Israeli offensive in hard-hit northern Gaza kills dozens and threatens hospitals

Ukrainian drone strikes another arms depot inside Russia, officials say

Modi launches development projects in poll-bound Maha

Haryana results reflect BJP's focus on development: Shinde

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'Congress is a factory to spread hatred'

People won't fall for hateful conspiracies: Modi

Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the BJP's victory in the Haryana elections shows the mood in the country and the people have shown they will not fall prey to the hateful conspiracies of the Congress and "urban Naxals"

The Congress is an irresponsible party and a factory to "spread hatred" which wants to divide Hindus and pit one community against another, Modi said after virtually launching various development projects of more than ₹ 7,600 crore in the Maharashtra.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) wants to weaken Maharashtra to gain power, but the ruling Mahayuti (comprising BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP) is determined to strengthen the state, he said.

Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly are likely to be held next month.

The prime minister said, "Never

velopment taken place at such a fast pace, on such a large scale, in different sectors. During the Congress rule, such speed and scale was seen

in different sectors in corruption." Further targeting the Congress, Modi cautioned against those who play divisive politics and mislead voters for personal gains.

The Congress wanted to induce fear among Muslims in the country and convert them into vote bank, he said and also accused the opposition party of indulging in caste politics to divide Hindus for political gains.

The PM expressed confidence that the people of Maharashtra would reject efforts to break the society. The BJP has won the Haryana assembly elections, he said, adding that "in Maharashtra we have to get a bigger victory.'

Modi said that the Marathis and the people of Maharashtra are congratulating him for the Centre grant-



ing classical language status to Marathi

The BJP's victory in the Haryana assembly polls for the third consecutive time is historic and the results have shown the mood of the country, he said.

"The entire ecosystem of the

gang was working towards misleading the people. But, all the conspiracies of Congress have been

The Congress used all tactics to provoke the people of Haryana, but they have shown that they will not fall prey to the hateful conspiracies of Congress and "urban Naxals", he

destroyed," said Modi

spread lies among Dalits, but the community understood its dangerous intentions of snatching their reservations and to distribute it to its

"Today, Dalits of Haryana have given a record support to the BJP and the OBCs of Haryana are with BJP looking at its development works. The Congress provoked farmers, but they know who gave them MSP (minimum support price) on their produce," he said.

The cultivators of Haryana are happy with the BJP's farmer welfare policies, he added. Modi said the Congress has always followed the formula of divide and rule and continuously proven that it has become an irresponsible party. "The Congress is still creating new narratives to divide the country. From time to time, it brings a formula to divide the society. Congress is not stopping itself from (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Heavily preoccupied with fear and anxiety

ASDC seeks protection of Karbi and Dimasa people

Voice of the hills people

HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 9: The Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma seeking the non-inclusion of Karbi and Dimasa people within the purview of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, signed in 1985.

The memorandum submitted by party president Jotson Bey stated that the ASDC had earlier expressed their views on the issue of implementation of Clause 6 to the High-Level Committee on 'Assamese definition' and proposals for safeguarding Karbi and Dimasa

"As sought by the Committee, the ASDC wants to place its views and suggestions like reservation of seats in Parliament and Assembly,

Reservation of seats in Karbi Ang Autonomous (KAAC) and NC Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), where only Karbis and Dimasas and other scheduled tribes should have the right to contest and get elected to the Autonomous Councils of Karbi Anglong and NC

Hills," the memorandum stated. It further highlighted, "Karbi language should be brought into the list of Eight Scheduled to the Constitution of India and reserva-tion of jobs." The memorandum also sought for the traditional Karbi chieftainship to be given due recognition and status by the government, reservation of 90 per cent of jobs under KAAC and NCHAC, and the protection of land rights of the indigenous (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Drugs worth ₹24 crore seized in Assam; two held

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: In a major drug haul, Yaba tablets worth around ₹ 24 crore were seized in Karimganj district of Assam, a police officer said on Wednesday.

Two drug peddlers who are residents of Tripura were arrested. Karimganj Superintendent of Police Partha Protim Das said acting on a tip-off, security forces intercepted a truck at the Churaibari check post on the Tripura border.

"On thorough search of the vehicle, police recovered 80,000 Yaba tablets. We have also arrested two persons hailing from Tripura for transporting the narcotics," he

As per market rates, the value of the seized drug was estimated to be around ₹ 24 crore, Das said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in a post on X lauded the efforts of Assam Police in making the state (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

change status of assembly: Legal experts **NEW DELHI, Oct 9:** The restora-

Restoration of statehood in J&K won't

tion of statehood from the status of union territory (UT) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) by the Centre in future will not affect the status of the new legislative assembly, legal experts said on Wednesday.

In response to a query over the impact on the newly-elected J&K legislative assembly, if the Centre decided to restore statehood, senior lawyer and constitutional law expert Rakesh Dwivedi opined it would not be necessary to dissolve the as-

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan echoed similar sentiments and said restoration of statehood would not make any difference as the Legislative Assembly had already been constituted.

Their views have come amid a growing clamour for the restoration of the J&K's statehood, which was one of the major poll planks of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, which secured majority seats in the 90-member assembly on October 9.

The National Conference-Congress combined pulled off a comprehensive victory in the maiden elections in J&K following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

"It will not be necessary to dissolve the Legislative Assembly. It will continue to function as a state Assembly. A parliamentary law amending the existing one made after the abrogation of Article 370 would suffice. Even if two states of Jammu and Kashmir are created, the procedure would be a State Reorganisation Act under Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution," added Dwivedi. On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the 2019 revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir even as it ordered (CONTD, ON PAGE-2)

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is set to demit office next month, turned philosophical, saying he had served the country with "utmost dedication" amid "fears and anxieties" as to how history will judge his tenure.

The 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI), his two-year tenure will end on November 10.

"I find myself pondering over questions -- did I achieve everything I set out to do? How will history judge my tenure? Could I have done things differently? What legacy will I leave for future generations of judges and legal professionals?" he said. The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan.

"The answers to most of these

Served country with utmost dedication: CJI sought "pardon" for being "vulnera-

questions lie beyond my control, and perhaps, I will never find answers to some of these questions. However, I do know that, over the last two years, I have woken up

> every morning with a commitment to give the job my fullest and gone to bed with the satisfaction that I served my country with utmost dedication," added CJI Chandrachud. During the event, the CJI

ble" at a time when he was about to demit office and said he was "heavily preoccupied" with fears and anxieties for the future and past.

"As you navigate the complexities of your own journeys, do not be afraid to take a step back, reassess, and ask yourself: 'Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself? The difference is subtle, yet profound. After all, the world needs leaders who are driven by purpose and not just ambition," he said.

According to the CJI, once someone has a sense of faith in his/her intentions and abilities, it is easier not to obsess over outcomes but to value the process and the journey towards those outcomes. The CJI further reflected on an unrelenting passion to make a differ-

Governor, CM extend Durga Puja greetings

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday extended greetings and best wishes to the people of Assam on the occasion of Durga Puja.

"Durga Puja marks the eternal essence of victory of good over evil and ushers in hope and a bright future. On this occasion, let us all pay our obeisance to Goddess Durga and pray that she guides all towards righteousness, joy and prosperity," the governor said in a message.

He hoped that the spirit with which the festival is celebrated strengthens the bond of unity to fight against all evils.

The chief minister, in his message, pointed out that Durga Puja continues to inspire individuals to move forward, grounded in the principles of humanism and moral

Nobel Prize in chemistry awarded for breakthrough work on proteins



STOCKHOLM, Oct 9: The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to three scientists for their breakthrough work predicting and even designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life.

The prize was awarded to David Baker, who works at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, who both work at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure.

"That was actually called a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in biochemistry, for decades. So, it's that breakthrough that gets awarded today," he said.

Baker designed a new protein in 2003 and his research group has since produced one imaginative protein creation after another, including proteins that can be used as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nanomaterials and tiny sensors, the Nobel committee said. "The number of designs that they have produced and published, and the variety, is absolutely mind-blowing. It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein now with this technology," said Professor Johan Åqvist of the Nobel com-Hassabis and Jumper created

an artificial intelligence model that has been able to predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added. "Proteins are the molecules that enable life. Proteins are building blocks that form bones, skin, hair and tissue,' Linke said. "To understand how life works, we first need to understand the shape of proteins."

Linke said scientists had therefore long dreamt of predicting the three-dimensional structure of proteins. "Four years ago, in 2020, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein

"Another dream of scientists has been to build new proteins, to learn how to use nature's multi-tool for our own purposes. This is (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Congress analysing 'unexpected' results in Haryana: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the party was analysing the "unexpected" results in Haryana and will apprise the Election Commission about complaints received from various

In his first reaction after the shock defeat in Haryana, the former Congress president also thanked the people of Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir for their support. "My heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - INDIA's victory in the state is a victory of the Constitution, a victory of democratic self-respect," he said. The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Gandhi said the Congress was looking into the results of the Haryana Assembly polls.

"We are analysing the unexpected results of Haryana. We will inform the Election Commission about the complaints coming from many assembly constituencies," he said. "Heartfelt thanks to all the people of Haryana for their support and to our 'Babbar Sher' workers for their tireless hard work," he said in a post in Hindi on X. "We will continue this fight for rights, for social and economic justice, for truth, and will keep raising your voice," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

A delegation of the Congress comprising K C Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Ajay Maken, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Pratap Singh Bajwa, Abhishek Singhvi, Udai Bhan, Jairam Ramesh, and Pawan Khera will meet the Election Commission at 6 pm on Wednesday at Nirvachan Sadan, the EC remarks Congress' allegations as 'unheard'

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: The Elec-

tion Commission on Wednesday

dubbed the 'Haryana results unac-

ceptable' statement of senior Con-

gress leaders as "unheard in the

rich democratic heritage" of the

country and far from a legitimate

In a letter to Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge, the EC said

such remarks by party leaders

Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khera

move towards "an undemocratic

rejection of the will of the people"

expressed in accordance with the

statutory and regulatory electoral

The Commission said it has also

noted the statements of Kharge and

Rahul Gandhi, terming the

Haryana results as "unexpected"

and that the party proposes to

analyse the same and approach the

EC with its complaints. The EC

said it had received a request seek-

ing a meeting time for a 12-mem-

ber official INC delegation,

including (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

part of free speech.

framework.

INDIA bloc parties flex muscles after Congress defeat in Haryana

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: After the Congress' shock defeat in Haryana, the opposition INDIA bloc parties flexed their muscles on Wednesday, accusing the grand old party of ignoring them. They said this attitude should not be repeated in the future polls.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) turned out to be the biggest critic of the Congress, accusing it of ignoring other parties that resulted in the poll debacle. Leaders of the TMC, AAP, CPI(M), CPI and some other parties also blamed the Congress for working alone and not jointly, which led to the defeat in Haryana.

The Congress will be contesting the Maharashtra polls as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) aliance and the Jharkhand elections in tie-up with the JMM, which is also a part of the INDIA bloc.

Several opposition leaders accused the Congress of banking on regional parties where it is weak but not forging alliances when they perceive they are strong

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the Congress' "over confidence" was responsible for its defeat in Haryana, alleging that it relies on allies only in regions where they are weak but ignores them in its

"Wherever the Congress is weak, it takes help from the regional parties. But where it thinks it is strong, the Congress attaches no importance to the regional parties," Raut said.

"We could win in Jammu and Kashmir because the INDIA bloc was fighting there under the leadership of Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah. In Haryana, the INDIA bloc did not fight together because the Congress thought they could win on their own. Hooda ji is our friend, he thought he could win on his own," he said. He said parties like the Samajwadi Party, Aam Aadmi Party or even his own party Shiv Sena (UBT) could have fought a few seats in Haryana and that would have made a difference. The MVA allies should declare a chief ministerial face for the upcoming contest, he added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi also pointed out that it was a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress, and that the Congress needs to introspect over its loss.

"The Congress has to introspect. There was a direct contest with the BJP. Where did they all fall short? I am sure they will analyse that. She said with Haryana polls getting over, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

'Auction of remains disrespectful and inconsiderate'

UK auction house withdraws sale of 'Naga Human Skull'

LONDON, Oct 9: A UK auction house has withdrawn a 'Naga Human Skull' from its lots for a live online sale on Wednesday following an outcry in India over the issue.

The Swan auction house at Tetsworth in Oxfordshire had a series of skulls and other remains originating from around the world as part of 'The Curious Collector Sale, Antiquarian Books, Manuscripts & Paintings.' The '19th Century Horned Naga Human Skull, Naga Tribe' was slotted as Lot No. 64 and resulted in protests in Nagaland, led by chief minister Neiphiu Rio who sought the intervention of external affairs minister S Jaishankar to stop the hurtful sale.

"The news of the proposed auction of Naga human remains in the UK has been received by all sections in a negative manner as it is a highly emotional and sacred issue for our people. It has been a traditional cus-



tom of our people to give the highest respect and honour for the remains of the demised," said Rio in his letter. He urged the minister to take up the matter with the High Commission of India in London so that steps are taken to ensure that the auction of the skull can be stopped after the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) raised concerns over the matter.

"This piece would be of particular interest to collectors with a focus on anthropology and tribal cultures," reads the description of the auction lot, listed for an opening bid of GBP 2,100 (₹ 23 lakh approximately) with the auctioneer's estimate expecting it to fetch as much as GBP 4,000 (₹ 43 lakh approximately).

Its provenance is traced back to the collection of 19th-century Belgian architect Francois Coppens.

The FNR asserted that the auction of the human remains contravenes Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which says: "Indigenous Peoples have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.'

FNR then contacted the auction house directly to condemn the sale and to call for the object to be repatriated to Nagaland. The organisation is one of many indigenous groups from across the world that is currently in dialogue with the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford about artefacts held in the museum's col-

Laura Van Broekhoven, director of the museum, told the BBC she was "outraged" at some of these items going up for auction. "The fact these objects were taken is really painful, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

THE HILLS TIMES

Investors pushing some NBFCs to grow fast: RBI

Bank on Wednesday said it has come across instances of investors pushing some non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to grow aggressively, which is leading to inappropriate business practices.

Flagging risks like poor customer service, entities' own finances coming under strain and even a possible dent to financial stability through such practices, Governor Shaktikanta Das warned that the RBI will "not hesitate" to take action against errant entities if they continue to follow such prac-

Das made it clear that the risk is not at a systemic level and it is only a few entities where the RBI has observed certain issues.

"...driven by the significant accretion to their capital from both domestic and overseas sources, and sometimes under pressure from their investors, some NBFCs -- including microfinance institutions (MFIs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) -- are chasing excessive returns on their equity,"

Such tendencies are leading to practices such as unreasonably high processing fees and frivolous penalties, he said, adding that the same is further accentuated by what appears to be a 'push effect', wherein business targets are driving retail credit growth rather than

OPPO celebrates Diwali with 'VishwasKaDeep'

campaign

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: This Diwali, OPPO India is spreading festive cheer with its new campaign called #VishwasKaDeep, celebrating the values of trust and hope that unite communities across the country.

The campaign's highlight is a heartwarming brand film, which captures the essence of Diwali celebrations in various regions of India. The film, titled "Har Diwali Vishwas Ka Deep Jalati Hai," showcases diverse traditions—from Rajasthan's 'Thar ki Diwali' with Kathputli performances, to Himachal Pradesh's Budhi Diwali and Goa's Narak Chaturdashi effigyburning festivities.

The film, live on OPPO India's YouTube, Instagram, OTT platforms, and cinemas, takes viewers on a vibrant journey through India's rich cultural landscape, showcasing how the light of Diwali brings families and communities together. OPPO India also introduced an interactive microsite where users can explore unique Diwali customs and create AI-powered Diwali postcards to share with loved ones. Alongside the campaign, OPPO India launched a grand festive sale "Pay 0, Worry 0, Win ₹10 Lakh," featuring no-cost EMI, zero down payment, and exciting prizes, including ₹10 lakh and the latest OPPO smartphones. Buyers of the Reno12 Pro 5G and F27 Pro+ 5G can also enjoy instant cashback and flexible payment options across OPPO India retail stores, e-store, Flipkart, and Amazon. "We want to highlight the trust and resilience that define Diwali celebrations across India," said Karan Dua, Head of Brand Marketing, OPPO India. "Our campaign and interactive experiences reflect OPPO's commitment to connecting people through innovative and reliable technology.'

The festive offers run until November 5th, 2024, with a special raffle for purchases made before



actual demand.

"The consequent high-cost and high indebtedness could pose financial stability risks, if not addressed by these NBFCs," Das

It is essential for entities to follow sustainable lending practices, a compliance first culture, strong risk management and be sincere on addressing customer grievances,

"The Reserve Bank is closely monitoring these areas and will not hesitate to take appropriate action, if necessary," Das said, adding that the central bank will desire a selfcorrection by NBFCs.

Deputy Governor Swaminathan said the strong messaging is aimed both at select set of errant

the practices are doubtful and added that there are instances of elevated slippages and higher credit costs in both. Das was, however, non-committal when asked if higher risk weights -- a strategy adopted by

NBFCs and also segments where

ular segment -- are on its way for the non-banks. In June 2024, Das had spoken about usurious interest rates being charged by MFIs and asked the industry players to relook into the practices. On Wednesday, he seems to have had broadened the funnel and issued the stern mes-

the RBI to curb lending in a partic-

sage to the NBFC sector as a Some NBFCs are aggressively

pursuing growth without building up sustainable business practices and risk management frameworks, commensurate with the scale and

"An imprudent 'growth at any cost' approach would be counter productive for their own health,"

He also asked the NBFCs to review their prevailing compensation practices, variable pay and incentive structures, some of which appear to be purely target driven in certain NBFCs, stating that this may lead to adverse work

complexity of their portfolio, Das

culture and poor customer service. Das also made it clear that the health parameters of banks and NBFCs continue to be "strong" even as there has been some commentary of stress build up in unsecured segments.

He asked banks and NBFCs to carefully assess their individual exposures in these areas, both in terms of size and quality, and have robust underwriting and monitoring of loans.

Reacting to the comments from the RBI, non-bank lender Capri Global Capital's managing director Rajesh Sharma said the suggestions are "timely and relevant" because the country is stepping into another few quarters of high growth, which requires financial stability to be maintained. (PTI)

LG Electronics announces winner of 'India ka Celebration' campaign

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: LG Electronics, one of India's leading consumer durable brands, has announced Partha Mohan from Sivasagar, Assam, as the first lucky winner from Northeast India in the ongoing "India ka Celebration" campaign.

Mohan, an entrepreneur, won the coveted LG Dream Home Package after purchasing an LG Air Conditioner from M/S Pushpanjali, Sivasagar, on September 21st, 2024.

The campaign, launched to spread joy during the festive season, offers prizes worth ₹51 crore, with daily winners of the LG Dream Home Package. The package includes premium LG products like a Sideby-Side Refrigerator, OLED TV, Front Load Washing

Machine, Microwave Oven, Water Purifier, and Air Conditioner. Congratulating the winner, Devajit Borpatra Gohain, Branch Manager, LG Electronics Guwahati, said, "Our 'India ka Čelebration' campaign is all about spreading happiness during the festive season. Heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Partha Mohan for becoming our first winner from the Northeast.

Expressing his excitement, Mohan said, "I feel incredibly lucky and overwhelmed to be the first winner of LG's Dream Home Package from the Northeast. This has made the festive season even more special for my family and me."

The campaign continues to bring daily winners of the Dream Home Package, spreading festive cheer

100 Assam students graduate in hospitality skills under Diageo India's 'Learning for Life' Program

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Diageo India proudly celebrated the graduation of 100 students from Assam as part of its 'Learning for Life' program, in partnership with Orion

Educational Society (OES). The convocation ceremony was attended by prominent figures including MLA Rupak Sarma and vice chairman of Nagaon Municipal Board, Simanta Bora

Navdeep Singh Mehram, head of CSR & Sustainability at Diageo India, expressed pride in the success of the initiative, emphasising its alignment with Diageo's 'Spirit of Progress' goals.

Niladri Banerjee, secretary of Orion Educational Society, highlighted the program's ability to prepare youth for rewarding careers in hospitality

The program offers over 300

hours of skills-based training in hospitality, including front office administration, food and beverage services, and digital literacy. Graduates certified by industry and government standards, are now well-equipped for employment in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Since its inception, the Learning for Life program has trained over 5,200 youth across India in business and hospitality sectors.

JCB India launches its most fuel-efficient Tracked Excavator

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 9: JCB India, the country's leading manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment, has unveiled its latest innovation—the JCB NXT 215 LC Fuel Master Tracked Excavator.

Launched at its state-of-the-art factory in Pune, this highly fuel-efficient excavator is designed for the Indian market as well as for international exports. With 14% reduced fuel consumption compared to the previous model, the machine brings significant savings to customers, enhancing their operational profitability. Powered by JCB's innovative Intelliflow Hydraulics technology, the JCB NXT 215 LC Fuel Master provides real-time fuel consumption data through an onboard interface screen and JCB's advanced remote monitoring solution, LiveLink.

This efficiency boost can save customers up to ₹2.90 lakh annually, helping them manage rising fuel

feature prevents unnecessary fuel wastage during extended idle periods.

JCB India CEO and managing director, Deepak Shetty, highlighted the machine's benefits at the launch event, stating, "For over four decades, innovation has been at the core of JCB's operations in India. With the JCB NXT 215 LC Fuel Master, we are addressing the needs of our customers by delivering a machine that reduces fuel consumption by 14%, making it a profitable investment in today's competitive construction landscape.

In addition to its fuel efficiency, the new excavator offers 5% greater productivity and features a Power Boost function for challenging applications. It is also optimized for quieter operation, reducing operator fa-

The machine is built to handle demanding tasks like rock breaking and is equipped with durable LED

Need to keep 'inflation horse' under tight leash lest it bolts again: RBI Guv Das

MUMBAI, Oct 9: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday retained the retail inflation projection at 4.5 per cent for fiscal 2024-25, with Governor Shaktikanta Das stressing that the central bank will have to closely monitor the price situation and keep the "inflation horse" under tight leash lest it may bolt again.

Unveiling the October bimonthly monetary policy, the Governor also said the flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework has completed 8 years since its introduction in 2016 and is a major structural reform of the 21st century in India.

Under the FIT, the central bank has ensured that the consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The RBI on Wednesday retained

the CPI inflation projection for 2024-25 at 4.5 per cent, with Q2 at 4.1 per cent; Q3 at 4.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.2 per cent.

CPI inflation for Q1:2025-26 is projected at 4.3 per cent. The risks are evenly balanced.

"The CPI print for the month of September is expected to see a big jump due to unfavourable base ef-



fects and pick-up in food price momentum, caused by the lingering effects of a shortfall in the production of onion, potato and chana dal (gram) in 2023-24, among other factors," Das said.

He further said the headline inflation trajectory, however, is projected to sequentially moderate in the fourth quarter of this year due to good kharif harvest, ample buffer stocks of cereals and a likely good crop in the ensuing rabi season. Unexpected weather events and worsening of geopolitical conflicts constitute major upside risks

to inflation. International crude oil prices have become volatile in October, Das added. The Governor also said food inflation pressures could see some easing later in this financial year on the back of strong

rabi sowing. "It is with a lot of effort that the inflation horse has been brought to the stable, i.e., closer to the target within the tolerance band compared to its heightened levels two

kharif sowing, adequate buffer

stocks and good soil moisture con-

ditions which are conducive for

"We have to be very careful about opening the gate as the horse may simply bolt again. We must keep the horse under tight leash, so that we do not lose control," he emphasised.

Going forward, Das said there is a need to closely monitor the evolving conditions for further confirmation of the disinflationary impulses. Retail inflation softened significantly in July and August, with base effect playing a major role in July. Food inflation experienced a certain degree of correction during these two months.

Considerable divergence, however, was observed within the food sub-groups.

Deflation in fuel group deepened on softening electricity and LPG prices. Core inflation, on the other hand, edged up in July and August. Governor Das further said the developments since the August meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) indicate further progress towards realising a durable disinflation towards the target. Despite the near-term upsides to inflation from food prices, the evolving domestic price situation signals moderation in headline inflation thereafter, he added. (PTI)

Airtel, Nokia collaborate to launch 'Green 5G' Initiative to drive sustainability

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications companies, has partnered with global tech giant Nokia to launch a pioneering sustainability initiative called "Green 5G."

This initiative is set to transform the energy efficiency of Airtel's 4G and 5G networks, aiming to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of its mobile operations by an estimated 143,413 metric tons of CO2 annually.

This collaboration focuses on deploying advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and cutting-edge software solutions to optimize Airtel's extensive 4G/5G Radio Access Network (RAN). These technologies will play a crucial role in managing energy use more efficiently, reducing consumption during peak and off-peak hours without compromising network performance.

India experiences an unprecedented surge in data demand with the expansion of 5G networks, Airtel remains committed to balancing this growth with sustainable practices. Our partnership with Nokia enables us to embrace innovative solutions that drastically reduce energy consumption and cut our carbon emissions, advancing our environmental objectives.'

Nokia, a global leader in mobile network solutions. is equally enthusiastic about this initiative. Tarun Chhabra, Head of Mobile Networks at Nokia India, commented, "We are proud to partner with Airtel in driving sustainable practices across the country's mobile networks. Our advanced technologies will not only enhance network performance but also contribute significantly to reducing energy consumption, helping both Airtel and Nokia meet their energy efficiency

Contd. from Page 1..

People won't fall for hateful

misleading voters of the country. Its formula is very clear - that is to instill fear in Muslims and convert them

Modi said not a single Congress leader has ever said there are so many castes among Muslims and they lock their mouths when the question of Muslim castes arises. But, when it comes to the Hindu community, the Congress always refers and talks about them on caste lines, he said.

"It is the policy of Congress to pit one Hindu community against another. Congress knows that it will benefit as much when Hindus get divided. Congress wants to ignite fire in the Hindu community by any way possible for political gains," Modi said.

The Congress implements this formula wherever there is an election in the country, he said. Modi said the Congress is spewing poison in the society to strengthen its vote bank. It fights elections on the communal and caste lines, he said. "Breaking the Hindu community and making it a winning formula is the basis of Congress politics," said Modi.

Further targeting the Congress, the PM said it is suppressing the "sarva jan hitaye, sarva jan sukhae" (taking everyone's welfare and happiness together) approach of India and also suppressing the Sanatan Dharma tradition. The Congress, which ruled the country for so long, has become so restless to come back to power that it is doing

politics of hatred everyday, he said, adding the old generation leaders of Congress are so helpless looking at the condition of their party. After independence, Mahatma Gandhi understood this situation of Congress that it will become the biggest factory of spreading hatred, Modi said. (PTI)

ASDC seeks protection

people. It has called for the implementation of Article 244 (A) of the Constitution for safeguarding, protecting, preserving, and promoting the cultural, social, and linguistic identity and heritage of the indigenous tribes of the two hill districts.

Drugs worth ₹ 24 crore

drug-free. Yaba, also known as 'crazy medicine,' is a tablet form of a mixture of methamphetamine - a pow-

Restoration of statehood in J&K

assembly elections there by September 2024 and the restoration of statehood "at the earliest." Penning the verdict, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud noted Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission that the Centre would restore the statehood and that the UT status was temporary.

The apex court said that restoration of statehood shall take place at the earliest and as soon as possible. Earlier this week, an application was filed in the top court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir within two months. (PTI)

Served country with

world, saying he often pushed himself to the extremes and worked long hours carrying a heavy load, as if the world's problems rested solely on his shoulders. "However, over the years, I have come to realise that our ability to contribute to our community is deeply rooted in our self-perception and capacity for self-care," he said. The journey towards the goal should be enjoyed rather than getting caught up in the fear of reaching the destination, the CJI said.

"As someone who is a few decades older than you, I can tell you that these fears are not easy to wish away. However, the personal growth lies in being able to address them and tackling them head-on," he told a crowd also comprising law graduates in the neighbouring country.

CJI Chandrachud, known for speaking his mind, has pronounced verdicts on crucial issues affecting public life besides kicking off technological, administrative and infrastructural reforms to enhance the efficiency of the justice delivery system. It was under his leadership that the apex court initiated steps to promote transparency the top court on May 13, 2016. (PTI)

Governor, CM extend Durga

"Sharadiya Durga Puja is not only a religious festival, but also a celebration of love, brotherhood, and solidarity, bringing people together in a spirit of harmony," he said. The rich tradition of Durga Puja, prevalent since the times of ancient Kamrupa, showcases the cultural heritage of the state, he said.

Sarma visited 14 puja pandals on Wednesday and interacted with the members of each organising committee. The CM had earlier announced that the state government will continue for the second consecutive year its monetary assistance of Rs 10,000 to each Durga Puja committee. (PTI)

Nobel Prize in chemistry

the problem that David Baker solved," he added. "He developed computational tools that now enable scientists to design spectacular new proteins with entirely novel shapes and functions, opening endless possibilities for the greatest benefit to humankind."

Baker said Hassabis and John Jumper's artificial intelligence work gave his team a huge boost. "The breakthroughs made by Demis and John on protein structure prediction really highlighted to us the power that AI could have. And that led us to apply these AI methods to protein design and that has greatly, increased the power and accuracy," he said.

Baker told the Associated Press that the win was exciting. He found out during the early hours of the morning alongside his wife, who immediately started screaming, "So it was a little deafening, too," he said. In an open call with the Nobel officials and journalists who attended the announcement in Stockholm, Baker was asked if he had a favourite protein.

He said he loves them all, adding: "So I don't want to pick favourites, but I can tell you about one that we designed during the pandemic that protects against the coronavirus. And I've been very excited about the idea of a nasal spray, of little designed proteins, that would protect against all possible pandemic viruses. Hassabis is one of Britain's leading tech figures and was awarded a knighthood earlier this year for his serv-

ices to artificial intelligence. He co-founded the AI research lab DeepMind in 2010, which was later acquired by Google. DeepMind's breakthroughs include developing an AI system that mastered the Chinese game of Go and was able to defeat the game's human world champion much faster than expected.

Baker gets half of the prize money of 11 million Swedish Kronor (\$1 million) while Hassabis and Jumper share the other half. Last year, the chemistry award went to three scientists for their work on quantum dots tiny particles just a few nanometers in diameter that can release very bright coloured light and whose applications in everyday life include electronics and medical imaging. (AP)

INDIA bloc parties flex muscles

the seat-sharing strategy for the upcoming elections in Maharashtra should be done and concluded as soon as possible. "Winning Maharashtra and Jharkhand is as much a responsibility of the Congress as the regional parties in the state. A senior leader of the TMC who did not want to be named spoke on similar lines, saying the Congress lost again when it was a straight fight with the BJP and the regional parties do much better in de-

The TMC is a part of the INDIA bloc but had fought the Lok Sabha polls alone in West Bengal after a deal could not be struck with the Congress, which fought in alliance with the Left parties. The TMC leader said the Congress reached out to the INDIA parties after facing losses in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Parties like Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (Sharad Pawar) and JMM must not be treated badly in the upcoming polls, he added. In an apparent jibe at the Congress without naming it, TMC MP Saket Gokhale, in a post on X, said the attitude of not accommodating regional parties in places where they felt they were winning is leading

EC remarks Congress' allegations

those who made the "results unacceptable" statement.

"Proceeding on a fair assumption that the statement of the party president is the formal party position on the electoral outcome, the ECI has agreed to meet the delegation today at 6 PM ...," the letter to Kharge said. (PTI)

UK auction house withdraws sale

and the fact that they were being put on sale is really disrespectful and inconsiderate," said Broekhoven. "We're conscious that the remains would have been collected in the 19th and 20th centuries, but for them to be

on sale in 2024 was quite shocking," she said. The Swan auction house has been approached for a comment. (PTI) Over 14,000 health camps and new Panchakarma block enhance the Ayush ecosystem under the new govt

Ayush sector achieves milestones in first 100 days

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 9: The Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), a pioneering research institute with an NABH hospital on Ayurveda and NABL lab from Northeast India under the Ministry of Ayush, organised a press conference on Wednesday to highlight the achievements in the Ayush sector in the first 100 days of the new union government. The press conference was addressed by Dr Sashi Sonowal, joint director, Directorate of Ayush, government of Assam; Dr Pranabjyoti Baishya, principal, government Ayurvedic College, Guwahati, along with Dr Dinesh Baruah, director, CARI, and Dr PL Bharti of the Clinical department.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Dinesh Baruah, director of the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), said, "The Ministry of Ayush has been focusing on overall improvement in quality patient care with multiple programs as well as campaigns. In the first 100 days of the new government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ministry organised more than 14,000 health camps catering to geriatric patient care. With continuous support from Union minister of state (independent charge) for Ayush, Pratap Rao Jadhav, our ministry continues to reinforce its commitment to enhance the quality of life through Ayurveda, contributing towards enriching the Ayush ecosystem. At our CARI center in Guwahati, we have also been focusing on improving and upgrading quality patient care with newer facilities like Northeast's first dedicated Panchakarma block, inaugurated earlier this year by the then Union Ayush minister Sarbananda Sonowal. It has witnessed tremendous response from people, with more than 4,500 patients receiving therapeutic treatment in the first 100 days at the Panchakarma block. The center also boasts the region's first Pharmacology & Chemistry Laboratory, which was also dedicated to the nation earlier this year. Both centers were completed in a record time of two years since the foundation stones were laid in February 2022 by Sarbananda Sonowal."

"Apart from this, our programs like anaemia control among adolescent girls under Mission Utkarsh via Ayurvedic methods, the study on 'Marsa Nasya Karma' and Multi-Centre Feasibility in Cervical Spondylosis, Ayurvedic Mobile Healthcare



throughout Northeast India. This first-of-its-

kind survey will critically appraise and val-

idate Local Health Traditions (LHTs), Oral

Health Traditions (OHTs), and Ethno-Med-

icinal Practices (EMPs) among the ethnic

communities of the region. Our team has in-

terviewed more than 400 folk medicine heal-

ers, and claims have been documented

accordingly. Another study on wild edible

plants has been sanctioned, covering 12 dis-

tricts of Assam: Kamrup (M), Kamrup, Bon-

gaigaon, Nalbari, Barpeta, Goalpara,

Dhubri, South Salmara, Chirang, Kokrajhar,

Baksa, Udalguri, and Bajali in the first phase

this year. CARI also has a modern patholog-

ical laboratory offering a wide range of

pathological and biochemical tests at nomi-

nal rates. This lab has received NABL ac-

creditation, making it one of the few labs

with top accreditation in the region. We con-

ducted close to 50,000 tests last year, and in

the last 100 days, our team at the lab con-

ducted more than 19,325 tests, set to surpass

CARI has been providing top Panchakarma

therapies to people at reasonable rates. The

researchers are also examining the role of

Panchakarma in healing patients and enrich-

ing the quality of life. A Panchakarma Train-

ing Course is ongoing to train Panchakarma

technicians, ensuring quality resources for

the Ayush market. The building is equipped

The dedicated Panchakarma block at

last year's performance."

Program, Tribal Healthcare Research Program, and Women & Child Healthcare Program are ongoing. All these outreach programs as well as IEC campaigns have helped the Ayush sector regain its foothold and win the trust of the public as a reliable source for treatment to improve the quality of life. The increasing number of patients being treated at CARI reflects newfound confidence among people about the efficacy and utility of the Ayush system of medicine, added Dr Baruah.

CARI has established healthcare centers in various districts, including PHC Barighat, Amranga in Kamrup; Nakhla Model Hospital in Jagiroad, Morigaon; Dhula MPHC in Darrang; Nasatra PHC in Barpeta; Kanaklata Civil Hospital in Sonitpur; Bikali Model Hospital in Dhupdhara, Goalpara; and a first referral center in Lumding, Hojai district. There were a total of 30,253 beneficiaries last year (2023-24). This year, the number of free health camp beneficiaries was 7,079 across 63 camps. In the last 100 days, the total number of beneficiaries in OPD and health camps was 2,910, and 19 health camps were organised by all seven centers.

All these camps are organised by the AHCs in the surrounding areas, which provide medicinal healthcare services to a large number of people. Speaking further, Dr Baruah said, "CARI is also conducting a Medico-Ethnobotanical Survey program

with dedicated rooms to perform key Panchakarma therapies like Snehana and Swedana, Shirodhara, Basti, and others. A medicine lab to prepare Panchakarma medicines like Kwath and Basti Dravya has been created, and there are dedicated classrooms to train Panchakarma technicians under the Panchakarma Technician Course. Various machines like the New Panchakarma Droni, Bashpa Swedana Yantra (steam chamber), Nadi Swedana Yantra, Sarvangadhara Yantra, Shirodhara Yantra, Basti Yantra, Nasya applicator, Avagaha tub, and sauna chamber are also being installed for effective Panchakarma treatment. A first-of-its-kind Pharmacology and

Chemistry Laboratory in the Ayush sector in the Northeast is equipped with facilities for drug standardisation, safety, and efficacy evaluation of Ayurvedic formulations. The labs will scientifically validate the therapeutic and safety potential of classical Ayurvedic formulations, ethno-medicinal plants, and plant-based formulations. They will further work to develop cost-effective, novel polyherbal formulations from Ayurvedic plants, especially found in the Northeast region. A modern animal house has been established to conduct pre-clinical studies for the safety and efficacy of Ayurvedic formulations, along with a stateof-the-art pharmacology lab equipped with sophisticated instruments like a rotary evaporator, Soxhlet extractor, automatic haematology analyzer, biochemistry analyzer, coagulation analyzer, analgesimeter, UV-VIS spectrophotometer, laboratory deep freezer, plethysmometer, and others. The chemistry lab works on drug standardisation of Ayurvedic formulations and ensures drug quality. Modern instruments include highperformance thin-layer chromatography (HPTLC), high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), gas chromatographymass spectrometry (GC-MS), X-ray diffractometer (XRD), and others. Two research projects, in collaboration with the College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati, are being conducted on 'Acute and Ninetyday Repeated Dose (Sub-chronic) Oral Toxicity Studies of Coded Formulation Ayush-PTK' and 'Evaluation of Neuroprotective and Antioxidant Effects of Vasantakusumakara Rasa in a Rat Model of Type II Diabetes Neuropathy'.

CEM Pramod Boro distributes appointment letters to teachers



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Oct 9: In a noble step for building healthy educational uplift, a total of 2,112 teachers, including 1,734 LP teachers and 378 UP teachers across the five districts of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), received appointment letters at an appointment letter distribution ceremony held at the Bodofa Cultural Complex, Chandamari in Kokrajhar on Wednesday.

The chief executive member of the Bodoland Territorial Region, Pramod Boro, distributed appointment letters (Regularization of Services) to the contractual and state pool teachers of lower primary (LP) and upper primary (UP) schools under Samagra Shiksha in BTR districts like Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Tamulpur, and Udal-

The ceremonial distribution was attended by BTC Legislative Assembly Speaker Katiram Boro, MLAs Lawrence Islary, Jiron Basumatary, BTC executive members Dr Nilut Swargiary, Wilson Hasda, and BTC principal secretary Akashdeep, among others.

Notably, the teachers of the five districts-Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, and Udalguri of the Bodoland Territorial Region-received the appointment letters (Regularization of Services) for 2,112 teachers, including 1,734 LP

and 378 UP contractual and state pool teachers under Samagra Shiksha in BTR.

CEM Boro stated that the government of BTR and the government of Assam are jointly working dedicatedly towards the welfare and uplift of the educational environment across the state, and subsequently distributed appointment letters to the teachers of LP and UP schools in the Bodoland region. He opined that education is the backbone of social welfare and development among human beings.

"Education is the only way for building a student, a generation, and a society," Boro said.

He extended heartiest congratulations to all regularised teachers of the Bodoland region.

"I am delighted to distribute appointment letters to 2,112 contractual and state pool teachers of lower & upper primary schools under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in BTR. Services of 1,734 lower primary and 378 upper primary teachers from Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, and Udalguri districts will now be regularised, thus fulfilling yet another promise made to the people of BTR. My heartiest congratulations to the teachers whose services have been regularised. I'm confident that they will continue to work for the bright future of all students of BTR," Boro said.

Minister distributes financial aid to Durga Puja committees in Kokrajhar



HT Correspondent KOKRAJHAR, Oct 9: State cabinet minister for Handloom and Textiles, Sericulture, Soil Conservation, Welfare of the Bodoland Development Department, and guardian minister of Kokrajhar district, Urkhao Gwra Brahma, along with MLA

Road Safety Committee prioritises accident-free Puja celebrations in Kokrajhar

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Oct 9: In a special

meeting chaired by the district commissioner (DC) of Kokrajhar, Masanda Pertin, the District Road Safety Committee of Kokrajhar outlined a robust action plan to ensure smooth and accident-free Durga Puja celebrations across the district. The meeting underscored the critical need for enhanced coordination and vigilance among law enforcement, transport, and municipal authorities during the festive period.

The district commissioner highlighted the importance of strict enforcement of road safety measures, particularly focusing on preventing incidents of drunken driving and ensuring the mandatory use of helmets and seat belts. The installation of road safety signages at all Durga Puja pandals was also mandated, underscoring their necessity for public safety. To address environmental concerns, a strict ban on playing music beyond 10:00 pm has been enforced, with formal notifications issued to all Puja committees to ensure compliance.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including ADC Jituraj Gogoi, additional SP Nabanita Sharma, district transport officer Dhajen Basumatary, as well as officials from the PWD Roads, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the Kokrajhar Municipal Board. The district commissioner emphasised the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to maintain public safety and ensure a joyful, incident-free celebration of Durga Puja.

Notably, a total of 212 Puja committees in the three subdivisions of the entire Kokrajhar district, including 112 in Kokrajhar, 31 in Parbatjhora, and 69 in Gossaigaon subdivision, have received the financial aid sponsored by the government of Assam.

The cheque of ₹ 10,000 was formally handed over to the president or secretary of the community Puja organisers.

Minister Brahma stated that the nancial aid was initiated by the government of Assam to extend support to Durga Puja organisers across the state. He wished for peaceful and smooth celebrations of the festive Durga Puja.

"It is a pleasure to fulfil the promise made by the HCM, Himanta Biswa Sarma. I had the privilege of distributing cheques to the beneficiaries of the Durga Puja committees in Kokrajhar district," Brahma said.

trict on Tuesday amidst large par-Governor extends Durga Puja wishes

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharva extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Lawrence Islary and Kokraihar

district commissioner, Masanda

Magdalin Pertin, ceremonially

distributed financial aid to 112

Durga Puja committees under

Kokrajhar sadar subdivision at a

programme held at the Basic

Training Centre in Kokrajhar dis-

In a message to the people here on Wednesday, the Governor said, "Durga Puja marks the eternal essence of the victory of good over evil and ushers in hope and a bright future. I hope that the spirit with which the festival is celebrated strengthens

the bond of unity to fight against all evils. On this occasion, let us all pay our obeisance to Goddess Durga by pledging ourselves to augur an ambience to promote good and eschew evil.

Moreover, the Governor requested the devotees to celebrate the festival to address environmental concerns. He also hoped that Goddess Durga would guide everybody to the path of righteousness and bless all with joy

First district-level Gaon Pradhan Conference held in Nalbari

HT Correspondent
NALBARI, Oct 9: The first Gaon Pradhan Conference, a pioneering event of its kind in the state, was conducted under the aegis of the district administration, Nalbari. The event, held under the close supervision of district commissioner, Nalbari, Varnali Deka, took place on October 5 & 6, 2024 at the Nalbari District Library Auditorium. It marked a significant milestone in the district's efforts to engage rural grassroots leaders in government programs and public works. The event was organised by the Nalbari district administration in collaboration with the Extension Centre, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development, Nalbari, focusing on equipping gaon pradhans with essential knowledge on governance, rural development schemes, and effective community management. Resource persons from various departments oriented the gaon pradhans on a range of topics. More than 300 gaon pradhans attended the two-day training conference with great enthusiasm.

On the opening day of the conference, presentations covered key subjects including routine immunisation, CDR/MDR, various health schemes, flagship schemes

of P&RD, hands-on training on disaster preparedness, flood preparedness, POSHAN, and Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan. Further topics included good agricultural practices, PHE schemes, and government beneficiaryoriented schemes like Orunodoi. These presentations provided the gaon pradhans with a clear understanding of important gov-

ernment activities and schemes they encounter while managing their responsibilities at the village level. On the second day of the conference, presentations were given on flood preparedness and related schemes by the Water Resource Department, road safety, ongoing ASLRM and SHG activities, best fish farming practices, animal rearing, and the distribution of animal feed and health services. A detailed presentation on the duties and responsibilities of gaon pradhans and Mission Basundhara was delivered by Nabajit Pathak, additional director of Land Records, providing valuable insights for the gaon pradhans.

On the second day, the minister of PHE, Tourism, Skill Development, etc., to the government of Assam, Jayanta Mallabaruah, attended the program and interacted with the trainees on various relevant issues while emphasising their sense of responsibility as gaon pradhans. Speaking at the event, the minister stated that the gaon pradhan is an institution that the people look to in times of need or assistance, whether it's related to a government scheme or an emergency situation. Therefore, a gaon pradhan must always be impartial in carrying out their duties. He further added that as the government continues with the concept of appointing village heads, now termed gaon pradhans, the responsibilities have also increased. He appealed to all to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity.

GD Tripathi, principal secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, government of Assam, graced the occasion as guest of honour. In his speech, he referred to the gaon pradhans as the eyes and ears of the government at the grassroots level and termed them a reliable liaison between the government and the public. He also emphasised their vital role in the primary implementation of Mission Basundhara and urged them to embrace modern technology for improved service delivery.

DC Nalbari, Varnali Deka, in her speech, highlighted the grassroots responsibilities of the gaon pradhans and the importance of their role in effective

communication and coordination. She urged all gaon pradhans to stay updated on the latest developments regarding government schemes related to rural governance and to be prepared for prompt action during emergencies.

On the final day, top-performing gaon pradhans who excelled as surveyors during DCS Kharif

2024 were felicitated, and the play 'Bridhyashram' was staged.

District development commissioner Karmadev Brahma, ADCs Jonti Deka and Runav Ramchiary, assistant commissioner Bandeep Rabha, joint director of Health & Services Dr Kailash Deka, all concerned HODs and officials, and the trainee gaon pradhans attended the conference.

It is worth noting that the two-day conference concluded successfully, with rounds of appreciation and gratitude from the participants, who praised the efforts of the team behind this outstanding initiative.

Varnali Deka, DC Nalbari, expressed hope that such events would further inspire and energise grassroots workers to serve the public better and approach challenges in a problem-solving manner in today's dy-

Dibrugarh's Jyoti Nagar Durga Puja embraces Harappan Civilisation theme

HT Correspondent DIBRUGARH, Oct 9: The Jyoti Nagar Sarbajanik Shri Durga Puja Samiti in Dibrugarh has taken a unique and interesting approach this year by adopting the theme of the Harappan Civilisation for their 31st Durga Puja celebration.

The Harappan Civilisation is one of the oldest civilisations in the world and is known for its advanced urban planning and archi-

Committee secretary Arjun Harlka said "We wanted to do some thing different this year and showcase the rich history and heritage of our country. We believe our Puja will attract visitors because of the unique theme and design. We not only want to pay homage to India's rich cultural heritage but also educate the public about a lesser-known period in his-

He added that natural and ecofriendly construction materials have been used in the design of the pandal.

The decision to focus on the Harappan Civilisation is a departure from the more traditional themes often seen in Durga Puja celebrations. Visitors to the Jyoti Nagar Puja can expect to see intricate designs inspired by the Harappan Civilisation. The committee's efforts to create a visually stunning and historically significant pandal are sure to delight and engage attendees of all ages.

Most of the Durga Puja committees in Dibrugarh have adopted natural themes to attract the pandal hoppers. Similarly, the Chiring Chapori Durga Puja committee has adopted the Amarnath cave this time to attract visitors.

NF Railway announces revised timings for key trains

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to revise the timings of ten trains at a few stations commencing their journeys from October 12, 2024 onwards, running across its network. The revisions have been made to enhance passenger convenience and improve punctuality.

Train no 15910 (Lalgarh - Dibrugarh) Avadh Assam Express will arrive at New Jalpaiguri at 16:40 hours and will depart at 16:50 hours to arrive in Dibrugarh at 14:05 hours the next day. The timings of the train have also been revised at all its designated stoppages

Train no 15904 (Chandigarh - Dibrugarh) Express will arrive at New Jalpaiguri at 08:40 hours and will depart at 08:50 hours to arrive in Dibrugarh at 05:20 hours the next day. The timings of the train have also been revised at all its designated stoppages.

Train no 22503 (Kanniyakumari – Dibrugarh) Vivek Express will arrive at Mariani at 16:20 hours and will depart at



16:25 hours to arrive in Dibrugarh at 20:50 hours the same day. The timings of this train have also been revised at all its

designated stoppages. Train no 22501 (SMVT Bengaluru -

New Tinsukia) Superfast Express will arrive at Kishanganj at 19:15 hours and will depart at 19:17 hours to arrive in New Tinsukia at 16:25 hours the next day. The timings of this train have also been revised at all its designated stoppages. Train no 15818 (Naharlagun

Shokhuvi) Donyi Polo Express will arrive at Chaparmukh at 05:55 hours and will depart at 05:57 hours to arrive in Shokhuvi at 09:50 hours the same day. The timings of this train have also been revised at all its designated stoppages.

Train no 15613 (Guwahati Murkongselek) Lachit Express will arrive at North Lakhimpur at 04:10 hours and will depart at 04:15 hours to arrive in Murkongselek at 07:50 hours the same day. The timings of this train have also been revised at all its designated stop-

Train no 15967 (Rangiya - LEDO) Express will arrive at Borhat at 17:31 hours and will depart at 17:33 hours to arrive in LEDO at 21:45 hours the same day. The timings of this train have also been revised at all its designated stoppages.

Train no 15665 (Guwahati - Mariani) BG Express will depart from Guwahati with revised timing at 14:40 hours to reach Mariani at 23:50 hours the same day. Further, the timings of this train have been revised at all its designated stop-

Train no 15669 (Guwahati - Dibrugarh) Nagaland Express will depart from Guwahati with revised timing at 20:55 hours to reach Dibrugarh at 10:40 hours the next day. Further, the timings of this train have been revised at all its designated stop-

Train no 12067/12068 (Guwahati -Jorhat Town - Guwahati) Jan Shatabdi Express will depart from Guwahati/Jorhat Town with revised timing at 06:20/14:35 hours respectively, to reach its destination at 13:05/21:20 hours respectively on the same day. Further, the timings of both trains have been revised at all their designated stoppages.

It is expected that the new timings will help in better train operations over NF Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details of train running status and schedule on a real-time basis at the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) before undertaking their journey.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World -Christopher Columbus

Saffron Triumph

t was vintage Modi on Tuesday night all the way. The prime minister's victory speech after the BJP success in Haryana sounded as if he had won a convincing national election. And he said everything he had apparently planned to say after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, but could not due to the truncated mandate he could muster for his party. Tuesday night's address went far beyond the scope of a state assembly election.

BJP's unexpected success in Haryana seemed to have injected a dose of new adrenalin. In this address, Modi radiated confidence, projecting an invigorated leader eager to reclaim his narrative. The body language told a story of renewed vigour, a stark contrast to the post-2024 election Modi, who had appeared hesitant and cautious. Back then, his speeches were laden with references to coalition dynamics and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), reflecting a leader who felt vulnerable and constrained by his partners. But Tuesday night was different. He spoke passionately about the BJP's achievements and vision, effectively turning the tide in his favour just when it seemed like the opposition, led by Rahul Gandhi's Congress, was gaining momentum. Early election counts hinted at a potential landslide for Congress, igniting optimism among its supporters. Yet, as the results unfolded, the BJP defied the forecasts, turning a gloomy atmosphere at their headquarters into one of jubilation. This shift not only bolstered the party's spirits but also solidified Modi's standing among his supporters, showcasing his knack for rallying the base when it matters most.

The significance of this victory stretches beyond Haryana; it serves as a strategic springboard for the upcoming Maharashtra elections, where the stakes are high. Current polls suggest that the Congress-NCP alliance could pose a serious threat. A win in Mumbai would provide much-needed momentum for Rahul Gandhi, whose party is grappling with dwindling morale. For Modi, the Haryana results not only rejuvenate his confidence but also allow him to frame the narrative favourably as he gears up for what lies ahead. Modi's speech emphasized themes of development and governance. He spearheaded a frontal attack on the Congress and its ways and explained how the party has never won a second term for a long period in contemporary political history. He rubbed salt on the Congress wounds by reminding them that the BJP, on the other hand, was being voted back to power in Haryana for a continuous third term and attributed the success to the government's welfare programmes for the masses. The BJP is acutely aware that any sign of weakness in Congress could lead to a resurgence in its own momentum. It is patent that the party will position itself as champions of stability and progress in the coming elections, a narrative that resonates particularly well in Maharashtra, where developmental issues are para-

In Haryana, the BJP leveraged both local concerns and Modi's national appeal. His focus on infrastructure, women's safety, and job creation struck a chord with voters, reinforcing the party's commitment to addressing pressing issues. This grassroots connection is crucial as the BJP continues to build its brand as a party of action and results. No doubt, the BJP faces a significant challenge in sustaining its electoral momentum against rising competition. But the Congress-NCP alliance has a bigger task at hand: They must adapt and present a compelling counter-narrative. Rahul Gandhi's leadership will be under scrutiny, and the party must engage voters disillusioned by the current administration's policies. Regional dynamics

Durga Puja: A celebration of devotion, culture, and empowerment

ome September, and the festive spirit envelops much of eastern India, particularly West Bengal, as Durga Puja preparations swing into full gear. This festival, dedicated to Goddess Durga, is not only a religious celebration but a vibrant cultural and social event that brings together millions across the globe. While Kolkata stands at the epicentre of these festivities, over the years, Durga Puja has evolved from a regional celebration to a global phenomenon, uniting people in a shared reverence for the goddess. Its grandeur, creativity, and devotion extend beyond religious rituals, embodying a unique blend of tradition, modernity, and artistic expression.

The Mythological Roots of Durga Puja

Durga Puja holds deep mythological significance, celebrating the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura, symbolizing the eternal triumph of good over evil. As the legend goes, Mahishasura, a powerful demon blessed with a boon that no man could defeat him, wreaked havoc across the universe. In response, the gods united their powers to create Durga, a divine feminine force endowed with weapons and strength to confront Mahishasura. After a fierce battle, Durga emerged victorious, restoring balance to the universe. This story serves as a metaphor for the enduring battle between righteousness and immorality, and the victory of truth over falsehood.

Durga, as a warrior goddess, represents the divine feminine energy, or Shakti, within all beings. Her multi-armed form, holding an array of weapons, symbolizes the tools needed to combat both inner and outer evils, such as ignorance, greed, and injustice. Each weapon carries a metaphorical significance, reminding devotees that overcoming life's obstacles requires a combination of strength, wisdom, and resilience. Durga's battle with Mahishasura, therefore, is not just a cosmic event but a reflection of humanity's ongoing struggle to maintain moral balance in the face

The Transformation of Durga



Puja from Private to Public Celebration

Historically, Durga Puja was a private affair, confined to the homes of wealthy zamindar (landlord) families. These aristocrats would invite friends and relatives to witness the elaborate rituals within their palatial residences. However, the late 18th century marked a shift toward communitybased celebrations, most notably with the first publicly organized Durga Puja, known as the Baroyari Puja, in 1790. Held in Hooghly district, near Kolkata, this puja was organized by twelve friends, who wanted to make the festival more inclusive, breaking away from the exclusivity of the zamindar class. The term "Baroyari" itself is derived from baro (twelve) and yari (friends), representing their effort to democratize the festival.

The influence of Raja Nabakrishna Deb of Shobhabazar Rajbari also played a pivotal role in popularizing Durga Puja beyond the aristocratic class. In 1757, following the British victory at the Battle of Plassey, Nabakrishna Deb invited British officers, including Robert Clive, to his Durga Puja celebrations, blending Indian tradition with colonial elements. This event marked a significant moment in Durga Puja's evolution into a public and widely attended festival.

By the late 19th century, the involvement of Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission gave Durga Puja a broader nationalistic and cultural dimension. Swami Vivekananda himself performed Durga Puja at Belur Math in 1901, integrating the festival with ideals of community service and national identity. This spiritual and cultural fusion marked the beginning of

Durga Puja's transformation into a socio-cultural event, with emphasis on communal harmony, spiritual awakening, and social welfare.

Pandal Hopping: A Blend of Art and Activism

One of the most anticipated aspects of Durga Puja is the tradition of pandal hopping. Pandals, tempostructures erected to house **DEGREE OF THOUGHT**

the idols of Goddess Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartikeya,

and Ganesha - are artistic marvels in themselves. These structures go far beyond their religious significance, becoming spaces for creexpression, commentary, and political critique. Each year, pandal designers outdo themselves, incorporating elaborate themes that range from mythological narratives to contemporary global issues.

Durga Puja pandals often serve as platforms for addressing pressing social and political matters. For instance, some pandals have tackled themes such as elections, corruption, and societal upheaval, with the goddess symbolically battling forces of greed and dishonesty. International issues like climate change, refugee crises, and global conflicts are also represented, as artists use innovative materials and designs to merge Durga's mythological battle against evil with modern-day struggles for peace, justice, and environmental preservation. In recent years, there has been a growing trend toward ecofriendly pandals, with organizers increasingly using biodegradable materials like clay, bamboo, and jute. These environmentally conscious installations not only reduce ization of Durga Puja. The festival

pollution caused by idol immersions but also raise awareness about sustainability and the urgent need to protect nature. By creatively aligning Durga's mythology with modern societal challenges, these pandals encourage introspection and inspire collective action for positive change

Rituals and Cultural Extrava-

The religious rituals of Durga Puja are steeped in tradition and devotion, with devotees offering prayers and participating in ceremonies that invoke the blessings of the goddess. The festival spans five days - Shashthi, Saptami, Ashtami, Navami, and Vijayadashami - each marked by specific rituals and prayers. On Ashtami, the most important day, the Sandhi Puja is performed, symbolizing the transition

from Ashtami to Navami. Kumari Puja, a ritual By: Dipak Kurmi where young girls

are worshiped as manifestations of the goddess, also holds special significance during the festival.

Beyond its religious core, Durga Puja is a cultural celebration, bringing together communities for music, dance, theatre, and art. Traditional Bengali foods like bhog, sandesh, rasgulla, and mishti doi are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, adding a gastronomic dimension to the festivities. Over the years, Durga Puja has evolved into a socio-cultural spectacle, where art, performance, and feasting coexist with religious devotion, creating an atmosphere of joy, unity, and shared celebration.

Globalization and Commercialization of Durga Puja

In today's interconnected world. Durga Puja is no longer confined to the geographic boundaries of Bengal or India. The global Bengali diaspora has taken the festival to cities like London, New York, and Dubai, where it is celebrated with equal grandeur. Social media and live streaming of rituals allow devotees from all corners of the world to participate, further expanding the festival's global reach.

However, with globalization has come the inevitable commercialhas become a major economic driver, with sponsorships and advertisements playing a prominent role in the celebrations. The shopping, food, and tourism sectors experience a significant boost during this time, as people flock to Kolkata and other parts of Bengal to witness the grandeur of the pandals and participate in the festivi-

While this commercialization has added a new dimension to Durga Puja, it has also sparked debates about the balance between religious devotion and consumerism. The festival's growing focus on extravagance and materialism often overshadows its deeper spiritual and social messages. In today's society, where women's dignity is increasingly compromised, the message of empowerment embodied by Goddess Durga seems to be lost amid the revelry. Instead of embracing the essence of Durga's strength and resilience, many focus solely on the superficial aspects of the celebration.

Durga Puja's Timeless Message of Empowerment and Community

Durga Puja, at its core, remains celebration of the triumph of good over evil, of the divine feminine power that resides within each of us. The festival is a reminder that resilience, courage, and righteous action can overcome even the most insurmountable challenges. Goddess Durga's embodiment of strength, compassion, and protection continues to inspire millions, particularly women, to embrace their power and authority in the face of adversity.

As the festival continues to evolve, blending tradition with modernity, it serves as a powerful platform for social and artistic expression, fostering community engagement and global dialogue. Durga Puja is not just a religious event - it is a living tradition that reflects the heartbeat of Bengal, and by extension, the world. Amid the celebrations, the festival's timeless message of empowerment, justice, and unity endures, reminding us all of the strength that lies in faith. community, and creative expression. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmiglpltd@gmail.com)

When Rekha married to Delhi's businessman

By: Vivek Shukla

not often, once in a while looking at the waves crashing Lagainst the shores of the Arabian Sea from the windows of her sprawling Bandra Bandstand bungalow in Mumbai, Bollowood diva Rekha must surely think about the bungalow on Flag Staff Road in Delhi. It was hers, in a way, 3, Flag Staff. It's a short distance from the Civil Lines Metro station. Till recently, Delhi's former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also lived on this same Flag Staff Road. Around 34 years ago, Bollywood Diva Rekha arrived here as a newly-wed Bahu (daughter-in-law). At that time, she was at the peak of her film ca-

Rekha caused a sensation when she married a young businessman Mukesh Aggarwal. Back then, 'Breaking news from news channels has not entered our lives, yet Rekha's marriage to Mukesh Aggarwal became a national topic of discussion. A lot has changed in these three and a half decades, but there are still some families here who remember when Rekha arrived as the daughter-in-law of the Aggarwal family. Rekha married Mukesh Aggar-

wal, who was making big strides in the business world. Their wedding took place on March 4, 1990. Mukesh was a director of a Hotline company. He was the apple of the eye of successful

influential

business families

in Delhi. Rekha and Mukesh met at a party at a farmhouse in South Delhi, facilitated by the famous socialite Bina Ramani. It is said that Mukesh fell deeply in love with Rekha after a few 🍩 meetings. H

e was completely smitten by her. One day, he gathered his courage and proposed marriage to Rekha, and she accepted. Mukesh's elder brother, Anil Aggarwal, played a crucial role in making the

marriage happen quickly. Everyone in Civil Lines and Flag Staff his farmhouse to celebrate his ter-in-law of Flag Staff Road. younger brother's marriage to a superstar. The party was attended by about 3,000 guests. Sadly, Rekha and Mukesh's marriage was plagued with difficulties from the start.

Distance grew between them. Well-known Vastu expert Dr. JP Sharma 'Trikha' knew the Aggarwal family said, "I am sorry to say that it was a mis-match considering the fact that even though Mukesh was doing well in his business, he was nothing in terms of status Rekha. Moreover, I believe their marriage was also not consummated. That triggered the difference between the two.'

Dr. Aruna Mukim, a neighbour of the Mukesh Aggarwal family in Flagstaff Road and a former member of the Censor Board of India, claims that the rift between Rekha and Mukesh began during their honeymoon.

Rekha wanted to go to Mumbai for a show, but Mukesh insisted that she stay in Delhi with him. Rekha refused and went to Mumbai. This led to Mukesh falling into depression, and he eventually took his own life. Their marriage lasted only seven months. It is said that even after

> return to her in-laws. This caused deep pain and disappointment to Mukesh's family and friends. However, the Aggarwal family wanted transfer a large

Mukesh's death, Rekha did not

part Mukesh's property to Rekha. Due to Rekha's behaviour, they changed their Mukesh

Aggarwal's untimely death, his family suffered a huge setback in their business. Then, Anil Mama also passed away, and afterward, the family

home on Flag Staff Road.

of adversity.

Now, only a handful of people Road knew him as Anil Mama. in the area can recall the time Anil Mama threw a grand party at when Rekha became the daugh-

> That failed marriage with Mukesh apart; Rekha can easily be clubbed in the category of one of the most accomplished actresses of Bollywood. She has acted in over 180 films in a career that has spanned over 40 years.

Dr. J.P. Sharma 'Trikha', who is also a film buff, says that Rekha has touched new heights in Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978). In the film, Rekha play Zohrabai, the nautch girl who falls for the protagonist, Sikandar (Amitabh Bachchan) only to realise that he is in love with another woman.

In one of the most important scenes from the movie, Zohrabai consumes poison and dies in the arms of her beloved, setting off a chain of events that leads to a bloody end of the film.

Rekha has often played strong female characters and, apart from mainstream cinema, appeared in parallel cinema. Rekha has won three Filmfare Awards, two for Best Actress and one for Best Supporting Actress, for her roles in Khubsoorat (1980), Khoon Bhari Maang (1988) and Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi (1996), respectively. Her portrayal of a classical courtesan in Umrao Jaan (1981) won her the National Film Award for Best Actress.

Rekha's Bollywood debut with Sawan Bhadon (1970) established her as a rising star, but despite the success of several of her early films, she was often panned in the press for her looks and weight. Motivated by criticism, she started working on her appearance and put effort into improving her acting technique and command of the Hindi language, resulting in a

well-publicised transformation. Early recognition in 1978 for her performances in Ghar and Muqaddar Ka Sikandar marked the beginning of the most successful period of her career, and she was one of Hindi cinema's leading stars through most of the 1980s and early 1990s. Even though she does not accept film roles often, but when she acts she makes her presence felt. (The author is a senior journalist and a former editor of Somaiya Publications, Mumbai. He can be reached at 9818155246)

Puja pandals: A fusion of culture and art

RAAL

By: Himangshu Ranjan **Bhuyan**

s the monsoon clouds begin to disperse, garage way to clear blue skies, the vibrant hues of autumn sweep across Assam, heralding the arrival of one of the most anticipated festivals - the Durga Puja. This sacred time transforms the landscape into a canvas of color, creativity, and community spirit. At the heart of this celebration lies the puja pandal, a temporary structure that serves as both a sacred space and an artistic marvel. Each year, the pandals are not merely venues for worship; they become living, breathing masterpieces that reflect the rich cultural tapestry of Assam, fusing tradition with contemporary artistic expres-

The process of creating a puja pandal is a journey that embodies collaboration, innovation, and the unyielding spirit of the community. As artisans gather to brainstorm and design, their conversations buzz with excitement, passion, and shared visions. This synergy is palpable as craftsmen, sculptors, and artists come together, their individual talents intertwining to create a magnificent structure that honors the goddess Durga. The choice of materials is as diverse as the artists themselves - bamboo frames, colorful fabrics, clay sculptures, and recycled elements all find their place in this intricate web of creativity. Each pandal is a reflection of its creators, embodying their stories, struggles, and triumphs while celebrating a culture that has stood the test of time.

Every year, themes emerge that capture the imagination and ignite the spirit of the festival. Some pandals delve deep into mythological narratives, illustrating the legendary battles fought by the goddess against evil forces. These representations evoke a sense of awe, reminding the community of the timeless tales that have shaped their identity. Other pandals choose to confront contemporary social issues, boldly addressing topics such as environmental conservation, gender equality, and the importance of education. These themes resonate deeply with the audience, sparking conversations that transcend the boundaries of art and delve into the heart of societal challenges. In this way, the puja pandal serves not only as a space for worship but also as a



and awareness.

The artistry involved in crafting these pandals is nothing short of remarkable. Skilled artisans pour their hearts and souls into the designs, infusing them with intricate details that beckon closer inspection. Each stroke of paint, each curve of clay, and each thread of fabric tells a story, inviting visitors to explore the depths of creativity on display. The vibrant colors that adorn the pandals mirror the exuberance of the festival. creating a visual feast that captivates the senses. As the sun sets, the pandals come alive with carefully orchestrated lighting, casting enchanting shadows and illuminating the artistic elements in a warm glow. This transformation creates an ethereal atmosphere, drawing in crowds and enveloping them in a world where art and spirituality coalesce.

Yet, the evolution of the puja pandal is not confined to traditional craftsmanship. The advent of technology has ushered in a new era of artistic expression, where digital art and multimedia installations take center stage. Artists experiment with projection mapping, allowing them to transform the surfaces of the pandals into dynamic visual narratives that capture the imagination. These innovations engage the audience in interactive experiences, breaking down the barriers between art and spectator. Visitors can now step into a realm where stories unfold around them, where the line between reality and imagination blurs. This fusion of tradition and technology enriches the puja pandal experience, ensuring its relevance in a rapidly changing world.

As the festival unfolds, the puja pandal becomes a hub of community engagement. It is a gathering place where families and friends come together to celebrate, share

laughter, and create memories. The air is thick with anticipation as people wander through the intricately designed spaces, marveling at the artistry and engaging in conversations that flow like the melodies of the cultural performances echoing in the background. Traditional dances, musical performances, and theatrical presentations fill the atmosphere with a sense of unity and joy. The pandal fosters a sense of belonging, inviting everyone to partake in the collective celebration of life, love. and the enduring spirit of Assamese culture.

However, beneath the vibrant surface lies a consciousness that drives the artisans and organizers to reflect on the sustainability of their creations. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the environmental impact of extravagant pandal designs. Many artisans are now prioritizing eco-friendly practices, using biodegradable materials and reducing waste to honor both their art and the planet. This commitment to sustainability reflects a broader societal shift, where the community is increasingly aware of its role in preserving the environment for future generations. The dialogue surrounding sustainability is woven into the very fabric of the puja pandal, reminding visitors that creativity and responsibility can coexist harmoniously.

The puja pandal is a living testament to the resilience of Assamese culture, a celebration that transcends mere artistic expression to embody the collective aspirations of a community. As the final days of the festival approach, there is a bittersweet recognition of the impermanence of these magnificent structures. They stand tall, vibrant, and proud, vet they are destined to fade away, dismantled and returned to the earth from which they were born. This fleeting nature only serves to amplify their beauty, as the pandals remind us to cherish the moments of joy and creativity that they represent. The puja pandal is not just a celebration of art; it is a reflection of life itself, ever-changing, everevolving, and eternally beautiful in its transience.

As the celebrations culminate with the immersion of the goddess, the puja pandal leaves behind a lingering sense of connection - between artists and their creations, between communities and their shared culture, and between the past and the present. The stories told through the pandals become part of the collective memory of the community, woven into the fabric of Assamese identity. This profound connection ensures that the spirit of creativity continues to thrive long after the festival concludes, inspiring future generations to embrace their artistic heritage and celebrate the vibrant tapestry of life.

In the end, the puja pandal stands as a bridge between the sacred and the artistic, a fusion of culture and creativity that embodies the essence of Durga Puja in Assam. It invites us to reflect on our shared humanity, to celebrate the beauty of artistic expression, and to recognize the power of community in shaping our cultural landscape. The puja pandal is not merely a structure; it is a celebration of life, an ode to creativity, and a tribute to the enduring spirit of the people of Assam. As the last lights dim and the final prayers echo in the air, the legacy of the puja pandal endures, inspiring us to carry forward the traditions, stories, and artistic expressions that bind us together as a community. (The writer is Editor in Chief of the Assamese E-Megazine SAMPROTIK. He can reached at himangshur1989@gmail.com)



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THE HILLS TIMES 5

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF WORKS KAAC:: BRANCH SECRETARIAT HAMREN-782486

NO.KAAC/HRN/CDF/W-48/2024-25/

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Dated: 9/10/2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing Non refundable KAAC court fee stamp (Receipt) Rs10.00 (Rupees Ten) only eventually to be drawn up in form are hereby invited from KAAC registered contractor/reputed firms of Works Department and will be receive by the undersigned up to 4 P.M on 25/10/2024 and will opened on the same date, place and the hours in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent if any.

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

Name of Constituenc y	SI. no	Name of schemes	Amount	A/A Amount	Earnest Money	Time allowed for comple ion
Amri Constituency	1	Construction of Gents and Ladies Toilet with RCC ring well attach at Umswai weekly market, Amri Constituency	8,00,000.00	8,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	2	Construction of Gents and Ladies Toilet with RCC ring well attach at Birsingki weekly market, Amri Constituency	8,00,000.00	8,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	3	Construction of Gents and Ladies Toilet with RCC ring well attach at Morten weekly market, Amri Constituency	8,00,000.00	8,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	4	Construction of Entry gate with RCC post at Umswai Kalyan Ashram,Amri Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	5	Road from Grave yard internal village link road at Punduri Makha, Amri Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	6	Road from Lang ardang to Tirantha, Amri Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	7	RCC Foot Bridge at Langlongku connecting Birsingki weekly market, Amri Constituency	6,00,000.00	6,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	8	Improvement of road from Ramsu Tiniali to Terang Nakar, Amri Constituency	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	9	Improvement of road from Moro to Chandraphali, Amri Constituency	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	10	Repairing of boundary wall with barbed wire, Construction of Entry gate, Repairing of windows etc, at Tiwa Cultural Hall, Amsai Pera, Amri Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	11	Road from NH Road 27th Mile at Moro valley with RCC Hume pipe, Amri Constituency	8,00,000.00	8,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Amri Constituency	12	Earth filling with metal spreading of road at Amsai	6,00,000.00	6,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	13	Constituency Improvement of road with	6,00,000.00	6,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	15	RCC Hume pipe from ASTC Station to ICDS Office at Ulukunchi, Amri	6,00,000.00	6,00,000.00	GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Chinthong Constituency	14	Constituency Construction of Karbi Traditional weaving House at Rongtheang, Chinthong Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	15	Beautification and modification of Tracking Zone at Rongtheang Sonse Handloom & Craft Centre, Chinthong Constituency	7,00,000.00	7,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
-	16	Construction of stair case with railing at Vomu Terank Umat, Chinthong	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
-	17	Constituency Construction of Cultural Complex at Deng -Rali Aklam Patimuka, Chinthong	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
-	18	Constituency Construction of welcome gate at Bichikri Tourist place, Chinthong Constituency	7,00,000.00	7,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	19	Reparing of Umlapher stadium, Chinthong Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	20	Construction of Art & Craft Building at Deng-rali aklam, Chinthong Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	21	Construction of mandir at Patimuka, Chinthong Constituency	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
-	22	Construction of community hall with bamboo at Patimuka, Chinthong Constituency	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	23	Repairing of Sabuda Inspection Bungalow,Chinthong	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
}	24	Constituency Repairing of Jatalong	8,00,000.00	8,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
-	25	B,Chinthong Constituency Construction of Community hall at East	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
-	26	Umlapher, Chinthong Constituency Construction of chain link fencing at Morinto Rongker	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Amreng	27	ground, Chinthong Constituency Construction of Rongker	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
Constituency		shed,Kurusar ahamren,Kitchen shed at Rongpangbong village under Amreng Constituency		***	GENERAL=2%	
	28	Construction of community hall with inside stage at Tapat village under Amreng Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	29	Construction of Durga Mandoop at Nepali Nogjirong village under	6,00,000.00	6,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	30	Amreng Constituency Construction of Garbha Griha of Maiya sthaan at different villages, Watizor Koiri Basti, Watizor Silveta, Belbari	24,00,000.00	24,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days

1	2	no.2(Rs.800000 x				1
	31	03nos)under Amreng constituency Construction of cultural stage	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Day
	<i>কার্যা</i> র	for Teej complex at Durbin Tilha village, Jirikindeng under Amreng constituency	CONTROL OF SURE SECTION	433388	GENERAL=2%	
,	32	Construction of Hall with iron Grill for Teej complex at Durbin Tilha village,Jirikindeng under	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
•	33	Amreng constituency Construction of Cultural stage for Rukasen Jutang complex at Zirikindeng KCS Zonal Campus under Amreng	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	34	constituency Construction of hall with Iron Grill for Rukasen Jutang complex at Zirikindeng KCS Zonal Campus under Amreng	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	35	constituency,Phase-I Construction of office building for Zirikindeng KCS Zone at Rukasen Jutang complex under Amreng	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
Rongkhang Constituency	36	constituency Boundary wall at Phu Rek Anglong sarpo along with iron gate (Hongkram).Rongkhang	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	37	Constituency. Repairing of Vishnu Mandir at Puruna Ghalani,Rongkhang	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
8	38	Constituency. Boundary wall at HoripurDimasa gaon Hanlokrok along with iron gate,Rongkhang	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	39	Constituency. Open Community hall at Longbui,Rongkhang	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
Rongkhang Constituency	40	Constituency. Boundary wall at Phu long-eh Sarpo (Long-eh pi) along	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
construction	41	with iron gate,Rongkhang Constituency. Shiv Mandir community hall at Lingding,Rongkhang	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	42	Constituency. Open stage at Khanajan,Rongkhang	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	43	Constituency. Sand Gravelling at East Bhellapara to Rengthema,Rongkhang Constituency.	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	44	Field improvement at Kranglongjon,Rongkhang Constituency.	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	45	Minor irrigation at Notun Ghelani Dera gaon to Phura gaon,Rongkhang Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	46	Minor irrigation at Borthol near Nashon khali to Phura gaon,Rongkhang	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	47	Constituency. Minor irrigation at Chekso Hidi,Rongkhang Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	48	Constituency. Rongker shed at Miringku,Rongkhang	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
į	49	Constituency. Rongker shed at Mensing Terang gaon,Rongkhang	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
2	50	Constituency. Rongker shed at Shantipur,Rongkhang	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	51	Constituency. Rongker shed at Terang arong Borthoiso,Rongkhang Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	52	Rongker shed at Klengdun Phangeho arong Hongkram,Rongkhang Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	53	Hand Tube well at Tengkeralangso,Rongkhang	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
Hamren Constituency	54	Constituency. Approach road at Linchika to Somupong Dera Arong, Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
3	55	Rongker shed at Arsong Pator Arong,Hamren Constituency. RCC ring well at	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00 1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Day 45 Day
S.	57	Porbot(Malong),Hamren Constituency. RCC ring well at	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Day
	58	Nongkrong, Hamren Constituency. RCC ring well at Bihenru	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Day
	1000000	Engti arong Deuri (R), Hamren Constituency.			GENERAL=2%	5-
Hamren Constituency	59	RCC ring well at Tharve- Cherop Tisso arong,Deuri(R),Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000,00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	60	RCC ring well at Rongchingdon 2nos.,Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	61	Farm pond at Phongjangre Amtarpeng, Hamren Constituency.	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	62	Rongker shed at Chek-Artu Rongphar arong,Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	63	Approach road at Godwin Bey Arong with culvert, Hamren Constituency.	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	64	Approach road at Rongker shed at Rongkarbi,Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
٠	65	Rongker shed at Derajuri Killing Dera Arlok,Hamren	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
,	66	Constituency. Farm pond at Pidong alum Phongjangre, Hamren	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
,	67	Constituency. Rongker shed at Hemari Engti arong at Serlongchor, Hamren	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	68	Constituency. Fishery at near Dorsing Enghi, Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Ī	69	Construction of road & culvert at Sai Terang Arong,Hamren Constituency.	7,00,000.00	7,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	70	Field development at Umrasi,Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	71	Rongker shed at Longsing Kathar arong at Langminso, Hamren Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days







THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

6	THE HILLS TIMES

	72	Approach road at Halongchebat Engti	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	73	Approach road from Arsong	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	74	to Impoilangso,Hamren Constituency. Rongker shed at	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		Amselam, Hamren Constituency.		5, 6,	GENERAL=2%	
	75	Approach road from Bamon Phangcho arong to Kumlin Longjon 3km,Hamren	8,00,000.00	8,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	76	Constituency. Field at Nokterang M.E	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
1	77	School, Hamren Constituency. Sand gravelling from Tharvecherop to Chek-	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
7	78	Artu,Hamren Constituency. Construction of culvert &	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		Sand gravelling at Chek-Artu Engleng arong,Hamren	Spin Treatment is admitted to the house of the 20 days of	The second secon	GENERAL=2%	Streto-Strenov - April
	79	Constituency. Sand gravelling from Dera Arlok Vomek to	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
6.1	00	Thongja, Hamren Constituency.	1.50.000.00	1.50.000.00	ST/SC/ODG 10/	16 D
Socheng Constituency	80	Construction of Fishery project at Langteng, Socheng Constituency.	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	81	Construction of community fishery at	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
=	82	Rongnihang, Socheng Constituency Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	(23AP))	fishery at Rongchek, Socheng Constituency			GENERAL=2%	
	83	Construction of community fishery at Rongchek,Langpampi,Sochen	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	84	g Constituency. Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
1	85	fishery at Umdap-3,Socheng Constituency. Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	0.5	fishery at Umdap,Socheng Constituency.			GENERAL=2%	
	86	Construction of community fishery at Longpai, Socheng	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	87	Constituency. Construction of community fishery at Longre, Socheng	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	88	Constituency. Improvement of road at Senar	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
î	89	gaon at Longre,Socheng Constituency. Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	900-50.	fishery at Umru,Socheng Constituency.		0.600.0000.0000.0000.0000.0000.0000.0000.0000	GENERAL=2%	
	90	Improvement of road at Vodilar,Socheng Constituency.	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	91	Construction of community fishery at Langmek-	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
4	92	Ang, Socheng Constituency. Improvement of road at Kro	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
i e	93	Habe gaon,Langmet,Socheng Constituency. Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		fishery at Borpu,Socheng Constituency.	122 3E1	5: 60	GENERAL=2%	137.2
	94	Improvement of link road at Borpu,Socheng Constituency.	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	95	Construction of community fishery at Terang kangther, Socheng	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	96	Constituency. Improvement of road at	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		Rongkor village,Socheng Constituency.			GENERAL=2%	
	97	Construction of Rongker shed at Habe Sar gaon, Socheng Constituency.	2,50,000.00	2,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	98	Construction of Rongker shed at Tirkim, Socheng	2,50,000.00	2,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	99	Constituency. Improvement of village link	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	100	road at Tirkim,Socheng Constituency. Construction of Rongker	2,50,000.00	2,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		shed at Hamren Habe,Socheng Constituency.	380 380		GENERAL=2%	370
Socheng Constituency	101	Construction of community fishery at	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	102	Langkircha, Socheng Constituency. Construction of RCC ring	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		well at new mission, Socheng Constituency.	170 270		GENERAL=2%	9 7 .0
	103	Construction of RCC ring well at Rong	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	104	Terang, Ambinong, Socheng Constituency. Construction of Ring well at	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	10.	Ji Langso, Ambinong, Socheng Constituency., Socheng	1,20,000.00	1,00,000.00	GENERAL=2%	10 2 4,50
	105	Constituency. Construction of Ring well at Phura	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		gaon, Ambinong, Socheng Constituency.			GENERAL=2%	
	106	Construction of community fishery at Rongpi gaon	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	105	Waisong college,Socheng Constituency.	1.50.000.00	1.50.000.00	CERCIODO 10	15.5
	107	Construction of community fishery at Inghinlangso, Kro gaon at Langparpan, Socheng	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	108	Constituency. Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	100	fishery at Amlong,Socheng Constituency.	2.00.000.00	2.00.000.00	GENERAL=2%	15 D
	109	Improvement of link road from PMSGY road to Langparpan,Socheng	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	110	Constituency. Construction of community	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		fishery at Tisso Anglong,Socheng Constituency			GENERAL=2%	
	111	Constituency. Construction of community fishery at Residential	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
		village,Socheng Constituency.				
	112	Construction of village link road at Residential	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
		village,Socheng Constituency. Construction of Rongker shed	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	113	L STAN THE STAN AND A	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00		, Days
	113	at Hapi-Alo,Socheng Constituency.			GENERAL=2%	
	113	at Hapi-Alo,Socheng	2,00,000.00	2,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days

3	110	Constituency.	2.00.000.00	2.00.000.00	griggiona 15:	AS D
	116	Construction of player dressing room at Umpho playground,Socheng Constituency.	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Socheng Constituency	117	Renovation of fishery Project at Am-ih, Socheng Constituency.	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	118	Construction of link road at Presbytarian Church Am- ih, Socheng Constituency. Sand gravelling at Mokoiram	3,00,000.00 2,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
	120	weekly market, Socheng Constituency. Repairing and Renovation of	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
:	121	community hall at Arting B,Socheng Constituency. Construction of Market shed	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
3	122	at Rupai,Socheng Constituency. Construction of village link	3,00,000.00	3,00,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Days
		road at Rumphum Kharvang village,Socheng Constituency.			GENERAL=2%	
	123	Construction of fishery project at Rumphum, Socheng Constituency. Construction of fishery	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1%	45 Day:
	125	project at Birmaine, Socheng Constituency. Construction of Water harvesting dam at	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	GENERAL=2% ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day:
	126	Birmaine, Socheng Constituency. Construction of RCC ring well at Rongmandu, Rongpi	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
;	127	gaon,Socheng Constituency. Construction of RCC ring well at Umphanchi,Socheng	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
,	128	Constituency. Construction of community fishery at	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	129	Langsomepi, Socheng Constituency. Construction of community fishery at Langlongdang, Socheng	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	130	Constituency. Purchase and Installation of Solar Light under Socheng	7,00,000.00	7,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
Duar Amla Constituency	131	MAC constituency Construction of boundary wall at Ghilapatta LP School,Bhoksong,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	132	Construction of open stage at Hornbill sports Association, Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	133	Construction of children park at Baithalangso,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
Duar Amla Constituency	134	Land Reclamation at Borgaon Playground,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	135	Construction of Net fencing boundary wall at Bhoksong High School,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Day
	136	Construction of open stage at Tamulbari Shiv Mandir,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	137	Construction of approach road at Borkok ME School,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	138	Major repairing at Bor Amli LP School,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	139	Construction of community hall at Dapsal,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	140	Construction of Gallery behind the goalpost at Hornbill Sports Association,Duar Amla Constituency	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Bithung Rengthema Constituency	141	Sand gravelling road with retaining wall from PWD road to Nirmal Bathari house, Tumpreng Tisso Arong Bithung Rengthema	3,50,000.00	3,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	142	Constituency. Construction of road with Sand gravelling from PWD road to Paddy field Tumpreng Tisso arong.Bithung Rengthema	4,65,000.00	4,65,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
ı	143	Constituency. Construction of boundary wall at Menmeji Lamps Ltd.Bithung Rengthema	2,20,000.00	2,20,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
i B	144	Constituency. Construction of waiting shed at Karbi Rongsopi Sarthe Ronghang arong,Bithung	6,50,000.00	6,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	145	Rengthema constituency Construction of M. I. Cannel at Engleng Arong to Sar- Ik Teron Arong Vomu Atar.Bithung Rengthema	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	146	Constituency. Road with sand gravelling from Sangsukhi PWD Chari ali to Kolongamukh Kopili river.Bithung Rengthema	5,70,000.00	5,70,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
ı i	147	Constituency. Sand gravelling road from Wokanta PWD link road to Tony Marak road,Bithung	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
Bithung Rengthema Constituency	148	Rengthema Constituency. Construction of road to Shishu Niketon school road Rongminder Bithung	5,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
consumency	149	road,Rongmindar.Bithung Rengthema Constituency. construction of toilet at Inglongmerok field,Bithung	6,75,000.00	6,75,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	150	Rengthema Constituency. Construction of sanitary toilet at community hall,Indra	4,20,000.00	4,20,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
	151	Nagar no.5,Bithung Rengthema Constituency. Construction of boundary wall with Iron gate at Ganesh puja Athan	7,50,000.00	7,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
1	152	Baligaon, Tumpreng. Bithung Rengthema Constituency. Sand gravelling road from Magurmari PWD link road to Bisos Marak road. Bithung	1,40,000.00	1,40,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
1	153	Rengthema Constituency. Construction of road,sand gravelling with 1nos box culvert at	5,50,000.00	5,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 Days
		Rongkimi,Kuthepi,Bithung			Con	td. on F

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(CONTD. FROM PAGE-6) Rengthema Constituency. 154 Construction of sand 5,00,000.00 5,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days GENERAL=2% gravelling road from Sar-ik arong to Semlok Abi Menmeji.Bithung Rengthema Constituency. CC block at Agartala 2,80,000.00 2,80,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days GENERAL=2% community hall, Bithung Rengthema Constituency. Construction of RCC Culvert 6,00,000.00 6,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Kollonga Enghi GENERAL=2% arong.Bithung Rengthema Constituency. 45 Days 157 Construction of RCC Culvert ST/SC/OBC=1% 5,00,000.00 5,00,000.00 GENERAL=2% Rongpi gaon Tumpreng.Bithung Rengthema Constituency. Construction of cannel at 1,00,000.00 1,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Sarthe Ronghang arong to GENERAL=2% Amlong river, Bithung Rengthema Constituency. Construction of Waithing 7,00,000.00 7,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Shed at Hanthor Arong. GENERAL=2% Bithung Rengthema Constituency ST/SC/OBC=1% Construction of road, sand 2,50,000.00 2,50,000.00 45 Days gravelling with 2nos. HP GENERAL=2% culvert at Banai arong to Paddy Field.Bithung Rengthema Constituency ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Bithung Construction of Soshan road 2,00,000.00 2,00,000.00 at Rengthama-9, Bithung GENERAL=2% Rengthema Rengthema Constituency. Constituency Construction of M. I. Cannel 1,60,000.00 1,60,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days at Teron Arong Vomu GENERAL=2% Atar.Bithung Rengthema Constituency. Construction of fishery at 2,50,000.00 2,50,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days GENERAL=2% Inglong birik Tisso arong pin point at Biren Kathar, Bithung Rengthema constituency 164 Construction of community 4,50,000.00 4,50,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days fishery at Lumjong Kathar GENERAL=2% arong Kollonga, Bithung Rengthema constituency Construction of M.I Cannel at 2,50,000.00 2,50,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Phorop Teron arong, Bithung GENERAL=2% Rengthema Constituency. 1,70,000.00 1,70,000.00 45 Days Construction of road, sand ST/SC/OBC=1% gravelling from middle GENERAL=2% Rongkhang PWD link road to Sultana Sangma Residence, Bithung Rengthema Constituency Construction of approach 5,00,000.00 5,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days GENERAL=2% road to Karbi Rongker Thaan with installation of CC Block at Kheroni weekly Market, Length=50 Meter.under Kopili Constituency 10,00,000.00 10,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Construction of community GENERAL=2% hall at Pogali Basti Bishnu Mandir (Theso Ronghang)under Kopili Constituency 10,00,000.00 10,00,000.00 45 Days Construction of Rakhaal ST/SC/OBC=1% (Garo Worship place) at GENERAL=2% Kheroni Garo gaon(Near Kopili PHE)under Kopili Constituency constituency Construction of Sonam 20,00,000.00 20,00,000.00 45 Days Chhyoiling Gumba (Buddhist GENERAL=2% Temple) at Hawaipur Lama gaon under Kopili Constituency Construction of Garbha Griha 32,00,000.00 32,00,000,00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days of Maiya sthaan at different GENERAL=2% villages under Kopili Constituency (Rs. 800000 x 4 Construction of open stage at 5,00,000.00 5,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days GENERAL=2% Guhagaon under Kopili constituency ST/SC/OBC=1% 173 Construction of community 10,00,000.00 10,00,000.00 45 Days Kopili hall at Ramthepi Durga GENERAL=2% Constituency Sthaan under Kopili constituency ST/SC/OBC=1% 174 Land levelling and field 3,00,000.00 45 Days 3,00,000.00 development at Jengkha No.1 GENERAL=2% under Kopili constituency 5,00,000.00 Installation of statue of 5,00,000.00 ST/SC/OBC=1% 45 Days Bodofa Upendra Nath GENERAL=2% Brahma at Ramthepi Bodo gaon under Kopili

Detail N.I.T/ document and name of works amounts may be obtained from Office of the E.E (Work) KAAC, Branch Secretariat, Hamren during working hours.

Terms & Conditions

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- <u>N.B</u> The rate to be quoted as % (Percent) above/below/as per schedule rate for building/sanitary/works for all division under CPWD-21.
 - 2. Earnest money should be deposited in favour of the undersigned in the form of call deposit/bank draft &
 - should be attached with the tender, without which no tender will be accepted. 3. The contractor shall Repair/Re-construct if the works executed failed due inferior quality of works. The
 - KAAC Authority will take legal action if the contractor refuses to Repair/Re-construction the work. 4. The work must be carried on as directed by the E.E (W), KAAC/KAAC Authority.
 - 5. The following up to date documents should be enclosed with the tender.
 - a) Professional Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - b) Sale Tax Clearance Certificate/ GST registration.
 - c) KAAC Registration (Contractual).

Constituency

- d) Call Deposit.
- e) Caste Certificate.
- f) Bank Account number & Pan Card. 6. Payment will be made subject to availabilities of fund
- 7. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest quoted rate.

Executive Engineer (Work) **KAAC Branch Secretariat** HAMREN

Memo No. KAAC/HRN/CDF/W-48/2024-25/80(A)

Dated:09/10/2024

CORRIGENDUM - 10 & 11 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2024/JUNE/04, Dated: 27-06-2024

Corrigendum-10 & 11 has bee ssued against Tender No. CE/ CON/LF/EPC/2024/05 for details please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Chief Engineer/CON/1 Northeast Frontier Railway

(Construction Organisation) "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE" NOTICE

Allemby Ceramics, Guwahati. Assam has been granted environment clearance on 05/10/2024 against proposal no SIA/AS/MIN/480383/2024 dated 16/07/2024. EC identification no. EC24C0108AS5768389N detailed EC along with terms and conditions available on Parivesh portal.

Four killed in wall collapse in Arunachal ITANAGAR, Oct 9: At least four people were killed and three others were injured when the

boundary wall of the central workshop of the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Services (APSTS) at Karsingsa near here collapsed early on Wednesday after heavy rainfall, police said. The incident took place around 1.30 am when the wall fell on some huts on the other side of the workshop, resulting in the fatalities.

Four people died on the spot, and three others were injured and are currently out of danger, a police officer said. (PTI)

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are hereby invited for the empanelment of SUPPORT PERSON as per Sec 30 of POCSO Act. 2012 & rule 5(6) of the POCSO Rules 2020. Applicants are requested to submit the applications along with testimonials at Office of the District Child Protection Unit, Morigaon, College Road, Opp. Central Bank of India, Morigaon, Ward No. 7, Pin-782105 P.O/P.S. Morigaon on or before 16th October, 2024. for detailed guideline of SUPPORT PERSON. applicant can visit the NCPCR website at https://ncpcr.gov.in

Eligibility Criteria:

- 1. Any person with a post graduate degree in Social Work or Sociology or Psychology or Child Development OR a graduate with minimum three years of experience in child education and devel-
- Any official associated with a children's home or shelter home responsible for the custody of the child. Any person or organisation actively engaged in the realm of child rights or child protection.

Provided that in accordance with Rules 5(6) of the POCSO Rules 2020, an entity qualified to act as a Support Person may also include an organisation activity engaged in the realm of Child rights and child protection. Additionally on official associated with a children's home or shelter home responsible for the custody of the child may be eligible to apply as a Support Person.

Janasanyog /D/7396/24/10-Oct-24

Asst. Commissioner cum i/c Distirict Child Protection Officer Morigaon

0.0. No.

Allemby Ceramics

Partner

SHORT NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Date 07/10/2024

Sealed Bids (tenders) are invited for technical and financial bids, in prescribed formats, affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paisa) only from the intending Govt. Registered Contractors/Firms of APWD, WR, IRR. etc. for implementation of the following schemes which will be received up to 2-00 PM on 19-10-2024 and opened on the same date at 2-30 PM on 19-10-2024 in presence of the Bidders or their authorized agents. Separate sealed and superscribed envelopes are to be used for both technical and financial bids and put them together in a single envelope. If due to certain unavoidable circumstances, the Bids cannot be opened on the aforesaid date, the same will be opened on the next working day. The qualified parties, only in respect of the technical bids, will be eligible for competing in the financial bids. Bid documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 07-10-2024 up to 2-00 PM on 19-10-2024 on working days by depositing 0.02% of the estimated value rounded off to its nearest 10s/100s with an upper limit of Rs. 250.00 (Rupees Two hundred fifty) only as Tender processing fee for each work in the form of I.P.O. Detailed terms and conditions, plan and estimates and Bid documents may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on or before 19-10-2024 during office hours.

Sl. No.		Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lakh)	Location	Earnest money (in Rs.)	Time of Completion (Days)	
1	River Training Project at Janali dong at Janali Village	14,00,000.00	Janali		45 days	
2	River Training Project at Oxiguri Village	12,00,000.00	Oxiguri	D- (C1) 201	45 days	
3	River Training Project at Batabari	16,00,000.00	Batabari	Rs (General) 2%	45 days	
4	LDP of the premises of Additional Director of Soil Conservation, BTC, Habrubari, Kokrajhar, SOPD for the FY 2024-25.	3,00,000.00	Habrubari, Kokrajhar	Rs (for SC/ST/OBC/ MOBC) 1%	30 days	
5	RCC Check dam near Laojong paddy field at Boragari	14,00,000.00	Boragari	(amount to be mentioned)	45 days	
6	Development of Gambarikhata dong at Gambarikhata village	1 10 50 000 00		mendoned)	30 days	

Sd/- Divisional Officer, Kokrajhar Soil Conservation Division,

BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/702

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (HILLS) PANCHAYAT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, **DIPHU. KARBI ANGLONG. ASSAM**

No. DDPRD/H/Acctt.-15/Pt-III/Addl. Schemes/SOPD/2022-23

Dated: Diphu, the 09/10/2024

TENDER NOTICE

In pursuance of the KAAC, Diphu, authority Administrative approval No.KAAC/P&RD/Aa/SOPD/87/2023-24/9, Dtd.:14/08/2024, sealed tender are hereby invited from local contractors with affixing KAAC receipt of Ps 10/- (Rupees Ten) only from the citizen of India. The Contractors has to submit his/her tender on or before the 21/10/2024, at 3.00 P.M in the office of the undersigned specifying the works intended to tender from the list mentioned below.-

SL. No.	Group No.	Name of Work	Name of the Constituency	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	Construction of Sand graveling road from Jikong Terang goon to Bampothar Tini-all	Mahamaya MAC Constituency	15,00,000/-	
	1	Grand Total		15,00,000.00	

(Rupees Fifteen Lakhs) only

Terms and Condition:-

- 1. The Contractors have to submit His / Her P.TAX, GSTIN Registration Certificate, Caste Certificate and Other relevant documents.
- 2. The Contractor has to quote rate of works on fixed basic and no excess amount can be guoted then the estimated amount for the work.
- The Contractors can see the details estimate against the works any time in the Office of the undersigned at all working hours.
- The undersigned reserved the right to accept or reject tender without assigning any reason thereof the discussion of the authority stands final.
- The Schedule Tribe (Hills) contractors will deposited 1% (one) percent earnest money of the estimated value and 2% (Two) percent for general category in the form of Call Deposit in favour of the Deputy Director (Hills), Panchayat and Rural Development. Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

Sd/-

Deputy Director (Hills) Panchayat & Rural Development, Diphu Karbi Anglong, Assam.

Memo No. DDPRD/H/Acctt.-15/Pt-III/Addl.Schemes/SOPD/2022-23) 1000-1003 Dated: 09/10/2024

Targets Cong over corruption

Modi launches development projects in poll-bound Maharashtra

further add 900 medical seats in

Maharashtra, taking the total num-

ber of medical seats in the state to

about 6,000," Modi said while re-

calling his resolve to add 75,000

new medical seats from the Red

Modi said the government's pri-

ority was to ensure that as many

children from poor and middle-

class families become doctors and

He referenced the government's

move to allow education for spe-

cialised studies in regional lan-

Lambasting the previous gov-

ernments for making poverty the

"fuel of their politics", Modi said

his government has lifted 25 crore

people out of poverty within a

their dreams are fulfilled

Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually laid the foundation stone of various development projects of more than Rs 7,600 crore in Maharashtra and inaugurated ten new medical colleges.

Hailing the "unprecedented fast pace" of development in Maharashtra, Modi targeted Congress, saying, "such speed and scale was seen in different sectors in corruption in the Congress rule".

Modi laid the foundation stones for the upgradation of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur and the New Integrated Terminal Building at the Shirdi airport via video conference.

He inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Mumbai, and Vidya Samiksha Kendra in Maharashtra and launched 10 new government medical colleges.

The latest launch of projects comes days after Modi launched and laid foundation stones for development projects costing more than Rs 50,000 crore in various sectors in poll-bound Maharashtra.

The prime minister mentioned that development projects worth thousands of crores such as the expansion of the Metro network, upgradation of airports, highway projects, infrastructure, solar energy and textile parks have been initiated in various districts earlier.

These new initiatives have been undertaken for farmers, fishermen and animal keepers while the foundation stone for Wadhawan Port -India's largest container port has



also been laid in Maharashtra, he

Recalling the recent recognition of Marathi as a classical language, the Prime Minister said when a language gets its due respect, it's not just the words but the entire generation gets a voice.

"The Central government has begun a 'Maha Yajna' of creating modern infrastructure for the development of the nation. Today, we are not only constructing buildings but laying the foundation of a healthy and prosperous Maharashtra", Modi said, referring to the inauguration of 10 new medical

The 10 government medical colleges are located in Mumbai, Nashik, Jalna, Amravati, Gadchiroli, Buldhana, Washim, Bhandara, Hingoli and Ambernath (Thane).

"Today, every poor person has

Modi said the global community sees India as a significant hub for human resources, with vast opportunities in education, healthcare, and software development across He said the newly launched Vidya Samiksha Kendra is aimed

at advancing the educational framework. "The inauguration of the Indian Institute of Skills in Mumbai, where future-oriented training will be provided to align the talent of

70 years are also getting free med-

ical treatment. Essential medicines

are available at very low prices at

Jan Aushadhi Kendras and the

stents for heart patients are made

cheaper by 80-85 per cent," Modi

mands," the prime minister added. Modi highlighted the government's initiative of offering paid internships to youth, a first in India's history, where students will receive a stipend of Rs 5,000 dur-

young individuals with market de-

ing their internship. India's educational institutions are standing on par with the top institutes globally, Modi said, highlighting the growing quality of higher education and research in India as released by World Univer-

sity Rankings only yesterday. "The future of the global economy is in India", Modi remarked, noting the new opportunities brought by economic progress, especially in sectors that were once

He gave the example of tourism and pointed out the lost opportunities in the past to fully utilise Maharashtra's invaluable heritage, beautiful natural sites and spiritual centres to develop the state into a billion-dollar economy.

Modi said the new terminal at Shirdi Airport will greatly benefit devotees of Sai Baba allowing more visitors from across the country and abroad.

The upgraded Solapur airport will now enable devotees to visit nearby spiritual destinations such as Shani Shingnapur, Tulja Bhavani temple and Kailas Temple, boosting Maharashtra's tourism economy and creating employment opportunities, Modi added.

"Every decision and every policy of our government is dedicated to only one goal - Viksit Bharat", he said.

The separate cargo complex being built at ShirdiaAirport would help the farmers a lot as various types of agricultural products could be exported across the country and abroad.

"The government was constantly taking necessary steps in the interest of farmers such as abolishing the minimum export price on Basmati rice, removal of the ban on the export of non-Basmati rice, reducing the export duty on parboiled rice by half," the Prime Minister said.

The government has also reduced the export tax on onions by half to increase the income of farmers in Maharashtra. (PTI)

Haryana results reflect BJP's focus on development: Shinde

MUMBAI, Oct 9: The BJP's stunbellion in the then Shiv Sena, split ning victory in the Haryana assemelections reflects its commitment to development which

will also propel the ruling Mahayuti to a thumping majority in the upcoming Maharashtra polls, said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday.

The Congress and its opposition INDIA bloc partners used fake narratives, played caste politics and made false promises to garner votes in the Lok Sabha elections, but the bubble has burst, he told PTI in an

"The truth will come out if you compare the work done by the Congress in 50-60 years (when it was in power) and what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done in the past 10 years," said Shinde, whose Shiv Sena is a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti coalition, also comprising the BJP and Aiit Pawar-led NCP.

There was a double-engine government in Haryana and the people there understood what it meant for development. That's why they voted BJP to power for the third consecutive time, he said.

Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly are due in November.

The current Maharashtra government is equally focused on development, said Shinde.

"When the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was in power, they slammed brakes on key projects like the Atal Setu, Samruddhi Highway, Coastal Road, Metro 3 and the Aarev car shed. Whereas we removed all obstacles on these projects," the CM said.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government under Uddhav Thackting the party, in 2022 and sided with the BJP to become the CM. The Shinde group subsequently got the party name and its bow-andarrow symbol.

The Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) under Sharad Pawar are the alliance partners in the

Shinde said the Congress makes promises but goes back on its word later. "The Congress traps people, deceives them and runs fake narratives. That's why it lost in Haryana. By contrast, BJP, NDA, RSS and our party workers focused on the agenda of development," he said.

Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt in the assembly elections, results of which were announced Tuesday. The BJP got its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, in the 90-member assembly.

Shinde said the Congress, MVA and the "INDI alliance" got votes in the Lok Sabha polls by spinning fake narratives, making false promises and spreading poison over castes. That's why people have made up their minds to reject them, he claimed.

Even leaders from the MVA are also saying that Congress has become arrogant, he claimed.

"Rahul Gandhi defames the country and disrespects the PM on foreign soil. But people have become wise now," he said.

Shinde listed various schemes, including 'Ladki Bahin', 'Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana and Kisan Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana, to highlight the work done by his goveray collapsed after Shinde led a re- ernment in the past two years. (PTI)

Saini meets PM Modi after BJP's win in Haryana

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders here on Wednesday ahead of his likely swearing-in as the head of the new government in the state following the party's remarkable win in the assembly polls.

The BJP had indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Saini credited Modi's policies for the party's success.

He also met Home Minister Amit Shah. Defence Minister Rainath Singh and BJP president JP

Saini said psephologists might have declared the Congress as the favourite to win the polls but he always insisted that people will put their trust in the BJP due to its gov-

ernment's policies. To a question about the Congress raising doubts on EVMs, he said the opposition party has been building up a storm of lies.

He said, "The credit of this big win goes to Modi who brought such schemes in last 10 years that benefitted the poor, farmers, youth and women. These helped all sections of the society. People love him, and hence the BJP is coming

more important in the resolve of building 'viksit Bharat'.

While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were aged to win just two seats.

"These medical colleges would

to power for a third time." Modi said on X that he congratulated Saini on the party's historic win and expressed confidence that the role of Haryana will become

Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt. The results were announced

With the party set to form its government, two Independent MLAs - Congress rebel Rajesh Joon and BJP rebel Devendra Kadian - announced their support

BJP makes inroads in Dalit, Jat Learn to accept decision

CHANDIGARH, Oct 9: The BJP, which pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana by bucking anti-incumbency, managed to make significant inroads into the Dalit seats and Jat strongholds. The Congress was heavily banking on the Dalit and Jat votes to make a comeback after a decade of being out of power.

Not only this, the BJP also managed to retain seats in the Ahirwal region and the GT Road belt to shatter the Congress' comeback plans in Haryana, which went to polls on Saturday and results for which were declared on Tuesday.

While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than those won by Congress in the present elections, parties like the JJP and AAP were decimated and the INLD managed to win just two seats.

Proving wrong exit polls which predicted a comfortable Congress win, the BJP will be forming government in Haryana for the third consecutive

Out of 17 Scheduled Caste (SC) seats in Haryana, the BJP won eight assembly constituencies -- ?Nilokheri. Pataudi, Kharkhauda, Hodal, Bawal, Narwana, Israna and Bawani Khera. From Hodal, Haryana Congress

chief Udai Bhan lost to BJP's Harinder Singh. The Congress could secure victory in the remaining nine SC seats -- Sadhaura, Shahbad, Ratia, Uklana, Kalanaur, Kalanwali, Jhajjar, Guhla and Mulana -- according to the Elec-

tion Commission data. In the 2019 assembly polls, the BJP won five SC assembly constituencies, thus improving its performance in the 2024 assembly elections.

Among several steps to woo the Dalit community, the Nayab Singh Saini government accepted the report of the Harvana Scheduled Caste Commission after the Supreme Court had held that states were constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the SCs.

The sub-classification of SCs into the 'deprived SCs' category comprising Dhanaks, Bazigars, Kabirpanthi, Balmikis, Mazahbis and Mazhabi Sikhs, and other SCs comprising

Chamars, Rahgars, Raigars, Ravidassis, Ramdassis and Mochis for the purpose of reservation in government jobs also seemed to have worked in favour of the party.

In poll speeches, the BJP leaders targeted the Congress calling it anti-Dalit outfit and accused the previous Congress regime of depriving jobs to people in the reservation category. Not only Dalit seats, the BJP also

won a significant number of seats in constituencies which were considered Jat strongholds, such as in Sonipat, Rohtak and Jind districts.

In the Jat stronghold, the BJP won five seats -- ?Gohana, Jind, Safidon, Sonipat and Uchana Kalan.

The Congress registered victories in Baroda, Beri, Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, Julana, Meham and Rohtak. Two Independents won Bahadurgarh and Ganaur constituencies.

The Congress was heavily relying on the consolidation of Jat votes which constitute nearly 25 per cent of the state's population and Dalit votes which constitute nearly 20 per cent

strongholds to register victory of people: Rijiju to Rahul



NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Hitting out at the Congress for questioning the Election Commission for its Harvana poll debacle, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday said the opposition party should learn to respect and accept the deci-

sion of people.
"Now, don't blame EVM and Election Commission again," Rijiju said on X while responding to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks that the opposition party will apprise the EC of the complaints

"Learn to respect and accept the decision of the people," said the parliamentary affairs minister.

Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khera had termed the results of the Haryana elections as "unacceptable" as the party faced shock defeat in the state at the hands of the BJP.

Gandhi had also termed the Haryana poll outcome as "unexpected" and said that the Congress would analyse the

The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha had said the Congress would also apprise the EC of the complaints it had received from different assembly constituencies. (PTI)

Parking Lot for Two Wheele

Resolution demanding restoration of J-K statehood will be passed in first cabinet meet: Omar

People of J-K have voted because they want employment

SRINAGAR, Oct 9: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the NC-Congress government will pass a resolution demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood in its first cabinet meeting.

"After the formation of the government, I hope in the first cabinet meeting, the cabinet will pass a resolution impressing upon the Centre to restore the statehood. The government should then take that resolution to the prime minister," Abdullah told reporters here.

He expressed hope that the government in Jammu and Kashmir will be able to run smoothly unlike in

"There is a difference between us and Delhi. Delhi was never a state. No one promised Delhi a statehood. Jammu and Kashmir was a state before 2019. We have been promised the restoration of statehood by the prime minister, the home minister and other senior ministers who have said that three steps will be taken in J-K -? delimitation, election and

then statehood. "Delimitation has happened, the elections have now taken place as well. So, only the statehood remains which should be restored," he

added. Asked how important was the need for coordination between the new J-K government and Centre, the NC leader said nothing can be achieved by having a confrontation



with New Delhi.

"Let the government be formed first. This question should be posed to the chief minister. There should be a cordial relationship with New Delhi. My advice to him (CM) will be that we cannot address any issues by having a confrontation with the

"It is not that we will accept the BJP's politics, or that the BJP will accept our politics. We will continue to oppose the BJP, but it is not our compulsion to oppose the Centre,"

"It will be for the benefit of J-K and for the people of J-K to have a good relationship with the Centre,"

"The people have not voted for a confrontation. The people of J-K have voted because they want employment, they want development, they want the restoration of the statehood, they want to address electricity and other issues and that redressal will not happen by having a confrontation with New Delhi," he

Abdullah said the NC would call a meeting of the legislative party on Thursday to start the process of government formation.

"I have spoken to NC president Farooq Abdullah and the party will call a legislative party meeting tomorrow. After that, there will be in a meeting of the alliance partners

where the alliance leader will be elected and then we will go to the Raj Bhavan to stake the claim for government formation," he said, adding, "I hope the new government is in place in the next few days". To a question about whether the

government, the NC leader said there were no discussions over that as of now. "There has been no approach made to us by the PDP. We have made no approach to them. Given the results of this election, which I

PDP would be a part of the coalition

stand that there must be some internal discussion going on. "At some points of time, if a channel of communication opens, we will sit down and talk to them. But it is not a priority for us at the

think is quite a setback to them, I

think at the moment I can under-

moment," he said. Abdullah said while he is humbled by the mandate of the people, he is also acutely aware of the responsibility that it places upon

"The people of J-K have gone unheard since 2018. Now the time has come for us to work for the benefit of the people of J-K. I am also acutely aware of the fact that there is a sharp divide between Kashmir and Jammu and therefore, the incoming government will have a major responsibility of giving a sense of ownership to the people of

The government that comes in in the next few days will not be a government of the NC or of the alliance, or it will not be a government of those that voted for the alliance, it will be a government for every single individual of J-K, regardless of who they voted for, or whether they voted at all, the NC leader said.

"A special emphasis will be laid to give a sense of ownership and voice within the government to those areas from where MLAs in this coalition will be less in number," he added.

On the issue of the nomination of five MLAs by the LG, the NC vice president advised Manoj Sinha not to do it "because even with nominating those five MLAs, the BJP will not be able to form the govern-

"You will only nominate five MLAs to sit in the opposition and there will be a row, because we will then have to approach the Supreme Court and file a case against it. While we want to have a cordial relationship with the Centre, this move will create tension right from

day one. "The nomination of five MLAs will not have any impact on government formation. Some independents who won the election are already in touch with us and they will join us and we will increase our lead. The BJP will not gain anything by nominating these five MLAs," he added. (PTI)

from assembly constituencies.

E-AUCTION FOR SARUPATHAR PF-2 SIDE PARKING CONTRACT OVER LUMDING DIVISION

E-Auction for Sarupathar PF-2 side parking contract over Lumding Division. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Trips/Days. 1095. Auction Catalogue No. PARK-LMG-SZR-03

Parking-LMG-SZR

Lot No./Category

and Four Wheelers at location MX-32-24-2 (Parking-Mixed) SARUPATHAR PF 2 SIDE i Auction Start Date & Time: 11.00 hrs. of 24-10-2024. Auction Close Date & Time: 11.30 hrs. of 24-10-2024. Prospective bidders are requeste

E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

APPOINTMENT OF HALT CONTRACTOR

No. C-LMG-01-2024 Dated: 04-10-2024. Appointment of halt contractor at Jawaharnagar, Ranigaon, Kamranga, Ratabari Tatbung Lhangnom, Chargola, SK Para, Kalachand, Wadrengdisa halt station over Lumding Division, N. F. Railway.

On behalf of President of India applications are invited from the intending persons who are eligible as per the criteria of the Railway Board's policy guideline for appointment of a halt contractor at the halt stations mentioned above

Application Form may be obtained from the office of the Sr. Divisiona Commercial Manager, Lumding, N. F. Railway, PIN- 782447 or downloaded from the website quoted below

The sealed cover may be dropped in the application box kept in the Chamber of Assistant Commercial Manager, N. F. Railway, Lumding PIN-782447 or AM Office Badarpur Pin-788806, from 10.00 hrs. of 14-10-2024 to 16.00 hrs. of 13-11-2024 on all working days except Saturdays, Sundays and general holidays. Application box will be opened on 14-11-2024 at 11.00 hrs. in the Chamber of Assistant Commercial Manager, Lumding, N. F. Railway, PIN-782447 Eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions and instructions application format etc. may be downloaded from the website no www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in

For more details, the applicant may contact with the Office of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), N. F. Railway, Lumding

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Over 68 pc candidates forfeit

security deposit in 43 seats

across Jammu, highest of PDP

Cabinet okays fortified rice supply under welfare schemes till Dec 2028 at ₹ 17,082 cr cost

'The total financial implication to supply free fortified rice will be ₹17,082 crore'

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: The government on Wednesday decided to continue the supply of free fortified rice under the food law and other welfare schemes till 2028 with an outlay of ₹ 17,082 crore, a move aimed at reducing anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The rice fortification process involves the addition of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) enriched with micro-nutrients (iron, folic acid, Vitamin B12) as per standards prescribed by food regulator FSSAI to regular rice (custom milled rice).

Information & Broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the total financial implication to supply free fortified rice will be ₹ 17,082 crore, fully funded by the



"The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the universal supply of fortified Rice under all schemes of the Government, including Pradhan Mantri Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare schemes etc in its present form. from July 2024 and up to December 2028," according to an official

The rice fortification initiative will continue as a central sector initiative with 100 per cent funding by the central government as part of PMGKAY (Food Subsidy), thus providing a unified institutional mechanism for implementation, it

on the necessity of Nutritional Security in the country, the government said the initiative "Supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), other welfare schemes, Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), PM POSHAN (Erstwhile MDM) in all states and Union Territories (UTs)" was taken

In line with the Prime Minister's address on 75th Independence Day

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in April 2022, decided to implement the rice fortification initiative throughout the country in a phased manner by March 2024.

All three phases have been successfully completed, and the target of universal coverage of providing fortified rice in all government schemes was achieved by March

"According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted between 2019 and 2021, anaemia remains a widespread issue in India, affecting children, women, and men across various

age groups and income levels. "Besides iron deficiency, other vitamin and mineral deficiencies, such as Vitamin B12 and folic acid, also persist, impacting the overall health and productivity of the population," the government said.

Food fortification has been used globally as a safe and effective measure to address anaemia and micro-nutrient malnutrition in the vulnerable population.

Rice is an ideal vehicle for supplying micro-nutrients in the Indian context, as 65 per cent of India's population consumes rice as a staple food. (PTI)

2 killed in separate road accidents in UP

BHADOHI/GONDA(UP), Oct 9: A 32-year-old man was killed after he was hit by a speeding Bolero here, police said on Wednesday. The victim was identified as

Ravindra Gautam, police said. The incident occurred late Tuesday night when Gautam was relieving himself by the roadside in front of his house, Suriyawa Sta-

tion House Officer (SHO) Sunil Kumar Singh said. "A Bolero, heading from Gyanpur Road toward Suriyawa, veered off course and hit Gautam before speeding away. The vehicle later

crashed into a tree,' Due to the late hour, the incident went unnoticed, and Gautam died from excessive bleeding, according to the officer.

"The body has been sent for post-mortem, and efforts are underway to trace the Bolero using CCTV footage from the area," Singh added.

Meanwhile, in another incident in Gonda district, a 17-year-old boy who was reliving himself outside on Tuesday night was hit by an unknown vehicle in the Dhanepur police station area of the



Station House Officer (SHO) of the police station Sunil Singh, Himanshu was struck by an unknown vehicle traveling from Dhanepur to

"The impact of the collision was nounced dead," added the SHO.

Police have sent the body for

severe, and the driver fled the scene. Villagers returning home from a Ramleela performance found Himanshu lying injured on the road and alerted his family. A police team rushed Himanshu to a medical college, where he was pro-

postmortem examination and initi-

NC rebel candidate Muzaffar Igbal Khan by defeating his nearest rival Mohd Jabal Malik of the BJP by a margin of 6,179 votes. Khan polled 32,645 votes against Malik's 26,466 while PDP's Hussain, a former MLA, ended up a distant third.

Similarly, the Banihal seat was won by NC's Sajjad Shaheen who defeated former state Congress president and former minister Vikar Rasool Wani by a margin of 6,110 votes after bagging 27,018 votes. Shan ended up third while BJP's Mohd Saleem Bhat along with four

others lost their security deposits. Prominent faces among the PDP who lost their security deposit inAhmad Tak who only got 997 votes

JAMMU, Oct 9: In 43 assembly segments of Jammu region, 68.53 per cent candidates including almost all of the PDP and BSP forfeited their security deposits.

These candidates failed to secure a minimum of one-sixth of the total valid votes and lost their security deposits

Several candidates of J&K Apni Party, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), both factions of National Panthers Party along with eight candidates of the Congress and one of the BJP also forfeited their security deposits, the constituency-wise results released by the Election Commission said.

Incidentally, 164 of the total 356 candidates in the fray from the 43 assembly seats of Jammu region got less votes than none of the above (NOTA), which gives an option to voters to reject all candidates in a constituency

The National Conference (NC)-Congress coalition, including the CPI(M), swept the first assembly elections post-abrogation of Article 370 by winning 49 seats with the regional party gaining a total of 42

While NC tally included seven seats in the Jammu region, the Congress won one seat in Jammu and five seats in Kashmir. The CPI(M) has won one seat, which is in Kashmir. The BJP emerged the second largest party after the NC by winning 29 seats -- all in the Jammu region -- which is its best-ever

An analysis of the 43 results of the Jammu region revealed that out of 356 candidates in the fray, 244 have forfeited their security de-

Barring Qamar Hussain from Thanamandi and Imtiaz Ahmed Shan from Banihal who had managed to save their security deposit by getting 21,986 and 27,018 votes respectively, none of the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP's) 30 other candidates were able to secure their deposits. Majority of them have even got less votes than the

Thanamandi seat was won by

cluded former MLC Firdous

REVISION OF TIMINGS OF TRAINS OVER NFR

out of total 60,524 polled votes in Kishtwar constituency. The BJP's lone woman face Shagun Parihar defeated former NC minister Sajjad Kitchloo by a slender margin of over 500 votes on Kishtwar. Parihar, whose father and uncle were killed by terrorists in November 2018, polled 29,053 votes.

The BSP has fielded over two dozen candidates across Jammu region but barring its Kathua candidate Sandeep Majotra none of them made any impact on the ground. Majotra finished runner up from the constituency losing to BJP's Bharat Bhushan by a margin of 12,117 votes after securing 33,827 votes.

Majority of the BSP leaders also polled less votes than NOTA.

Overall, the votes polled by NOTA edged past 164 candidates across the 43 constituencies of the Jammu region.

The DPAP, facing its first assembly election after being formed by former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in September 2022, also failed to woo the voters. Its senior leader and former minister Abdul Majid Wani ended up fourth from Doda by getting only 10,027 votes, which is way short of maximum requirement to save the security de-

The seat was won by district development council member Mehraj Malik for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which has opened its account for the first time in the J&K assembly. Malik polled 23,228 votes, defeating BJP's Ganjay Singh by a margin of 4,538 votes. NC leader and former minister Khalid Najib Suharwardy was third and narrowly saved his security deposit by getting 13,334 votes.

Several other AAP and DPAP candidates not only lost their security deposit but also secured less votes than NOTA.

Former minister and J&K Apni Party leader Manjit Singh managed to save his security deposit by getting 13,161 votes and ending up third in Vijaypur constituency which was retained by former BJP minister Chander Prakash Ganga who got 32,859 votes against NC's Rajesh Kumar Pargotra's 13,819 votes.

leagues were not lucky to save their deposits and were among the 164 candidates who scored less than the votes polled by NOTA.

Most of the 123 independents also failed to make a mark with the majority of them ending up forfeiting their security deposits. However, the NC rebel candidates - Choudhary Mohammad Akram (Surankote), Payare Lal Sharma

(Inderwal), Rameshwar Singh (Bani) - and Congress rebel candidate Satish Sharma (Chhamb) won their seats by defeating their rivals. (PTI)

Modi to have bilateral meetings with PM of Lao PDR, other leaders in Vientiane: MEA

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with the prime minister of Lao PDR and other leaders on the margins of two key summits he is slated to attend in Vientiane on October 10-11, the external affairs ministry said on Wednesday.

Modi will attend the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit in Lao PDR, the current Chair of the 10nation grouping

"We attach great significance to all ASEAN-related mechanisms. This will be PM's tenth attendance at an ASEAN-India Summit," Secretary (East) in the MEA, Jaideep Mazumdar said at a briefing here. In 2023, Modi had made efforts

to be there for the ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta before the G20 Summit in New Delhi, he added. The Summit in Vientiane will review the progress in India-

ASEAN ties and "chart the future

direction of our relationship", Mazumdar said. At the invitation of Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the

added.

Lao People's Democratic Republic. Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, he said. He will have a bilateral meeting

(East) said India has "close, friendly, historical and civilisational relationship" with Lao PDR, which includes a whole host of different areas, such as restoration of cultural sites, ca-

pacity building, and power proj-

with Siphandone, the Secretary

ects, he added. When asked if Modi will also have bilateral meeting with leaders

"As is normal and usual, on the margins of international conferences and meeting, the prime minister will have bilateral meetings with a number of leaders. These are all in the works, and you will get to hear of them as they hap-

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in

The member States are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Brunei

Wangchuk, supporters continue hunger strike on day 4

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: A Vis- 018 while it was coming from tara aircraft flying from London London to the national capital. to Delhi received a bomb threat In line with the protocol, the on Wednesday and the plane relevant authorities were immelanded safely at the airport in diately informed and the aircraft was taken to the isolation bay the national capital, according to sources. for mandatory checks, after The sources said that a piece landing safely at the Delhi air-

Vistara's London-Delhi flight receives

bomb threat; lands safely in national capital

of paper with the message about a bomb onboard the plane was "We fully cooperated with the relevant authorities in found in one of the lavatories and the relevant authorities completing the necessary security checks," the spokesperwere immediately informed. son said in a statement. There were nearly 290 pas-

sengers in the aircraft, they The number of people in the flight that was operated An airline spokesperson said with a Boeing 787 aircraft a security concern was noted by could not be immediately ascertained. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Sonam night, extended his support, and also gave him some mosquito repellent.

"Someone came around 10.30-11 pm, and brought herbal mosquito repellent for us. He stayed away from the gate, and said he did not want to be captured in any CCTV camera," Wangchuk, on strike with several of his supporters since Sunday, said on

"He said he is with the RSS, and close to BJP. He said we have our sympathy with you, and people of Ladakh, but we cannot come out openly," he said.

"Yesterday, BJP leader Naresh ii

came with a special message from Wnagchuk, who is on a hunger strike Murli Manohar Joshi ji. This makes for the last four days, on Wednesday us feel people rise above party, relisaid a member of the Rashtriya gion, when it is about justice. They Swayamsevak Sangh came to him last are not blind followers, they can differentiate between right and wrong,'

> Another protester said they have not yet been approached by the government.

"Our protest is continuing. This morning, several members had low blood pressure," a group member told

Wangchuk with his supporters marched to Delhi from Leh demanding inclusion of Ladakh in the sixth schedule Constitution. They were detained at the capital's Singhu border on September 30 by Delhi Police and released on the night of October 2.

The group is demanding a meeting with top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The sixth schedule of the Constitu-

tion includes provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram in northeast India. It establishes autonomous councils that have legislative, judicial, executive and financial powers to independently govern these areas. The protesters are also demanding

statehood, a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil dis-

The march to Delhi was organised by Leh Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been spearheading the agitation. (PTI)

its staff operating the flight UK Bellatrix to deploy orbital transfer vehicles for NSIL missions

'As part of our Orbital Transfer Vehicle (OTV) solutions, we offer two models'

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Bengaluru-based space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace on Wednesday said it will supply its homebuilt orbital transfer vehicle – Pushpak - for integration with future launch missions of ISRO's commercial arm New-Space India Limited.

The Pushpak OTV is a versatile multi-mission spacecraft designed by Bellatrix for in-orbit manoeuvrings, with the flexibility to deploy satellites into various orbits with greater precision and efficiency, a company release said.

Bellatrix's partnership with the NSIL will enable more complex space missions involving multi-orbit deployment sequences, inclination change, GEO transfer missions and future deep space missions, it said. "We are happy to support Bellatrix

Aerospace in launching their OTV mod-

ule to enhance launch options for

rideshare customers," D Radhakrishnan,

chairman-cum-managing director of The Memorandum of Understanding between NSIL and Bellatrix Aerospace was signed at the Bangalore Space Expo

"The global market for rideshare mis-



sions is picking up and gaining traction in the global space industry. Due to varied mission requirements, it is challenging to accommodate multiple customer payloads on a single launch vehicle. forcing satellite operators to either wait for a favourable launch opportunity or opt for an expensive dedicated launch," Rohan M Ganapathy, co-founder and CEO of Bellatrix Aerospace said.

Yashas Karanam, co-founder and COO of Bellatrix Aerospace said the tieup with NSIL marked a major step forward in public-private partnerships, where the strengths of both players complement each other to deliver a timely and innovative solution for the

rapidly expanding satellite industry. "As part of our Orbital Transfer Vehi-

cle (OTV) solutions, we offer two models. Deployment as a service and hosting as a service. The deployment model accelerates the launch process, enabling satellite operators to generate revenue faster," Karanam said.

"Meanwhile, our hosting service caters to those who can't afford an entire satellite bus for scientific or technology experiments. Our OTV is designed to function as a satellite itself, hosting third-party payloads, significantly reducing costs for payload owners while ensuring mission success," he said. (PTI)

Chongajan) under the jurisdiction of Sr DSTE/Lumding. **Tender Value** ₹1,08,88,332/-; Bid Security: ₹2,04,500/ Date & time of closing of tender at 15:0 rs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. o 30-10-2024. For details please visit i

MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

DSTE, Lumdi

bsite www.ireps.gov.in

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN LUMDING

DIVISION E-Tender No.: SNT-03-LMG-2024-25 RT; Dated: 07-10-2024; E-Tender ar

ited by the undersigned for the follow work: Name of work : Reliabilit nprovement by means of Repai cement and Restoration of Electron terlocking system of 04 stations (Silgh own, Dhansiri Jn.-Shokhuvi

ELECTRICAL WORKS IN TINSUKIA DIVISION Tender Notice No.: TSK/Elect/165

Dated: 08-10-2024; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following wor SN.:01; Tender No.: LV-T-14-TSK-880 Brief Description of Item: Electrical Work n connection with Upgradation of Dibrugar Station from RRI to Electronic Interlocking for reliability and enhancement of signaling system. Tender Value: ₹18,55,942/ Earnest Money: ₹37,100/-; SN.:02; Tende No.: LV-T-14-TSK-881; Brief Description of Item: Tinsukia Division:- Electric Works for Improvement of Railway Hospita at Dibrugarh Town & New Tinsukia. Tende Value: ₹10,23,364/-; Earnest Money 20,500/-; Date & time of closing of tende at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. o 30-10-2024. The complete information with he tender document of above e-tender will b vailable up to 13:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024 bsite www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (Elect), Tinsuk MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

It has been decided to revise trains as under.	timings of the	following	Train no. 15904 Chand (Bi-weekly) with e		CONTRACTOR AND STREET
Train no. 15910 Lalgarh-			New Bongaigaon	13.25	13.30
Express (Daily) with e			Rangiya Jn.	15.15	15.20
Station	12 000000000000000000000000000000000000	lic Time Table	Guwahati	16.30	16.45
NAME	ARR.	DEP.	Lumding Jn.	20.10	20.15
Jalpaiguri Road	18.00	18.02	Diphu	20.55	20.57
Dhupguri	18.27	18.32	Dimapur	21.30	21.35
New Cooch Behar	19.20	19.25	Furkating Jn.	00.05	00.07
New Alipurduar	19.45	19.50	Mariani Jn.	01.00	01.05
New Bongaigaon	21.50	21.55	Simaluguri Jn.	01.58	02.00
Barpeta Road	22.40	22.45	New Tinsukia	03.30	03.40
Rangiya Jn.	23.40	23.45	Dibrugarh	05.20	
Kamakhya	00.35	00.40	Train no. 22503 Kannig Express (Daily) with		
Guwahati (Loco Change)	01.00	01.15	Simaluguri Jn.	17.10	17.12
Jagi Road	02.10	02.12	Naharkativa	18.20	18.22
Chaparmukh Jn.	02.40	02.42	New Tinsukia	19.00	19.10
Hojai	03.20	03.22	Dibrugarh	20.50	
Lumding Jn.	04.20	04.25	Train no. 22501 SMVT	8071531511	w Tinsukia
Diphu	05.18	05.20	SF Express (Weekly) v		
Dimapur	06.00	06.10	Jalpaiguri Road	21.51	21.53
Sarupathar	06.53	06.55	New Cooch Behar	23.05	23.07
Furkating Jn.	07.50	07.52	New Alipurduar	23.30	23.35
Mariani Jn	08.25	08.30	New Bongaigaon	01.20	01.25
Simaluguri Jn.	09.40	09.42	Goalpara Town	02.04	02.06
Bhojo	10.20	10.22	Guwahati	04.35	04.45
New Tinsukia	12.20	12.30	Lumding Jn.	07.25	07.30
Dibrugarh	14.05		Diphu	08.05	08.07
Train no. 15613 Guw	ahati-Murkor	ngselek	Dimapur	08.43	08.50
Express (Daily) with e	ffect from 12	.10.2024	Furkating Jn.	10.40	10.42
North Lakhimpur	04.10	04.15	Mariani Jn.	11.30	11.35
Gogamukh	05.03	05.05	Simaluguri Jn.	12.25	12.30
Bordolani	05.18	05.20	Sibsagar Town	12.55	13.00
Dhemaji	05.30	05.32	Moranhat	13.30	13.32
Silapathar	05.55	05.57	Dibrugarh	14.30	14.40
Simen Chapari	06.18	06.20	New Tinsukia	16.25	
Telam	06.33	06.35		eneral Manager	
Murkeong Selek	07.50		NORTHEAST F	RONTIER	RAILWA

Christopher Nolan teaming up with Universal for new film, Matt Damon in talks to star



LOS ANGELES, Oct 9: Filmmaker Christopher Nolan is setting up his new feature project after the resounding success of his last directorial "Oppenheimer". For the latest project, which will release in US theatres on July 17, 2026, Nolan is once again teaming up with Hollywood studio Universal as well as actor Matt Damon, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Matt Damon, who featured in Nolan's 2014 movie "Interstellar" and "Oppenheimer" (2023), is in negotiations to feature in the new movie.

Last year, Nolan's "Oppenheimer", a gripping portrayal of J. Robert Oppenheimer's role in the development of the atomic bomb, emerged as a major contender at the Oscars, securing several nominations and taking home eight awards.

Cillian Murphy's portrayal of Oppenheimer earned him the Best Actor award, while Nolan took home his long-awaited Best Director Oscar trophy. The movie marked Nolan's first film outside of Warner Bros in nearly 20 years. For the studio, he helmed the "Dark Knight" trilogy and other hits including "Dunkirk" and "Inception".

Oppenheimer released on July 21, along with Greta Gerwig's adaptation of Barbie, starring Ryan Gosling and Margot Rob-

The biopic, set during World War II, follows physicist J Robert Oppenheimer, known as the Father of the Atomic Bomb. It is set during a period in history when he feared that testing the atomic bomb would ignite the atmosphere and destroy the world, yet he pushed the button anyway. J Robert Oppenheimer helped invent nuclear weapons during World War II.

Actor Matt Damon essays the character of General Leslie Groves, the head of the Manhattan Project. Emily Blunt is seen as Oppenheimer's wife, Katherine Oppenheimer. (PTI)

DIL-LUMINATI TOUR

Dancer pulls out of European leg of Diljit's tour alleging 'unprofessional' management, team denies claim

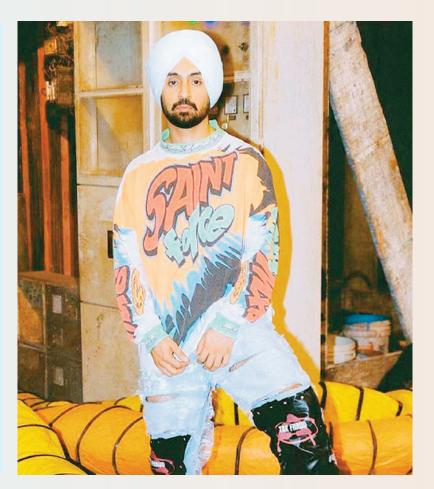
MUMBAI, Oct 9: A London-based backup dancer has said she withdrew from the European leg of Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh's 'Dil-Luminati Tour', accusing the management team of 'unprofessional and disrespectful' behaviour.

A source close to the tour team, however, dismissed artist Shilpa Sajan's claim, calling it "baseless and untrue". Sajan posted a statement on her Instagram handle, Lateafternoonthoughts, on October 3, detailing the alleged unprofessional treatment she received during her time on the tour.

"Recently, I was selected to be a backup dancer for Diljit Dosanjh's DIL-LUMINATI Europe Tour. As a dancer who's been doing this professionally for years, this could have been one of the highlights of my dance career. But I pulled out," she claimed. The British-Indian dancer then referenced an earlier controversy regarding Dosanjh's US tour over the non-payment of money owed to the dancers in July, an allegation the singer's manager denied at

According to Sajan, she and fellow dancers found out that Dosanjh's team offered 80 GBP (Rs 8,800 approximately) for the tour's European leg. "... and we had to cover our own travel and accommodation costs for most of it, even when international travel was involved. Still, they promised us this would be an incredible, once in a lifetime experience and as a fan; Ill be honest, I said yes at first. But unfortunately for that price; you get what you pay for. I have never worked with such an unprofessional and disrespectful management team in. my. life (sic)" she wrote.

The dancer claimed the team didn't communicate properly with the dancers. "Everything was a mess, there was no respect or communication and we were left stressed for days on end. Messages would be ignored, dancers were getting cut with no explanations provided. There was no emphasis on rehearsals, and when you leave everything to the last minute, this does reflect on stage. "Even though I was willing to give this a chance, I just couldn't continue encouraging this poor standard in the dance industry," she wrote. (PTI)



THE MESSAGE IS EMPATHY: ATUL SABHARWAL ON NEW FILM BERLIN'



NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Director Atul Sabharwal says his latest film "Berlin", starring Aparshakti Khurana and Ishwak Singh, aims to share the message of empathy in an era of "utter selfishness"

Set in 1990s New Delhi, the spy thriller follows a deaf-mute young man called Ashok Kumar (Singh) on suspicion of being a foreign spy. The case takes a complex turn after a skilled sign language expert Pushkin Verma (Khurana) is brought

"Berlin" is currently streaming on ZEE5.

"We live in an era of utter selfishness and that translates from the voter to the top. It's not anti-establishment, it's anti (against) the whole thing of lack of empathy. Pushkin's agenda is not political but empathy. The message is empathy all in all," Sabharwal told PTI in an interview.

The filmmaker, also known for "Aurangzeb" and "Class of '83", said "Berlin" is based on his 2016 short story "The Decipherer"

It all started with the idea of a deaf-mute waiter at a cafe.

"I used to go to a Costa cafe in Lokhandwala. They used to employ deaf-mute staff. One of the waiters there was unusually chirpy, he tried to talk to the customers in sign language, he often wanted to know why you had come there. Many actors, scriptwriters used to go there.

"There used to be production meetings. The peripherals of the film industry who didn't have offices used to hang there. All that used to go on and he would be very inquisitive. That inquisitiveness was the first source of inspiration. That slowly developed into a spy world," Sabharwal said. At the time, the writer-director was reading spy novels by Eric Ambler and Len

"There are also Michael Caine's films 'Funeral in Berlin' and 'The Ipcress File' based on Deighton's novels. When a world starts taking shape, you try to figure out what story you can narrate within it."

His first note to self was: "The Decipherer" is to ear, what Alfred Hitchcock's 'Rear Window" is to eye.

Regarded as one of the greatest Hitchcock films, the 1954 title revolves around a bored photographer recovering from a broken leg who passes the time by watching his neighbours and begins to suspect one of them of murder.

"What would happen if I create a character like the one I meet at the cafe who can't hear and speak, and he discovers a conspiracy?" Sabharwal recalled wondering. He then narrated it to a writer friend who was starting her production house.

They wanted a story which could be a so-called international film. I told them all I have is this at the moment. At the time, I was working for Yash Raj Films where I used to write scripts according to them. I asked them to have a look at this short story if it made sense to them because I thought it was unfilmable. But they liked the story.

Why did he feel "The Decipherer" was "unfilmable"?

"The short story only has Ashok's point of view. If you make a film from a character's point of view who can't hear and speak, there will be no dialogues. It would be a silent film. It's unfilmable as a mainstream film for Indian audiences. It would

"The short story also didn't have a lot of stretchable material. It's a story more suited for reading because you can write what's going on in a deaf man's mind. But you can't film thoughts. The whole short story is about his thoughts, what he is seeing. Then I had to create a device through which he could speak his thoughts and hence the interrogation," he said.

The potential producers said they would make a film based on the short story if Sabharwal could write a script. (PTI)

'All We Imagine As Light' books Nov release in India, to open MAMI Mumbai Festival next week

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine As Light", the winner of the Grand Prix award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, will hit Indian screens in November followed by its premiere at the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, where it will serve as the opening film.

The Malayalam-Hindi film was released in limited screens in Kerala on September 21 by Rana Daggubati's production house Spirit

"All We Imagine As Light", an official India-France coproduction between Chalk and Cheese Films and Another Birth from India and petit chaos from France, arrived in theatres across France on Oc-

Kapadia, who made history as the first Indian filmmaker to win the prestigious Grand Prix at Cannes in May, said she is looking forward to the release of the movie in other parts of the country.

"I am so excited for the India release this November! I hope that many people go to watch it. It is such a wonderful feeling for any filmmaker," the director said in a statement. Led by Kani Kusruti and Divya Prabha, "All We Imagine As Light" narrates the story of two Kerala nurses Prabha and Anu co-habiting in Mumbai. It is titled "Prabhayay Ninachathellam" in

Malayalam Daggubati, whose banner

acquired the exclusive rights to distribute the film in India, said they are thrilled to bring Kapadia's movie to more audiences in November, starting with MAMI.

"Our partnership with this incredible film is a step forward in our efforts to bring compelling and moving stories from different parts of the country to audiences every-

where," he added. "All We Imagine As Light" will open the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024 on October 18. Interim festival director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur said they are delighted to open the festival this year with the film which resonates with the kind of cinema it is known for.

"'All We Imagine as Light'

will always be remembered as a film that won the Grand Prix at Cannes, but it is also an independent film that faced many challenges, especially in finding funding, before it debuted in competition at Cannes and won accolades all

over the world. "As we begin a new phase in MAMI, this film embodies the kind of cinema that MAMI would like to showcase and provide a platform that will celebrate and enable independent cinema of every kind to reach a wider audience," Dungarpur said in a statement.

MAMI Mumbai Film Festival. which will run till October 24, will present a line-up of over 110 films in more than 50 languages, including features and non-features across all genres.

Kapadia said she is "honoured" that "All We Imagine as Light" will be screened at MAMI, a film festival which introduced her to world cin-

"When I was a student in Mumbai, I got a glimpse into world cinema and cinema from other parts of the country because of MAMI. I am happy that people in Mumbai would be able to see the film here first," the filmmaker said in a separate statement.

Also starring Chhaya Kadam, "All We Imagine As Light" was also the first film from India to make it to the Cannes' main competition in 30 years. (PTI)





England reaches 232-2 in first test against Pakistan

Root surpasses Cook's 12,472 test runs



Joe Root became England's highest-run scorer in tests as the tourists continued to score at a rapid pace on the third day of the first test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Root surpassed Alastair Cook's 12,472 runs with a straight-driven boundary before lunch to reach 72 at the break and guided England to a brisk 232-2 in 45 overs.

Root is now fifth on the all-time list of test run-scorers behind Tendulkar's leading

Ben Duckett recovered from a thumb injury which denied him opening England's first innings on Tuesday afternoon and was unbeaten on 80 off 67 balls as the tourists smashed 136 runs in the first session after resuming on 96-

England still trails Pakistan by 324 runs after the home team was bowled out for 556 on a placid wicket of Multan Cricket Sta-

England lost the wicket of Zak

Shaheen Shah Afridi (1-44) after adding 14 runs to his overnight score of 64. Jamal pounced on the opportunity on second attempt at short mid-wicket as Crawley tried to whip the fast bowler on the on-

But England continued to exhibit its Bazball' approach against both pace and spin on a benign wicket. Duckett and Root decoded the mystery spin of Abrar Ahmed with lot of aggression on an unresponsive wicket for the bowlers as the leg-spinner has so far conceded 79 runs off his 12 overs.

In an England-dominated session, Pakistan also lost two of its reviews when it went for a shocking caught behind referral against Duckett soon after the left-hander had completed his half century, but the television replays suggested the bat was nowhere near

Captain Shan Masood then went for a second referral against Root off the same bowler, but the TV replays showed the ball was

on this momentum to secure a

dominant 14-5 win and deliver a

major blow to the Pipers' chances

of closing in on the league's lead-

ers. In the second match of the day,

the winners of season one, Triveni

by American Gambits 14-5.

No 2 Hikaru Nakamura.

Continental Kings were defeated

The match saw Alireza Firouzja

lose the first game in the tourna-

ment — blundering in an even

rook endgame against the world

The day closed with the Knights

National Games in Uttarakhand from Jan 28 next year: IOA



NEW DELHI, Oct 9: The 38th edition of the National Games will be held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14 next year, the Indian Olympic Association announced on Wednesday, saying that the schedule is subject to approval from its General Assembly later this month.

The IOA General Assembly is scheduled to be held on October

"We are thrilled to bring the National Games to Uttarakhand, a state that has shown remarkable enthusiasm and commitment to hosting this prestigious event," IOA president PT Usha said in a press release.

"The Games provide a vital platform for athletes from all over the country to showcase their talents and continue their journey toward international sporting success," she

Uttarakhand has also expressed the desire to host the National Winter Games and Usha she is "eagerly" looking forward to "receiving a firm proposal" from

The Games will feature competitions in 38 sports and over 10,000 athletes, officials, and coaches are expected to participate.

'We are committed to delivering a world-class sporting experience. The National Games will not only be a celebration of sports but also a showcase of Uttarakhand's rich culture and hospitality," Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

The previous edition of the Games was organised in Goa last year. Maharashtra claimed the top spot with a whopping 228 medals, including 80 gold. (PTI)

Indian women win maiden medal in team event in Asian TT Championships ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN), Oct

9: The Indian women TT players on Wednesday created history by winning their first-ever medal -- a bronze -- at the Asian Table Tennis Championships here after losing to Japan 1-3 in the semifinals.

This is India's maiden medal in women's team event at Asian Championships. Going first, India's Ayhika Mukherjee gave a tough fight to Japan's Miwa Harimoto before losing 2-3 (8-11 11-9 8-11 13-11 7-11).

The highly-rated Manika Batra levelled the scores after notching up a 3-0 (11-6 11-5 11-8) win over Satsuki Odo in the second match. Next in charge, Sutirtha

Mukherjee handed Japan the lead, losing 0-3 (9-11 4-11 13-15) against Mima Ito. The onus was then on Manika to

played by Harimoto, losing 1-3 (3-11 11-6 2-11 3-11). With Japan taking a 3-1 lead, the last and final match between Ay-

salvage India but she was out-

hika and Odo became inconsequential and was not played. (PTI)

Jürgen Klopp takes charge as head of global soccer at Red Bull

LONDON, Oct 9: Former Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp is returning to soccer after a shorter than expected break.

Energy drinks manufacturer Red Bull announced Wednesday that the German mentor is to become its head of global soccer from January, overseeing its international network of clubs.

"He will not be involved in the clubs' day-to-day operations, but will provide strategic vision, supporting individual sporting directors in advancing the Red Bull philosophy," the statement said. "Additionally, the 57-year-old will support the organization's global scouting operation, and contribute to the training and development of

Klopp had said he would take a "long break" from soccer after leading Liverpool to seven major trophies over nearly nine years in charge at Anfield. His tenure ended with a 2-0 win over Wolverhampton in May.

But it appears the prospect of involvement in soccer without the day-to-day intensity of coaching and the pressure it entails was one

that Klopp was happy to seize. "After almost 25 years on the sideline, I could not be more excited to get involved in a project like this," Klopp said in Red Bull's statement. "The role may have changed but my passion for football and the people who make the game what it is has not."

Before joining Liverpool and helping resurrect the club's fortunes, Klopp led Borussia Dortmund to back-to-back Bundesliga titles and a domestic league and cup double in 2012. He previously rose to prominence as Mainz coach from 2001-08

He led Liverpool to the Champions League title in 2019 and the Premier League title the following season, ending a 30-year wait for

the storied port city club. As Red Bull chief, he will oversee a roster that includes Dortmund's league rival Leipzig, Austrian team Salzburg, New York Red Bulls, Bragantino in Brazil and Omiya Ardija in Japan. (AP)

PBG Alaskan Knights one win away from GCL final

LONDON, Oct 9: PBG Alaskan Knights were placed at the top spot with 18 match points and a win away from securing their place in the final of the Global Chess League (GCL) here.

The Knights have so far registered six victories in seven matches and are six points ahead of Triveni and Alpine SG Pipers. With three matches left before the knockout stage, the Knights are in the pole position to seal a spot in the final.

Despite their comfortable standing, the Knights' Anish Giri, on top board, was cautious about his team's position. "It's not done yet, we still need to get to the final and win. But so far it's going well and I'm happy with everything, that's

AUCKLAND, Oct 9: Senior batter

Kane Williamson is set to miss the

initial part of the upcoming three-

Test series in India starting on Oc-

tober 16 due to groin strain, with

New Zealand naming Mark Chap-

man as his cover in the 17-man

a groin strain, will delay his depar-

ture to India where New Zealand

will play three Tests at Bengaluru,

While senior batting all-rounder

Michael Bracewell has been roped

in only for the first Test in Ben-

galuru, spinner Ish Sodhi will be

available only for the second and

Tom Latham will be leading the

Kiwis after Tim Southee stepped

aside from the leadership role a few

discomfort during the second Test

against Sri Lanka in Galle and will

require a period of rehabilitation be-

fore joining the Blackcaps Test

squad in India," New Zealand

New Zealand selector Sam Wells

said the decision to delay

Williamson's departure to India was

to give the former skipper more

"The advice we've received is

Cricket said on their website.

"Williamson experienced groin

Williamson, who is dealing with

squad here on Wednesday.

Pune and Mumbai.

third Tests.



for sure," he said. In a stunning upset earlier on Tuesday, the Mumba Masters defeated the favourites Alpine SG

part of away Test series against India

On board one, Magnus Carlsen

Kane to rest and rehabilitate now

rather than risk aggravating the in-

jury," said Wells.
"We're hopeful that if the reha-

bilitation goes to plan Kane will be

available for the latter part of the

tour. While it's obviously disap-

pointing to not have Kane available

from the start of the tour, it provides

an opportunity for someone else to

Chapman averages above 42 in

"We believe Mark (Chapman) is

"Mark has displayed an ability to

one of our best players of spin and

has a proven track-record in the

play spin proactively in the interna-

tional arena, and combined with his

excellent first-class record, we see

him as someone who can succeed

in the type of conditions we expect

Bracewell will return home after

the first Test for the birth of his sec-

ond child and will be replaced by

played at the M Chinnaswamy Sta-

dium from October 16-20, the sec-

ond will be held at the Maharashtra

Cricket Association (MCA) Sta-

dium in Gahunje, Pune from Octo-

While the opening Test will be

to encounter in India," he added.

first-class cricket in 44 matches but

is yet to make his Test debut

sub-continent," said Wells.

play a role in an important series,'

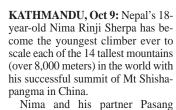
NZ batter Williamson to miss initial

combination allowed Maxime Visibly upset, Carlsen stormed out

was left reeling after a blunder in a Vachier-Lagrave to claim victory.

confidently defeating Ganges Grandmasters 15-4. Playing as Black, the Knights started with a defeat but quickly took control of the match, winning The Mumba Masters capitalised on three boards. (PTI)

Nepal's Nima Rinji Sherpa becomes youngest to scale 14 tallest peaks



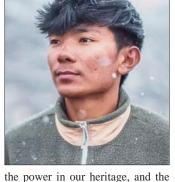
Nurbu Sherpa reached the summit of the Shishapangma, which stands at 8,027 meters above sea level, shortly after 6:00am (China Standard Time), which is 3.30am in IST, on Wednesday, the youngster announced on his instagram page.

"Today, as I stand atop my 14th 8000-meter peak, I dedicate this world record to my project, #Sherpa-Power," he posted.

"This summit is not just the culmination of my personal journey, but a tribute to every Sherpa who has ever dared to dream beyond the traditional boundaries set for us. Mountaineering is more than labor; it is a testament to our strength, resilience, and Nima said he wants to show the

younger generation of Sherpas that they can rise above the "stereotype of being only support climbers".

"We are not just guides; we are trailblazers. Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, from Sherpa community (in the



limitless possibilities in our future, he said. Hailing from a family of mountaineers, Nima began his quest to scale each of the 14 tallest peaks in the world at the age of 16 and 162 days when he reached the top of Mt Manaslu (8163m) in September It was his passion for photography

of the mountains that brought Nima into climbing but it soon turned out to be a passion for him to tell the story of the Sherpa community. "Slowly, I realised, the Sherpas,

my community, we have always been in the shadows and all the international athletes that you see, no one is peak of Mt Cho-Oyu (8188m) in Oc-

front), but we are always the ones backing them up," he told PTI in an interview in May this year.

"We're always carrying their equipment, carrying their food, the load, fixing the ropes, looking after the weather condition, looking after their safety, looking for the rescue "All those things are being looked

after by us, but our names are always somewhere down the line. That's when I decided (that) I want to climb more for this, for my community more, rather than for myself," said Nima, who prefers to go without oxygen support for the first 7,000 metres.

Perhaps the biggest achievement for the young mountaineer came when he scaled Mt Everest (8848.86m) and Mt Lhotse (8516) in a span of a mere 10 hours when he was a little over 17 years, in May 2023. Like he did when he scaled Mt Manaslu, Nima became the youngest to climb the Nanga Parbat (8125m) in June 2023. In his bid to become the youngest ever, Nima went on to climb Mt Gasherbrum I (8068m), Mt Gasherbrum II (8035m), Mt Broad Peak (8047m) and Mt K2 (8,611m) in July 2023 while he reached the

Ishan Kishan returns as Jharkhand captain

RANCHI, Oct 9: India batter Ishan Kishan on Wednesday returned to the Jharkhand Ranji team as its captain, following his controversial pullout last season that led to his exclusion from the BCCI central contract.

The explosive left-hander, who became a regular in India's whiteball squad after Rishabh Pant's road accident in December 2022, took a break during India's tour of South Africa last year.

Post break, he did not participate in any official BCCI matches, which raised a few eyebrows as the board stressed on players prioritising domestic cricket when not on

Pak

The 26-year-old resurfaced this February, playing in the privately organised DY Patil T20 Cup ahead of the IPL and sparking a debate over balance between franchise cricket and state commitments.

His absence from domestic cricket during this period contributed to his omission from the BCCI's 2023-24 central contracts.

However, Kishan has since worked his way back into the BCCI's good books with strong performances in domestic cricket, including a century for India C on his return in the Duleep Trophy last

He also represented the Rest of India in the Irani Cup, scoring 38 in his only innings.

Now, as captain of Jharkhand's 16-member squad, Kishan is set to lead a young squad with last season's designated skipper Virat Singh as his deputy and Kumar Kushagra as the wicketkeeper.

Jharkhand begin their Ranji Trophy campaign against Assam in Guwahati in Elite Group D.

Last season, Jharkhand finished third from the bottom in Group A, winning two, losing two, and drawing three of their seven

"Ishan is an experienced player and he has international experience," chairman of Jharkhand's selection committee Subroto Das was quoted as saying by ESPN-

"We have picked a very young team. Saurabh Tiwary, Shahbaz Nadeem and Varun Aaron had all retired after last season so we had to rethink our strategy. Ishan is capable of leading this young side and we're confident of doing well this Ranji season.'

Squad: Ishan Kishan (c), Virat Singh (vc), Kumar Kushagra (wk), Nazim Siddique, Aryaman Sen, Sharandeep Singh, Kumar Suraj, Anukul Roy, Utkarsh Singh, Supriyo Chakraborty, Saurabh Shekhar, Vikas Kumar, Vivekanand Tiwary, Manishi, Ravi Kumar Yadav and Raunak Kumar. (PTI)

'You have scaled the highs in the sport and made the country proud' Surprised at your decision to retire: sports minister writes to Karmakar

NEW DELHI, OCT 9: Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday wrote to Dipa Karmakar conveying his surprise at her decision to retire, a couple of days after the trailblazing Indian gymnast called time on her career. The 31-year-old Karmakar, who became the first Indian woman gymnast to represent the country at the Games in the 2016 Rio Olympics and finished fourth, announced her retirement on Monday.

'I got to know about your retirement from gymnastics. While your decision surprised me, I have full faith that you have taken this decision keeping in mind your priorities in life and the experiences that you have had. I completely respect your decision," Mandaviya wrote in a letter to

"Your journey in gymnastics, which began at the age of six, has been inspirational. You have scaled the highs in the sport and made the country proud despite facing so many difficulties.' "Being awarded with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award and

the Padma Shri is the indication of your unique contribution," he added. Mandaviya said the whole country is proud of Karmakar, who routinely performed the highly-difficult Produnova vault.

"You added a new chapter in Indian gymnastics by participating in the Olympics, which was not only the outcome of our hard work but it is a great matter of pride for the entire country," he added. Mandaviya said Karmakar's journey, who missed a medal at the Rio

Games by 0.15 points, has inspired many young girls in the country. "Your achievements have not only inspired those who love sports but especially our daughters, who have got the strength to fulfill their dreams," said the union minister, hoping that Karmakar would be available to share her knowledge with the young athletes sometime in the fu-



Asian TT Championships also witness women with bronze

Indian men assured of third consecutive medal

men's table tennis team assured itself of its third consecutive bronze medal at Asian Championships, overcoming a gritty Kazakhstan 3-1 in the quarterfinals here on Wednesday.

The medal in the men's team event was secured after the women lost to Japan in the semifinals to end with a historic bronze.

In the men's quarterfinal, World No. 60 Manay Thakkar set the tone, delivering a stunning upset by dismantling Kazakhstan's top-ranked player, World No. 41 Kirill Gerassimenko, in a dominant 3-0 (11-9, 11-7, 11-6) sweep.

Gerassimenko, normally a formidable opponent, struggled to contain Thakkar's aggressive style, handing India an early lead.

Kazakhstan's Alan Kurmangaliyev (No. 183) struck back swiftly, defeating Harmeet Desai 3-0 (11-6, 11-5, 11-8) with a relentless attacking display, levelling the tie at 1-1. Desai, visibly out of rhythm, was overwhelmed by Alan's pace and aggression.

Veteran Sharath Kamal, India's table tennis icon, stepped up in the third match, easing past Aidos Kenzhigulov 3-0 (11-4, 11-7, 12-10) with characteristic poise and precision. Despite Kenzhigulov's brave efforts, Sharath's experience proved too much, restoring India's



when Harmeet faced a fired-up Gerassimenko in the fourth rubber. After a shaky start, World No. 91 Harmeet found his footing, launching a fierce counterattack in the

the tide with explosive backhands and blistering forehands.

In the fifth game, Harmeet raced to a 6-1 lead, ultimately holding off menko to win 3-2 and seal India's

Chinese Taipei or Japan in the semifinals on Thursday.

The women's team secured its first bronze medal after a 1-3 loss to Japan in the semifinals earlier in

Despite a strong showing against second-seeded South Korea, strategic missteps, including the absence of foreign coach Massimo Costantini against No. 4-seeded Japan, may have cost India a shot at the finals. Surprisingly, the top-ranked Indian woman, Sreeja Akula, was also benched.

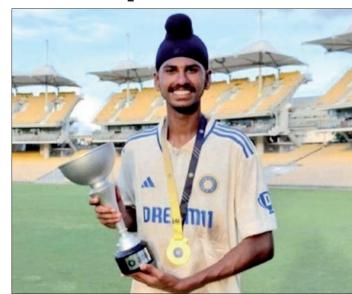
Ayhika Mukherjee, who shone in the previous round against South Korea, started well against Miwa Harimoto, ranked No. 7 in the world, but let key opportunities slip, losing 2-3 (8-11, 11-9, 8-11,

Miwa struggled to cope with Ayhika's odd pimpled rubber, but the latter failed to press home the ad-

Manika Batra levelled the score with a commanding 11-6, 11-5, 11-8 win over Satsuki Odo, ranked No. 17 in the world, but Mima Ito, Japan's second-best paddler at No. 9, dominated Sutirtha Mukherjee, winning 11-9, 11-4, 15-13 to put

In the decisive fourth match, Batra couldn't maintain her earlier form, falling 11-6, 6-11, 11-2, 11-3 to Miwa, sealing India's exit but securing a well-earned bronze. (PTI)

India U19 complete clean sweep vs Australia



CHENNAI, Oct 9: Debutant offspinner Anmoljeet Singh and legspinner Mohamed Enaan picked 16 out of 20 Australian wickets as India U-19 comfortably won by an innings and 120 runs in the second Youth Test to complete a 2-0 series sweep here on Wednesday.

Australia colts lost as many as 17 wickets on the third day after commencing on their overnight score of 142 for 3 in reply to India's massive first-innings total

The visitors were all out for 277 in their first essay with skipper Oliver Peake (117 off 143 balls) and keeper Alex Lee Young (66) adding 166 for the fourth wicket. After Lee Young was dismissed, the last six wickets fell for 59 runs.

Kerala boy Enaan (4/60 in 22.2 overs), who had once attended Saqlain Mushtaq's clinic in Dubai and Ludhiana's Anmoljeet (4/72 in 24 overs), who hero worships Harbhajan Singh, were the wreckers-in-chief.

In four-day cricket, the followon can be enforced if the team batting second is trailing by more than 150 runs. India U-19 had a lead of

After being enforced to followon, Anmoljeet, who had taken an astounding 65 wickets in the Vijay Merchant (U-16) Trophy in the 2023 season, came back to get 5 for 32 in 13.3 overs as Australia were skittled out for 95 in 31.3

Eight Aussie players failed to reach double digits and four of them didn't bother to trouble the scorers. While Anmoljeet had match figures of 9/104, Enaan wasn't left far behind with 7/97 to show for his efforts. (PTI)

PFC as title sponsor for India versus Germany bilateral series



NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Hockey India on Wednesday roped in Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a state-owned company that provides financial assistance to India's power sector, as the title sponsor for the upcoming two-match bilateral series against Germany on October 23 and 24 in New Delhi. This series marks the return of men's international hockey to the national capital after a decade.

The last international match played at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium was the Hero Hockey World League Final - men's round 4, back in January 2014. Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, PFC, a public sector undertaking, plays a crucial role in driving growth in the energy sector.

The two matches will be free for spectators and a free digital ticketing system will be introduced. Fans will need to visit the official ticketing link and register their details to receive a virtual ticket for accessing the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium.

HI president Dilip Tirkey said, "We are delighted to welcome Power Finance Corporation (PFC) as the title sponsor for the highly-anticipated PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024.

"This series, being played in New Delhi after a decade, is a significant milestone, not just for the city but for Hockey India as we promote the sport across the country. With the support of PFC, we look forward to creating a thrilling atmosphere at the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium." HI secretary general Bhola Nath Singh added, "We are thrilled to have one of the leading state-owned companies, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), as the title sponsor for the PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024.'

"Their support will strengthen Hockey India's vision to grow hockey's presence in India. With PFC, we look forward to providing a top-notch experience for all hockey fans." (PTI)

Valarie Allman named Delhi Half Marathon's international event ambassador

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Two-time Olympic gold-winning American discus thrower Valerie Allman was on Wednesday named the international event ambassador of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon to be held here on October 20.

Allman threw 69.50 meters in the Paris Games this year to set a new American record and win the gold medal. In the previous Tokyo Games, she had finished at the top of the podium with a throw of 68.98 meters.

Her feat ended USA's wait for a gold in discus throw which they had last won in 2008.

Allman, whose personal best is of 71.46 meters, is also a two-time World Championship medallist, clinching the silver in 2023 and a

'The start line is not just a race; it's a celebration of camaraderie.

determination, and resilience, and a showcase of our ability to push limits and achieve new personal milestones," she said in a release issued by the organisers.

Paris Olympic 10,000m champion Uganda's Joshua Cheptegai and Kenya's former world record holder Peres Jepchirchir will headline a strong elite field in the men's and women's events of the Delhi Half Marathon, which is into its 19th year.

Cheptegai is the reigning world record holder in 5000m and 10,000m events. He also holds the world's best time over the 15km distance.

A three-time world champion in 10,000m, he made his international debut in India at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2014, finishing second. The event carries a prize purse of USD 260,000. (PTI)

a late comeback from Gerassi-

place in the semifinals, ensuring the bronze. India men had finished with bronze in the previous two editions in 2023 and 2021

This victory marks India's seventh overall medal in the Asian

Sinner avenges Shanghai defeat to Shelton

SHANGHAI, Oct 9: Jannik Sinner avenged his defeat to Ben Shelton in the fourth round of last year's Shanghai Masters with a 6-4, 7-6 (1) to spoil the 22-year-old American's birthday on Wednes-

Like last year, the duel again featured some incredible shotmaking and serving dominance but this time the 23-year old Italian prevailed to improve his record against Shelton to 4-1. "Happy how I handled this situ-

ation, it's obviously a position where I have been last year, and where I am right now, it's different, so I'm happy to be in the position where I am," Sinner said.

Sinner's break in the ninth game was all that separated the duo in the opening set. Both players then dominated on their own serve through the second before the Italian sped away in the tiebreak and won the last seven points of the match to advance to his seventh ATP Masters 1000 quarterfinal of

He will play fifth-ranked Daniil Medvedev, who earlier beat longtime rival Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (3), 6-3, in a match where the Greek player launched into a minutes-long rant against the chair umpire Fergus Murphy over a time violation call and initially refused to continue playing.

"You have never played tennis in your life. You have no clue about tennis, it seems like," Tsitsipas said to Murphy. "Definitely you've had no career. You proba-



bly played serve-and-volley every

"Anyways, tennis is a physical sport and we need some time over there. You have to show some compassion because you aren't

"It's a physical sport. We are not throwing darts out here, okay? "If it's going to be unfair. I ne

to talk to the supervisor. You seem like vou have no idea what vou're doing," Tsitsipas continued as the crowd began to slow clap. In a similar incident the day prior, Frances Tiafoe cursed re-

peatedly at a chair umpire after los-

ing his third round match and later

apologized. Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who won the China Open in a thriller against Sinner last week, made it 12 consecutive wins with a testing 6-4, 7-5 victory over French veteran Gael Monfils to ad-

vance to the quarterfinals. Alcaraz needed all his shotmaking abilities to outmaneuvre the 38-year-old Monfils, with the 21-year-old Spaniard making 22 winners and taking a break in each set to clinch the match in 87 minutes. The French Open and Wimbledon champion will play Tomas Machac in the quarterfinals.

Later Wednesday, Novak Djokovic continues his bid for a 100th career title as he faces 61stranked Roman Safiullin.

Also, third-ranked Alexander Zverev plays David Goffin of Belgium and seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz plays Holger Rune of Denmark

Wuhan OpenSecond-ranked Aryna Sabalenka maintained her undefeated record at the Wuhan Open, opening her campaign with a 6-4, 6-4 win over 37th-ranked Katerina Siniakova in a secondround match on Wednesday.

Two-time defending champion Sabalenka, who received a bye in the first round with the other top eight seeds, broke her Czech opponent twice in each set — as well as

surrendering one of her own service games — as she clinched her latest win in 1 hour and 34 minutes

In the third round, the 26-yearold Belarussian will play Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan, who ended Paris Olympics silver medalist Donna Vekic's tournament with 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory.

The reigning U.S. Open champion is now up to 13-0 in Wuhan after winning the title on her first appearance in 2018 and defending her crown in 2019 before the tournament took its five-year hiatus from the calendar due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and a WTA boycott of China.

"I missed Wuhan a lot," Sabalenka said. "I just have really good memories of winning, two times, the title here. Just Wuhan brings me a lot of great memories,

Sabalenka needs only to make the quarterfinals at Wuhan to regain top spot in the rankings from Iga Swiatek, who withdrew from the women's Asian swing citing fatigue and personal reasons. Swiatek recently split with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski.

There were six Americans in second round matches on Wednes-

China Open champion Coco Gauff routed Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova 6-1, 6-2 in 75 minutes, while Hailey Baptiste upset 10thranked Barbora Krejcikova 6-3, 7-5 for her first win over a Top-10

Lakshya Sen enters second round of

Arctic Open

VANTAA (FINLAND), Oct 9: India's star shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles round of 16 at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament after his opponent Rasmus Gemke withdrew from the opening round match here on Wednesday.

Sen, who lost out on a maiden Olympic medal in Paris after defeat in the bronze medal play-off contest, will be up against the winner between seventh seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei and qualifier Arnaud Merkle of France in the next round. Qualifier Kiran George is the only other Indian in action on Wednesday. He will take on Tzu Wei Wang of Chinese Taipei later in the day.

Earlier on Tuesday, rising Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod ntinuea ner impressive form this year, pulling off a stunning upset against world No 23 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei to advance to the women's singles pre-quarterfinals.

The 23-year-old southpaw, who clinched her first title in over two years at the Azerbaijan International in February, showed her resilience in a hardfought match, winning 21-19, 24-22 in 57 minutes.

However, the challenge will intensify in the next round as the Nagpur shuttler prepares to face a former world champion in Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand in the second round. (PTI)

against whom he has 2,428 in 34

tests, while his best average is

Root was England captain from

The most prolific year of his test

career was in 2021, when he

scored 1,708 runs. He has passed

He has settled at No. 4 in Eng-

land's batting order and demon-

strated during the recent summer

tests against the West Indies and

Sri Lanka that he has slightly

1,000 runs in a year five times.

2017-22. He averaged 52.80 be-

fore the captaincy, 46.45 during it, and he is back to his prior level

against Sri Lanka at 62.54.

since standing down.

Root waved to his teammates soon after reaching the milestone

Root's next big target is Tendulkar

MULTAN (PAKISTAN), Oct 9: game, keep playing."

With an exquisite straight drive for Root, who is technically excelfour, Joe Root took another of Alastair Cook's records by becoming England's highest run-scorer

Root surpassed the retired Cook's total of 12,472 runs by reaching 71 during England's first innings on Day 3 of the first test against Pakistan on Wednes-

The 33-year-old Root moved to fifth place on the all-time list of test run-scorers, behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Australia's Ricky Ponting (13,378), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (13,289) and India's Rahul Dravid (13,288). All four above Root are retired and within reach of a batter who said ahead of the tour to Pakistan that he had plenty left in the

"The only reason it (Cook's record) is on my mind is because people keep asking me about it, to be honest," Root said. "I see myself playing test cricket for a lot longer. It's not like I'm going to get to a certain mark or a number and say, Right, I'm done now.' I just want to keep enjoying the

lent and owns pretty much all the shots, overtook Cook's record of 33 test centuries by an England batter last month when he made hundreds in both innings against Sri Lanka at Lord's. Ben Stokes, the England test

captain who is sitting out the first match of the series because of injury, praised Root's character and achievement in a video released by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"The selflessness that he has is an incredible attribute for him," Stokes said. "He always puts the team first, and the fact that he's got so many runs is just a bonus for us. He's an incredible player. It's going to take a long, long time for someone to come in and break that record. Just a great bloke. And an unbelievable feat to score that many runs. "But the non-selfishness that he

possesses is one thing I think sets him above or sets him apart from anybody else who is going to play for England for a long time." Root waved to his teammates

soon after reaching the milestone

knowledgement. He shook hands with Stokes and bowling mentor James Anderson as he walked off the field at the lunch break, with a 35th test century — and a first in Pakistan — in his sights.

Root is playing in his 147th test and came into the Pakistan series averaging more than 50, whereas



and batted in 291 innings, averaging 45.35. They are England's third and fourth most-capped players, be-

hind now-retired fast bowlers Anderson and Stuart Broad. Root has more runs against India than any other opposition —

2,846 in 30 tests. Next is Australia,

reined in the bold and occasionally reckless approach he and his England teammates adopted early in the so-called "Bazball" era under coach Brendon McCullum and

captain Ben Stokes. Those risky ramp shots are mostly gone — though he still got himself out attempting one against the Sri Lankans at Lord's — and

he is harder to dismiss for it. Root's next big target is displacing Tendulkar — the "Little Master" — atop the all-time list and,

injury permitting, he has a good chance of doing so. (AP)

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