Court, however, stayed the Madras High Court order. Before the Delhi High Court Jerald has alleged facing "gross human rights violations" at the hands of the Tamil Nadu police. (PTI)

GSL launches two indigenous fast patrol vessels for Coast Guard

PANAJI, Oct 28: The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on Monday launched two indigenous fast patrol vessels built for the Indian Coast Guard for protecting offshore assets, island territories and conducting surveillance operations.

The vessels - Adama and Akshar - were launched ceremoniously by Indian Coast Guard Director General (DG) Paramesh Sivamani's wife Priya Paramesh, amid chants of verses from the Atharva Veda.

These state-of-the-art FPVs are designed in-house by GSL to meet the Coast Guard's specific operational needs, a release said.

With a length of 52 metres, breadth of 8 metres, and displacement of 320 tonnes, these vessels are optimised for protecting offshore assets, island territories, and conducting surveillance operations, it said.

The GSL is constructing a fleet of eight fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard, underscoring the shipyard's pivotal role in realising the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in defence production.



Addressing the gathering, DG Paramesh Sivamani lauded the enduring collaboration between the Indian Coast Guard and GSL, which has faced and overcome challenges ranging from the Covid-19 pandemic to geopolitical disruptions.

"This launch epitomises the resilience and ingenuity of GSL, achieved in close collaboration with Indian industry," he said.

The indigenous content of these vessels is a proud reflection of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, he added.

GSL Chairman and Managing Director Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay highlighted the shipyard's impressive growth trajectory, which has seen a 100 per cent increase in gross revenue, crossing the ₹ 2,000 crore threshold.

"GSL has consistently outperformed its past achievements, embracing cutting-edge technologies and transformative policies to become one of India's foremost shipbuilders with indigenous capabilities," he said.

Upadhyay attributed GSL's success to its steadfast commitment to innovation, modernisation and dynamic partnership with the Indian Coast Guard, which has continually strengthened operational readiness for national security.

The keel for both Adama and Akshar FPVs was laid by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane on August 25, 2023.

For the first time in GSL's history, two vessels were launched simultaneously using the shipyard's state-of-the-art ship-lift system, a transformative feat that underscores its modernisation efforts, the release said.

Coast Guard Inspector General H K Sharma, various key stakeholders from the defence and maritime communities were present on the occasion. (PTI)

1 terrorist killed in Jammu

JAMMU, Oct 28: One terrorist was killed on Monday as special forces were mobilised to neutralise a group of recently infiltrated ultras who attacked an army convoy in a village in the Akhnour sector near here, officials said.

"The body of one terrorist along with weapon has been recovered. Operations are under progress," the Army's Jammu-based White knight Corps said in an update on the ongoing operation.

The action came after the terrorists, believed to be three in number, opened fire on an army convoy -- a forces' ambulance part of it suffering the maximum damage -- around 630 am, the officials said.

They fled towards the nearby forest area in the face of retaliation by the troops.

The terrorists were later located inside a basement.

The Army's special forces and the National Security Guards (NSG) were mobilised, leading to deafening explosions and intense gunfire around 2.45 pm, the officials said, adding a helicopter was also seen hovering for surveillance. (PTI)

Diwali celebrations: Muslim poets recite Urdu version of Ramayana

JAIPUR, Oct 28: Setting the syncretic way for a Diwali of goodwill and harmony, Muslim poets in Bikaner recite an Urdu version of the Ramayana to begin the countdown to the festival of lights.

The Urdu Ramayan Vaachan, composed 89 years ago, has been a unique event in the Bikaner calendar for 12 years. And so it was on Sunday as well when Hindus and Muslims gathered for an Urdu rendition of the Hindu epic.

Dr Ziya Ul Hasan Quadri who was among the poets who took part in the recitation said that the objective of the event is to give a positive message of harmony and brotherhood. Quadri said the couplets vividly describe scenes from Ramayan like Lord Ram's exile, victory against Ravan and his return to Ayodhya, capturing the emotions depicted in the epic which is greatly appreciated by audiences in the city.

"Paryatan Lekhak Sangh" and "Mehfil-e-Adab" jointly organise the event 'Urdu Ramayan Vaachan' every year in Bikaner since 2012.

Maulvi Badshah Hussain Rana Lakhnavi of Bikaner composed the poetic version of Ramayana in Urdu language in 1935 for a com-

petition organised by the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the birth anniversary of Tulsidas.

It won the gold medal following which the erstwhile ruler of Bikaner, Maharaja Ganga Singh, organised a ceremony to listen to Rana Lakhnavi's version.

Tej Bahadur Sapru presented the gold medal to Rana Lakhnavi on behalf of the BHU in this programme. Quadri said he first learned about the Urdu version of the epic in 1996. In the following years, the idea to hold the event began to take shape. The poets, who take part in the recitation in Rajasthan's Bikaner before Diwali, now want to take the practice at the national level and plan to organise the recitation programme in the national capital next year.

"Things have drastically changed from the time when it was composed. Today, communal harmony is under threat. Lord Rama is revered by all and belongs to all, but today he has been limited which is disappointing," Quadri said.

He said that Muslim poets recite the Urdu Ramayan and the audience comprises of both Hindus and Muslims. (PTI)

India remains highly dependent on imports of critical minerals, says report

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: India remains highly dependent on imports for minerals critical to accelerating its energy transition, with a full reliance on shipping in lithium, cobalt and nickel, according to a report released Monday.

The report, published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said that India's demand for critical minerals is expected to more than double by 2030, while domestic mining operations may take over a decade to start producing.

It stresses that India needs a carefully crafted import strategy to mitigate potential trade risks while balancing international relationships to secure these essential minerals.

IEEFA's report examines five critical minerals (and their compounds) - cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium and nickel - from the perspectives of import dependency, trade dynamics, domestic availability, and global price fluctuations.

The findings show that India remains largely import-dependent for



these minerals and their compounds, with 100 per cent import reliance for minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel.

"India should strive to de-risk its critical minerals sourcing by identifying new international resources and expediting domestic production. A concerted effort to partner with and foster bilateral relations with mineral-rich nations should be a priority for India," said the report's co-author Charith Konda, Energy Specialist, IEEFA.

"The country can also explore

investment opportunities in resource-rich, friendly nations, such as Australia and Chile, as well as African countries like Ghana and South Africa," he added.

The report said India depends heavily on China for synthetic graphite and natural graphite and it should explore cooperation initiatives with countries like Mozambique, Madagascar, Brazil and Tanzania which are some of the highest graphite producing countries.

"As part of the Global South co-

operation initiatives, these countries could be favourable partners for India for graphite trading," said the report's co-author Kaira Rakheja, Energy Analyst, IEEFA.

India is also highly import-dependent for copper cathodes and nickel sulphates from just two countries - Japan and Belgium. The report suggests India could look at the US, the fifth largest producer of copper in the world, to diversify its suppliers and enhance supply security.

For minerals like lithium oxide and nickel oxide, the dependency is low on one country, but overall imports largely come from Russia and China, both countries with potential trade risks.

"Developing domestic lithium refining capacity will help India integrate with the global lithium supply chain," said Rakheja.

The report also notes the significant efforts that the Indian government is making to improve domestic production of critical minerals with the auctions by the Ministry of Mines and the planned

Critical Minerals Mission.

"The critical minerals mining block auctions can serve as an opportunity for India to focus on building refining and processing capabilities to emerge as a global value-adding hub," said Rakheja.

"Government support in the form of viability gap funding and technology development will help promote such auctions and ultimately the domestic production of critical minerals. A stable supply of critical minerals is imperative for India to achieve its renewable energy goals," Konda said.

India has committed to achieving 500 gigawatts (GW) of non-fossil fuel-based electricity installed capacity by 2030. Currently, the country's renewable energy installed capacity stands at 201 GW, with solar energy accounting for 91 GW.

According to another study, the fast-developing South Asian nation needs to install around 7,000 GW of renewable energy capacity to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. (PTI)

SALMAN KHAN TO PERFORM AT 'DA-BANGG THE TOUR - RELOADED' IN DUBAI

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan on Sunday announced that he is set to perform at the "Da-bangg The Tour - Reloaded" in Dubai on December 7.

Besides Salman, Sonakshi Sinha, Jacqueline Fernandez, Disha Patani, Tamannaah Bhatia, Prabhu Deva, Manish Paul, Sunil Grover, and Aastha Gill will also perform at the event.

The actor, who is currently shooting for his upcoming film "Sikandar", shared the announcement on his official X page.

"DUBAI get ready for DA-BANGG THE TOUR - RELOADED on 7th December 2024 #SonakshiSinha @Asli_Jacqueline @DishPatani @tamannaahspeaks @PDDancing @ManishPaul03 @WhoSunilGrover @GillAastha @patel_jordy @theAEvents @SohailKhan #AdilJagmagia #SohailKhanEntertainment," Khan wrote on the microblogging site.

According to the poster shared by the actor, the event is billed as "4+ hours of non-stop dance, music, fun, laughter & party." It will be held at the Dubai Harbour.

The announcement comes days after the Mumbai Police arrested a man from Jamshedpur in relation to a threat message to Khan. A threat message demanding Rs 5 crore from the actor was received on the Mumbai Traffic Police's WhatsApp helpline last week, prompting the police to register a case and launch an investigation.

Khan earlier received death threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Suspected members of the gang had opened fire outside the actor's Bandra home in April. A few months ago, the Navi Mumbai police uncovered a plot by the Bishnoi gang to kill Khan, leading to security enhancement for the actor.

NCP leader Baba Siddique, who was gunned down on October 12, may have been targeted by Bishnoi because of his proximity to Khan, according to police.

The actor currently serves as the host on the reality TV series "Bigg Boss 18". (PTI)



MICHAEL CERA, EMILIA JONES JOIN GLEN POWELL IN 'THE RUNNING MAN'

LOS ANGELES, Oct 28: "Juno" star Michael Cera and Emilia Jones of "CODA" fame have boarded the cast of filmmaker Edgar Wright's remake of "The Running Man".

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the film is based on the novel by Stephen King. It is fronted by "Twisters" star Glen Powell.

The novel follows the story of a desperate man named Ben Richards who joins the most popular show called The Running Man to arrange money for the treatment of his sick daughter. The show involves teams of killers hunting down contestants. "The longer a contestant survives, the more money that person makes. But as the game show's producers and killers will find out, this desperate man will break all the rules and expose the show's dark secrets," read the official synopsis.

In the film, Jones will play a privileged woman blind to the oppression of the government opposite Powell's Richards, whereas Cera will essay the role of a naive rebel who tries to help the desperate man.

Previously, Hollywood veteran Arnold Schwarzenegger starred as the lead in the 1987 sci-fi action film of the same name. (PTI)



Rakesh Roshan to re-release 'Karan Arjun' ahead of film's 30th anniversary

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: "Karan Arjun", a popular 1990s reincarnation drama starring Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, is set to be re-released in theatres ahead of its 30th anniversary.

The Hindi film, which was originally released on January 13, 1995, will once again hit the screens on November 22.

"Karan Arjun" also starred Raakhee, Mamta Kulkarni, Kajol, and Amrish Puri.

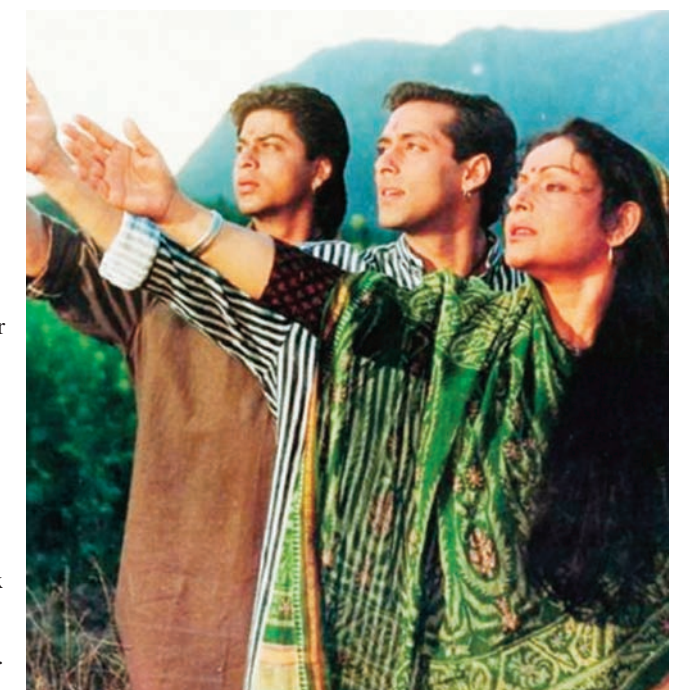
Director Rakesh Roshan, who also produced the film, made the announcement on his X page.

"Karan Arjun aa rahe hai! Witness the reincarnation across the globe in cinema halls from November 22nd 2024. #RajeshRoshan @BeingSalmanKhan @iamsrk @itsKajolD #MamtaKulkarni #Raakhee #AmrishPuri @tipsofficial @PenMovies #30yearsOfKaranArjun," the filmmaker wrote alongside the trailer of "Karan Arjun".

"Karan Arjun" revolves around the titular brothers (Salman and Shah Rukh), who are reincarnated years later to avenge their father's murder at the hands of their property-hungry uncle (Puri).

At the time, the film emerged as a blockbuster at the box office collecting a reported earnings of Rs 43 crore.

Johnny Lever, Arjun, Jack Gaud, Ranjeet and Aasif Sheikh also rounded out its cast. (PTI)



DIL-LUMINATI INDIA TOUR

DILJIT SETS STAGE ON FIRE AT 2ND DELHI SHOW, ASKS AUDIENCE TO DREAM BIG

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: "Dream big" was Diljit Dosanjh's message for fans, both young and old, who were among those lucky enough to get the tickets to see the popular Punjabi star live at the second show of his "Dil-Luminati India Tour" in New Delhi on Sunday.

The singer regaled an approximately 40,000-strong crowd at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in a two-hour set, which saw his perform songs, including "5 Taara", "Do You Know?", "GOAT", "Proper Patola", "Hass Hass", "Lemonade", "Kinni Kinni", "Naina", "Ikki Kudi", "Clash", "Lover", "Khutti", and "Patiala Peg".

The highly-anticipated concert, his second consecutive one in the national capital, began at 7.44 pm with the singer appearing on the stage in a white dhoti-kurta, turban and Aviator shades.

He started the show with the chartbuster "Born to Shine". "I want you all to dream big. Please dream as big as possible. We were born to fulfil our dreams. Dream big guys. If I can do it, you can too."

"I haven't studied much but if I can make people speak in Punjabi then you can do anything," Diljit said to the packed stadium after his first act for the day ended. The "Dil-Luminati India Tour" is produced by Saregama Live and Ripple Effect Studio, with Zomato Live as ticketing partner.

During the performance of one of his songs titled "GOAT", Diljit called upon the stage a family dressed

like him.

"Aa jao bachchon," the singer said.

"We wanted to do a third show in Delhi but we didn't get permission," he later added, thanking the Delhi Police for the security arrangements.

The 40-year-old also shared a message of harmony with fans.

"Be it white, Black, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, we are all the same. Wherever I go, I want to carry this teaching with me," he said.

Fans, ranging from school-going children to those in their 70s, came from as far as Dwarka and Gurugram to witness the magic of Diljit unfold on stage.

When the second half began a little after 9 pm, the singer turned up on the stage in an all-black western outfit.

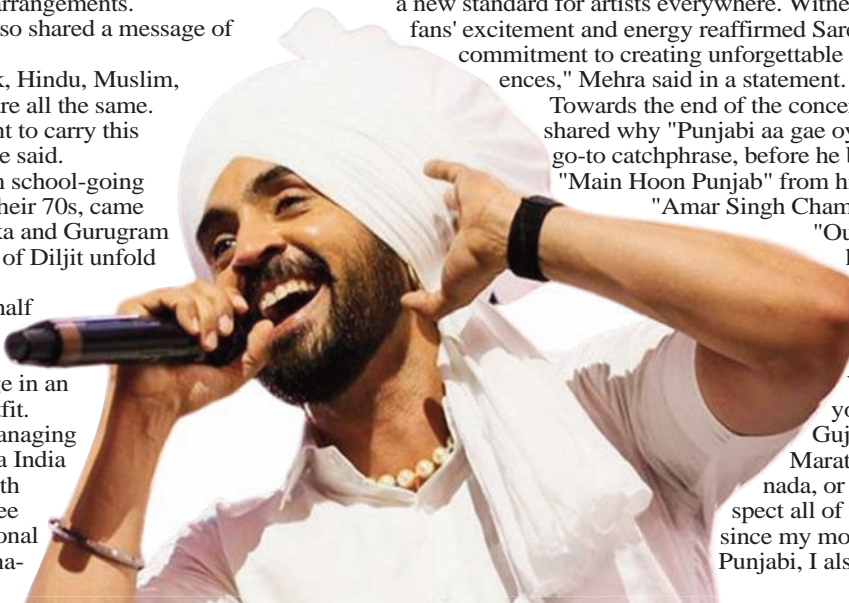
Vikram Mehra, Managing Director of Saregama India Ltd, said working with Diljit for the past three years, from international shows to this grand na-

tional tour, has been an extraordinary experience.

"The performance in Delhi was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the magic of Diljit Dosanjh. He is truly raising the bar for live concerts in India and setting a new standard for artists everywhere. Witnessing the fans' excitement and energy reaffirmed Saregama's commitment to creating unforgettable experiences," Mehra said in a statement.

Towards the end of the concert, Diljit shared why "Punjabi aa gae oye!" was his go-to catchphrase, before he broke into "Main Hoon Punjab" from his film "Amar Singh Chamkila".

"Our country has many languages and I respect them all. Whether you speak Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, or Hindi, I respect all of you. But since my mother spoke Punjabi, I also speak



Hunter Parrish to star in mystery thriller series 'Scarpetta'



LOS ANGELES, Oct 28: Actor Hunter Parrish, best known for his work in "Weeds" and "It's Complicated", will star in a recurring role in the Prime Video series "Scarpetta". The actor joins previously announced cast members Nicole Kidman and Jamie Lee Curtis, reported Variety. An adaptation of Patricia Cornwell's Kay Scarpetta novels, "Scarpetta" is an upcoming mystery thriller series from Blumhouse Television.

According to the logline, the show "follows Kay Scarpetta (Kidman), the chief medical examiner, as she returns to Virginia and resumes her former position with complex relationships, both personal and professional – including her sister Dorothy (Curtis), with plenty of grudges and secrets to uncover."

Parrish will recur as the younger version of Benton Wesley, presumably in flashbacks. Benton is an FBI profiler who strikes up a romance with Kay in the books.

Also part of the cast are Ariana DeBose, Bobby Cannavale, Simon Baker, Rosy McEwen and Jake Cannavale. Prime Video has already handed out a two-season order to the series, which hails from Blumhouse and Amazon MGM Studios.

Liz Sarnoff, known for "Alcatraz" and "Lost", will serve as writer, executive producer, and showrunner on "Scarpetta". The series is executive produced by Kidman for Blossom Films and Curtis for Comet Pictures. Cornwell is also an executive producer for P & S Projects alongside Jason Blum, Jeremy Gold, Chris Dickie, and Chris McCumber for Blumhouse Television and Per Saari for Blossom Films. "Halloween" franchise director David Gordon Green and Amy Sayres also serve as executive producers. (PTI)

3rd ODI: India women need to resolve batting vulnerabilities to seal series against NZ

AHMEDABAD, Oct 28: India will be hoping to resolve their batting brittleness in their quest to win the third and final women's ODI and seal the series against New Zealand here on Tuesday.

It was clear from the first match, which the hosts won by 59 runs through a fine effort by the bowlers, that India's batting is not in top shape, and the second one-dayer underscored that reality.

India's batting went a notch down on Friday as they were bundled out for 183 while chasing 260.

It was a tough target indeed, but not improbable in nature as Indian batters succumbed to spot-on White Ferns bowlers and to their own indiscretions.

It required a record ninth-wicket stand of 70 runs between Radha Yadav and Saima Thakor to add a touch of respectability to India's run chase.

Even the overall picture is not a rosy one, as Indian batters are yet to score an individual fifty across two matches.

Radha's 48 in the second ODI is the highest individual score from India's side during this series, and the home team will require a drastic turnaround in the final match.

For that, India's power troika upfront -- openers Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur -- will have to fire in unison.

It can have a ripple effect in a strong-on-paper middle-order consisting of Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Tejal Hasabnis.

Mandhana's form continues to



be a bit of concern as she hardly looked a pale shadow of her customary gracefully dominant batter.

She is yet to reach two-figure score against New Zealand, and a series decider could be a perfect occasion for her to rewrite the script.

On the other hand, Indian bowlers continued their good effort despite conceding 259 in the previous match.

At one stage, the visitors were

87 for no loss in 14 overs and 139 for 3 in 30 overs, but the Indian bowlers did well to rein them back and limit to a total less than 280-290 that at one stage looked achievable.

The left-arm spinner Radha has once again been impressive with a four-wicket haul to go with the three wickets she plucked in the first game.

She will need to be at her best once more to keep the free-flowing New Zealand batters in

check.

New Zealand have also been bolstered by the presence of veteran pacer Lea Tahuhu who replaced injured Moly Penfold in the eleven and immediately impressed with a three-wicket haul.

The Teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Thakur

Singh, Radha Yadav, Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, Amanjot Kaur, Anjali Sarvani, Taniyaa Bhatia, Yastika Bhatia.

New Zealand: Sophie Devine (C), Suzie Bates, Maddy Green, Lauren Down, Brooke Halliday, Katey Martin (WK), Hayley Jensen, Jess Kerr, Fran Jonas, Hannah Rowe, Molly Penfold, Lea Tahuhu, Izzy Gaze, Georgia Plimmer.

Match starts at 1:30pm IST. (PTI)

Barcelona flying high and humiliated Real Madrid seeking answers in clasico fallout



MADRID, Oct 28: Barcelona entered the latest clasico as the team to beat in Spain, having played entertaining soccer from the start of the season and coming off a big win over Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

And there was no letdown Saturday for Hansi Flick's team, leaving its biggest rival Real Madrid searching for answers after being humiliated at home.

With an attack that continued to click and a near-perfect defensive tactic, the Catalan club reinforced its status by routing Madrid 4-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to increase its lead at the top of the Spanish league and gain added momentum following an already fast start under Flick.

"We already showed against Bayern that we are a great team," said Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal, who scored one of his team's goals. "We believe in ourselves, now people just need to see it." That goal made Yamal the youngest scorer in a clasico at 17 years, 105 days, surpassing teammate Ansu Fati, who was about 250 days older in October 2020. Barcelona has been dominant since the start of the season, with 12 wins and only two losses — at Monaco in the Champions League and at Osasuna in the Spanish league. It was coming off a 4-1 win over Bayern Munich in the European competition. The team's attack — led by Yamal, Raphinha and league-leading scorer Robert Lewandowski — has been virtually unstoppable, having outscored opponents 47-12 in all competitions.

Barcelona has scored four or more goals in seven of its 14 matches, including a 7-0 rout of

Valladolid in the Spanish league and a 5-0 win over Young Boys in the Champions League.

The defense came through to contain Kylian Mbappé in his first game against Barcelona as a Madrid player. He was one of the many Madrid players to be caught by Barcelona's offside traps throughout the match.

The synchronized traps limited Madrid's chances as its forwards kept failing to correctly time their breaks behind the defenders and found themselves in offside positions.

Barcelona is already six points ahead of Madrid in the Spanish league after 11 matches.

"This is what we want to do, it's our philosophy," said Flick, who replaced former Barcelona great Xavi Hernández this season. "We want to go on, step by step, game by game."

Barcelona's most recent victories helped the club end two losing streaks — it had lost six straight against Bayern and four consecutive against Madrid.

Madrid, the defending league champion and Champions League title-holder, has not played its best soccer recently, having lost twice in its last five games.

The other defeat came at Lille in the Champions League to end a 36-game unbeaten run in all competitions. It hadn't lost in the Spanish league in 42 straight games, falling one short of a joint record with Barcelona, which went 43 matches without defeat in the competition in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Madrid also struggled early in its Champions League match against Borussia Dortmund, when it was losing 2-0 at half-time before rallying impressively to win 5-2. (AP)

Salima Tete named India captain for women's Asian Champions Trophy

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Salima Tete was named captain of the 18-member Indian women's hockey team announced on Monday for the Asian Champions Trophy scheduled to be held from November 11 to 20 at the newly-developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar.

Navneet Kaur will serve as Tete's deputy. India enter the competition with high expectations, having clinched the title at last year's edition in Ranchi.

The team will face stiff competition from five other nations, including reigning Olympic silver-medallists China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand, in the battle for continental supremacy.

India will open their campaign against Malaysia on November 11. Speaking on the team selection and their preparation for the tournament, dynamic mid-fielder Tete said: "It's an incredible feeling to lead the team into another major tournament, especially as defending champions."

"We have trained rigorously and have a strong unit with both experienced players and young talent. Our goal is to defend our title and play with the same passion and determination we showed last year."

The goalkeeping duties will be shared between the experienced Savita and rising talent Bichu Devi Kharibam.

The defence will be anchored by a solid line-up, featuring Udita, Jyoti, Ishika Chaudhary,

Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke.

In the mid-field, captain Tete will be supported by Neha, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Toppo, and Lalremsiami, all known for their dynamic play.

The forward line-up boasts firepower with Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Preeti Dubey, and Beauty Dungdung leading the charge.

Notably, Sushila and Beauty Dungdung make their return to the team after successfully completing their rehabilitation.

"We are confident in our preparation and the chemistry we've built within the team. Playing in front of our home crowd is a huge boost, and we are ready to face tough competition from the best teams in Asia," vice-captain Navneet said.

"Working alongside Salima has been great, and we are determined to make this tournament a memorable one," she added.

India: Goalkeepers: Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam.

Defenders: Udita, Jyoti, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Ishika Chaudhary.

Midfielders: Neha, Salima Tete, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Toppo, Lalremsiami.

Forwards: Navneet Kaur, Preeti Dubey, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Beauty Dungdung. (PTI)

Substitute Kenan Yildiz's late double helps Juventus draw 4-4 at Inter in Derby d'Italia

MILAN, Oct 28: Teenager Kenan Yildiz came off the bench to help Juventus salvage a 4-4 draw at Inter Milan in a highly entertaining Derby d'Italia.

Yildiz was brought on in the 61st minute with the score at 4-2 and Inter seemingly headed for an important victory before the 19-year-old's late double.

"I want to thank the team, the coach and my family; it was not easy, but I am very happy," Yildiz said. "You always have to stay together and play as a team; in soccer everything can change quickly."

Inter remained second — four points behind Serie A leader Napoli, and one point ahead of Juventus. "We need to show greater determination, but as the coach I have to say that we deserved to score seven or eight goals against a team that had only conceded one up until now," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said. "There are heads hanging low, and I'm the first to feel that way, but we played well despite the disappointment of not getting that fifth goal to seal the match." Nicknamed "Italy's



derby," matches between Inter and Juventus are always huge fixtures in the Serie A calendar and the two teams are considered the main title contenders, along with Napoli, this season.

Inter took the lead in the 15th minute when Piotr Zielinski struck a penalty straight down the middle after Marcus Thuram had been fouled by Danilo.

The Nerazzurri had conceded just two goals in its past four

matches but they let in as many in six minutes as their defense was caught napping.

First, Juan Cabal floated a delightful ball over the top for Weston McKennie to cushion across to Dusan Vlahovic, who tapped it in from point-blank range. Shortly afterward, Francisco Conceição dribbled down the right and got past Henrikh Mkhitaryan all too easily before rolling across for Tim Weah to

slot home from right in front of goal as Juventus took a 2-1 lead.

Mkhitaryan atoned for his error with a wonderful equalizer in the 35th minute, playing a one-two with Thuram and feinting past a Juventus defender before firing into the bottom left corner. Inter turned the match around completely two minutes later with another penalty after Pierre Kalulu clattered into the back of Denzel Dumfries. Juventus goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio got a hand to Zielinski's kick but couldn't prevent it going into the bottom left corner.

Inter extended its lead eight minutes into the second half. Danilo tried to head a corner clear but it came to Dumfries who drilled it into the far bottom corner. The home side came close several times to extending its advantage before Juventus got back into the match in the 71st. McKennie picked out Yildiz, who was unmarked in lots of space on the left, and he surged downfield before firing across into the bottom right corner. (AP)

Is Antonio Conte's Napoli for real? The next 4 games are a real test

ROME, Oct 28: Antonio Conte's Napoli has been unbeatable since mid-August. Now comes the real test. The Serie A leader will travel to the San Siro twice for games at AC Milan and Inter Milan in a space of less than two weeks and also play Atalanta and Roma over its next four matches. The rough stretch starts on Tuesday in Milan.

Suppose Napoli can keep the lead or stay near the top after these four games. In that case, the Partenopei will be a serious contender for their second Italian title in three years — an achievement that would improve upon the two "scudetti" in four years that the club won with Diego Maradona in 1987 and 1990.

Having won eight of its last nine matches — interrupted only by a 0-0 draw at Juventus in September — Napoli hasn't lost since getting beat by Hellas Verona in its Serie A opener on Aug. 18.

"We have amassed the points we needed to," Conte said, "and now, it's never a walk in the park to play at the San Siro — whether it's against Inter or Milan."

Since the loss to Verona, Napoli has scored 16 goals and conceded

two. But, Conte's side could be challenged by a Milan team that is rested after its match on Saturday was postponed due to flooding in Bologna.

Two key Milan players are suspended, though: Theo Hernandez and Tijjani Reijnders.

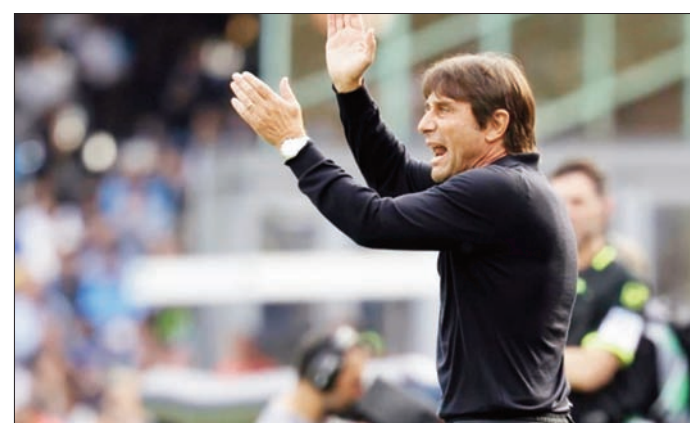
"Milan is certainly a strong team, who let us not forget was 22 points clear of Napoli last season and invested heavily on the transfer market," Conte said.

Napoli went through 3 different coaches last season

After winning Serie A under Luciano Spalletti in 2023, Napoli went through three different coaches the previous season when it finished 10th to miss out on Europe. Conte signed a three-year contract in June and has made an almost immediate impact.

"Antonio is able to get inside the players' heads," said Ciro Ferrara, a former teammate of Conte's at Juventus turned analyst at DAZN. "He's able to extract the best out of his players."

Conte has also been a serial winner as a manager, amassing three Serie A titles at Juventus, Premier League and FA Cup tro-



phies at Chelsea and another Serie A title at Inter Milan. He even guided Bari to the Serie B title before he moved to Juventus.

Lukaku, McTominay and Neres are making an impact

Conte convinced Romelu Lukaku to rejoin him at Napoli after the pair won at Inter and the Belgian striker has filled in well for the departed Victor Osimhen.

Another player who has made an immediate impact is midfielder Scott McTominay, who joined in August after playing for Manchester United his entire career.

McTominay's header led to a goal for Giovanni Di Lorenzo in Saturday's scrappy 1-0 win over Lecce. Newly signed David Neres has also been a force, giving Napoli more options beyond Khvicha Kvaratskhelia on the wings. Napoli is perfect at Stadio Diego Armando Maradona

Napoli has won its opening five home games at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona for only the third time; having also achieved the feat with Maradona himself in 1989 and under Spalletti in 2021. (AP)

Atletico Madrid's struggles continue with loss at Real Betis in Spanish league

MADRID, Oct 28: Atletico Madrid can't find a way to end its slump.

Diego Simeone's team followed up its home loss against Lille in the Champions League with a 1-0 defeat at Real Betis in the Spanish league on Sunday. An own-goal by defender José María Giménez less than five minutes into the match sealed Atletico's second consecutive loss.

It has only one win in its last six matches in all competitions — a 3-1 victory over Leganes in the Spanish league last weekend. Before that, it had league draws at home against Real Madrid and at Real Sociedad, and it lost 4-1 at Benfica in the Champions League.

"We know what we have to do, what we need to work on," Simeone said. "It's clear to me that soccer is all about getting the work done and when you can't find that dynamic you end up suffering."

On the plus side, Atletico had been unbeaten in 11 consecutive league matches until Sunday's defeat in Seville.

"We weren't able to play the type of game we wanted to play," Simeone said. "They got off to a strong start and were lucky to get the early goal."

Giménez found his own net while trying to clear a low cross into the area in the fourth minute at the Benito Villamarín Stadium.

The loss kept the Madrid club in fourth place, one point behind third-place Villarreal and four points behind city rival Real Madrid, which lost 4-0 to Barcelona at home in Saturday's clasico.

Atletico is 10 points behind leader Barcelona after 11 rounds. Betis moved to fifth place and two points behind Atletico. Manuel Pellegrini's team has won five of its last eight league matches, including two of its last three games.

It was Betis' only second home win against Atletico in their last 16 league matches, and the first since 2019. Sixth-place Osasuna picked up first-half goals in a 2-0 victory at Real Sociedad to end a two-game winless streak. Sociedad dropped to 12th place.

Leganes scored three second-half goals in a 3-0 win over Celta Vigo, while Getafe converted a 90th-minute equalizer in a 1-1 home draw against last-place Valencia, which is winless in five consecutive matches. (AP)

Bailey has ruled out Inglis for the opener's role Inglis 'in mix' for Test debut in Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Chief selector Bailey



SYDNEY, Oct 28: In red-hot form, Australian white-ball wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis is "in the mix" to make his Test debut as a specialist batter in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy next month, hinted chief selector George Bailey on Monday. India, unbeaten in the marquee series on the previous four occasions, will face Australia in a five-Test series beginning in Perth on November 21.

Captain yet to be named for T20Is against Pakistan

SYDNEY, Oct 28: Australia have rested their Test regulars for their home T20I series against Pakistan with a captain yet to be named, choosing to focus on the marquee Border-Gavaskar series against India next month.

Australia host Pakistan for three ODIs starting November 4, followed by the three-match T20I series, from November 14.

The series concludes on November 18, just four days before the first Test against India in Perth.

With T20I captain Mitchell Marsh, Travis Head and ODI and Test skipper Pat Cummins unavailable, Australia are yet to appoint a captain for the series.

None of the players named in the squad announced on Monday have captained Australia in any format before but the likes of Glenn Maxwell, Adam Zampa, Matthew Short and Aaron Hardie have led their sides in the Big Bash League. Josh Inglis is also in the mix to lead the side.

Pacers Xavier Bartlett (side strain), Nathan Ellis (hamstring) and Spencer Johnson (side strain) return to the squad after recovering from injuries.

"It is particularly encouraging to have Xavier, Spencer and Nathan back in the national setup," said selection chief George Bailey.

"It's another opportunity for them to continue to show their ability on the international stage, as they have done in the past." (PTI)

"There's no doubt that the form is really fantastic at the moment... the ability to jump back into domestic cricket and dominate has been fantastic," Bailey told reporters.

"I think in different series at different times of the year, he would firmly come into the mix purely as a batter the way he's been going."

"If the right opportunity opened up throughout the summer, in the

spots where we think he's most capable of performing, I think he'd be firmly in that conversation as well."

The 29-year-old, who is Australia's incumbent keeper in ODI and T20Is, has scored four centuries in last seven Sheffield Shield matches.

But with Australian Test wicketkeeper Alex Carey in rich form, Inglis has emerged as a specialist middle-order batter, but not for the

vacant opening slot, Bailey said.

Australia's move to promote Steve Smith at the top following David Warner's retirement did not work out and with Cameron Green ruled out of the India series because of a back injury, there's a vacancy alongside Usman Khawaja.

However, Bailey has ruled out Inglis for the opener's role.

"I've spoken to Josh on this. Not in the short term, I don't think that he's someone that we would be looking to place at the top of the order," Bailey said.

Inglis, in fact, is one of the contenders to lead Australia's T20I side in the upcoming three-match series against Pakistan.

All-format players, including regular T20 skipper Mitchell Marsh, are sitting out of the Pakistan series to prepare for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"We've been really clear that we are prioritising the preparation for individuals around the Test summer and that will be the first time that we get that group together," said Bailey.

"So, rather than switching guys in and out and becoming quite messy, it was just deemed more appropriate for a number of reasons to separate them out."

This will be Australia's first Test series in the ongoing WTC cycle since defeating New Zealand 2-0 in a two-match away series in March. (PTI)

Gary Kirsten resigns as Pakistan's limited-overs coach

KARACHI, Oct 28: Pakistan's white-ball coach Gary Kirsten on Monday stepped down after developing a rift with the country's cricket board within six months of his appointment.

The 56-year-old South African, who coached India to victory at the 2011 ODI World, was appointed by the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) in April end this year.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced Jason Gillespie will coach the Pakistan men's cricket team on next month's white-ball tour of Australia after Gary Kirsten submitted his resignation, which was accepted," the PCB posted on 'X'.

Red-ball coach Gillespie, however, has made it clear to the PCB that he can only manage things for the white-ball tour of Australia which starts November 4 and is not interested in a permanent role as the limited overs coach, a reliable source aware of the developments said.

"Gillespie has informed the board they should look for a replacement for Kirsten for the white ball games in Zimbabwe and onwards," he added.

Though the PCB didn't give the reason for Kirsten's sudden resignation, the source confirmed that it was because he was not in-



involved when the board announced the squads for the Australia and Zimbabwe tours and the new captain of the white ball format on Sunday.

The PCB has withdrawn the coaches selection powers. Selection is now exclusively the domain of the selection committee.

"Kirsten was not happy with the abrupt manner in which the board took away his powers in selection and other team matters and made this very clear to Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday before sending in his resignation," an-

other insider said.

He expressed fear that even Gillespie might end up resigning soon as he is also not happy with the current shift in how teams are selected now solely by the selection committee and coaches have no role in this.

Kirsten had been working as a batting coach with the Indian Premier League franchise Gujarat Titans before taking up the role in Pakistan.

The team is riding high on a come-from-behind 2-1 triumph over visiting England in a Test series that concluded last week. (PTI)

Rinku, Rana shine as UP gain control over Punjab

MULLANPUR, Oct 28: Rinku Singh and Nitish Rana powered Uttar Pradesh to a commanding position against Punjab with entertaining fifties on day three of their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Monday.

After opener Madhav Kaushik's career-best 163, the visitors came up with four more half-centuries to declare their first innings for a massive 556/9, taking a lead of 346 runs.

At stumps, Punjab were struggling at 49/1, trailing by 297 runs.

The Kolkata Knight Riders duo of Rana and Rinku laid the foundation with a crucial 120-run partnership for the third wicket.

Rana struck an aggressive 66 off 106 balls, hitting 11 fours, while Rinku made 68 off 131 balls, with eight fours and a six.

Saurabh Kumar joined the onslaught with a brisk 67-ball 69, smashing three sixes and five fours, while Shivam Sharma contributed an unbeaten 50 off 58 balls, including four sixes and two fours, to further frustrate the Punjab attack.

In Indore, Harshal Patel's unbeaten 72 at No. 9 and Yuzvendra Chahal's gritty 27 off 142 balls helped Haryana secure a vital first-innings lead over Madhya Pradesh.

Responding to MP's 308, Haryana ended the day at 431/9, with Patel still at the crease alongside last man Aman Kumar (4).

Opener Lakshay Dalal hit his maiden century (105 off 271 balls), while Dheeru Singh fell just short of three figures with a well-crafted 94.

Himanshu Rana (90) also missed his hundred in the nineties, but Dalal and Dheeru's 143-run partnership for the fourth wicket laid a solid foundation.

Sharma finishes 66th as Byeong An beats Kim to Genesis title

INCHEON (KOREA), Oct 28: It was another disappointing week for Shubhankar Sharma, whose weekend rounds of 76-76 saw him finish tied-66th at the Genesis Championship on the DP World Tour.

Earlier, Sharma had rounds of 71 and 68. Korea's Byeong Hun An beat fellow countryman Tom Kim in the play-off to secure his second DP World Tour title.

Birdies kept pouring throughout the day as six players held the lead in some capacity at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club on Sunday.

The group at the top of the leaderboard was closely packed until Kim jumped one shot clear heading down the last when An lipped out for a bogey on the penultimate hole. Both landed their approach shots to eight feet for birdie putts, with An applying the pressure by draining his effort to move back alongside Kim at 17 under.

Kim needed to sink his hole to claim the one-shot victory, but he lipped out and the two home favourites were forced into a play-off.

Both played risky second shots when replaying the par-five last, but Kim was left in a precarious position which resulted in him shooting into the main stand with his third and carding a bogey. (PTI)



However, a collapse ensued before Patel steadied the innings with his resilient knock.

For MP, left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya was the standout bowler, finishing with 4/117.

In Kolkata, Bengal pacer Ishan Porel took 5/83 to secure his fifth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, reducing Kerala to 83/5.

However, Kerala's middle-order, led by seasoned campaigner Jalaj Saxena, staged a resilient recovery to reach 267/7 at the Jadhavpur Salt Lake Campus ground.

Saxena's fighting 84 off 162 balls, alongside a determined 64 from Salman Nizar, added 140 for the seventh wicket, frustrating Bengal's bowlers.

Nizar, who faced 205 deliveries, was accompanied by wicket-keeper-batter Mohammed Azharuddeen (30 off 48 balls) at close of play.

Porel's disciplined bowling proved effective on a flat pitch, where he dismissed Kerala's new signing Baba Aparajith for a golden duck and skipper Sachin Baby for 12.

In Patna, veteran Mayank Agarwal came up with his 18th first-class century, 105, while Manish Pandey made a brisk 56 (55b) to help Karnataka overcome a difficult start to take first innings lead over Bihar.

In reply to Bihar's 143, Karnataka ended the day for 287/7.

Brief Scores

In Mullanpur: Punjab 210 and 49/1; 19 overs. Uttar Pradesh 556/9 declared; 141.1 overs (Madhav Kaushik 163, Saurabh Kumar 69, Rinku Singh 68, Nitish Rana 66, Shivam Sharma 50 batting).

In Indore: Madhya Pradesh 308. Haryana 431/9; 150.5 overs (Lakshay Dalal 105, Dheeru Singh 94, Himanshu Rana 90, Harshal Patel 72 batting; Kumar Kartikeya 4/117).

In Kolkata: Kerala 267/7; 102 overs (Jalaj Saxena 84, Salman Nizar 64 batting, Mohammed Azharuddeen 30 batting; Ishan Porel 5/83 vs Kerala).

In Patna: Bihar 143. Karnataka 287/7; 51 overs (Mayank Agarwal 105, Manish Pandey 56; Himanshu Singh 4/51). (PTI)

Chirag Chikkara clinches gold at U23 World Wrestling Championships

TIRANA (ALBANIA), Oct 28: Chirag Chikkara became only the third Indian to become Under-23 world champion as India capped a rich haul of nine medals, including a gold and silver each, at the age group tournament here.

Chikkara, competing in the men's freestyle 57kg category, eked out a narrow 4-3 in the closing seconds of the final win over Abdymalik Karachov of Kyrgyzstan.

He becomes the second Indian man, after Paris Olympics bronze medalist Aman Sehrawat, to win the gold at the U23 Championships.

Sehrawat had achieved the feat in the same category in the 2022 edition of the meet while Reetika Hooda had become the first Indian woman to bag a gold at the tournament when she won in the 76kg category last year. Ravi Kumar Dahiya had also won a silver in the U23 World Championships in 2018.

Chikkara reached the final after a series of dominant performances, defeating Gaukoto Ozawa 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals, Lunus Iaybatirov 12-2 in the last eight stage and Allan Oralbek 8-0 in the semifinals.

India's medal haul in the men's freestyle category also included two bronze medals, placing the nation fourth in the team standings with 82 points, trailing Iran (158), Japan (102), and Azerbaijan (100).

India also won two more bronze in men's freestyle taking the country's medal count in the category to four that secured the nation a fourth place in the team rankings.

Iran topped the team rankings with 158 points followed by Japan (102), Azerbaijan (100) and INIDA (82).

Vicky defeated former U20 World Championships silver medalist and European junior champion Ivan Prymachenko of Ukraine with a convincing 7-2 margin to win bronze in the men's 97kg freestyle event. It is the highest weight category at which India have medalled at this tournament.

Vicky had defeated Merab Suleimanishvili of Georgia via fall in round of 16, Radu Lefter of Moldova 5-0 in quarterfinals, Lunus Iaybatirov 12-2 in the last eight stage and Allan Oralbek 8-0 in the semifinals.

Having narrowly missed a final berth the other day, Sujeet Kalkal bounced back from being 0-4 down to beat Mustafa Akhmedov of Tajikistan 13-4 and win bronze in men's 70kg freestyle. (PTI)

In war-time Ukraine, soccer fans bury rivalries, find moment of calm at matches

KYIV (UKRAINE), Oct 28: At soccer games in Ukraine, crowd sizes are determined by the capacity of the nearest bomb shelter.

For the first time since the full-scale war began in 2022, the Ukrainian Premier League is holding a full season with fans present, as martial-law bans on public gatherings have been eased.

Despite the constant threat of airstrikes, Dynamo Kyiv supporters eagerly snap up the 1,700 tickets available for each home game at the 16,000-seat Valeriy Lobanovskiy Stadium.

Many fans are keen to experience a rare moment of calm, free from the country's traditionally intense sporting rivalries.

While the war forced Dynamo to relocate its home matches in the Europa League to Hamburg, Germany, it uses its home stadium in Kyiv for domestic league matches.

Vitalii Kozubra brought his nine-year-old son Makar to watch Dynamo, a title contender, face mid-table Zorya Luhansk, a club displaced by Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine.

"Even though there's a war going on, this is something people can enjoy together," Kozubra said, noting the friendly atmosphere at the stadium, where Zorya fans mingled with locals.

Makar marvelled at the difference between watching a game in person and on television. As the players took the field, all 22 of them draped in Ukrainian yellow-and-blue flags, the crowd, which in-

cluded servicemen and families with children, erupted in applause.

The stadium was alive with the sound of players' exertion and the thud of the ball. Children rushed to the touchline for autographs, drawn by the few foreign players from Brazil, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Panama who have chosen to remain despite the war. Zorya wasn't booed once.

Ukraine's 16-team top-flight league has managed to continue, despite increasing challenges. Matches are scheduled for the early afternoon due to frequent power outages and the logistical challenges of travelling across Europe's second-largest country during the war.

When air raid sirens interrupt play - sometimes for hours - players and fans alike head to shelters as alarms blare from loudspeakers and thousands of mobile phones.

"This season, we've been lucky in Kyiv, with no air alarms during our home games," said Dynamo club spokesman Andrii Shakhov.

"But, it's a different story for away games... The longest one we had lasted 4½ hours because of four air alarms."

Ukrainian soccer players are subject to the draft at age 25, but clubs can apply for exemptions under business protection rules.

Two teams currently play permanently outside their home field due to the war, amid broader disruption, while two others withdrew after fighting started due to stadium damage.



The country's soccer tradition dates back to its Soviet past, when it was a soccer powerhouse, producing top-tier players and coaches.

In the 1980s, fan movements often became expressions of Ukrainian identity, defying Soviet authority.

After Ukraine declared independence in 1991, soccer continued to be a source of national pride through years of political and financial turmoil. Ukraine reached the 2006 World Cup quarter-finals and co-hosted the 2012 European Championships.

At home, supporters' groups have set

aside violent rivalries for more than a decade, ever since they united to back protesters during the deadly 2013-14 uprisings against Russian influence. Later, they organized military recruitment drives to fight in the ensuing wars.

"Dexter," a red-bearded Dynamo supporter and civilian contractor for the military, explained why the truce among rival fan groups still holds.

"It became necessary because we needed to unite against a common enemy. These internal conflicts lost their relevance when people from rival fan groups ended up fighting together in the

same military units," he said while walking his dog along the banks of the Dniro River.

He added that fan organizations are involved in nearly every aspect of the war effort, from active combat duty to fundraising, veteran support, and providing technical skills like computer programming to the military.

He and others serving in or working alongside the armed forces spoke on the condition that they be identified only by their call signs in keeping with Ukrainian military protocol.

Dynamo officials estimate that more