

3 REGION

● NDA alliance launches election office in Chirang for Sidli bye-elections

● Margherita residents protest mother's arrest for son's murder

8 NORTHEAST

● Normalcy can return only if 'weaponisation of society' is reduced: Manipur DGP

● Report on custodial death of tribal man within 15 days demanded

Gaurav Gogoi fumes over Jorhat-Majuli bridge dilly-dally

Cong dy leader in LS writes to CM on felling of tree for Noonmati flyover project

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi has asked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to look into the slow progress in the construction of the Jorhat-Majuli bridge over Brahmaputra, and environmental concerns and design flaws reported in a few other projects.

In a letter to Sarma, Gogoi also said that civil society groups have expressed their worries about the increasing rate of deforestation, which is contributing to higher levels of air pollution, flooding due to unplanned development, and a decline in Assam's green cover.

The Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha pointed out that work on the Jorhat-Majuli connecting bridge over Brahmaputra has stopped for some time. He said, citing reports, that the work was halted due to a conflict between two contractors, and a large quantity of construction material and equipment stored for the construction was moved elsewhere.

He said there were also reports saying local contractors have not received their dues, leading to project delays and growing discontent among stakeholders.

"These allegations of mismanagement only exacerbate the uncertainty surrounding this crucial project," he said in the letter dated September 26 & posted on his X handle on Saturday. "As this bridge is vital for connectivity and development in the region, I kindly request clarification from the state government on the status of the project and the steps being taken to resolve the issues," Gogoi added.

Referring to the proposed construction of a flyover from Digholi Pukhuri to Noonmati in Guwahati city, Gogoi said the project has raised significant concerns about large-scale tree felling.

He said an environmental impact assessment is necessary to understand the role of unplanned construction on air pollution and its effects on the health of children



and the elderly. The Congress leader said before proceeding with this project, it is crucial for the government to engage in deeper consultations with civil society organisations, environmental experts, and local communities.

"Sustainable development must be prioritised to ensure that infrastructure projects do not come at

the expense of our natural resources and environmental balance," he said. On the proposed elevated flyover on AT Road in Jorhat, Gogoi said the project has raised serious concerns among the local community. He said the section of AT Road where the project is proposed is a traditional wholesale and retail market that serves as

a major economic hub for the region and hundreds of shopkeepers, who rely on their businesses for their livelihood, stand to be displaced by this project.

Additionally, banks, government offices, private establishments, and places of worship would remain on the road beneath the flyover, likely causing severe traffic congestion and chaos, he said.

"I urge the government to reconsider the design and location of this flyover. While I fully support development and infrastructure projects, I believe they should not come at the expense of local citizens' livelihoods," he said.

Requesting alternative routes or designs for achieving infrastructure needs with minimum disruption to the community, Gogoi said he was hopeful the state government would take these concerns into consideration, and act in a manner that balances development with environmental sustainability and the well-being of citizens. (PTI)

Assam government to undertake project to rejuvenate 129 'beels'



GUWAHATI, Oct 19: Assam government will undertake an Rs 800 crore project to rejuvenate 129 'beels' (lake-like wetlands) in the state to boost fish production and aid in water storage, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

"To be executed in collaboration with Asian Development Bank, it will revive 4000 hectares of beels to give a fillip to indigenous fish production and water management," Sarma posted on X.

Beels are the backbone of Assam's hydrological resources which enable flood mitigation,

groundwater recharge, river flow regulation, and erosion control and are a source of fisheries. Rejuvenation and restoration of the beels will lead to additional fish production of 1,200 kg/hectare annually, he said. The project is aimed at increasing the water storage capacity of the beels as well as conserving and managing the indigenous fish species. A beel is a lake-like wetland with still water.

These lake-like wetlands are biodiversity hotspots in Assam and are home to many types of aquatic plants and animals, as well as migratory birds. (PTI)

CBI questions HDFC bank officials at Dibrugarh PS

HT Correspondent
DIBRUGARH, Oct 19: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday questioned officials of HDFC bank regarding the online trading scams. The five-member CBI team questioned the HDFC bank officials at Dibrugarh police station and sought all the bank statements of Bishal Phukan.

The CBI team has also questioned all the investors who have invested in the online trading scam. A 5-member CBI team on Friday arrived in Dibrugarh as part of their investigation into the multi-crore online trading scam involving Bishal Phukan, actor-choreographer Sumi Borah, Tarkik Borah and Amlan Borah.

The CBI on Friday registered six FIRs related to a series of online trading scams across Assam.

These cases were filed before a Special CBI Court, with prominent names including actress-influencer, alongside several other individuals implicated as more scams were uncovered statewide. The FIRs, numbered RC 221 2024 E 0013 to RC 221 2024 E 0018, include charges under the Banning of Unregulated Deposits Schemes Act, 2019, along with sections of the BNS and IPC.

Assam Police had previously submitted details of 36 cases to the CBI for further investigation, of which six have now been formally registered in court.

Cong' march to police station halted in Nagaon

GUWAHATI, Oct 19: The opposition Congress in Assam claimed that the police on Saturday stopped the party activists from marching towards Rupahihat police station in Nagaon district to protest against the alleged attack on them by BJP workers on October 15.

According to Congress state president Bhupen Borah, the party had planned to stage a protest in front of the police station against the alleged attack on opposition party workers and the failure of the police to take action against the attackers while campaigning for the by-polls in the Samaguri assembly constituency.

The party leaders, including Nagaon and Dhubri MPs Pradyut Bordoloi and Rakibul Hussain, respectively, along with MLAs Sibamoni Bora and Nurul Huda, had gathered before the Rupahihat block Congress office before marching towards the police station.

A police officer, however, said that the party did not take prior permission to take out a procession. Heavy security was deployed in the area to prevent any untoward incident, the officer said.

Congress MLA Nurul Huda, however, claimed that they had sent a letter to the district commissioner seeking permission to march to-



wards the police station. The party leaders addressed the workers outside the Congress office, alleging that the Nagaon Superintendent of Police's duty was to ensure that Samaguri by-polls held peacefully, but he was acting on the behest of the ruling BJP.

Borah said the ruling BJP should not underestimate the power of the common people. It was evident from the Lok Sabha polls that Congress retained the Nagaon seat for the second consecutive term this year. "We do not want to go into any confrontation (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Containment measures adopted in Karbi Anglong to tackle ASF

HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 19: In light of confirmed cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Karbi Anglong, District Commissioner, Nirola Phangchopi has directed stringent containment measures to prevent the further spread of the virus.

The outbreak has been traced to Bura Teron Village, Longnit, under the Lum-bajong Development Block within Diphu Revenue Circle, where infected pigs have been identified.

The containment measures are immediately effective in all villages within a 10-kilometre radius of the epicentre, which has been designated as the "Infected Zone."

Surrounding areas have been classified as "Surveillance Zones" to monitor and control the virus's spread. In compliance with the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, no movement of pigs

or related products will be allowed in or out of the affected area.

Additionally, markets, fairs, and other public gatherings involving pigs are prohibited until the situation is brought under control. The transportation of carcasses, feed, and pork products through the infected area has also been banned.

Authorities have initiated the culling of infected animals, with operations scheduled to be completed within three days. To prevent further transmission, biosecurity measures are being strictly enforced, and the culling will be followed by the proper disposal of the animals. Affected farmers will receive compensation from the government as per the guidelines set by the animal husbandry and veterinary department of Assam.

The District Commissioner has emphasised that violations of these orders will result in legal action under the Disaster Management (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Rahul: BJP controls EC, CBI, ED, Constitution under attack

RANCHI, Oct 19: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that the Constitution is "under attack" by the BJP as he accused the saffron party of controlling institutions such as the Election Commission, bureaucracy and central agencies. He also said no force can stop the caste census and removal of the 50 per cent cap on the reservation.

"The Constitution is under constant attack from all sides, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and it needs to be protected," Gandhi alleged while addressing 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' in Ranchi ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly polls.

In a no-hold-bar attack, he accused the BJP of "controlling the Election Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), income tax department, bureaucracy and judiciary".

"The BJP also controls funds and institutions but we possess honesty. The Congress fought the Lok Sabha elections without money," he claimed.

Gandhi said the caste census is a "medium for getting social X-ray but PM Modi is opposed to this".

"However, no force can stop caste census, institutional survey and removal of 50 per cent cap on reservation despite no media, judiciary support," he said. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

J-K LG clears resolution passed by Omar-led cabinet

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has cleared a resolution passed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led cabinet urging the Centre to restore the statehood to the Union territory, officials said on Saturday.

"The cabinet which met under the chairmanship of Omar Abdullah on Thursday passed a unanimous resolution for restoration of statehood in its original form," an official spokesperson said.

Without giving any further details, the officials asserted that the LG had cleared the resolution passed by the cabinet.

The spokesperson said the restoration of statehood will be the beginning of a healing process, reclaiming the constitutional rights

and protecting the identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The cabinet has authorised the chief minister to take up the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Government of India for restoration of statehood, he said.

Protection of Jammu and Kashmir's unique identity and constitutional rights of people remains the cornerstone of the newly-elected government's policy, the spokesperson said.

He said the chief minister would be proceeding to New Delhi in the coming days to meet the Prime Minister and Union ministers in this regard. The cabinet has also decided to summon the Legislative Assembly at Srinagar on November 4 and advised the LG to summon and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Awareness programme on drugs held

HT Correspondent
HAMREN, Oct 19: An Awareness and Education Programme on drug addiction and substance abuse was organised by 'My Bharat: Nehru Yuva Kendra, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, under the ministry of youth affairs & sports, Govt of India.

The event took place at Navodeep Higher Secondary School, Kheroni Charali, West Karbi Anglong, and was held in collaboration with the social development organisation.

Key speakers present at the event addressed the gathering on crucial aspects of drug addiction and substance abuse.

Dr Surya Newar, head of the department at Kapili College, delivered a speech, emphasising the need for heightened awareness and education on drug addiction, especially among youth.

Jeetendra Harijan, vice principal of Kapili College, talked about promoting empathy and understanding towards individuals struggling with addiction, encouraging them to seek help. He also highlighted a critical issue of the supply of drugs from international border areas, which has a detrimental impact on youth in the region.

Rajesh Ram, a homoeopathic practitioner, highlighted the serious health hazards associated with drug consumption, providing insights into the physical and mental repercussions of addiction.

Other prominent attendees included Shiv Narayan Paul, president of the Karbi Anglong Hindi Bhasha Sanstha, Bires Prasad, principal of Navodeep Higher Secondary School, and Dhanraj Harijan, former (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Infiltrator nabbed in Karimganj, sent back

GUWAHATI, Oct 19: An alleged infiltrator from Bangladesh was apprehended by Assam Police in Karimganj district and handed over to authorities of the neighbouring country, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

"In a successful pushback of an illegal infiltrator in Karimganj district, one Bangladeshi national was apprehended and sent across the border by @assampolice," the chief minister posted on X. "The apprehended infiltrator has been identified as Md. Arif. Our personnel are fully alert to thwart such infiltration attempts along the India-Bangladesh border," Sarma said.

Since unrest erupted in Bangladesh, around 115 people have been apprehended for illegally entering India and have been sent back.

BSF has intensified its vigil along the 1,885-km-long India-Bangladesh border in the North-east. Assam Police are also maintaining high alert along the border to ensure that no person enters the state illegally. Director General of Police G P Singh had earlier said. (PTI)

Plan to bring down export cost to 9 per cent of GDP

India's road infrastructure will surpass America's: Gadkari

BHOPAL, Oct 19: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday asserted that India's road infrastructure will be better than that of America in the coming time, underscoring that efficient highways, waterways and railways can lower logistics costs and boost the economy.

He also took potshots at consultants making detailed project reports (DPR) for roads, saying they prepare this document by sitting at home.

The Union minister for road transport and highways was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day seminar in Bhopal on 'Latest emerging trends and technologies in road and bridge construction'.

Gadkari recalled that when he was a minister in Maharashtra, he had a quote by former US President John F Kennedy in his office: "American roads are not good because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good."

The senior BJP leader said his friend Ratan Tata, who died earlier this month, had asked him several times about the quote during his visits to the minister's office.

"In the coming time, Indian road infrastructure will be even better than that of America. We will do it," Gadkari said. He told the participants of the seminar that they could bring about this change.

Sharing his experience of a helicopter survey of the Bangalore-Chennai highway, Gadkari said he noticed three to four "big towers" coming in the way of the highway's alignment and was told that it would cost ₹ 300-400 crore to remove them.

Gadkari said he told an official that the towers could have been avoided during the highway's construction, thus saving the cost of their removal.

"While agreeing with me, the official said it happened because of those who pre-



pared the DPR (detailed project report)... Those who prepare DPR are great people... They deserve the 'Padma' award... They prepare the DPR on Google by sitting at home," Gadkari quipped.

"Such people apologise when mistakes like a wrong alignment are pointed out," he said.

Gadkari further took a dig at the engineers, saying their lack of field visits re-

sults in costly consequences later on. He said, "Engineers don't visit the site before the project to see if mosques and temples are coming in the way and approach the authorities when difficulties arise due to such structures."

There should be a sense of ownership, Gadkari said, urging state governments to engage students from engineering colleges to rectify the mistakes in DPRs. "Then, several mistakes can be rectified," he said.

According to the Union minister, India has the second largest road network with 63 lakh kilometres of thoroughfares.

Gadkari sarcastically said that potholes emerge on asphalt roads, necessitating their reconstruction every year. "This gives immense joy to some people," he said.

"If this 'joy' must end, we should introduce white concrete topping. There will be nothing (no damage) to the road for 25 years. I have converted roads in my city

(Nagpur) into concrete roads," he said. Asphalt roads also suffer if the drainage system is not good as water is dangerous for bitumen, he said.

Gadkari also talked about the importance of better transport networks.

"Our logistics cost is 14 per cent (of the GDP), which is eight per cent in China. I went to a programme of the American Chambers of Commerce and met big CEOs. They said it is 12 per cent in their countries," he said. "To lower logistics costs, the country needs to increase the efficiency of highways, waterways and railways," Gadkari said.

According to the Lok Sabha MP from Nagpur, if logistics costs can be brought down to nine per cent, it can lead to an increase in exports and boost the economy.

Emphasising the need to encourage bio-fuel, Gadkari said India imports fossil fuel (petrol/diesel) (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Sitharaman meets Mexican minister, discusses ways to deepen economic ties

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday met her Mexican counterpart Rogelio Ramirez de la O and discussed areas of mutual interest and boosting economic ties between India and Mexico.

During the meeting in Mexico City, Sitharaman congratulated Ramirez de la O for being appointed as Secretary of Finance and Public Credit for a second consecutive term, and also commended the strong performance of the Mexican economy in the last six years following prudent fiscal policies.

Sitharaman proposed a mutually beneficial partnership between India and Mexico through the Indian startup ecosystem, and emphasised that the youth is capable of coming up with innovative and effective solutions, and such an exchange of ideas can help both countries.

She also shared India's continued focus on infrastructure-related spending as well as on Ease Of Doing Business by removal of around 1,500 archaic laws and around 6,000 compliance regulations across sectors, the finance minister said in a post on X.

The finance minister said India will be happy to share its experience with the Government of Mexico and explore collaboration based on India's digital transformation, it said.



Detailing the philosophy of the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in its third term, she drew parallels between India and Mexico on provision of basic minimum to all Indians like food security, housing, electricity, cooking gas, tech-driven #FinancialInclusion, and supplementing of income to name a few.

Sitharaman also addressed the

India Mexico Trade and Investment Summit in Mexico City, the finance ministry said in another post.

Addressing the Summit, she said that cooperation between India and Mexico can be potentially broad-based and multi-sectoral for a deeper and more dynamic collaboration between the two nations, with India offering tremendous opportunities for growth and investment, especially in pharma manufacturing and automotive sectors.

Emphasising India's political stability, a large skilled workforce, and growing infrastructure, she

said that joint efforts can focus on strengthening resilience through diversification, especially for critical components like semiconductors, printed circuit boards and other high-tech electronics.

The Union Finance Minister said that India and Mexico partnership may encourage deeper penetration into each other's markets through investment incentives for electronics manufacturing and R&D facilities, especially in growing sectors like 5G, AI, and consumer electronics.

She underlined India's emergence as global leader in digital economy with adoption rate of 87 per cent in FinTech sector with initiatives like UPI an India Stack, and with Mexico's growing digital ecosystem, India-Mexico partnership can provide a fertile ground for cross-border collaborations and innovation in FinTech and digital payments.

The Finance Minister also invited entities in Mexico for exploring collaboration and investment opportunities in areas like banking, fund management, Global in-house capability centres, aircraft leasing, ship leasing, setting up of foreign Universities among others in GIFT-IFSC. (PTI)

Airtel Business partners with Vonage to launch business application

GUWAHATI, Oct 19: One of India's leading telecommunications service providers Airtel Business, the B2B arm of Bharti Airtel and Vonage, a global leader in cloud communications have partnered to launch Airtel IQ Business Connect, as per an official statement.

The statement stated that the Airtel IQ Business Connect is an agnostic device, which is a unified business communications application that will help enterprises in India to simplify their customer engagement.

"Airtel IQ Business Connect is a customised multi-channel unified communications application that will enable businesses to enrich their customer experiences by maintaining consistent, long-lasting customer engagement while also overcoming challenges of data loss that can arise during employee transitions or attrition," the statement read.

Speaking on the same, Abhishek Biswal, chief business officer - digital products & services, Airtel Business, said, "We are delighted to partner with Vonage and launch 'Airtel IQ Business Connect' - a next-gen

technology application. Businesses today are looking for a compliance-adhering, unified communications application to ensure smooth customer communications." "Airtel IQ Business Connect will fill this gap by offering enterprises a device-agnostic, real-time monitoring application that can host multiple channels to drive improved business communication and productivity," he added.

Meanwhile, Reggie Scales, head of applications at vonage, commented, "We are excited to announce our strategic partnership with Airtel Business to power new unified communications capabilities for enterprises in India, a key strategic growth market for Vonage."

He further added that in today's dynamic business environment, effective communication and collaboration are essential. With the power of Vonage's Unified Communications as Service capabilities, coupled with Airtel's secure and reliable network, businesses in India will be able to enjoy a multi-channel approach to communications that combines voice and messaging, enabling consumers to connect and collaborate with brands from anywhere and across any channel."

Cos list 1.25 lakh opportunities under PM Internship Scheme

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Companies have listed 1.25 lakh internship opportunities so far for candidates under the PM Internship Scheme, according to sources.

The dedicated portal for the scheme went live for registration by candidates at 5 pm on October 12. The sources in the know on Saturday said that so far 250 top companies have been registered under the scheme and 1.25 lakh internship offers have been made by companies.

The scheme's pilot project had envisaged providing 1.25 lakh internship opportunities to the candidates. The internships are set to commence on December 2.

Those in the age group of 21-24 years are eligible to apply for the scheme, which is being implemented by the corporate affairs ministry through the portal 'www.pminternship.mca.gov.in'. Under the scheme, an intern will get a monthly financial assistance of ₹ 5,000 for 12 months and a one-time grant of ₹ 6,000.

The initial cost of the scheme's pilot project is estimated at ₹ 800 crore.

Announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2024, the scheme aims to provide an opportunity to do an internship in the top 500 companies in India for 12 months. (PTI)

'HDFC Bank Q2 profit up 5% to ₹ 16,821 cr'

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: HDFC Bank on Saturday posted a marginal 5 per cent increase in its standalone profit at ₹16,821 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024.

The country's biggest private sector lender had earned a net profit of ₹ 15,976 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to ₹ 85,500 crore during the quarter under review against ₹ 78,406 crore in the same period last year, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank reported interest income of ₹ 74,017 crore during the quarter compared to ₹ 67,698 crore in the same period a year ago. Net Interest Income (NII) improved to ₹ 30,110 crore, from ₹ 27,390 crore in the second quarter of previous year, registering a 10 per cent growth. As regards asset quality, the bank witnessed slight deterioration with gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) rising to 1.36 per cent of the gross loans by the end of September 2024 from 1.34 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans rose to 0.41 per cent from 0.35 per cent at the end of the second quarter of the previous fiscal. (PTI)

India seeks critical minerals partnership agreement with US

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said India has proposed a critical minerals partnership agreement (CMPA) with the US, that will help domestic firms in the sector such as electric vehicles to get certain benefits in the American market.

The issue was raised by India during a recent visit of the minister to the US earlier this month.

During the visit, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in critical mineral supply chain.

Critical minerals, such as cobalt, copper, lithium, nickel and rare earths, play a crucial role in the production of clean energy technologies, from wind turbines to electric cars. Such minerals are in demand for the production of batteries for electric cars.

"I have suggested that our critical minerals MoU should be converted to a critical minerals partnership agreement and become a beginning point to go towards a free trade agreement. But as we are all aware, the US Congress is not very enthusiastic about FTA with any country," Goyal told reporters here.

Last year, the US and Japan signed a critical minerals agreement. A critical minerals partnership agreement between India and the US will help Indian firms in the sector to enjoy duty concessions and other benefits to sell products from the sector in the American market. These benefits are provided by the US under its Inflation Reduction Act, which is aimed at boosting manufacturing capabilities. The benefits are extended to American firms or a firm in the country having FTA

with the US. The CMPA is like an FTA in the critical minerals sector.

An official said the conversion of the MoU into a partnership agreement will give it the status of a trade deal, thereby enabling India to benefit from the electric vehicle tax credit that the US gives under its Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Goyal also said during his visit, the US industry showed keen interest to increase investments in India in different sectors.

Without disclosing name, he said a firm is looking at investments in the range of USD 10 billion in areas such as data centres and quantum computing for AI.

There were also discussions in the area of technology transfer. "Also there is a great interest in co-development of new innovative ideas, R&D, and there was a talk of increasing collaboration to co-develop new technologies," he said, adding that the 2-3 sectors that came up for discussions included pharma, digital technology, and telecom where India is looking at 6G in a big way. The US companies are also keen in segments such as biosimilars and bio-sciences.

During the visit, Goyal also co-chaired the US-India CEO Forum meeting with US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo.

The other areas of deliberations in the forum meeting include ideas for further reduction in compliances, decriminalising business laws, "what we can do to facilitate easier flow of capitals, how to facilitate regulators to talk to each other more frequently and at some stage look at a mutual recognition agreement," he said. (PTI)

JSW MG Motor reveals prices of MG Windsor EV

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 19: JSW MG Motor India on Saturday announced the prices of the MG Windsor in the presence of District Transport Officer (DTO) Gautam Das at their showroom in Guwahati's Lalmati, said an official statement.

As per the statement, the price of the vehicle starts from ₹ 13,49,800 (Ex-Showroom).

"The Windsor will be available in four colour options: Starburst Black, Pearl White, Clay Beige, and Turquoise Green. Ex-Showroom prices of the MG Windsor Variant Price (INR) Excite 13,49,800, Exclusive 14,49,800 & Essence 15,49,800," the statement added.

It is worth mentioning that India's 1st Intelligent CUV combines the comfort of a sedan and the expanse of an SUV offering a luxurious business-class experience to customers.

The CUV is offered with futuristic aerodynamic design, spacious



and opulent interiors, reassuring safety, smart connectivity, driving comfort, and many hi-tech features. In addition, customers are ensured complete peace of mind through various initiatives such as a lifetime warranty on the battery for the first owner, assured 60% buyback after three years, and one-year free charging at public charging using the eHUB by MG app.

"The MG Windsor will enable customers to upgrade to an EV lifestyle through its attractive packaging and pricing. We are confident that this will incentivize more potential customers to adopt electric vehicles, powering the transition to a greener future," said Satinder Singh Bajwa, chief commercial officer, JSW MG Motor India.

Contd. from Page 1.

Cong' march to police station

with the authorities. But we will assert our democratic rights to protest against police inaction at the direction of the ruling party," he said.

The Congress has also written a letter to the Election Commission of India alleging that members of the ruling party had attacked the convoy of the opposition party MLAs and their workers on Tuesday in Rupahihat when they had taken out a procession for campaigning for the Samaguri Legislative assembly which fell vacant with the election of its sitting MLA to the Lok Sabha from Dhubri.

They had also demanded the transfer of Nagaon Superintendent Police and Officers-in-Charge (OCs) of two police stations for allegedly not taking action against some members of the ruling BJP who they claimed were responsible for the previous day's clashes.

A clash broke out between Congress and BJP workers in Rupahihat on Tuesday in which a few people from both sides were injured in the scuffle. The BJP leaders, on the other hand, had alleged that the Dhubri MP had brought goons from outside who went on a rampage, tearing the saffron party's posters and banners along with attacking workers of the ruling party. The by-elections to five Assam assembly constituencies, including Samaguri, will be held on November 13. (PTI)

Containment measures adopted

Act, 2005, which may include imprisonment. DC urged relevant local bodies, including panchayats, municipal officers, and veterinary departments, to ensure strict compliance with the containment protocols and to create public awareness about the disease and preventive measures. These actions are part of a coordinated effort with the animal husbandry and veterinary department of Assam to mitigate the impact of the ASF outbreak and protect the local swine population.

Rahul: BJP controls EC, CBI, ED,

This was Gandhi's first visit to Jharkhand after the assembly poll schedule was announced. The assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20 and counting will take place on November 23.

Earlier in the day, Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren said that the INDIA bloc will contest the upcoming assembly polls together and the Congress and the JMM will field candidates in 70 of 81 seats. Seat-sharing talks are on with alliance partners - the RJD and the Left parties - for the remaining 11 seats, he added. (PTI)

J-K LG clears resolution

address the assembly, the spokesperson added. The draft address of the LG to the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the first session was also placed before the Council of ministers which the Council decided shall be further considered and discussed, he said.

Political parties on Friday described the resolution only on statehood and not on Article 370 as an "utter surrender" and a departure from the stand of the ruling National Conference.

Various political parties, including the People's Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC) and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), denounced the move, reminding the NC of its poll promise to "strive to restore (Articles) 370-35A and statehood as prior to August 5, 2019," and saying it was a departure from the pre-election stand. (PTI)

Awareness programme on drugs

Nation Youth Corps. The event witnessed active participation, with more than 150 youths and students from Navdeep Higher Secondary School, local clubs, NGOs, and various community organisations attending the programme. This event was a significant step towards creating a community of informed and responsible citizens, addressing a burning issue that affects the nation's future.

Earlier, the programme commenced with the traditional felicitation of guests and resource persons honoured with the gamosa. Following the felicitation, a floral tribute and the ceremonial lighting of a traditional lamp were conducted before a portrait of Youth Icon Swami Vivekananda, paying homage to his inspiring legacy.

India's road infrastructure will

worth Rs 22 lakh crore a year and pollution is the biggest cause of health problems in the country. Talking about the conversion of 'parali' (paddy straw) into biofuel, Gadkari said that farmers are also contributing towards energy generation. "Diversification of agriculture into energy and power sectors will transform farming," he said.

The Union minister advocated the use of segregated waste in road construction, suggesting that plastic should be mixed with bitumen. "We have used 80 lakh tonnes of garbage on roads so far," said Gadkari, citing examples from Chandigarh, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

Gadkari also raised concerns over deaths on the country's roads. He said about 1.78 lakh people, including doctors and engineers, die in road accidents, which is more than the lives lost during the COVID epidemic or any war. These accidents cause a 3 per cent loss to the country's GDP. People need to be socially conscious, sensitive and responsible as it is the most important thing for human beings. Black spots causing accidents should be identified and road engineering should be enhanced, he said.

Road safety and the environment need to be improved to give a better life to people, he said. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav, chief secretary Anurag Jain and other ministers were among those who attended the event. (PTI)

GST on senior citizen health insurance premiums may be exempt; luxury watches, shoes to draw 28 pc

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Term life insurance policies, and senior citizens' health insurance premium are likely to be exempted from GST as most members of a state ministerial panel favoured cutting taxes to benefit the common man, an official said on Saturday.

The GoM to decide on GST on health and life insurance premiums in its meeting on Saturday decided to exempt GST on premiums paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to ₹ 5 lakh. However, 18 per cent GST will continue to be levied for health insurance cover of over ₹ 5 lakh.

Separately, the GoM on GST rate rationalisation, too, met on Saturday and suggested that the GST Council rejig tax rates on a host of goods, including packaged drinking water, bicycles, exercise notebooks, luxury wrist watches, and shoes.

A final decision on GST on health and life insurance premiums, as well as rate rationalisation, is likely to be taken by the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, in its meeting scheduled to take place next month.

"The rate rejig exercise will help the states and Centre to realise revenue gain of ₹ 22,000 crore, which will help cover the revenue loss from reduction in GST rates for insurance premiums," the official



added. The GoM on rate rationalisation proposed reducing GST on packaged drinking water of 20 litre and above to 5 per cent from 18 per cent. If the GoM's recommendation is accepted by the GST council, GST on bicycles costing less than ₹ 10,000 will be reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

Also, GST on exercise notebooks will be reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent. The GoM also proposed hiking GST on shoes above ₹ 15,000/pair from 18 per cent to 28 per cent. It also proposed hiking GST on wrist watches above ₹ 25,000 from 18 per cent to 28 per cent.

Talking to reporters after the GoM meetings, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, who is the convener of the health

and life insurance GoM, said "every GoM member wants to give relief to people. Special focus will be on senior citizens. We will submit a report to the Council. A final decision will be taken by the Council".

Chaudhary, who is also a convener of the GoM on rate rationalisation, said the panel will meet again before submitting its report to the Council. This was the first meeting of the 13-member GoM health and life insurance premiums, which was set up to last month to suggest tax rates.

The panel, which includes ministers from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, has been

mandated to submit its report to the GST Council by October-end.

In 2023-24, the Centre and states collected ₹ 8,262.94 crore through GST on health insurance premium, while ₹ 1,484.36 crore was collected on account of GST on health reinsurance premium.

The six-member Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalisation includes Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, Rajasthan Health Services Minister Gajendra Singh, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, and Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal.

To make good the revenue loss that will be incurred on account of lowering the tax rate on goods used by the common man, the GoM also discussed the possibility of raising tax rates on some items, including aerated water and beverages. Currently, GST is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent.

Under GST, essential items are either exempted or taxed at the lowest slab, while luxury and demerit items attract the highest slab. Luxury and sin goods attract cess on top of the highest 28 per cent slab. The average GST rate has fallen below the revenue neutral rate of 15.3 per cent, prompting the need to start discussions on GST rate rationalisation. (PTI)

Coalition leaders discuss strategies ahead of November 13 polls

NDA alliance launches election office in Chirang for Sidli bye-elections

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Oct 19: The NDA alliance has inaugurated its Election Steering Committee office on Saturday in the Chirang district, marking a significant step in preparation for the upcoming bye-election in the 31 No Sidli Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC).

The event took place at Kashikotra, drawing a substantial gathering of supporters and leaders from the coalition partners, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP).

Assam Cabinet Minister Ashok Singhal, along with UPPL president and Chief Executive Member of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Pramod Boro, officially inaugurated the office. The ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including Rajya Sabha MP Rongwra Narzary and Lok Sabha MP Joyanta Basumatary, along with various leaders representing the NDA alliance parties.

The bye-election for Sidli LAC is scheduled for November 13 and comes on the heels of MLA Joyanta Basumatary's resignation, following his successful election to the Lok Sabha in the June elections. This election is part of a larger electoral process across Assam, where bye-elections are also being conducted in Bongaigaon, Behali, Dholai, and Samaguri LACs, necessitated by the resignations of other MLAs who have been elected to Parliament.

During the inauguration, Minister Singhal expressed unwavering confidence in the



NDA alliance's ability to secure victories across all five LACs in the upcoming bye-elections. "The NDA alliance is committed to the all-round development of the state, and we are dedicated to delivering essential services to all communities," he stated. Singhal emphasized the coalition's focus on improving infrastructure and social services, which he believes will resonate with voters.

CEM Pramod Boro echoed Singhal's sentiments, highlighting the broad-based support the UPPL candidate is receiving from various sections of society. He emphasized the unity between the BTR government and the Assam government in their efforts to provide services to the public since their inception.

"The BTR government is fully committed to the development of citizens and rendering services to all communities. I am confident that the UPPL candidate will win the Sidli LAC bye-election by a significant margin," he added.

Boro also addressed concerns about the strength of the opposition, asserting that their influence among the citizens of Assam has diminished. "The united strength of the opposition has become irrelevant. The people have turned their backs on opposition parties, as they recognize the NDA alliance's

dedication to development and progress," he said.

The NDA alliance partners are expected to announce their candidates for the bye-elections in the coming days, as the notification has already been published. The AGP will contest the Bongaigaon LAC, the UPPL will field a candidate in Sidli, and the BJP will run candidates in Behali, Samaguri, and Dholai LACs. The counting of votes is set for November 23, and the NDA alliance is fully mobilized, having developed strategies tailored to their respective constituencies.

In a key development, the Election Steering Committee has been formed, with Lok Sabha MP Joyanta Basumatary serving as chairman and Biswajit Barman as chief convener. This committee consists of 66 members tasked with ensuring the smooth conduct of the bye-election in Sidli LAC.

Among those present at the inauguration were several MLAs, including Lawrence Isary and Ajoy Roy, along with BTR executive members Ranjit Basumatary, Nilut Swargiary, Wilson Hasda, Rakesh Brahma, and senior leaders from the UPPL, BJP, and AGP. The steering committee held its first meeting during the inauguration, where key strategies for the upcoming bye-elections were discussed.

As the NDA alliance gears up for the electoral battle, local leaders and supporters have expressed optimism about their chances, highlighting a growing sentiment of trust in the coalition's ability to deliver on its promises and serve the interests of the constituents in Sidli LAC and beyond.

Margherita residents protest

mother's arrest for son's murder

Community demands justice and further investigation



HT Correspondent
MARGHERITA, Oct 19: In response to the arrest of Supriya Chakraborty, accused of murdering her son, Abhimanyu Chakraborty, local residents of Ward No 4 gathered outside her home on Friday evening to voice their outrage.

The tragic incident occurred on October 11 during Astomi Durga Puja, leading to a passionate protest organized by noted social worker Bhim Karmakar.

Karmakar expressed deep sorrow over the case, stating, "It is unfortunate that a mother could commit such an act against her own child." He urged the Margherita police to investigate the possibility of additional suspects involved in the crime and called for capital punishment for all guilty parties.

Residents described a history of disturbances from Chakraborty's family, noting frequent alcohol-fueled quarrels that disrupted the neighborhood. Sipra Dutta, a neighbor, shared concerns about sleepless nights due to the ongoing turmoil and echoed calls for the family to vacate the premises within a month.

While residents expressed their frustrations, Karmakar urged the community to refrain from taking matters into their own hands, trusting the police to handle the investigation diligently. The protest highlights the community's demand for justice and a peaceful living environment as the case unfolds.

NFR to operate four 'Diesel Special Joyrides' toy train services

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 19: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has announced the operation of four Diesel Special Joyride services on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) between Darjeeling and Ghum from October 21 to December 5, 2024. The decision was made to cater to the anticipated surge in tourists during the peak season, offering an enhanced experience for visitors to the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The daily Diesel special Joyrides, which will operate with three first-class chair car coaches, will provide passengers

with an opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of the hills. Each train will have a seating capacity of 89 across three coaches.

The first service, Train No. 02547, will depart Darjeeling at 9:20 AM and return from Ghum at 10:25 AM. The final service, Train No. 02550, will depart Darjeeling at 3:30 PM, with the return journey from Ghum starting at 4:35 PM. Detailed schedules and ticket information are available on the IRCTC website and the official social media channels of NF Railway.

Passengers are advised to verify train details before planning their journey.

Coffee Cultivation Training Program announced in Karbi Anglong

HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 19: The Regional Coffee Research Station (RCRS) at Six Miles, Diphu-Manja Road, has host an awareness training program on coffee cultivation aimed at encouraging local residents to explore the economic potential of coffee farming. The program will take place on October 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, and 30.

Deputy director Dr Atiqur Rahman Bora announced that individuals interested in learning about coffee cultivation can participate on any of the specified dates. "The training lasts for one day and is free of charge. Each session will run from 2 pm to 5 pm," he stated.

Each batch will accommodate a maximum of 20 participants, allowing for personalized instruction. Registration can be completed online at rcrsdiphu@gmail.com or in person at the RCRS office.

This initiative aims to equip local farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to cultivate coffee successfully, promoting agricultural diversity and economic growth in the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong.

Novel '83 Ashru' launched in Tezpur, explores Assam Movement's legacy

New novel highlights the Assam Movement's emotional and historical significance



HT Correspondent
TEZPUR, Oct 19: A day after the Supreme Court upheld the foreigners expulsion clause of the Assam Accord, a novel titled '83 Ashru' (Tezpur 83), written by Hasna Barua and set against the backdrop of the Assam Movement, has launched at the All Assam Journalist Union's head office.

The novel was unveiled by Dr Bhupen Saikia on Friday, noted litterateur and president of the Sonitpur Zila Sahitya Sabha, who highlighted the significance of novels in portraying societal and historical realities.

Dr Saikia praised '83 Ashru' as a work of mature insight that will resonate with readers, calling it an important literary contribution. He urged the author to continue her efforts in documenting Assam's history through fiction.

Prominent journalist Anjan Goswami, a distinguished guest at the event, reflected on earlier

literary works inspired by the Assam Movement, noting that Rita Choudhury's 'Ei Samay Sei Samay' was the first novel on the subject. He acknowledged the evolving interpretations of the movement through various literary efforts over the years.

Dr Jyotsna Sarma Bezbarua, guest of honour, commended Hasna Barua for blending imagination with reality in her portrayal of the Assam Movement, a key feature of historical novels. The event, conducted by Pankaj Barua, president of Akamir Sahitya Sabha, was also attended by other prominent figures such as Pankaj Kumar Nath, president of AAJU, and Nabin Chandra Lahkar, assistant secretary of Tezpur Sahitya Sabha.

The book launch was a significant literary occasion, bringing together writers, journalists, and intellectuals to reflect on the enduring impact of the Assam Movement on Assamese literature.

Postal Ballot Cell opens in Silchar for bye-election 2024

Govt employees on duty can vote

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 19: In preparation for the bye-election 2024, the District Election Office in Cachar has set up a dedicated Postal Ballot Paper Cell for government employees and those on election duty, allowing them to cast their votes through the postal ballot system. Located at the Circle Officer's office, Sadar Revenue Circle, Silchar, the Cell will be open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It provides access to Form No. 12, required for postal voting, and offers guidance on the voting process.

The deadline for submitting the application is November 8, 2024. All eligible personnel are urged to complete the process before the deadline to ensure participation in the election.

This was stated in a press release issued by the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations, Barak Valley Zone, Silchar, Assam.

Cachar prepares for bye-election 2024, identity passes for election staff

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 19: As part of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming bye-election 2024 in Cachar, the District Election Office (DEO) has directed all Cell In-charges to submit the names of officers and staff involved in election duties.

This move aims to ensure the timely issuance of identity cards and passes for personnel to ensure

smooth and efficient election operations.

The Videography, Photography & Pass Cell, stationed at the Unnayan Bhawan in the district commissioner's office, Silchar, will oversee the process. Officers and staff engaged in election tasks are required to submit their details in advance to avoid delays.

The DEO stressed the importance of these measures for main-

taining order and transparency during the election, urging departments to act swiftly. This step is part of a broader effort by the Cachar administration to ensure a coordinated and secure election, reinforcing their commitment to electoral integrity.

This information was released by the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations, Barak Valley Zone, Silchar, Assam.

ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION									
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022									
No. 102PSC/CON/Exam-40/2023-2024									
NOTIFICATION									
The Assam Public Service Commission hereby declares today, the 19 th October, 2024, the result of the Combined Competitive (Main) Examination, 2023 (Adv. No. 02/2024 Dtd. 12/01/2024) which was conducted by the Commission on 26 th , 27 th & 28 th July, 2024. Qualified candidates bearing the following Roll Numbers will have to appear for interview and the interview will commence from 13 th November, 2024 onwards. The detail Interview schedule will be notified shortly.									
Roll Numbers of the qualified candidates are (horizontally):									
1000001	1000137	1000400	1000582	1000703	1000723	1000788	1000895	3900190	3900210
1000898	1000953	1001035	1100125	1100373	1100392	1100567	1100621	3900582	3900723
1100699	1100917	1101021	1101166	1101282	1101415	1101807	1102033	3900892	3900970
1102066	1200153	1200196	1200551	1200659	1200677	1200868	1300003	3900419	3900433
1300010	1300083	1300177	1300493	1300861	1300959	1301031	1301071	4000044	4000419
1301074	1301489	1301604	1400002	1400052	1400211	1400243	1400280	4000128	4000001
1400292	1400419	1400590	1400699	1400812	1400817	1400889	1400988	4100001	4100009
1401233	1401326	1401375	1500009	1500186	1500335	1500799	1600010	4100088	4100096
1600041	1600152	1600234	1600257	1600630	1601089	1601114	1601137	4100236	4100271
1601359	1601367	1601370	1601635	1601832	1601853	1601903	1601912	4100829	4100836
1602011	1602359	1602398	1602415	1602432	1602449	1602525	1602716	4100875	4100876
1602734	1602797	1602842	1602854	1602862	1602910	1602911	1603090	4101009	4101009
1603155	1603220	1603251	1700010	1700064	1700115	1700288	1700306	4101137	4101137
1700400	1700512	1700550	1700633	1700669	1700684	1700702	1700891	4101097	4101197
1701001	1701006	1800157	1800402	1800461	1800732	1900015	1900190	4101708	4101715
1900248	1900324	1900538	1900568	1900770	1900780	1900919	1900982	4101715	4101724
1901121	1901256	1901286	1901577	1901606	2000065	2000099	2000112	4101715	4101715
2000159	2000239	2000450	2000531	2100143	2300022	2300161		4101715	4101715
2300537	2300642	2300846	2300988	2400174	2400200	2400250	2400294	4101715	4101715
2400318	2400462	2400485	2400520	2400524	2400640	2400660	2400668	4101715	4101715
2400891	2400957	2401097	2401175	2401183	2401188	2401280	2401735	4101715	4101715
2402058	2402099	2402200	2402213	2402266	2402305	2402306	2402446	4101715	4101715
2402597	2402598	2402677	2402772	2402910	2403278	2403411	2403553	4101715	4101715
2403641	2403789	2403855	2403871	2404050	2600506	2600602	2600656	4101715	4101715
2700286	2700403	2700718	2701129	2800313	2800421	2800424	2800426	4101715	4101715
2800514	2900174	2900217	2900419	2900461	2900527	2900826	2901073	4101715	4101715
2901225	2901315	2901376	2901607	2901753	3000022	3000022	3000939	4101715	4101715
3100121	3100441	3200287	3200405	3200500	3200539	3200798	3200815	4101715	4101715
3200937	3201109	3201120	3201177	3201181	3201271	3201277	3201296	4101715	4101715
3201309	3201317	3201414	3201416	3201515	3201675	3201716	3201813	4101715	4101715
3201975	3202055	3202066	3202069	3202071	3202455	3202692	3300017	4101715	4101715
3300024	3300115	3300131	3300135	3300479	3300596	3300703	3300743	4101715	4101715
3300827	3300839	3300945	3301180	3301384	3301543	3301671	3301911	4101715	4101715
3400025	3400076	3400147	3400220	3400438	3400442	3400484	3400673	4101715	4101715
3400704	3400761	3400811	3400939	3401103	3401582	3401698	3401711	4101715	4101715
3401719	3401776	3401793	3401917	3402162	3402181	3500144	3500866	4101715	4101715
3500868	3500882	3501147	3501394	3501564	3501641	3501776	3502267	4101715	4101715
3600586	3600886	3600932	3601032	3601541	3601634	3601723	3601881	4101715	4101715
3601904	3602094	3700051	3700107	3700207	3700228	3700296	3700492	4101715	4101715
3800002	3800010	3800046	3800061	3800096	3800241	3800338	3800362	4101715	4101715
3800392	3800423	3800452	3800481	3800784	3800862	3800960	3801019	4101715	4101715
3801078	3801086	3801230	3801305	3801517	3801540	3801578	3801628	4101715	4101715
3801696	3802261	3802262	3802297	3900006	3900046	3900150	3900178	4101715	4101715

NB: Results may be accessed through the APSC's website www.apsc.nic.in

Janasanyog /D/7607/24/20-Oct-24

Sd/-
Principal Controller of Examinations,
Assam Public Service Commission,
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22



By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

The Gamosa is not merely a textile; it embodies the very essence of Assamese culture and identity. Recognized for its unique design and rich symbolism, the Gamosa has become a cherished artifact of Assam, deeply woven into the daily lives and rituals of its people. In 2022, the awarding of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Gamosa marked a significant milestone in preserving its authenticity and cultural heritage. This article explores the multifaceted significance of the Gamosa, the implications of its GI tag, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for this iconic symbol of Assamese pride.

The Gamosa is traditionally characterized by its white body and vibrant red borders, often featuring intricate designs that reflect the rich tapestry of Assamese life. This textile is a staple in various ceremonies, symbolizing respect and honor.

During weddings, festivals, and religious rites, the presentation of a Gamosa serves as a gesture of hospitality and reverence. The emotional weight of the Gamosa

transcends its physical form, representing relationships and communal bonds that define Assamese culture.

In everyday life, the Gamosa serves multiple purposes. It is used as a towel, a headscarf, or even a bag, showcasing its practicality. This versatility underscores its importance in Assamese households, where it is an indispensable item. Beyond its functional roles, the Gamosa carries cultural narratives, making it a crucial part of Assamese identity.

The craftsmanship involved in creating a Gamosa is an art form that reflects generations of skill and tradition. Traditionally woven on handlooms, the Gamosa is made from cotton and silk, with artisans using techniques passed down through their families. The cotton variant is commonly used for daily purposes, while silk Gamosas are reserved for special occasions, signifying luxury and exclusivity. The intricate motifs, often inspired by nature, culture, and local traditions, tell stories that resonate with the community.

Artisans use natural dyes to create the vibrant colors of the Gamosa, ensuring sustainability and environmental harmony. Each

Gamosa: A GI tagged heritage

piece is unique, carrying the individual artist's signature style and reflecting their cultural heritage. The labor-intensive process of weaving the Gamosa not only showcases the artisan's skill but also highlights the cultural narratives embedded in each textile.

The awarding of the GI tag to the Gamosa in 2022 has profound implications for its authenticity and cultural significance. The GI tag serves as a form of intellectual property protection, ensuring that only products genuinely produced in Assam can be marketed under the name "Gamosa." This recognition is essential for safeguarding the integrity of the Gamosa, protecting it from imitation and ensuring that consumers receive authentic products.

The GI tag enhances the marketability of the Gamosa, elevating its status both nationally and internationally. In an era where consumers are increasingly conscious of authenticity and heritage, the GI tag acts as a seal of quality. Buyers can trust that they are purchasing a genuine Gamosa, supporting the artisans who create it. This recognition empowers artisans, allowing them to command better prices for their craftsmanship, thereby ensuring a sustainable income.

The economic implications of the GI tag extend beyond individual artisans. It fosters the preservation of traditional weaving practices and encourages a sense of pride among the community. By protecting the Gamosa's reputation, the GI tag helps promote local economies and strengthens the cultural identity of Assam. Artisans are motivated to continue

their craft, passing down their skills to future generations, thus preserving this invaluable heritage.

However, the challenges facing Gamosa weavers are significant. The rise of machine-made textiles poses a substantial threat to traditional handwoven products. These mass-produced alternatives are often cheaper and more accessible, leading to a decline in the demand for Gamosas. Many consumers gravitate towards convenience, risking the livelihood of artisans who rely on the sale of their handmade products. Marketing and distribution present additional hurdles for many Gamosa weavers. Limited access to broader markets restricts their ability to sell products at fair prices.

Many artisans operate within local markets, where competition with mass-produced textiles can be fierce. This underscores the urgent need for robust marketing strategies and distribution channels that effectively connect artisans with consumers who value authenticity and craftsmanship. The younger generation's migration to urban areas in search of better opportunities further complicates the sustainability of Gamosa weaving.

As traditional crafts lose their appeal, there is a risk of diminishing the number of artisans who continue to practice this age-old skill. This generational shift threatens the transmission of traditional knowledge and techniques, which are vital for the continued existence of Gamosa weaving. To counteract this trend, it is crucial to engage young artisans and in-

still pride in their cultural heritage.

Educational initiatives and awareness campaigns can highlight the significance of the Gamosa, emphasizing its role in Assamese identity. Programs that introduce weaving to younger generations can spark interest and appreciation for traditional crafts, encouraging them to take up weaving as a viable career.

Collaborations between weavers and contemporary designers can also play a significant role in revitalizing interest in the Gamosa. By blending traditional techniques with modern aesthetics, artisans can create innovative products that resonate with contemporary consumers. This approach not only broadens the appeal of the Gamosa but also enables artisans to diversify their offerings, thus increasing their market reach.

Government policies and initiatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential for supporting traditional crafts like Gamosa weaving. Various programs have been launched to provide financial assistance, marketing support, and skill development for weavers. For example, the Indian government's Handloom Mark scheme aims to promote genuine handloom products and uplift the livelihoods of artisans. Such initiatives can create a more sustainable ecosystem for weavers, allowing them to thrive amid modern challenges. NGOs often serve as intermediaries, creating platforms for artisans to showcase their work and connect with broader markets. Initiatives that promote Gamosa weaving through exhibi-

tions and craft fairs help artisans reach wider audiences while raising awareness about the significance of supporting local crafts. Workshops and training sessions organized by NGOs can equip artisans with the skills necessary to adapt to market demands and improve their business acumen.

As the Gamosa continues to evolve, its future depends on collaborative efforts among artisans, government bodies, NGOs, and consumers. Fostering a sustainable ecosystem that empowers weavers, preserves traditional techniques, and promotes Gamosas as integral to Assamese identity is crucial for the craft's longevity. Consumer education and awareness are pivotal in this endeavor. Encouraging individuals to choose handwoven products over mass-produced textiles can significantly impact the livelihoods of weavers.

Moreover, fostering collaborations between weavers and designers can lead to innovative products that appeal to modern consumers. By reinterpreting the Gamosa for contemporary contexts, artisans can ensure that this cherished textile continues to thrive while retaining its cultural roots. The Gamosa can serve as a canvas for storytelling, allowing artisans to convey their heritage and craftsmanship through their work. This approach not only enhances the aesthetic value of the Gamosa but also deepens its connection to Assamese culture.

Additionally, the Gamosa can play a vital role in promoting sustainable practices. Traditional methods of weaving and dyeing

often rely on natural materials, which can be less harmful to the environment compared to synthetic alternatives. By supporting Gamosa weaving, consumers can contribute to the preservation of sustainable practices that have been part of Assamese culture for generations. This environmental aspect adds another layer of value to the Gamosa, aligning it with the growing global movement towards sustainability and ethical consumption.

In essence, the Gamosa is a profound symbol of Assamese culture and identity, with its recent GI tag recognition underscoring its importance and authenticity. It encapsulates the artistry, tradition, and values of the Assamese people, and its continued recognition and support are essential for its survival. While challenges persist, the collective efforts of artisans, government, NGOs, and consumers can create a sustainable future for Gamosa weaving.

Upholding tradition and authenticity is crucial, allowing this emblematic fabric to thrive for generations to come. By valuing and supporting the craftsmanship behind the Gamosa, we can ensure that this iconic textile remains a vibrant part of Assamese life, celebrated both locally and globally. Through the lens of the Gamosa, we glimpse the intricate tapestry of culture, identity, and tradition that defines Assam, making it a vital element of India's rich cultural landscape. (The writer is Editor in Chief of the Assamese E-Magazine SAMPROTIK. He can be reached at himangshur1989@gmail.com)

Banikanta Kakati: A scholar's contribution to Assamese language, culture, and literature

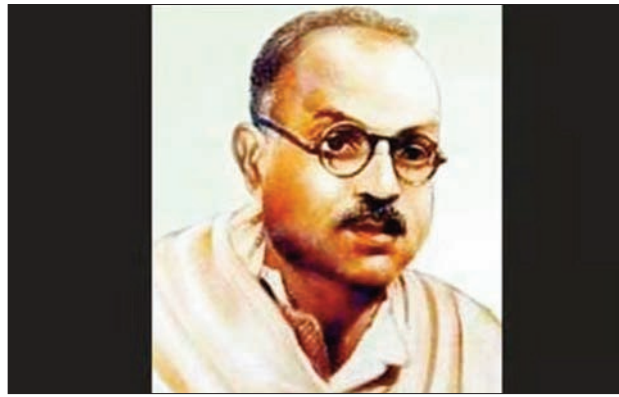
By: Dipak Kurmi

Banikanta Kakati, one of the most prominent intellectual figures from Assam, was a luminary who shaped the intellectual and cultural landscape of the region. Born in 1894 at Barpeta, Assam, Kakati was renowned for his profound scholarship in linguistics, literature, and cultural studies, particularly focused on the Assamese language. His contributions to Assamese literature, linguistics, cultural anthropology, and comparative religion have earned him a lasting legacy. His scholarly pursuits, ranging from the study of Srimanta Sankardeva and Assamese literature to deep inquiries into Assamese linguistics and religious traditions, solidified his reputation as one of Assam's greatest scholars. This article delves into the life and works of Dr. Banikanta Kakati, underscoring his immense contributions to the preservation and development of Assamese language and culture.

Early Life and Academic Achievements: Born to Lalitram Kakati and Lahobala, Banikanta Kakati showed signs of his prodigious intellect from a young age. His academic journey began with remarkable achievements in his school days. During his matriculation, he secured the highest position in Assam under the Calcutta University, and in 1913, he astonished many by standing first in the Intermediate examination from Cotton College, Guwahati. His excellence in academics continued as he earned his first MA degree in English Literature from Presidency College, Calcutta, in 1918. He later secured the first class, first position in the MA English Language group in 1923 from Calcutta University.

Kakati's brilliant academic career paved the way for his entry into Cotton College, Guwahati, where he joined as a professor of English in 1918. His tenure at Cotton College was marked by his deep commitment to teaching, research, and writing, and he eventually became the principal of the college in 1947. His scholarly inclinations later led him to join Gauhati University in 1948 as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and the Head of the Department of Assamese. He remained a towering figure in Assam's academic circles until his passing in 1952.

The Formation and Development of Assamese Language: One of Kakati's most significant contributions to Assamese scholarship was his groundbreaking research



on the formation and development of the Assamese language. In 1935, he obtained his doctorate from Calcutta University for his thesis titled Assamese: Its Formation and Development. The publication of this thesis in 1941 was a monumental event for the Assamese people, who had long been struggling to establish the identity and provenance of their mother tongue. In his thesis, Kakati systematically refuted the widely held belief that Assamese was merely an offshoot of the Bengali language, a misconception propagated by certain scholars in the early 20th century. Kakati's work established the distinctiveness and originality of Assamese as a language in its own right.

The scholarly rigor of Kakati's thesis earned him widespread recognition, not only in Assam but across the academic world. One of his examiners, Prof. Dr. Jules Bloch from Paris University, was reportedly amazed that Kakati could produce such an impressive body of work from a place like Guwahati, where research infrastructure and academic resources were limited. Kakati's work was instrumental in resolving the long-standing controversy surrounding the origins of the Assamese language, and it was hailed by scholars like Lakshminath Bezbaruah, who acknowledged that Kakati had taught the Assamese people about the uniqueness of their language and culture.

The thesis is divided into two parts. The first part, consisting of eleven chapters, discusses various aspects of the phonology of the Assamese language, while the second part, containing eight chapters, delves into the origins and roots of Assamese words and the current status of the language. Through this meticulous research, Kakati not only established the independent existence of Assamese but also provided a detailed account of its script, its relationship with the Prakrit language of Magadha, and the differences between the colloquial languages spoken in Upper

and Lower Assam.

Contributions to Assamese Literature and Cultural Studies: Banikanta Kakati's academic interests were not confined to linguistics alone. His contributions to Assamese literature and cultural studies are equally noteworthy. His work Purani Asoniya Sahitya remains one of the finest pieces of literary criticism in Assamese, providing a thorough analysis of Vaishnavite literature and medieval Assamese religious texts. His erudition in the fields of Sanskrit and English literature enabled him to introduce a more scientific approach to literary criticism in Assam. His deep understanding of religious mysticism allowed him to offer unique interpretations of works like Madhabdev's Namghosha, which stands as one of his finest critical analyses to date.

Kakati's other notable works include Purani Kamrupar Dharmar Dhara, Kalita Jaatir Itibritta, Sahitya Aru Prem, and Pakhila. These works span various genres, including religious history, literary criticism, and cultural anthropology, showcasing Kakati's versatility as a scholar. His work Mother Goddess Kamakhya (1948) provides an in-depth analysis of the syncretic religious traditions of Assam, particularly the blending of Saivism and Tantricism in places like Kamakhya. In this work, Kakati explores the socio-religious context of Assam during the medieval period, revealing how religious beliefs and practices were shaped by social and cultural transformations.

Neo-Vaishnavism and Assam's Religious Traditions: Banikanta Kakati's scholarly endeavors also extended into the study of Neo-Vaishnavism, which played a significant role in shaping the religious and cultural identity of Assam. His research on the life and teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva, one of Assam's most revered saints, highlights the profound impact of Vaishnavism on Assamese society and literature. Kakati's writings in various

issues of Banhi under the pseudonym Babananda Pathak reflect his deep engagement with the ideological debates within Assam's Vaishnavite tradition.

Through works like Vaishnavite Myths and Legends, Kakati explored the rich tapestry of myths and legends that form the core of Assam's religious consciousness. His analysis of these myths was not merely a recounting of religious stories but a scientific examination of their historical, social, and cultural underpinnings. By providing critical insights into the religious scene in medieval Assam, Kakati's writings continue to offer valuable perspectives on Assam's cultural heritage.

Legacy and Influence: Banikanta Kakati's contributions to Assamese language, literature, and culture were vast and far-reaching. His works set new standards for literary criticism, linguistic research, and cultural studies in Assam. He was not only a pioneering linguist but also an influential cultural historian whose writings continue to shape scholarly discourse on Assam's language and cultural traditions. His book reviews, written with an eye for detail and a deep understanding of both English and Sanskrit literature, introduced a new level of scholarly rigor to Assamese literary criticism.

Kakati's legacy extends beyond his academic achievements. His dedication to Assamese language and culture, combined with his intellectual curiosity and commitment to scholarly excellence, has inspired generations of scholars in Assam and beyond. His untimely death in 1952, shortly after the passing of his beloved wife Kanaklata, left a void in the Assamese intellectual community. Yet, his influence endures through his writings, which continue to be studied and appreciated by scholars and readers alike.

Banikanta Kakati was a towering figure in the world of Assamese scholarship. His pioneering research on the Assamese language, his critical analyses of religious and literary texts, and his contributions to the study of Assam's cultural heritage have earned him a place of honor in the annals of Assam's intellectual history. His legacy remains a source of inspiration for future generations of scholars dedicated to the study and preservation of Assam's rich linguistic and cultural traditions. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

Han Kang: A literary exploration of mankind through trauma, violence, and redemption

By: Mowsam Hazarika

In recent years, Han Kang has emerged as one of the most compelling voices in contemporary literature. The South Korean novelist, renowned for her works that probe the intricacies of human nature, has captivated readers worldwide with narratives that delve into trauma, violence, and the fragility of existence. With the Nobel Prize for Literature often lauding authors who explore the depths of human experience, Kang's contributions to literature offer a compelling case for such recognition. Her profound engagement with themes of human suffering, memory, and resilience positions her as an author whose works transcend cultural boundaries and resonate deeply with universal questions of life, survival, and morality.

Born in 1970 in Gwangju, South Korea, Han Kang grew up in a society marked by political turbulence and societal transformation. Her most formative experiences, including her time in the Gwangju Uprising, a violent 1980 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, have profoundly influenced her worldview and her literary output. Kang studied Korean literature and began her career as a poet before transitioning to fiction. Her literary works span novels, short stories, and essays, each of which addresses existential questions, often framed through the prism of violence and its impact on the human psyche.

One of the defining characteristics of Kang's writing is her ability to examine human suffering without resorting to melodrama. She dissects the pain of her characters with clinical precision, allowing readers to fully absorb the emotional and moral complexities of the events depicted. Her work often challenges readers to reflect on the darkest aspects of human nature, yet her narratives are not devoid of hope. Kang seeks out moments of redemption, where characters, despite enduring immense suffering, manage to retain their humanity.

Perhaps Kang's most widely known work, The Vegetarian (2007, translated into English in 2015), brought her international acclaim and won the Man Booker International Prize in 2016. The novel is a harrowing and surreal exploration of one woman's rebellion against the societal norms that dictate her life. Told in three interconnected parts, The Vegetarian follows Yeong-hye, a seemingly unremarkable woman who abruptly decides to stop eating meat after experiencing violent, bloody dreams. Her refusal to conform to social expectations spirals into a psychological and physical breakdown, with catastrophic consequences for her family and herself.

At its core, The Vegetarian addresses issues of bodily autonomy, societal control, and the ways in which trauma manifests in the human body. Yeong-hye's rejection of meat is symbolic of her desire to distance herself from the violence that permeates her life and the world around her. Kang

One of the defining characteristics of Kang's writing is her ability to examine human suffering without resorting to melodrama. Her work often challenges readers to reflect on the darkest aspects of human nature, yet her narratives are not devoid of hope



uses Yeong-hye's story to explore the oppression faced by women in South Korean society, as well as the broader theme of how human beings cope with trauma by rejecting, controlling, or punishing their own bodies.

Through The Vegetarian, Kang reveals the emotional and psychological turmoil that results when individuals attempt to reclaim control over their own bodies in a world where such autonomy is systematically denied. The novel offers an unsettling meditation on the boundaries between sanity and madness, humanity and cruelty, and life and death, creating a layered narrative that speaks to the universal human struggle for identity and self-ownership.

Following the success of The Vegetarian, Han Kang further cemented her place in literary circles with Human Acts (2014, translated into English in 2016). This novel, perhaps her most overtly political, centers around the Gwangju Uprising and its aftermath, a topic that resonates personally with Kang, having grown up in the city where the massacre occurred. Human Acts unfolds across multiple perspectives and timelines, allowing readers to witness the event and its long-term consequences from different vantage points.

The novel's central figure, a young boy named Dong-ho, is killed in the uprising, and the novel traces the lives of those who were connected to him and who bear witness to the violence. Through the lives of these characters, Kang examines how historical trauma is both personal and collective. Human Acts addresses the silencing of memory and history by authoritarian regimes, focusing on how individuals and societies cope with mass atrocities.

The novel delves deeply into the nature of violence—how it permeates bodies, minds, and even the souls of those who survive it. Yet Human Acts is not merely a work about suffering; it is also about resistance, the importance of remembering, and the human capacity for empathy, even in the face of overwhelming brutality. Kang's portrayal of the characters' resilience, as they attempt to reconcile their memories with the present, highlights the importance of bearing witness to history, no matter how painful.

Across her body of work, Han Kang grapples with questions that strike at

the heart of what it means to be human. Her characters often face existential crises that force them to confront their place in the world. In The White Book (2016, translated in 2018), Kang meditates on life, death, and mourning through a series of vignettes that revolve around the color white. Inspired by the loss of her elder sister, who died shortly after birth, the novel reflects on the process of grief and how humans construct meaning from loss.

Through her sparse, poetic prose, Kang uses the color white as a motif to explore the blank spaces left behind by death, as well as the possibility of renewal. The novel, like much of Kang's work, invites readers to contemplate the fragility of human existence and the inevitable confrontations with mortality that shape our lives. Yet even in its starkness, The White Book carries a sense of quiet resilience, suggesting that in the face of death and suffering, humans can find solace in remembrance and artistic expression.

As the world turns its attention to the Nobel Prize in Literature each year, the prize often recognizes authors who push the boundaries of storytelling and challenge readers to engage with difficult, often uncomfortable truths about the human condition. Han Kang's work fits firmly within this tradition. Her novels confront the brutality and tenderness of life, offering insights into the complexities of trauma, violence, and healing.

Han Kang's body of work is an intricate tapestry of humanity's darkest and brightest moments. Her engagement with themes of trauma, personal autonomy, and the weight of historical memory make her a literary force whose exploration of mankind goes beyond the specific cultural contexts of South Korea to reach universal dimensions. In honoring authors like Kang, the Nobel Prize celebrates the power of literature to serve as both a mirror and a balm, reflecting the most challenging aspects of human experience while also offering hope for redemption and understanding. (The author is a poet, freelance science journalist and people's science activist. He is also the former Director, Assam Seed and Organic Certification Agency & Former Joint Director of Agriculture, Pulse), Department of Agriculture, Assam)

Love's triumph: Botticelli's allegory of peace over war



By: Shashanka Das

Art, in its highest form, speaks to the most elusive of human experiences: love, desire, power, and the expectations we impose on ourselves and others. Through its ability to transcend language, art becomes a universal mirror, reflecting the human condition. One such provocative painting, believed to be an allegory of love overcoming war, elegantly unravels the complexities of intimacy, sensuality, and the burden of marital expectations. This masterpiece by Sandro Botticelli, rendered with a tactile immediacy, reveals a delicate tableau that dances between the realms of passion and the politics of love.

At first glance, the painting presents a serene moment of intimacy - two lovers, a man and a woman, lie reclined in a pastoral setting, surrounded by lush trees and myrtle bushes. The natural world envelops them, symbolizing fertility and renewal, and promises a tranquil respite from the chaos of life.

Yet, this peaceful exterior conceals a deeper, more intricate narrative. The woman's languid posture, her left hand delicately playing with the hem of her translucent gown, hints at the lingering echoes of physical pleasure. In contrast, the man, his hands limp and inert, lies in a state of post-coital exhaustion, his body sapped of energy, as if he has relinquished not only his physical strength but his power.

The contrast between the two figures is stark, yet imbued with meaning. The woman's subtle but deliberate movement - a playful toying with her gown - suggests a quiet control, a sensuality that she possesses and wields. The folds of her gown,

translucent and edged with gold, become a symbol of her duality, embodying both modesty and eroticism. As the poet William Blake once wrote, "The nakedness of woman is the work of God," and here, the woman's body is indeed divine, a vessel of both sensual pleasure and the quiet power that follows.

The man, on the other hand, lies in a state of submission, his hands symbolically flaccid, a visual metaphor for the loss of his martial vigor. In this moment of vulnerability, he is no longer the warrior or protector, but a lover disarmed by the act of love. This surrender is not merely physical but deeply symbolic - an echo of the classical idea that love, particularly in marriage, tames the fiercest of warriors. As Shakespeare muses in Sonnet 57, "Being your slave, what should I do but tend / Upon the hours and times of your desire?" - the male figure here, similarly, becomes a vessel for his lover's desires, his strength momentarily subdued.

Beyond its sensual surface, this painting subtly interrogates the expectations inherent in marriage. The woman's gaze, focused intently on her sleeping lover, is more than just a moment of introspection; it is a gaze of quiet judgment, a recognition of the power she holds over him in this vulnerable state. In marriage, there is a tacit expectation of mutual exchange - of love, support, and fidelity - but within this institution, the lines between control and surrender often blur.

The woman's control over her body, her sexuality, and her gaze contrasts sharply with the man's temporary impotence, reflecting the shifts in power that occur within even the most traditional

marital relationships.

The pastoral setting, rich with symbolism, reinforces the painting's allegory of love overcoming war. Myrtle bushes, sacred to Venus, the goddess of love, form a protective barrier around the couple, symbolizing the triumph of love and sensuality over aggression and conflict. The trees provide a sense of sanctuary, a place where lovers can retreat from the world and its battles.

The act of love, then, becomes not only a source of pleasure but a form of peace-making, a truce in the unrelenting war of life. As John Milton eloquently stated in Paradise Lost, "What is love, without sex?" emphasizing the vital role that physical intimacy plays in bridging the gap between emotional and spiritual unity.

The theme of love as a force of peace is especially potent when viewed in the context of the time. In Botticelli's era, marriages were often arranged as political alliances, a means to secure peace between warring factions or to solidify power. In this sense, the painting can be interpreted as a metaphor for the healing power of love - the ultimate act of surrender and union that tames even the most violent of impulses.

The man's limp hands, though a sign of physical exhaustion, also symbolize disarmament - the surrender of aggression in favor of affection and intimacy. In this, we are reminded of the ancient idea that love, as much as war, shapes the course of history.

What elevates this painting beyond mere representation is its visceral realism. Botticelli renders the bodies of the man and woman with a tangible immediacy that collapses the space between the viewer and the subject. Their limbs press against

the very edges of the canvas, as though they might spill out into our world, inviting us to share in their intimacy.

In this way, the painting transcends the boundaries of art, becoming almost corporeal, a living testament to the complexities of human desire. The physicality of the figures - their soft skin, the intricate folds of the gown, the languid sprawl of their bodies - engages not only the eye but the senses, evoking a primal connection between viewer and subject.

Yet, this intimacy is not without tension. The painting subtly reflects the inherent expectations and burdens of marriage - the weight of duty and the complexities of love.

The man, now rendered vulnerable, carries the silent expectation of being the provider and protector, while the woman, in her quiet contemplation, must navigate the emotional labor of understanding and anticipating his desires. This delicate balance between duty and desire, between control and surrender, is at the heart of the marital bond - a bond that Botticelli captures with exquisite nuance.

In conclusion, this painting stands as a masterful allegory of love overcoming war - a visual meditation on the power dynamics inherent in love, sex, and marriage. Through its evocative depiction of post-coital intimacy, it invites us to reflect on the deeper societal and emotional implications of love's triumph over violence and aggression. Botticelli's artistry lies in his ability to transform a moment of sensuality into a profound commentary on the human condition - on the expectations we place upon ourselves, the roles we inhabit, and the delicate dance of power, pleasure, and surrender that defines our most intimate relationships.

As the poet John Keats once wrote, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever," and this painting, with all its layered meanings and tactile immediacy, remains a timeless testament to the enduring power of love to conquer even the most primal forces of war. (The author can be reached at 9706619975)

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RINGS OF POWER Stunning spectacle, but where's the soul of Tolkien?

By: Karan Chetri

Amazon's *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* has stirred much debate and anticipation since its inception, and the second season has only deepened the division among fans and critics. While it is certainly a visually spectacular endeavour, the series struggles to reconcile its aspirations with J.R.R. Tolkien's literary canon.

Character adaptation: Reimagining or distorting Tolkien's creations?

One of the greatest challenges the show faces is the delicate balance between respecting Tolkien's beloved characters and introducing new dimensions to suit the cinematic medium. Unfortunately, many of these reinterpretations fall short, alienating long-time readers.

For instance, the portrayal of Galadriel, played by Morfydd Clark, has been a focal point of contention. In Tolkien's texts, Galadriel is described as a powerful, wise, and ethereal figure who, by the Second Age, possesses a tranquillity that reflects her growth through millennia of experience. In *The Rings of Power*, however, the character is portrayed as a brash, impulsive warrior, more akin to a generic fantasy heroine than the nuanced elven queen readers admire. This deviation has left many fans questioning the showrunners' decision to transform a character synonymous with poise and wisdom into one driven by vengeance and rage.

Charlie Vickers' portrayal of Sauron, however, stands out as a surprising success. Vickers masterfully captures the duality of the Dark Lord's character, blending his outward charm and subtle menace with chilling precision. While the show's depiction of Sauron's machinations strays from Tolkien's texts, Vickers' performance lends the character a compelling gravitas that compensates for the script's occasional simplifications. His ability to oscillate between charismatic and sinister tones without losing credibility adds layers to the character that make him a focal point of the season.

The adaptation of Elrond, portrayed by Robert Aramayo, offers a somewhat more faithful representation. While there are still liberties taken with his characterisation - particularly his relationships with other key characters - the core of Elrond's essence remains intact. He is diplomatic, thoughtful, and committed to the preservation of Elven culture, which aligns with Tolkien's portrayal of the half-elven lore keeper. Yet, certain interactions, such as his uneasy camaraderie with Durin IV, push boundaries, seemingly prioritising tension and drama over the mutual respect and understanding that underpinned the relationship in the books.

Gil-Galad, the High King of the Elves, and Celebrimbor, the greatest of Elven smiths, are also given significant screen time in the second season. Their portrayals, while somewhat stiff and lacking the depth found in the source material, are salvaged by the powerful performances of their respective actors, Benjamin Walker and Charles Edwards. Walker's Gil-Galad exudes a quiet dignity, embodying the burden of a leader who foresees the perils threatening his people but struggles to unite the factions under his command. Edwards' Celebrimbor, on the other hand, brilliantly captures the character's tragic flaw - his hubris and relentless pursuit of knowledge - that leads him to unwittingly aid Sauron in the creation of the Rings of Power. Edwards brings a vulnerability to the role that makes Celebrimbor's arc one of the more emotionally resonant threads in the show.

The Dwarves: A triumph of characterisation?
In contrast to the Elves and Men, the Dwarves are one of the show's more consistently praised aspects, offering a glimpse into a race that is often overlooked in other adaptations. In *The Rings of Power*, the depiction of Khazad-dûm (later known as Moria) during its height is nothing short of breathtaking. The intricate architecture, the bustling halls, and the golden light of the underground kingdom evoke a sense of grandeur, one that aligns well with Tolkien's descriptions.

Durin IV, played by Owain Arthur, stands out as a dynamic and compelling character. His friendship with Elrond is one of the more genuine and heartfelt relationships in the series, capturing the blend of Dwarven stubbornness and loyalty that readers expect. However, this relationship is complicated by the tension surrounding Mithril - a creative addition by the show that doesn't entirely align with Tolkien's texts. In the books, Mithril is a valuable resource, but it is not imbued with the same near-mystical properties the show suggests. This alteration raises questions about how much the series is willing to bend established lore to suit its narrative needs.

Despite these liberties, the Dwarves remain a bright spot. The showrunners have managed to encapsulate their culture, their values of craftsmanship, and their deep-rooted connection to the earth, something Tolkien portrayed with great respect and admiration in his works. Durin's struggle between duty to his people and his personal friendships resonates strongly, and Arthur's performance brings a weight to the role that underscores the broader themes of loyalty and sacrifice that are so central to Tolkien's Dwarves.

The Stranger: Confirmed as Gandalf



One of the most discussed revelations in *The Rings of Power*'s second season is the identity of "The Stranger", now confirmed to be none other than Gandalf himself. This revelation sent waves through the fanbase, as it fundamentally shifts the understanding of Middle-Earth's history according to Tolkien's texts. Gandalf's introduction to Middle-Earth in the Third Age was traditionally a pivotal event, marking the beginning of the Istari's mission to aid the Free Peoples against the shadow of Sauron.

By placing Gandalf's arrival in the Second Age, *The Rings of Power* introduces a significant deviation from established lore, raising questions about how his presence will influence future events. Despite this alteration, the show does offer a compelling take on the wizard's origins, depicting him as a being coming to terms with his powers and purpose. His bond with the Harfoots - a clear predecessor to his later affinity for Hobbits - is a touching subplot that adds depth to his character. The portrayal emphasises Gandalf's innate kindness and curiosity, traits that align with his literary counterpart, even if his timeline has been altered.

Daniel Weyman's performance as Gandalf captures the enigmatic essence of the character, balancing his otherworldly wisdom with a sense of uncertainty and vulnerability as he explores Middle-Earth for the first time. This depiction provides a fresh angle, showing a Gandalf who is not yet the confident, wise figure known from the Third Age, but one who is still discovering his role in the unfolding saga of Middle-Earth.

Tom Bombadil: A whimsical presence amidst the darkness

Another surprising inclusion in the second season is Tom Bombadil. Known for his eccentric and enigmatic nature, Bombadil is a character often viewed as being outside the main narrative of Tolkien's *Legendarium*, a being of great power who remains untouched by the corruptive influence of the One Ring. His appearance in *The Rings of Power* is a bold choice, offering a curious mix of comic relief and deeper mystery.

Bombadil's scenes provide a stark contrast to the darker, more serious tones of the season. His whimsical songs and carefree demeanour serve as a reminder of the ancient and wild magic that exists in Middle-Earth, a magic that is neither good nor evil, but simply is. Despite his light-hearted manner, Bombadil's interactions hint at his immense power and knowledge, making him a figure who sees beyond the immediate events of the Second Age.

The show's decision to include him adds a layer of unpredictability to the narrative. His nonchalant dismissal of the dangers that haunt other characters, and his playful disregard for conventional power dynamics, make him a refreshing yet perplexing presence. While his role in the season is relatively limited, Bombadil's inclusion raises intriguing possibilities for future seasons. Will he remain a detached observer, or will he involve himself more directly in the conflicts to come?

Storyline coherence: An ambitious yet unsteady expansion of the Legendarium

The Rings of Power is set in the Second Age of Middle-Earth, a period that Tolkien detailed in *The Silmarillion* and *Unfinished Tales*, though not to the same exhaustive degree as the Third Age events in *The Lord of the Rings*. As such, there is considerable creative license available. However, the show's narrative often disregards foundational lore, opting instead to create an alternate version of history that feels contrived and inconsistent with the grand mythos of the books.

A prime example of this is the portrayal of Númenor, the island kingdom of Men. Númenor's depiction as a bustling, multifaceted society is one of the show's visual triumphs, yet the internal political turmoil depicted lacks the gravity and depth found in Tolkien's writings. In the books, Númenor's downfall is a tragedy of hubris, pride, and moral decline over centuries. The show, however, condenses this nuanced trajectory into a few melodramatic interactions, losing much of the philosophical weight Tolkien imbued into the downfall of the Númenórean civilisation.

Similarly, the forging of the Rings themselves - a central plot point - is handled with a lack of reverence. In Tolkien's lore, the creation of the Rings of Power is a long, meticulous process, filled with betrayal, deception, and the seduction of knowledge. Sauron, disguised as Annatar, plays a pivotal role, subtly manipulating

Celebrimbor and the Elves. In the show, this intricate dance is condensed into a rushed sequence that strips the act of its dark, insidious nature, reducing it to a mere plot device.

Thematic integrity: Diluted ideals and misinterpreted motifs

Thematically, Tolkien's works resonate with timeless ideals - hope against despair, the corruptive influence of power, the beauty and fleeting nature of mortality, and the resilience of the humble spirit. *The Rings of Power* struggles to encapsulate these themes with the same subtlety and profundity.

The tension between mortality and immortality is a cornerstone of Tolkien's *Legendarium*, epitomised in the Elves' desire for preservation and the Númenóreans' yearning for eternal life. This conflict drives much of the tragedy in the Second Age. Yet, the show treats these existential quandaries with a superficial touch, favouring melodramatic confrontations over reflective introspection.

Moreover, the portrayal of Sauron, one of Tolkien's most complex antagonists, borders on caricature. In the source material, Sauron's allure lies in his ability to appear benevolent and wise, offering gifts and counsel that ultimately serve his own dark ends. His evil is nuanced, born of a desire to control rather than destroy. The series, in contrast, paints Sauron as a stereotypical villain with few redeeming qualities, undermining the rich psychological depth that defines him in the books.

Visuals and production: Aesthetic brilliance masking narrative flaws

One cannot review *The Rings of Power* without acknowledging its breathtaking production quality. The sets, costumes, and CGI are nothing short of spectacular, bringing to life the vast and varied landscapes of Middle-Earth's Second Age with a level of detail that does justice to the epic scale of Tolkien's imagination. The architecture of Númenor, the haunting beauty of Khazad-dûm, and the ethereal quality of Lindon all bear the mark of meticulous craftsmanship.

However, this visual splendour often serves as a veneer for the show's narrative shortcomings. The series sometimes feels more like a showcase of special effects than a cohesive story, prioritising spectacle over substance. Tolkien's world, while undeniably beautiful, is foremost a place of profound moral and existential weight. The relentless focus on visual grandeur, coupled with shallow storytelling, detracts from the emotional resonance that should underpin such a saga.

Conclusion: A series at odds with its own aspirations

Ultimately, *The Rings of Power* is a paradoxical creation. It is clear that the showrunners have a deep affection for Tolkien's world, and there are moments of brilliance where that love shines through. The visual storytelling and certain character interactions hint at what the series could have been: a respectful and innovative expansion of the Second Age's lore. Yet, these moments are fleeting, overshadowed by a propensity to prioritise sensationalism over fidelity to the source material.

When measured against Tolkien's books, the series falls short in critical areas - character integrity, narrative coherence, and thematic exploration. It often appears more interested in crafting its own mythology than in paying homage to the one already established. The deviations in character arcs, especially Galadriel's transformation, the rushed exposition of major plot events, and the dilution of core themes, suggest a fundamental misunderstanding of what makes Tolkien's works resonate with readers across generations.

For casual viewers, *The Rings of Power* offers an engaging, visually immersive experience. But for those familiar with the books, it is a frustrating reminder of the delicate balance required when adapting such a beloved literary universe. It is a series caught between honouring its legacy and forging its own path - unfortunately, in attempting to do both, it succeeds at neither.

The second season of *The Rings of Power* is an ambitious project that, while not without merit, ultimately falters in its attempt to reconcile Tolkien's grand mythology with modern storytelling sensibilities. It leaves one yearning for a rendition that truly understands the soul of Middle-Earth - a rendition that marries the breathtaking splendour of its landscapes with the profound wisdom and moral depth that define Tolkien's enduring masterpiece.

Paint my colour 'grey'

By: Kamal Baruah

The other day at my office, I was awestruck by the bright colours of sarees worn by our female colleagues. I stood by and wondered at such timeless and versatile Indian garments. I believe, it must be on some special occasions. Yes, it was the first day of Navratri. It's another occasional across the country celebrated in nine long days with significance of nine colours.

From yellow to white, grey, brown, red, orange, blue, pink and green, I was wonderstruck, how come it's nine, when we read seven colors of the visible light spectrum in Physics. The intensity of light varies with the wavelength or frequency. The visible solar spectrum is ranging from the shortest visible wavelengths 'Violet' light to the longest 'Red' light.

Honestly, I tried those phenomena in dark room lab, albeit struggling with optics. However, colour blindness is more common in males. On many occasions at shopping with my wife, I was unable to find distinction between colours. It seemed to have no end of naming colours of different clothing.

With varieties of 'Pat', 'Muga' and 'Toss', while displaying a large number of Assamese 'mekhela chadar', the shopkeeper saw my bewildered look on my face. Women are very fond of dress and I was desperately searching at the corner for a tool to sit as I found it so exhausting, time consuming and realized why women put so much time into that dress they wear only once.

Now the autumn festival is round the corner and there are a hive of activities seen around on these days. The Durga Puja in Eastern India is more than just a religious occasion. It has evolved into a celebration of art and culture. People from all walks of life joined together to celebrate the triumph of Rama over the Demon King Ravana at Dussehra.

From Khichid feasting to Puja Pandal



hopping and itsemotional moments of Devi immersion are reminded us our youthful days. That Bata's campaigns of a new pair of shoes at Puja stand out as timeless memory and a new colourful dress from Fancy Bazar amped up our wardrobe too.

People of Kolkata make a beeline for affordable shoes at Sree leathers. Travel lovers, bloggers have been so enthralled by the adventure in the hilly areas of Sikkim, Meghalaya and Arunachal during this puja vacation that they had hardly noticed the difficulties in off road driving.

The various colours of light of Diwali made people happy. Even the Editor Patricia Mukhim of *The Shillong Times* was delighted so much in the last time, while visiting Guwahati, quoted "Guwahati flyovers are all lit up for Durga Puja".

At the same time of our festival, people from Gujarat and Rajasthan paint their homes in bright colors to welcome the goddess Lakshmi during Deepavali. The business mindset of any Guju believed that it symbolizes wealth and prosperity.

So I felt inspired to do so this time. Despite all feeling bullied from all unlike colours, extensive renovations are carried out in my ancestral home.

Things had gone well until the last task of what colour should paint my home. I tried to convince my painter wife so hard that 'Grey' is my favourite and the list goes on from former colour catalogue. It's bountiful to capitol, counter, distinguished, elegant, elusive, bits, concepts and what's more. I was momentarily confused by all those colours. She finally chose to 'Silver Grey'.

The inflated balloons with air are popped up, whiledancing with the wind; some are burst with a bang. The kids are disheartened by the result of the balloons. Puja enthusiast Pandu-Maligaon kept moving from one puja place to another to explore the artistic depiction of Devi Durga.

The Bengali percussions of beautiful dhaks and energetic dhakis are the essence of Durga Puja. As I lazily moved away from the evening Arati, the sound gets quieter. Back home, it's time to offer some puja to seek blessings. Amidst all those colours of these festivals, I have already had my house painted in 'Grey'.

Coincidentally, my hair is set and turned gray. And I welcome this new silvery shade in my life. It's another cause for Puja celebration today. (The author can be reached at kamal.baruah@yahoo.com)

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
KAAC :: SECRETARIAT
DIPHU - 782460

No. KAAC/Power-62/NOC/2019/860

Dated: 19/10/2024

**235 nos. of Project Affected Families under 24 MW KLM-II H.P. Project at villages-Morinto,
 Long-eh Lobui of Chinthong mouza, Rongchek of Langpampi mouza, Donka, Revenue Circle.**

Sl.No.	Name of beneficiaries	P.P.No.	Dag No.	Class	Land Area
1	Sri. Welson Hanse S/o. Samsing Hanse	PP-38	225	Bari	10-0-0
2	Sri. Ansen Bey S/o. Sar im Bey	PP-42	313	Bari	2-0-0
3	Sri. Moniram Teron S/o. Lindok Teron	PP-10	234	Bari	10-0-0
4	Sri. Hemari Bey S/o. Sarmen Bey	PP-11	286	Bari	8-0-0
5	Sri. Longki Bey S/o. Hemari Bey	PP-12	214	Bari	10-0-0
6	Sri. Khi Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	PP-13	215	Bari	10-0-0
7	Sri. Chandra Bey S/o. Hemari Bey	PP-14	213	Bari	10-0-0
8	Sri. Jonasing Bey S/o. Sarmen Bey	PP-15	231	Bari	10-0-0
9	Sri. Mongal Sing Ingti S/o. Sarthe Ingti	PP-40	232	Bari	10-0-0
10	Sri. Jayaram Bey S/o. Sarthe Bey	PP-17	228	Bari	7-0-0
11	Sri. Ranjit Bey S/o. Heranga Bey	PP-25	468	Bari	20-0-0
12	Sri Borsing Lekthe S/o. Kangbura Lekthe	PP-41	383	Bari	10-0-0
13	Sri. Haliram Bey S/o. Charahei Bey	PP-30	176	Bari	6-0-0
14	Sri. Kehai Bey S/o. Sarmen Bey	PP-31	390	Bari	10-0-0
15	Sri. Chandra Hanse S/o. Hemari Hanse	PP-32	374	Bari	10-0-0
16	Sri. Moniram Teron S/o. Sarsing Teron	PP-18	223	Bari	10-0-0
17	Sri. Joyram Rongphar S/o. Chehok Rongphar	PP-19	282	Bari	3-0-0
18	Sri. Dhonsing Rongphar S/o. Hemari Rongphar	PP-20	321	Bari	10-0-0
19	Sri. Rasing Ingti S/o. Sarthe Ingti	PP-21	270	Bari	10-0-0
20	Sri. Dhorom Teron S/o. Lunse Teron	PP-22	299	Bari	10-0-0
21	Sri. Sar et Teron S/o. Ramsing Teron	PP-24	248	Bari	10-0-0
22	Sri. Chondra Rongphar S/o. Sarpo Rongphar	PP-26	181	Bari	10-0-0
23	Sri. Bimolsing Terang S/o. Lt-Raising Terang	PP-2	194	Bri	10-0-0
24	Sri. Lokhon Bey S/o. Sing Bey	AP-23	23	Bari	50-0-0
25	Sri. Lindok Lekthe S/o. Kangbura Lekthe	AP-396	402	Bari	2-0-0
26	Sri. Mahajan Bey S/o. Sarmen Bey	AP-374	378	Bari	10-0-0
27	Sri. Ram Bey S/o. Kangbura Bey	AP-367	373	Bari	10-0-0
28	Sri. Chandra Teron S/o. Sarsing Teron	AP-223	226	Bari	10-0-0
29	Sri. Ranjit Teron S/o. Seng Teron	AP-314	317	Bari	10-0-0
30	Sri. Joysing Hanse S/o. Habe Hanse	AP-298	301	Bari	10-0-0
31	Sri. Habe Rongphar S/o. Sarpo Rongphar	AP-261	264	Bari	10-0-0
32	Sri. Lunse Senar S/o. Sarpo Senar	AP-263	266	Bari	10-0-0
33	Sri. Hemari Senar S/o. Sarpo Senar	AP-277	280	Bari	10-0-0
34	Sri. Bidyasing Rongphar S/o. Sarpo Rongphar	AP-321	324	Bari	5-0-0
35	Sri. Kleverson Teron S/o. Rajen Teron	AP-242	245	Bari	10-0-0
36	Sri. Bidya Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	AP-391	397	Bari	10-0-0
37	Sri. Lumjong Ingti S/o. Jor Ingti	AP-364	368	Bari	2-0-0
38	Sri. Rowelson Tokbi S/o. Khonsing Tokbi	AP-353	357	Bari	5-0-0
39	Sri. Hemari Bey S/o. Bura Bey	AP-87	88	Bari	10-0-0
40	Sri. Hemphu Engti S/o. Ramsing Engti	AP-233	236	Bari	10-0-0
41	Sri. Chandra Rongphar S/o. Habe Rongphar	AP-248	251	Bari	10-0-0
42	Sri. Habe Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	AP-262	265	Bari	10-0-0
43	Sri. Rajen Teron S/o. Sar sing Teron	AP-274	277	Bari	10-0-0
44	Sri. Chondro Rongphar S/o. Headsing Rongphar	AP-269	272	Bari	10-0-0
45	Sri. Darsing Bey S/o. Sarmen Bey	AP-371	375	Bari	10-0-0
46	Sri. Sarmen Bey S/o. Sarsing Bey	AP-383	389	Bari	10-0-0
47	Smt. Bimola Katharpi W/o. Semson Rongphar	PP-17	140	Bari	3-0-0

Sl.No.	Name of beneficiaries	P.P.No.	Dag No.	Class	Land Area
48	Sri. Chandra Rongphar S/o. Sarthe Rongphar	PP-78	511	Phong	2-2-0
49	Sri Mukrang Bey S/o. Lokhon Bey	PP-77	510	Phong	0-3-15
50	Sri Bor - im Hanse S/o. Hemari Hanse	PP-57	490	Phong	3-0-0
51	Sri Robinson Kathar S/o. Ranjan Kathar	PP-73	506	Phong	1-4-15
52	Sri. Mongalsing Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	AP-309	312	Bari	10-0-0
53	Sri. Hemari Bey S/o. Sarthe Bey	AP-148	155	Bari	5-0-0
54	Sri. Semson Rongphar S/o. Sar ik Rongphar	PP-4 118	119	Bari	20-0-0
55	Sri. Mensing Rongpi S/o. Jor Rongpi	PP-19	90	Bari	10-0-0
56	Sri. Mangalsing Bey S/o. Bura Bey	PP-24	93	Bari	10-0-0
57	Sri. Welson Rongphar S/o. Sar ik Rongphar	PP-16	164 165	Bari	20-0-0
58	Sri. Hemari Senar S/o. Langtuk Senar	PP-20	160	Bari	7-0-0
59	Sri. Khorsing Bey S/o. Sarthe Bey	PP-14	158	Bari	10-0-0
60	Sri. Borsing Hanse S/o. Lindok Hanse	PP-15	153	Bari	10-0-0
61	Sri. Kendraching Teron S/o. Sabura Teron	PP-18	166 167	Bari	14-0-0
62	Sri. Bidya Kro S/o. Sarthe Kro	PP-21	157 161	Bari	14-0-0
63	Smt. Mekri Ingtipi W/o. Sarthe Bey	AP-142	148/149	Bari	7-0-0
64	Sri. Habe Senar S/o. Langtuk Senar	AP-351	355	Bari	3-0-0
65	Sri. Lipson Bey S/o. Longsing Bey	AP-339	342	Bari	5-0-0
66	Sri. Horen Rongpi S/o. Moniram Rongpi	AP-88	89	Bari	10-0-0
67	Sri. Sarthe Teron S/o. Kamar Teron	AP-322	338	Bari	10-0-0
68	Sri. Chandra Bey S/o. Sarthe Bey	AP-118	120	Bari	10-0-0
69	Sri. Rahul Senar S/o. Langtuk Senar	AP-86	87	Bari	10-0-0
70	Sri. Joysing Bey S/o. Bura Bey	AP-119	121	Bari	10-0-0
71	Sri. Samsing Hanse S/o. Rah Hanse	AP-95	96	Bari	10-0-0
72	Sri. Sikari Teron S/o. Chareeat Teron	AP-93	94	Bari	10-0-0
73	Sri. Bronson Kro S/o. Sarthe Kro	AP-145	152	Bari	4-0-0
74	Sri. Sarsing Kro S/o. Sarthe Kro	PP-76	509	Phong	0-0-15
75	Sri. Sarthe Teron S/o. Saret Teron	AP-264	267	Bari	10-0-0
76	Sri. Kamal Bey S/o. Bura Bey	AP-91	92	Bari	10-0-0
77	Sri. Bronson Teron S/o. Kambura Teron	AP-103	104	Bari	10-0-0
78	Sri. Chandra Singh Hanse S/o. Chinthong Hanse	AP-259	270	Bari	6-0-0
79	Sri. Habe Ingti S/o. Bura Ingti	AP-344	348	Phong	10-2-2
80	Sri. Headsing Bey S/o. Kangbura Bey	PP-59	492	Phong	0-0-15
81	Sri Daniel Ronghang S/o. Longki Ronghang	PP-26	340	Phong	1-0-0
82	Sri Sar-im Ronghang S/o. Longki Ronghang	PP-27	341	Phong	1-0-0
83	Sri Sarkangthim Ronghang S/o. Longki Ronghang	PP-28	342	Phong	1-0-0
84	Sri Sar Jakhong Ronghang S/o. Longsing Ronghang	PP-29	343	Phong	1-0-0
85	Smt. Elish Timungpi W/o. Longsing Ronghang	PP-32	346	Phong	1-0-0
86	Smt. Kasang Terangpi W/o. Longki Ronghang	PP-31	345	Phong	1-0-0
87	Sri Longbir Rongpi S/o. Hemari Rongpi	PP-25	339	Phong	1-0-0
88	Sri Rousing Teron S/o. Borson Teron	PP-34	348	Phong	1-0-0
89	Sri Dorsing Bey S/o. Lt. Brojendro Bey	PP-30	344	Phong	1-2-10
90	Sri Angtong Tisso S/o. Bidya Tisso	PP-33	347	Phong	1-1-10
91	Sri Borlongki Timung S/o. Longkam Timung	PP-65	498	Phong	2-1-5
92	Sri Angtang Bey S/o. Kehai Bey	PP-61	494	Phong	1-3-15
93	Sri Mahin Engtipi D/o. Dhaniram Engti	PP-49	482	Phong	1-2-10
94	Sri Sem Ronghang S/o. Lt-Sai Ronghang	PP-67	500	Phong	2-0-0
95	Sri Hingchong Bey S/o. Lt-Bimol Bey	PP-66	499	Phong	1-2-10
96	Sri Robinson Ronghang S/o. Lokhimon Ronghang	PP-63	496	Phong	2-2-15
97	Smt Urmila Teronpi D/o. Anjit Teron	PP-97	480	Phong	1-4-10
98	Sri Bidyasing Ronghang S/o. Ram Ronghang	PP-72	505	Phong	2-1-5
99	Sri Welson Teron S/o. Gopal Teron	PP-56	489	Phong	2-0-15

Contd. on P-7

Contd. from P-6

SI.No.	Name of beneficiaries	P.P.No.	Dag No.	Class	Land Area	SI.No.	Name of beneficiaries	P.P.No.	Dag No.	Class	Land Area
100	Sri. Longki Enghee S/o. Seng Enghee	PP-74	507	Phong	1-2-15	152	Sri. Chandra Teron S/o Sing Teron	PP - 58	159	Bagan	10-0-0
101	Sri Anjit Teron S/o Kania Teron	PP-60	493	Phong	1-3-10	153	Sri. Longkam Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	PP - 59	160	Bari	5-0-0
102	Smt Rakhi Timungpi D/o. Amphu Teronpi	PP-46	479	Phong	1-2-10	154	Sri Polin Terang S/o. James Terang	AP - 160	194/205	Bari	1-0-0
103	Smt Serlina Rongpipi D/o. Baliram Rongpi	PP-48	481	Phong	2-0-0	155	Smt Junali Tissopi D/o. Chandrasing Tisso	PP-123	258	Phong	1-0-0
104	Sri Klirhang Teron S/o. Boron sing Teron	PP-55	488	Phong	1-1-10	156	Smt Hunali Tissopi D/o. Chondrosing Tisso	PP-124	259	Phong	1-0-0
105	Smt. Pratima Teronpi D/o.Kangbura Teron	PP-50	483	Phong	1-0-0	157	Smt Maloti Engtipi Do. Joysing Engti	PP-125	260	Phong	1-0-0
106	Smt Nomita Beypi D/o. Lt Mensing Bey	PP-51	484	Phong	1-3-0	158	Smt Samili Tokbipi D/o. Sing Tokbi	PP-126	261	Phong	0-1-7
107	Smt Junmily Ronghangpi D/o. Lt. Mohon Ronghang	PP-52	485	Phong	1-2-0	159	Sri Joyram Tisso S/o. Chondrosing Tisso	PP-127	262	Phong	1-0-0
108	Smt Ruplin Teronpi D/o. Rajen Teron	PP-54	487	Phong	2-0-0	160	Sri Thong Teron S/o. Lt. Sarthe Teron	PP-128	263	Phong	1-0-0
109	Sri Boleswar Hanse S/o. Hemari Hanse	PP-58	491	Phong	1-0-0	161	Sri Bikrom Teron S/o. Longki Teron	PP-129	264	Phong	1-0-0
110	Sri. Romen Pator S/o. Lt. Sing Pator	PP - 06	107	Bari	5-0-0	162	Sri Mongolsing Ronghang S/o. Longsing Ronghang	PP-130	265	Phong	1-0-0
111	Sri. Khonsing Tokbi S/o Hemari Tokbi	PP - 08	109	Bagan	10-0-0	163	Sri Janta sing Kro S/o. Mensing Kro	PP-131	266	Phong	0-1-7
112	Sri. Rupsing Bey S/o Sarbura Bey	PP - 09	110	Bagan	10-0-0	164	Smt Basapi Ingtipi W/o. Chandrasing Tisso	PP-132	267	Phong	1-0-0
113	Sri. Longsing Terang S/o Rongbong Terang	PP - 10	111	Bagan	10-0-0	165	Smt Moina Beypi D/o. Jor Bey	PP-134	269	Phong	0-0-11
114	Sri. Kangbura Kro S/o Sarthe Kro	PP - 11	112	Bagan	10-0-0	166	Smt. Klirdap Engtipi D/o. Sundor Engti	PP-135	270	Phong	0-0-16
115	Sri. Sikari Teron S/o Long Teron	PP - 12	113	Bagan	10-0-0	167	Sri Samsing Hanse S/o. Dhoniram Hanse	PP-136	271	Phong	0-0-16
116	Sri. Hemari Kro S/o Mensing Kro	PP - 13	114	Bagan	10-0-0	168	Sri Longsing Senar S/o. Habe senar	PP-137	272	Phong	0-0-16
117	Sri. Chanjit Timung S/o Hemari Timung	PP - 14	115	Bagan	10-0-0	169	Sri Bronson Rongphar S/o.Lt-Sarmen Rongphar	PP-160	295	Bari	0-0-16
118	Sri. Prodip Kro S/o Mensing Kro	PP - 15	116	Bagan	10-0-0	170	Sri Heartyson Rongphar S/o. Longsing Rongphar	PP-139	274	Phong	0-1-7
119	Sri. Khorsing Bey S/o Jor Bey	PP - 16	117	Bagan	10-0-0	171	Sri Joysing Kro S/o. Sikari Kro	PP-140	275	Phong	0-0-16
120	Sri. Sar-im Kro S/o Sarbura Kro	PP - 17	118	Bagan	10-0-0	172	Smt Basapi Ronghangpi W/o.Sing Tokbi	PP-141	276	Phong	0-2-15
121	Sri. Khojasing Kro S/o Mensing Kro	PP - 18	119	Bagan	10-0-0	173	Smt Carolyne Engtipi W/o. Barnabas Ronghang	PP-142	277	Phong	0-1-7
122	Sri. Rupsing Teron S/o Long Teron	PP - 19	120	Bagan	10-0-0	174	Smt Kasang Kropi W/o. Mangalsing Teron	PP-156	292	Phong	2-0-6
123	Sri. Khorsing Teron S/o Sing Teron	PP - 20	121	Bagan	10-0-0	175	Smt Mirbon Teronpi W/o. Longki Ronghang	PP-144	279	Phong	0-0-16
124	Sri. Robi Kumar Engleng S/o Khorsing Engleng	PP - 22	123	Bagan	10-0-0	176	Smt Juti Teronpi W/o. Mongolsing Ronghan	PP-145	280	Phong	0-0-16
125	Sri. Hemari Hanse S/o Rongbong Hanse	PP - 23	124	Bagan	10-0-0	177	Smt Kabon Teronpi W/o. Sam Rongpi	PP-146	281	Phong	0-0-16
126	Sri. Sar-im Teron S/o. Seng Teron	PP - 25	126	Bagan	10-0-0	178	Smt Rani Tokbipi D/o. Longsing Tokbi	PP-147	282	Phong	1-0-0
127	Sri. Monsing Teron S/o. Sarbura Teron	PP - 26	127	Bagan	10-0-0	179	Sri Manuj Timung S/o. Pinson Timung	PP-148	283	Phong	1-0-0
128	Sri. Rupsing Rongpi S/o. Long Rongpi	PP - 27	128	Bagan	10-0-0	180	Smt Sangwai Teronpi W/o.Sarthe Engleng	PP-149	284	Phong	0-1-7
129	Sri. Ardong Teron S/o Sarbura Teron	PP - 28	129	Bagan	10-0-0	181	Sri Rajesh Rongphar S/o. Monsing Rongphar	PP-151	286	Phong	1-0-0
130	Sri. Monsing Teron S/o. Seng Teron	PP - 29	130	Bagan	10-0-0	182	Smt Jaya Teronpi D/o. Bidyasing Teron	PP-152	287	Phong	0-0-16
131	Sri. Ranjit Teron S/o. Lt. Sarthe Teron	PP - 30	131	Bagan	10-0-0	183	Sri Borkiri Engti S/o. Mongalsing Engti	PP-153	288	Phong	0-1-7
132	Sri. Chesong Teron S/o. Lt. Sarthe Teron	PP - 31	132	Bagan	10-0-0	184	Smt Rimbi Taropi W/o. Gautom Terang	PP-154	289	Phong	0-0-16
133	Sri. Hemari Teron S/o. Maichu Teron	PP - 32	133	Bagan	10-0-0	185	Sri.Joysing Kro S/o.Sarmen Kro	PP-157	293	Phong	0-0-16
134	Sri. Bihin Hanse S/o. Rongbong Hanse	PP - 34	135	Bagan	10-0-0	186	Sri Sonjib Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	PP-150	285	Phong	0-0-16
135	Sri. Joysing Hanse S/o. Lt. Lindok Hanse	PP - 35	136	Bagan	10-0-0	187	Sri Mangal Bey S/o. Bihin Bey	PP-97	232	Phong	1-3-0
136	Sri. Habe Timung S/o. Lumjong Timung	PP - 36	137	Bagan	10-0-0	188	Sri Ronjit Bey S/o. Birsing Bey	PP-95	230	Phong	1-4-10
137	Sri. Chandra Teron S/o. Kangbura Teron	PP - 38	139	Bari	10-0-0	189	Sri Mongalsing Ronghang S/o. Longsing Ronghang	PP-105	240	Phong	1-3-0
138	Sri. Men Teron S/o. Sarmen Teron	PP - 39	140	Bagan	10-0-0	190	Sri Mukasong Kathar S/o. Longkiri Kathar	PP-104	239	Phong	1-0-0
139	Sri. Dhonsing Teron S/o. Kania Teron	PP - 40	141	Bagan	10-0-0	191	Smt Nirmali Terangpi D/o. Joyram Terang	PP-81	216	Phong	1-0-15
140	Sri. Patar Timung S/o. Bidyasing Timung	PP - 41	142	Bagan	10-0-0	192	Smt Wilybon Terangpi D/o.Joyram Terang	PP-82	217	Phong	1-4-10
141	Sri Kangbura Teron S/o. Mai Teron	PP - 74	105	Bari	4-0-0	193	Smt Phulmoti Teronpi D/o. Dengjar Teron	PP-79	214	Phong	2-0-0
142	Smt. Basapi Timungpi W/o Rupsing Teron	PP - 43	144	Bagan	10-0-0	194	Sri. Ramson Kro S/o. Sinot Kro	PP - 49	150	Bari	5-0-0
143	Sri. Dhoniram Engleng S/o. Sarmen Engleng	PP - 44	145	Bagan	10-0-0	195	Sri Longkiri Ronghang S/o. Seng Ronghang	PP-116	251	Phong	1-1-10
144	Sri. Sam Rongpi S/o. Bura Rongpi	PP - 46	147	Bagan	10-0-0	196	Sri Mensing Timung S/o. Longkam Timung	PP-103	238	Phong	1-0-0
145	Sri. Semson Kro S/o. Mensing Kro	PP - 48	149	Bagan	10-0-0	197	Sri Robert Timung S/o.Chandra Timung	PP-96	231	Phong	1-1-10
146	Sri. Borsing Teron S/o. Maising Teron	PP - 51	152	Bagan	10-00	198	Smt Archona Hansepi D/o. Kangbura Hanse	PP-83	218	Phong	2-1-10
147	Sri. Hemari Teron S/o Sarbura Teron	PP - 52	153	Bagan	10-0-0	199	Sri Rokat Timung S/o. Bidyasing Timung	PP-94	229	Phong	1-1-10
148	Sri. Atursing Teron S/o Monsing Teron	PP - 53	154	Bagan	10-0-0	200	Smt Hunali Teronpi D/o. Thong Teron	PP-91	226	Phong	1-1-10
149	Sri. Lahorsing Kro S/o. Sodar Kro	PP - 54	155	Bari	5-0-0	201	Smt Sikaso Killingpi D/o. Hroton Sing Killing	PP-80	215	Phong	1-0-0
150	Sri. Sarbura Teron S/o. Basa Teron	PP - 56	157	Bari	5-0-0	202	Smt Sobina Killingpi D/o. Kasang Engtipi	PP-84	219	Phong	1-2-2
151	Sri. Mansing Teron S/o. Sarbura Teron	PP - 57	158	Bari	10-0-0	203	Smt Manai Terangpi W/o. Mongalsing Engti	PP-121	256	Phong	1-0-0

Contd. on P-8

Mapithel Dam victims resent alleged breach of MoA



IMPHAL, Oct 19: Village headmen/chiefs of the villages affected by the Thoubal Multipurpose Project (Mapithel Dam) in Manipur are angry over the government's alleged failure to implement the rehabilitation and resettlement plans agreed upon in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

The Mapithel Dam Affected Headmen, Chiefs & Elders Organization (MDAHCEO) has urged the government to decommission the dam, citing violations of the "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013".

Addressing a press conference at the Manipur Press Club in Imphal recently, MDAHCEO chairman M Ngaranmi expressed the villagers' frustration, stating that the government's inaction has left the villages in the state of uncertainty.

He lamented that the State Government has ignored most of the 18 points related to the Economic Livelihood Rehabilitation Packages included in the MoA which was signed between the village headmen/chiefs/elders of the affected villages and the State Government in 2020.

Ngaranmi said that the Director of the Ministry of Welfare TD Division, Government of India, had approved and cleared their rehabilitation and resettlement plan in 1997.

The chairman then demanded the government to decommission the dam if it cannot meet the points agreed in the MoA. (NNN)

Normalcy can return only if 'weaponisation of society' is reduced: Manipur DGP

'Only solution to these problems will be a peaceful dialogue'

IMPHAL, Oct 19: Asserting that the Manipur Police was working round the clock to recover the arms that were looted from the security forces, DGP Rajiv Singh on Saturday said normalcy would only return if "weaponisation of society" could be reduced. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 133rd Manipur Police Raising Day, Singh claimed the situation in the state has improved.

"These are very challenging times, a complex situation, but we have been trying to tackle it with the best possible strength, which we have, and with the cooperation of everybody, including the public, security agencies, CSOs and leaders of all communities," he said.

"Weapons which are there in the society should come back to where they belong -- to the security forces, from where those were taken. For that, we are conducting operations and every day we are recovering weapons. We have appealed to the public to help us as well. Normalcy can only come if the weaponisation of society is reduced to a large extent. The Manipur Police is working round the clock," he added.

Singh said there are certain problems but efforts were being made to resolve those to establish peace in the state.

"If you see in the last one and a half years,



things have definitely improved. Violence, deaths and injuries have come down. There are sporadic incidents of firing and arson but security forces are on alert and everybody is on to the job to ensure that nothing escalates," he said.

"As the police head of the state, I request people on both sides to come forward with suggestions and try to talk it out. The only solution to these problems will be a peaceful dialogue," he said.

Stating that the Manipur Police was a "very civilian-friendly force", the DGP said

in certain situations, the security forces acted with caution.

"We take into account everything. There have been instances where security forces have not pushed themselves because otherwise, it would have resulted in a lot of damage to innocent civilians. We also appeal to the public to get going about your normal work, instead of going to protests," he said.

Over 200 people were killed and thousands were rendered homeless in the ethnic clashes between Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023. (PTI)

Report on custodial death of tribal man within 15 days demanded

AGARTALA, Oct 19: The Tripura Human Rights Commission (THRC) has asked the DGP to submit an interim report by the next 15 days on the alleged custodial death of a tribal man in South Tripura's Manubazar, an official said on Saturday.

According to the official the THRC has taken provisional cognisance of the matter and directed the DGP to inquire into the matter and submit the report within 15 days.

"A news item published in daily newspapers reported that a person named Badal Tripura of Kaladepa under Sabroom police station was arrested by police on the allegation of theft of rubber sheets and he was subjected to physical torture and as a result, he succumbed to the injuries", an order passed by THRC chairman Justice (Retd) S C Das said on Friday.

The order also said "Five police personnel have been suspended. The allegation attracts the violation of human rights, prima facie and therefore provisional cognisance has been taken into the matter. The Commission directs the DGP, Tripura, to inquire into the matter immediately and to submit an interim report within fifteen days pending detailed inquiry."

The THRC has listed the matter for hearing on November 5.



Meanwhile, hundreds of Youth Congress, NSUI and Mahila Congress leaders and activists on Saturday barged into THRC premises at Kunjaban area of Agartala and staged a demonstration over the "inactive" role of the rights body. They put a piece of black cloth on the signboard of the rights body and demanded the resignation of the chairman for "failing" to protect human rights.

"There has been a number of cases where human rights were grossly violated in the state over the past few months but the human rights commission remains silent... the rights body keeps mum on the human rights violation. We want the right body to wake up and protect human rights," senior Congress leader Md Shahjahan Islam told reporters. (PTI)

Arunachal education minister bats for merging schools with low enrolment

ITANAGAR, Oct 19: Merging state-run schools with low enrolment will solve most of the problems in the public education system, Arunachal Pradesh's education minister Pasang Dorjee Sona said.

The minister, who is on a tour to review the follow-up of the 'Chintan Shivir', said the merging of schools should be done as per the availability of infrastructure, land and accessibility to basic amenities through a pragmatic approach.

"Our vision is to provide quality education to every child from elementary level itself by clubbing and merging primary level schools, and provide quality infrastructure and better human resources, besides other interventions," Sona said on Friday while visiting Yingkiang, the headquarters of the Upper Siang district.

The education department conducted a three-day 'Chintan Shivir' in August. During the meeting, stakeholders discussed strategies for providing quality education to every child in the state. "We started a mission to reach out to people in every district of the state and know their ideas and ground situations so that there is no hindrance during the implementation of the

programmes," Sona said. He said the clubbing of schools needs to be taken up on a mission mode for the brighter future of the students.

Advisor to the education minister Mutchu Mithi said that instead of quantity the focus is on improving the quality of education in the state.

Upper Siang's deputy director of school education Duhon Tekseng, in a representation to the minister, sought more teachers, science stream for Mariyang Government Higher Secondary School, renovation of schools and teachers' quarters.

Sona had in July told the assembly that over 600 schools have been closed down or merged with other schools in the state.

Arunachal Pradesh has over 2,800 government-run lower primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools. There are over 7,600 regular teachers and more than 5,900 ISSE (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan teachers).

There is a shortage of 414 trained graduate teachers (TGTs), and 186 PGTs in the state, including in Maths and Science, officials said. (PTI)

Manipuri film community mourns loss of director



IMPHAL, Oct 19: The Manipuri film community mourned the loss of Debkumar Bose, a pivotal figure in the history of Manipuri cinema. Bose, director of Matangi Manipur (1972)—the first full-length Manipuri feature film—passed away at Bellevue Hospital at 8 am on October 18, 2024. "His passing marks the end of an era for Manipuri cinema, which he helped bring to life with his directorial vision and cultural sensitivity," a statement from the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) said.

Born on September 21, 1933, Debkumar Bose was the son of Debaki Bose, a legendary Indian filmmaker whose film Seeta (1934) was the first Indian movie to be showcased at an international film festival, the Venice Film Festival. The cinematic legacy passed down to Debkumar Bose shaped his deep understanding of storytelling and artistic innovation.

Despite his limited knowledge of the local language, Meiteilon, Debkumar Bose embraced the challenge of directing Matangi Manipur, a film that delved into the intricacies of Manipuri society, the MSFDS also said. The film explored the tension between tradition and modernization, highlighting the erosion of family structures due to the pressures of modernization. His storytelling approach was sensitive and subtle, focusing on emotional depth rather than melodrama, making his work stand out in both regional and national cinema. Bose's direction in Matangi Manipur was instrumental in bringing Manipuri stories to the screen, and the film itself remains a cornerstone of the state's film industry. It was recognized with a Presidential Medal, a testament to the film's profound impact on Manipuri culture and its cinematic journey. Through this work, Bose not only introduced Manipuri cinema to the world but also left an indelible legacy for future filmmakers from the region.

Before his contribution to Manipuri cinema, Debkumar Bose had already established himself as a respected filmmaker in Bengali cinema, working alongside icons like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen. His notable works included Dadathakur (1962), a biographical film about the poet and satirist Sarat Chandra Pandit, which showcased Bose's ability to portray complex personalities and narratives. In his lifetime, Bose garnered numerous accolades, including a Presidential Medal for Matangi Manipur. His contribution to Manipuri cinema laid the foundation for an industry that has since thrived and expanded, influencing many filmmakers to explore the rich cultural tapestry of the State.

To honor Debkumar Bose's memory, the MSFDS, along with members of Film Forum Manipur, held a candlelight vigil at the memorial stone of Manipuri cinema. The event, held at the MSFDS complex, was a solemn tribute to the filmmaker who gave birth to Manipuri cinema. The film community gathered to pay their respects, offering prayers for his soul to rest in peace, the MSFDS added. Debkumar Bose's contribution to Manipuri cinema will continue to inspire generations of filmmakers, reminding them of the power of cinema to tell meaningful stories and preserve cultural heritage. (NNN)

Contd. from P-7

SL.No.	Name of beneficiaries	P.P.No.	Dag No.	Class	Land Area
204	Sri Mangal Sing Engti S/o. Lt. Sarsing Engti	PP-108	243	Phong	1-3-0
205	Sri Budheswar Engti S/o. Lt. Longki Engti	PP-107	242	Phong	1-1-15
206	Sri Longbir Teron S/o. Kamsing Teron	PP-100	235	Phong	1-0-0
207	Sri. Novinson Kro S/o. Rajen Kro	PP - 50	151	Bari	5-0-0
208	Sri Joysing Teron S/o. Sodar Teron	PP-117	252	Phong	1-1-10
209	Smt Rimbika Timungpi D/o. Longkam Timung	PP-86	221	Phong	1-2-15
210	Sri Raju Teron S/o. Hemari Teron	PP-99	234	Phong	1-1-18
211	Sri Monjeet sing Bey S/o.Lt-Sikari Bey	PP-109	244	Phong	1-0-0
212	Sri Roben Teron Langneh S/o. Rajen Teron	PP-112	247	Phong	1-2-7
213	Smt Kamini Teronpi D/o. Joyram Teron	PP-87	222	Phong	1-1-7
214	Sri Deepson Ronghang S/o. Hemari Ronghang	PP-93	228	Phong	1-1-7
215	Smt Monjir Timungpi D/o. Ranjit Timung	PP-78	213	Phong	1-1-7
216	Smt Larlyn Katharpi D/o. Semson Kathar	PP-88	223	Phong	2-0-0
217	Smt Klirmi Katharpi D/o. Semson Kathar	PP-89	224	Phong	1-1-7
218	Sri Lipson Hanse S/o. Samsing Hanse	PP-114	249	Phong	1-2-5
219	Smt Leen Teronpi D/o. Thong Teron	PP-90	225	Phong	1-1-10
220	Sri Augustine Kro S/o. Rajen Kro	PP-133	268	Phong	1-4-3
221	Smt Reena Engtipi D/o. Lt Benting Engti	PP-85	220	Phong	1-2-10
222	Smt Menuka Bongrunipi D/o. Welson	PP-92	227	Phong	2-0-0
223	Sri. Babu Engti S/o. Hemari Engti	PP-98	233	Phong	1-0-0
224	Sri Tingku Kramsma S/o.. Lt. Haren Kramsma	PP-101	238	Phong	10-0
225	Sri Elison Terang S/o Lt Sonsing Terang	PP-102	237	Phong	1-0-0
226	Smt. Leena Timungpi W/o. Johnny Tisso	PP-118	253	Phong	0-2-10
227	Sri Reso Terang S/o. Longsing Terang	PP-106	241	Phong	1-0-0
228	Sri Komorsing Enghee S/o. Mohen Enghee	PP-110	245	Phong	1-0-0
229	Sri Godwin Timung S/o Ronjon Timung	PP-113	248	Phong	1-2-10
230	Sri Raikom Taro S/o. Sarsing Taro	PP-115	250	Phong	1-0-0
231	Smt Kungri Rongpipi W/o. Kensing Kro	PP-119	254	Phong	2-0-0
232	Sri Phudang Singnarpi W/o. Mansing Bey	PP-120	255	Phong	1-0-0
233	Smt Moromi Terangpi D/o. Sonsing Terang	PP-122	257	Phong	1-0-0
234	Smt.Hunmili Tissopi W/o.Bijoy Timung	PP-159	295	Phong	1-3-0
235	Smt. Serlin Kropi D/o. Babu Kro	PP-158	293	Phong	0-3-0

ENGINEERING WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. LMGE/Engg/153 of 2024; Dated: 15-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **SN. 1. Brief Description of Item:** Reconditioning of worn out CMS crossing in situ by Translaminar, robotic or Similar welding technology and reconditioning of cupped AT welding joints and wheel Burns/ scabs under Sr DEN/IV/Lumding. **Tender Value:** 765,11,328/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,36,200/-

E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 11-11-2024 and opened at 15:00 hrs on 12-11-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 11-11-2024 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

DRM Works, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

E-AUCTION CATALOGUE FOR SLR'S & VP LEASING OVER RANGIYA DIVISION

E-auction is invited for SLR'S & VP Leasing over Rangiya Division. **Auction Catalogue No. SLR-Leasing-047. Category:** Parcel - SLR (Single Compartment); **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee. **Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots):** At 11:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024.

SL No.	Lot No.	Days	Description
AA/1	15967-SLR-F1-RNY-LEDO-22-2	312	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/2	05861-SLR-R1-RNY-DKGN-22-3	730	RNY-DKGN Pass Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/3	05862-SLR-R1-DKGN-RNY-22-2	730	DKGN-RNY Pass Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/4	05894-SLR-F2-RPAN-RNY-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/5	15818-SLR-F1-NHLN-SKHV-22-1	730	Donyi Polo Exp (NHLN-SKHV) Parcel Space in F1/LVLR/RRM-1 Coach
AA/6	15816-SLR-F1-DKGN-GHY-22-3	730	DKGN-GHY Intercity Exp Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/7	22411-SLR-F1-NHLN-ANVT-22-2	209	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/8	15927-SLR-F2-RNY-NTSK-22-2	418	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/9	15816-SLR-F2-DKGN-GHY-22-3	730	DKGN-GHY Intercity Exp Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/10	05862-SLR-F2-DKGN-RNY-22-2	730	DKGN-RNY Pass Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/11	15895-SLR-F2-RNY-MZS-22-3	730	RNY-MZS Exp Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/12	15813-SLR-R1-DKGN-MZS-22-3	730	DKGN-MZS Exp parcel space in Rear-1 SLR coach
AA/13	05801-SLR-F1-NBQ-GHY-23-1	730	Manas Rhino Passenger Special Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/14	05894-SLR-F1-RPAN-RNY-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/15	05893-SLR-R1-RNY-RPAN-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/16	15895-SLR-R1-RNY-MZS-22-3	730	RNY-MZS Exp Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/17	15813-SLR-F2-DKGN-MZS-22-2	730	DKGN-MZS Exp parcel space in Front-2 SLR coach
AA/18	05861-SLR-F2-RNY-DKGN-22-3	730	RNY-DKGN Pass Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/19	05801-SLR-R1-NBQ-GHY-23-1	730	Manas Rhino Exp. Parcel -SLR
AA/20	05893-SLR-F2-RNY-RPAN-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/21	05862-SLR-F1-DKGN-RNY-22-2	730	DKGN-RNY Pass Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/22	05801-SLR-F2-NBQ-GHY-23-1	730	Manas Rhino Exp. Parcel -SLR
AA/23	05894-SLR-R1-RPAN-RNY-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/24	05893-SLR-F1-RNY-RPAN-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/25	15611-SLR-F2-RNY-SCL-24-1	626	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/26	15895-SLR-F1-RNY-MZS-22-3	730	RNY-MZS Exp Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/27	15813-SLR-F1-DKGN-MZS-22-3	730	DKGN-MZS Exp parcel space in Front-1 SLR coach
AA/28	15908-SLR-F1-NHLN-TSK-22-2	621	NHLN-TSK I/C Exp. F1/LVLR/RRM-1 Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/29	15816-SLR-R1-DKGN-GHY-22-3	730	DKGN-GHY Intercity Exp Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/30	05861-SLR-F1-RNY-DKGN-22-2	730	RNY-DKGN Pass Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/31	15967-SLR-F2-RNY-LEDO-22-2	312	Parcel Space in SLR Coach

Lot end date & time: At 16:30 hrs. on 30-10-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. **Note:** Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

Auction Catalogue No.: VP-leasing-10

SL No.	Lot No.	Days	Description
AA/1	15611-15612-VP-1-RNY-SCL-24-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	626	Parcel Space in Parcel Van

Auction Start: At 11:00 hrs. on 01-11-2024. **Lot end date & time:** At 11:30 hrs. on 01-11-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. **Note:** Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Total land area

Sd/-
Joint Secretary
Department of Revenue
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council
DIPHU

No. KAAC/Power-62/NOC/2019/860(A) Dated: 19/10/2024

Cong, JMM to contest 70 of 81 Jharkhand assembly seats: Hemant Soren

RANCHI, Oct 19: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday said that the INDIA bloc partners will contest the upcoming assembly polls together and the Congress and the JMM will field candidates in 70 of 81 seats.

Seat-sharing talks are on with alliance partners - the RJD and the Left parties - for the remaining 11 seats, he said.

The assembly polls for 81 seats will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20, and counting will take place on November 23.

"INDIA bloc will contest the Jharkhand assembly polls together. It has been decided during the seat-sharing talks with the allies that the Congress and the JMM will field candidates in 70 of 81 seats," Soren said after meeting



with the alliance partners here.

He said the decision was taken after consultations with allies and candidates would be announced soon.

Soren said the JMM-led al-

liance was confident of retaining power in the state on the back of its development work.

The NDA on Friday announced its seat-sharing formula among its partners. The BJP will contest 68

seats, AJSU Party 10, JD(U) 2 and LJP (Ram Vilas) 1.

Filing of nomination papers for 43 assembly constituencies of Jharkhand, which are going to polls on November 13 in the first phase, began on Friday and will continue till October 25.

In 2019, the JMM-led alliance won 47 seats in the Jharkhand assembly, including 30 of JMM and 16 of the Congress.

The BJP had secured 25 seats, JVM-P 3, AJSU Party 2, CPI-ML 1, NCP- 1 and independents 2.

Currently, the strength of the assembly stands at 74, with the JMM-led ruling alliance having 44 members.

Two JMM legislators, Nalin Soren and Joba Majhi, are now members of Parliament, while Jama legislator Sita Soren re-

signed to contest the Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket.

Additionally, Borio MLA Lobin Hembram was recently disqualified under the anti-defection law.

Similarly, the BJP's strength has decreased to 23, with two of its MLAs—Dhulu Mahto (Baghmar) and Manish Jaiswal (Hazariabag)—now serving as MPs.

Mandu MLA Jaiprakash Bhai Patel, who joined Congress before the Lok Sabha elections, was also disqualified under the anti-defection law.

Altogether 2.60 crore electors, including 11.84 lakh first-time voters and 1.13 lakh persons with disabilities (PwD), third gender and senior citizens over 85 years of age, are eligible to exercise their franchise in the upcoming elections. (PTI)

Mamata appeals to striking doctors to end fast-unto-death, rejects demand to remove health secretary



KOLKATA, Oct 19: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday urged the junior doctors protesting the rape and murder of their colleague at RG Kar Hospital to end their fast-unto-death, stating that most of their demands have been addressed while rejecting their insistence on removing the state health secretary.

Speaking to the doctors over the phone during a visit by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty to the protest site in Esplanade, Banerjee said, "Everybody has the right to protest, but it shouldn't affect healthcare services. I would request you all to withdraw your fast."

The junior doctors have been demanding the removal of the state Health Secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam, besides addressing other issues.

In response, Banerjee acknowledged their frustration but said, "You know why I did not remove the health secretary. It is not possible to remove everybody in a department in one go. We had earlier removed the DHS and DME. Please rise above politics and rejoin work."

"How can you decide which officer will be removed or not? Is this logical?" she questioned.

The junior doctors have been on a fast-unto-death for two weeks, demanding justice for their deceased colleague and calling for systemic changes in the state's healthcare infrastructure.

So far, six doctors on hunger strike have been hospitalised due to deteriorating health, while eight others remain on an indefinite fast, demanding that the state government take constructive action by October 21 to resolve the deadlock.

The CM stressed that the doctors should withdraw their strike and meet her at state secretariat Nabanna on Monday to further discuss their demands.

"I have removed the Commissioner of Police (CP), the Director of Medical Education (DME), and the Director of Health Services (DHS), but I cannot remove everyone in the department," Banerjee explained.

"Some of your demands need policy decisions. We will cooperate to the fullest extent possible, but it is not acceptable that you will dictate to the government what should be done," she asserted.

She appealed to their sense of responsibility, emphasising the impact the strike was having on healthcare services in the state.

"People are dependent on you for treatment. Where will the poor people go? They are treated free in government hospitals. Please forget my position and treat me as your 'Didi'. These are your just demands, but you should serve the people," she urged.

The agitating doctors, who have been joined by their colleagues across the state, have also threatened to escalate the protest by organising a strike of all medical professionals in West Bengal on

October 22 if their demands were not met.

Moreover, they are in discussions with their counterparts in other states about holding a countrywide strike on Tuesday, further intensifying the pressure on the West Bengal government.

The demands of the junior doctors include justice for their deceased colleague, whom they believe was failed by the system. They are seeking accountability and a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

Banerjee reassured them that the case is being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), saying, "I hope that CBI will bring you justice."

The doctors are also calling for systemic reforms to improve workplace safety in medical institutions.

In addition to the removal of Health Secretary Nigam, which the chief minister has so far resisted, the junior doctors are also demanding the holding of elections in medical colleges. Banerjee acknowledged this demand but asked for more time, citing the upcoming Diwali celebrations and by-elections in the state.

"Please give me three to four months, which are needed to hold the student elections," she said.

While the chief minister has promised to address most of their concerns within three to four months, the doctors remain firm in their demand for immediate action.

A mega rally is planned for Sunday to further press their demands, and the threat of a statewide and potentially nationwide strike looms on October 22 if no resolution is reached.

Banerjee said her government has taken some steps to address the doctors' grievances.

She pointed out that Rs 113 crore had been allocated for the upgradation of health infrastructure in the state, including 43 multi-specialty hospitals, but more doctors are needed to staff these facilities.

She also assured the doctors that steps have been taken to enhance security and protection for healthcare workers at their workplaces.

"Please restore normalcy and we will cooperate to the fullest extent possible. It is up to you whether you want to restore normalcy or not," she said, urging the doctors to return to work while their demands are being addressed.

"Some of your demands require policy decisions, but they cannot be implemented overnight. Please rise above politics and think about the people who depend on you for their treatment," Banerjee said in her closing appeal to the doctors.

The junior doctors went on a 'cease-work' following the alleged rape-murder of their fellow medic at RG Kar hospital on August 9.

The hunger strike began on October 5, following nearly 50 days of 'cease work' in two phases, after the tragic rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee inside state-run RG Kar Medical College on August 9. (PTI)

Want to see smiles back on faces of people in both Jammu, Kashmir divisions: CM Omar Abdullah

JAMMU, Oct 19: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his government will not be run on the voting pattern witnessed in the assembly elections as he wants to see the "missing smiles" back on the faces of the people in both the divisions of the Union Territory (UT).

Abdullah, who assumed the charge of the new government in Srinagar on Wednesday, was accorded a rousing reception on reaching the National Conference (NC) headquarters in the winter capital.

The BJP swept the polls in Jammu to emerge as the second largest party. In the recently held JK assembly polls, results of which were declared on October 8, the BJP won 29 of the 90 seats on which elections were held and garnered 25.64 per cent vote share.

This was the first visit of Abdullah to Jammu after becoming the chief minister with his party winning 42 seats and bagging 23.43 per cents votes. Its alliance partner Congress won six seats and CPI(M) one.

"When the election results were out, some people started spreading rumours that Jammu will be punished because they have not voted NC-Congress coalition candidates. But I make it clear on day one that this government will be for all, irrespective of whether anyone had voted for it or not," Abdullah said amid thunderous applause from the jam-packed gathering.

He said the NC was under no compulsion to appoint a deputy chief minister like the previous coalition governments headed by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Ghulam Nabi Azad and himself to give representation to both the regions.

"The Congress has so far not taken any decision to join the new cabinet. We took a decision and



appointed a deputy chief minister (Surinder Choudhary) from our own party.

"It was an answer to those who during election campaigning used to say that NC is a party of Muslims and a Kashmir-based dynastic party that cannot tolerate leaders from Jammu. Now we have a deputy CM who is a Hindu and has nothing to do with my family," the chief minister said.

Without naming the BJP, he said the delimitation and reservation were done in a way to benefit one party but "all tactics including use of government machinery can never help you win elections".

"Easy work is done by reaching here (forming the government). Now the difficult work starts as we have to fulfil the aspirations of the people, pull them out of their difficulties and bridge the gap between the government and the people," he said.

Referring to the welcome speech of senior party leader and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadotra, Abdullah said he was compelled to ask why the anger of the people against the Lt Governor-led administration could not be seen on the polling booths.

"The people of Kashmir, Chenab valley and Pir Panjal region showed their anger by voting

for us... We also heard that the people in Jammu are angry over stopping of 'Darbar Move', installation of smart meters, high electricity bills, water shortage and growing unemployment but the anger could not be seen at the polling booths. What is the reason for this?"

"We have to understand it and if they are not upset (with BJP), we don't need to do much because everything is alright for them. But if they are angry and despite their anger, they voted for one side, we have to look for the reasons," he said.

However, the chief minister said whatever the reasons, he knows that his government will not run on the voting pattern.

"Elections are over and the people gave their mandate. The government is formed and now it is our turn to reach out to the people and address their issues... After 2018 (when the PDP-BJP government collapsed), people faced a lot of problems and are disappointed," he said.

Abdullah assured the people that they would be heard by his government and "your voices won't be lost in the darkness anymore".

He asked the party workers not to "misuse the government" for their own benefit. (PTI)

Adityanath renews membership under BJP's Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan

LUCKNOW, Oct 19: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday renewed his membership with the BJP, reaffirming his commitment as an "active member" and saying he is "enlightened by the spirit of Nation First".

The aim of the campaign is to broaden the membership base of the Bharatiya Janata Party and to promote its core principles among the public.

Adityanath renewed his membership under the BJP's 'Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan'. UP BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary was also present on the occasion.

In a post on X in Hindi, Adityanath said, "Enlightened by the spirit of 'Nation First', I felt very happy to renew my membership as an active worker of @BJP4India today under the 'Active Membership Campaign' of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the world's

largest political party."

"I appeal to all my respected workers to definitely join this campaign started under the able leadership of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji and strengthen the resolve of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat'," he said.

With nationalism and development as its foundational pillars, the BJP seeks to enhance its ideological strength through this initiative, a statement said, adding as part of this membership drive, millions of workers and supporters across the country are being encouraged to join the party.

It said Adityanath's active participation will further fortify the BJP and strengthen its dominance in Indian politics. CM Adityanath urged people to actively engage in this campaign and contribute to steering the country in a new direction, the statement added. (PTI)

SP wants 12 seats as part of MVA to contest in Maharashtra assembly polls: Akhilesh

DHULE, Oct 19: The Samajwadi Party (SP) has asked for 12 seats as part of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra, party chief Akhilesh Singh Yadav said on Saturday, even as the alliance is yet to declare its seat-sharing arrangement.

Talking to reporters in north Maharashtra's Dhule district, Yadav said his party has declared candidates for five seats.

Yadav said his party is the one that is satisfied with a few seats.

"We have asked for 12 seats (as part of the MVA)," he said, adding that the SP has shared details of the seats where it has a strong presence.

The SP's assertion has come at a time when the MVA constituents are in a stalemate over seat-sharing.

On Saturday, the SP declared the candidature of Irshad Jahagirdar from Dhule city, making him the fifth candidate of the party so far.

The party on Friday declared sit-

ting MLA Rais Shaikh's candidature from Bhiwandi East, Riyaz Azmi from Bhiwandi West and Shaan-E-Hind from Malegaon Central. The SP's state president, Abu Asim Azmi, is a sitting MLA from the Shivajinagar-Mankhurd seat.

Yadav addressed rallies in Malegaon on Friday and Dhule on Saturday.

Talking to PTI, Abu Azmi said, "We have declared five candidates so that they (MVA) know that we are strong here, or else they will tell us in the meeting that your candidate is not very strong. We have shown that we are asking for seats where we are strong."

He said Congress has not won the Bhiwandi East seat since 1999.

"Only we will win this seat. They should not regret it like Haryana later (if the MVA fields a candidate from the seat)," he said. (PTI)

Changing weather conditions responsible for Delhi's poor air quality: Gopal Rai

DELHI, Oct 19: Delhi's air quality has deteriorated to the 'poor' category due to changing weather conditions and the pollution level is expected to worsen after Diwali, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Saturday.

Rai told PTI Videos that the Delhi government is doing everything it can to control dust pollution and needs the cooperation of residents.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the 'poor' category with a reading of 273 at 9 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

In some areas, the air quality was worse.

The AQI in Mundka and Bawana stood at 366, Wazirpur 355, Jahangirpuri 347 and Anand



Vihar 333, all in the 'very poor' category, the data showed.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'se-

vere'.

Rai said Delhi's air quality has dropped to the 'poor' category due to changing weather conditions and with temperatures dropping, the situation could deteriorate further.

It is likely to worsen after Di-

wali, he said.

"For such emergencies, we have written to the central government," the minister said.

"Approximately 2.5 lakh inspections have been conducted and anti-dust campaigns are in full swing across Delhi. Wherever violations are found, penalties are being imposed," he said.

So far, fines totalling Rs 17 lakh have been levied on those found violating dust control regulations. Starting Sunday, the enforcement drive will be intensified, Rai said.

With winter approaching, he highlighted the need for urgent action.

On the 'very poor' air quality in Anand Vihar, Rai said the government has deployed 10 anti-smog guns in the area.

"We are doing everything we can to control dust pollution but we need public cooperation to lower pollution levels," the minister said.

"I have also directed officials to conduct a joint campaign with Uttar Pradesh to combat pollution in Anand Vihar," he said.

Rai blamed Uttar Pradesh for polluting the Yamuna.

"They send the white froth from Uttar Pradesh and we clean it. We did it yesterday and we will do it again today," he said.

The Yamuna in Delhi was seen covered with a thick layer of white froth on Friday.

Videos circulating on social media showed vast sections of the river frothing, resembling clouds over the water which gradually dissipated later in the day. (PTI)

NORWEGIAN BAND GABBA BRINGS THE TALES OF A YOIKER TO JODHPUR RIFF



JODHPUR, Oct 19: Yoik master John Andre Eira vocalises sounds, which would make little sense in isolation, but put together create melodies powerful enough to transport the listeners to the northern reaches of Norway, its people and their stories. Coming from thousands of miles away from the frozen environs of northern Norway to the heat of India, Norwegian yoik band Gabba performed at Jodhpur RIFF at the historic Mehrangarh fort. Yoik is not unlike the sargam in Hindustani classical music, or the konnakol in Carnatic music where a string of sounds make a melody each time they are put together. For the indigenous Sami people in the northern regions of Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Russia, Yoik is a way of life.

Eira, who is also the lead or the 'Yoik master' of the band, said the unique singing tradition is devoid of words but is full of emotions.

"A yoik is a melody without lyrics, first and foremost. There are only sounds such as slo, la, lye, and so on and the melody is supposed to describe or depict something or someone," Eira told PTI. Traditionally performed without instruments, a Yoik (also spelled Joik or Jojk) is often "given to a person". "And then the yoik is describing or painting a picture of that person. So we say about Yoik that it is not about a person, it is a person's yoik," he said.

The six-member band, led by Eira, performed yoik's of his grandfather, his great grandfather, his mother and his sister's daughter's daughter to the accompaniment of guitar, banjo, drums, trumpet and bass. Gabba, meaning "ivory-coated reindeer", won the Spellemannprisen award in 2022 that is equivalent to a Norwegian Grammy for weaving traditional and modern yoik singing style into a vibrant musical tapestry influenced by Norwegian folk, Americana, and world music. Eira, who was born without vision in his eyes, started "yoiking" at the age of two - "before I could speak, I could yoik" - and would catch on the yoiks by his family members.

"There was no one in particular who taught me. I used to listen to my family members, my uncle's and aunts, and my father, they were yoikers and I just picked up the melody and started to yoik them and experiment with them," he said. However, the art of yoiking goes beyond stringing together words with a melody, as each yoik is different from the other and the learning process for Eira involved long hours visiting old archives. "When I got older I also visited many archives, Sami archives and found many old yoik recordings. So it's a lot of researching with a learning process. You have to find those recordings and listen to them over and over again," Eira added. (PTI)

Shraddha Kapoor decodes success of 'Stree 2', says her best is yet to come

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Bollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor says the credit for the resounding success of her latest movie "Stree 2" belongs to its "fabulous team" that crafted a sequel true to the spirit of the original.

The Amar Kaushik-directed horror comedy, a sequel to the 2019 film "Stree", has emerged as the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time at the domestic box office, with a collection of over Rs 600 crore.

At an event on Friday evening, where the iconic magazine Screen was re-launched, Kapoor called the film a "pure cinematic joy" and praised the collaborative effort of the crew and her co-stars Rajkumar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee, and Aparshakti Khurana.

"We have brilliant actors in the film. We have some really entertaining dialogues. So, it has been a fabulous team effort and pure cinematic joy. I'm really proud to be a part of this film," Kapoor said.

For Kapoor, it all began with "Stree", set in the small town of Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh, where an evil spirit named 'Stree' abducts men during the festival season. The story was based on the urban legend of "Nale Ba," which went viral in Karnataka in the 1990s.

"It was about six years ago, and Maddock Films was just up and coming as a production house. All the actors were at very different stages in our careers. We were also growing in our own ways," she said. "My personal reaction when I heard the first part was that I felt like I hadn't heard a film like that before. It was based on an urban legend, and I was literally falling off the sofa when I heard it. I was so glad that they came to me for this film, which is pure entertainment. I was genuinely laughing at the dialogues and the scenes," she added.

Kapoor, 37, said the movie and her character received immense love from audiences. "My character is this mysterious girl who comes and goes, and you're constantly wondering about her presence. So, it all began there. And hats off to our producer, our writers, and my director for really cracking the sequel because it's important to not make a sequel for the sake



of it. "You really have to have some substance if you're going to bring people to the theatre and garner genuine appreciation. I feel they stayed true to how a sequel should be made. They did a super job by cracking the story of "Stree 2", getting all the entertainment factors into the film," she said.

Kapoor, known for movies such as "Aashiqui 2", "Ek Villain", "Chhichhore", and "Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar", also opened up about her approach to selecting films.

"I believe that my best is yet to come, and I definitely want to feel, when I am going to be a part of a film, that it is going to be something exciting for me as an actor... to be a part of a particular story that is really riveting, that may have a message subliminally passed on to the audience. I am in that headspace right now," she said.

The actor also said her pace of work has changed.

"There was a time when I was doing a lot of films back to back, and now it's the opposite. It's like one film in three years... And it's fine. I found my comfort in that now because I feel like I want to be a part of films where I feel truly fulfilled and can push myself as an actor while doing something different from what I've done before," she added. Kapoor also noted that it's not necessary to have a constant stream of film releases. "My next film hasn't even been announced, and it's okay. It takes a lot for you and for anybody to be a part of a film. It takes months. It takes a lot of work and a lot of prep. I feel that from the bottom of my heart," she said. (PTI)

Vinod Kapri's 'Pyre' selected for Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival



NEW DELHI, Oct 19: National Award-winning filmmaker Vinod Kapri's latest Hindi film "Pyre" is set to have its world premiere at the 28th edition of the Tallinn Black Nights International Film Festival.

The Uttarakhand-set film, which chronicles the poignant love story of an elderly couple in their 80s, is the only Indian entry in the Official Competition category of the prestigious film gala, held annually in Estonia's capital, Tallinn.

For "Pyre," Vinod Kapri cast two local residents, Padam Singh, a retired Indian Army soldier, and Hira Devi, a farmer, neither of whom had ever acted in a film before. Both hail from Bering Tehsil in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.

"It is absolutely an honour to be part of a prestigious film festival and 'Pyre' is among 18 films from across the globe. More than that, I am happy that two 80 year old non-actors villagers from Uttarakhand's remote village are going to be part of the red carpet there during the world premiere of 'Pyre'.

"Film fraternity from all over the world will see them, meet them and have conversations with them. This is going to be the rarest of rare moments for world cinema," Kapri, who won a National Award for his 2014 documentary "Can't Take This Shit Anymore", said in a statement.

Composer Mychael Danna, who won an Academy Award for Ang Lee's "Life of Pi" in 2012, has scored the music for "Pyre". German editor Patricia Rommel, known for her work on "The Lives of Others" and "The Tourist", is part of the crew as well.

Legendary Indian lyricist Gulzar also contributed to the film by penning a song.

Kapri shared that the film is inspired by a true story of an elderly couple he met in 2017 in Munsyari, a village affected by migration in Uttarakhand. The couple's bond left a deep impact on him, prompting him to make the film. (PTI)

MAMI 2024 opens with 'All We Imagine...' screening; Shabana Azmi receives Excellence in Cinema award

MUMBAI, Oct 19: The 2024 edition of the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival opened with a full-house screening of filmmaker Payal Kapadia's Cannes Grand Prix winner "All We Imagine As Light" and veteran actor Shabana Azmi being honoured with the Excellence in Cinema Award.

The latest edition of the film gala, organised by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image, officially kicked off at the Regal cinema in South Mumbai on Friday evening.

"All We Imagine As Light", which made history as the first film from India to win the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival in May, is a Malayalam-Hindi language movie about Prabha (Kani Kusruti), a Mumbai nurse whose life is thrown into disarray when she receives a rice cooker from her estranged husband. Divya Prabha plays Anu, her roommate and colleague, who struggles

to find a private spot in the city to spend time with her boyfriend. Prabha's best friend Parvati (Chhaya Kadam), a widow, is being forced out of her home by property developers.

Kapadia, along with actors Chhaya Kadam, Divya Prabha, Hridhu Haroon, and Rana Daggubati, was welcomed with applause and a standing ovation.

"All We Imagine As Light" is an Indo-French co-production between Petit Chaos from France and Chalk and Cheese Films from India, with Ranabir Das (who also served as the cinematographer on the film) as the Indian producer. It is distributed in India by Spirit Media, a production house founded by Daggubati.

Shabana Azmi was honoured with Excellence in Cinema Award by legendary actor Waheeda Rehman in recognition of her contributions to Indian cinema. The festival also cele-

brated 50 years of Azmi's career with a special screening of her iconic film "Arth". "Filmmaking is a collaborative medium. Actors get most of the prominence because they are in front of the camera, but they know there's a whole team behind the scenes working to enhance strengths and cover weaknesses.

"Film is a director's medium. I've never been able to rise above the director or the role. So, I want to thank all the directors I've worked with, from Shyam Benegal to Steven Spielberg," Azmi said. Rehman praised Azmi, highlighting her performance in Karan Johar's 2023 film "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani". "I'm nothing compared to Shaikat aapaa and Kaifi sahab (Shabana's parents), so what can I say about Shabana? She is a great artist. When "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani" came out, I wondered what Shabana would do, but I knew Karan Johar and

Shabana would create magic," Rehman said. Azmi's acting journey began with Shyam Benegal's "Ankur". Over the years, she has starred in socially relevant films that pushed the boundaries of Indian cinema, with performances in "Arth", "Masoom", "Mandi", "Fire", "Godmother", "Paar", "Neerja", and "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani", among others.

The opening ceremony was attended by filmmakers like Kabir Khan, Vikramaditya Motwane, Vishal Bhardwaj (who came with his wife Rekha), Hansal Mehta, and Onir, along with actors Pratik Gandhi, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Jim Sarbh, among others.

The Mumbai Film Festival, running from October 19 to 24 at two venues, Regal Cinema and Juhu PVR, will showcase over 110 films from more than 45 countries, spanning more than 50 languages. (PTI)



Many people in Nepal recognised me but some asked me if I was team coach: Bala

KATHMANDU, Oct 19: Long-serving Indian woman footballer Ngangom Bala Devi shared a humorous incident related to her popularity, recounting that fans in Nepal asked her if she was the coach when she arrived in the Himalayan nation for the SAFF Women's Championship, despite being the leading striker of the national team.

The 34-year-old Devi scored her 50th international goal to become the first Indian woman footballer to do so in India's 5-2 win over Pakistan in a group match on Thursday.

"When I arrived in Nepal, many people recognised me.

Some even asked if I was coming as a coach. Some players from another team still wanted me on the field as a player," Devi told the-aiff.com.

"I started playing for India back in 2005, and while the atmosphere within the team has changed over the years, the support and affection everyone shows me are overwhelming," said the player who is often known as the 'goal machine' of Indian women's football team.

"I feel proud to have continued playing for so many years and to still be loved by the fans. It's a great feeling to play in a foreign country and gain new experiences in the

game."

Her milestone was celebrated not only by Indian fans but also by local supporters at the Dasharath Stadium here, as the crowd honoured her with a standing ovation after the match.

Bala is not only known for her goals but also for creating history. In 2020, she became the first Indian woman footballer to sign a professional contract with a European club. She joined Rangers WFC, the women's team of the Scottish club Rangers FC, marking a significant milestone in Indian football.

"I feel proud to score 50 goals for India. It was a very special moment for me," said

the Manipuri player who had dedicated her 50th goal to her father.

Talking about the milestone goal, she said, "Whatever strategy the coach and players decide for set-pieces, we stick to it. Who takes the kick depends on the situation, whether it's from the right or left.

"At that moment, I felt I should take the kick, and

Manisha came over and said, 'Di, you take it.' I asked her to just touch the ball, and I went in for the shot. Manisha's pass was perfect, with spot-on accuracy, and the ball went in."

Bala was returning to action after nearly a 10-month hiatus due to injury-related issues. She was last seen in action during the AFC Olympic Qualifiers Round 2 against

Uzbekistan in November 2023.

"I have been involved with football all my life, so I know how to keep my mentality strong when I am injured. And I always try to push myself a little extra during training sessions, focusing on maintaining my fitness.

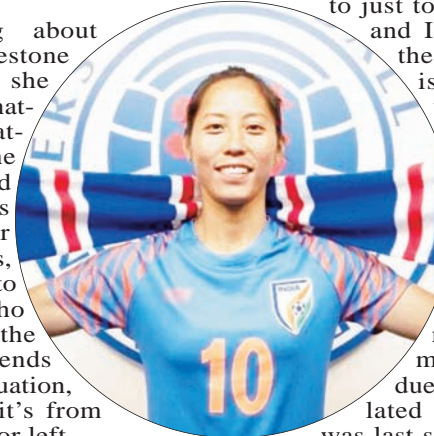
"A lot of people have supported me along the way, especially coach Santosh. After my injury, I didn't have the confidence to play, but he created a comfortable environment in Goa that helped me regain it."

Bala said her time at Rangers taught her invaluable lessons in fitness and professionalism.

"I had good experience in Europe. Indian women's football is growing and we can see now players are going abroad to play after me."

"AIFF has also been very supportive, and the women's department is putting in a lot of effort for us. If this level of support continues, we can achieve great things and go a long way."

Asked how would she described her career in one word, Bala said, "I call it 'She Power' because I work hard from morning till evening. I take care of myself and manage my household, it's all hard work. Nothing comes easy." (PTI)



Mohammedan Sporting look to exploit home conditions against visiting Kerala Blasters

KOLKATA, Oct 19: Debutants Mohammedan Sporting Club will seek their first home win in the Indian Super League (ISL) when they host Kerala Blasters FC in a tricky match here on Sunday.

Both teams are hungry for victory, but for Mohammedan, this game is crucial, as they desperately need their first home win of the season, and the visiting Kerala Blasters aren't going to make it easy.

Mohammedan enter this game after a 0-3 defeat to Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Kolkata derby. Andrey Chernyshov's men have managed four points from their first four games, leaving them 10th on the points table.

With two winless home results already, a victory against Kerala Blasters can prevent them from joining the likes of Jamshedpur FC, East Bengal, and Punjab FC as teams without a home win in their first three games this season.

For Kerala Blasters, an away fixture has thrown up defensive challenges. Their last nine trips on the road have seen them concede at least one goal in each game, managing just one win.

A victory on Sunday would not only break that trend but also mark a significant milestone,



bringing them their third consecutive win in Kolkata, an unprecedented feat in their history.

Their last two visits to Kolkata were fruitful, with a 1-0 victory over Mohun Bagan Super Giant

and a 2-1 win against East Bengal FC. A victory on Sunday would strengthen their chances of getting into the top-six and signal their intent for the rest of the season.

Sunday's match will be the first face-off between Mohammedan and Kerala Blasters in the ISL. Mohammedan head coach Andrey Chernyshov gave an in-depth analysis of the Ker-

ala Blasters FC setup, but expressed confidence that his team is ready for the challenge.

"After a break we started our work for the game. Kerala Blasters are a good and strong team. They have players who have played for a long time in the ISL. This season they are doing well now.

"They are really good in attack because they score every match. It doesn't matter if they play home or away because they score. We need to be ready for that. We worked in the training about it. We'll be ready for this situation tomorrow on the ground," Chernyshov said in the pre-match press conference.

Kerala Blasters head coach Mikael Stahre admitted that Mohammedan are hungry for success. He insisted that his side will follow their tactical plan appropriately to get a positive outcome on Sunday.

"Firstly all the ISL games are competitive. So we have to be humble and organised. They have the hunger and we have a lot of that too.

"My job is to prepare tactical things and pass on the energy and instructions to players. We have been practicing well during the international break. We are looking forward to win the game," Stahre said. (PTI)

Ranji Trophy: Deepak Chahar tears into Himachal batting order as Rajasthan enforces follow-on

DHARAMSALA, Oct 19: Rajasthan seamer Deepak Chahar was on a roll as he ripped apart the Himachal Pradesh batting order in the second innings on day two of the Ranji Trophy second round match here on Saturday.

The 32-year-old India player bagged five wickets for 30 runs, as Himachal were shot out for 98 in reply to Rajasthan's first-innings total of 334.

Rajasthan resumed the day at the overnight score of 304/7, with Mahipal Lomror and Arafat Khan at the crease.

Lomror was just 11 runs away from his seventh First-Class hundred at the start of the day but was unlucky to be dismissed on 99 by pacer Rishi Dhawan with Rajasthan at 323 for 9.

Eventually, Rajasthan were bowled out for 334, with Khaleel Ahmed (0) being the last man to fall to spinner Mayank Dagar, who finished with figures of 5/85.

Himachal had an inauspicious start to their first innings, losing the top-four batters in single digits -- Shubham Arora (6), Prashant Chopra (4), Ankit Kalsi (6) and Ekant Sen (0) -- with the scoreboard reading 19/4.

At 51/7, skipper Dhawan managed to stitch a 40-run stand with Arpit Guleria (17) before the latter fell to Aniket Choudhary. Dhawan and Co were eventually out for 98, with the captain remaining unbeaten on 40. Abhinandan Bhardwaj (10) was the only other player to score in double figures.

Chahar, who managed to get rid of Chopra, Kalsi, Sen, Bhardwaj and Mukul Negi (1), was also duly supported by Choudhary (3/28) and Khaleel

(1/15). Himachal made a solid start after the follow-on with openers Arora and Chopra sewing a 103-run partnership.

Manav Suthar got the vital breakthrough for Rajasthan, getting rid of Arora for 59. Chopra fell to the same bowler 37 runs later, missing his half-century by a run.

The duo of Kalsi and Sen then managed to hold things together for the rest of the day and stayed unbeaten on 30 and 4 respectively at stumps.

The hosts finished the day at 147 for 2. They still trail Rajasthan by 89 runs.

Brief scores: In Dharamsala - Rajasthan 1st innings: 334 (Mahipal Lomror 99; Mayank Dagar 5/85) lead

Himachal 1st innings: 98 (Rishi Dhawan 40 not out; Deepak Chahar 5/30) and 2nd innings: 147 for 2 (Shubham Arora 59; Manav Suthar 2/40) by 89 runs.

In Ahmedabad - Gujarat 1st innings: 367 (Chintan Gaja 92, Arzan Nagwaswalla 82 not out; Satyanarayana Raju 3/53) lead Andhra 1st innings: 137 for 5 (KS Bharat 78; Nagwaswalla 1/22) by 230 runs.

In Dehradun - Uttarakhand 1st innings: 325 (Aneesudha 89, Aditya Tare 69; Tanay Thyagarajan 4/85) lead Hyderabad 1st innings: 244 for 5 (Kodimela Himateja 78, Rahul Radesh 82 batting; Devendra Singh Bora 2/51) by 81 runs.

In Puducherry - Vidarbha 1st innings: 283 (Yash Rathod 118, Harsh Dubey 76; Gaurav Yadav 4/65) lead Puducherry 1st innings: 45 for 1 (Akash Kargave 23 batting; Dubey 1/15) by 238 runs. (PTI)



It's not going to be an easy win here for NZ: O'Rourke



BENGALURU, Oct 19: New Zealand are a mere 107 runs away from registering a rare Test victory in India, but pacer William O'Rourke said it will not be a cakewalk for them despite the modest nature of the target.

The Kiwis bowled India out for 462 in their second innings with O'Rourke and fellow pacer Matt Henry sharing six wickets equally among them.

"I wouldn't say it's an easy win from here. We've got a world-class team going up against us. But we've got to be confident going out there tomorrow," said O'Rourke during the post-day press meet.

"Hopefully, for our sake the rain stays away and we get a chance to have a crack at it," he added.

O'Rourke said his first outing in India has been enjoyable so far because of the pace and bounce the Chinnaswamy Stadium offered.

"My first time here so probably had a little bit more bounce, a bit more pace than what we probably expected coming over here which obviously suits a bowler like me," he said.

It was evident in the way he dismissed Virat Kohli in the first innings with a steep climber onto the star batter's body, which he jabbed to Glenn

Phillips at gully. O'Rourke made a special mention about Kohli's wicket. "It's obviously pretty special getting someone so great, one of the greats of our game, out like that. Obviously, you grow up watching those guys. So, to come here and take that wicket, it's probably right up there."

The 23-year-old pacer said Sarfaraz Khan (150) and Rishabh Pant (99) put a lot of pressure on the Kiwis while adding 177 runs for the fourth wicket.

"I've been pretty hot and cold with the ball. Pant and Sarfaraz have batted very well for a long time, but that second new ball started doing a little bit for us."

"So, good to Timmy (Southee) getting that first breakthrough (Sarfaraz) and then lucky enough to get a chop (Pant) there to sort of give us a bit of momentum going through," he noted.

O'Rourke also thanked Kyle Jamieson for being his mentor. Jamieson is currently recuperating from a back stress fracture and is not expected to comeback until early next year at least.

"Kyle's been a bit in the background. So, learning from him and, obviously, he's had a hell of a start to his international career and he's one of the best bowlers in the world," he added. (PTI)

F1 season resumes in Austin with McLaren's Lando Norris in hot pursuit of Red Bull's Max Verstappen

AUSTIN (TEXAS), Oct 19: Max Verstappen and Red Bull are in retreat as the Formula 1 season resumes in Texas.

The series returns from a month-long autumn break at the United States Grand Prix with the Dutch driver still leading the championship, but his car has gone backward in terms of performance and results while McLaren's Lando Norris pulls ever closer in the title chase.

The last time on the track, Verstappen finished second in Singapore, only to watch Norris drive off in the distance and win by a whopping 21 seconds. It was the kind of gap Verstappen crushed the field with all last season.

After Singapore I just wanted to keep going. We were in a good rhythm. I think we still are in a good rhythm and have been for quite a while," Norris said.

Verstappen still has a 52-point lead as he chases his fourth consecutive championship with six races left. That race gap to Norris in Singapore was worrisome, and raised more pressure on Red Bull to reverse its slide, or at least find something that can keep Norris at bay.

The race weekend at the Circuit of the Americas has a lot of points on offer that Norris can snatch if Red Bull continues to struggle. Saturday features the first sprint race since Austria in June.

Verstappen has won all three previous sprint races this season and has won the main race in Austin the last three years. But he hasn't won this season since the Spanish Grand Prix on June 23 and has earned just three podium finishes in that span. Verstappen at times has described his once dominant car as "undrivable" and a "monster."



McLaren has already overtaken Red Bull to seize the lead in the team constructors' championship, and another win on a track where Verstappen has been dominant would be a dagger. Red Bull is bringing a package of upgrades it hopes will get its once dominant car back to the front.

Verstappen stopped short of calling it a make-or-break race weekend in the title chase, but teammate Sergio Perez called it "crucial" for Red Bull.

The first results were positive for Red Bull: Verstappen qualified for pole position for the Saturday sprint race, putting 0.250 seconds between himself and Norris in fourth.

"I'm happy with today. The whole day the car was working quite well. Happy to be first, it's been a while," Verstappen said. "We'll do the best we can tomorrow in the sprint, but we know the most points are available on Sun-

day. That's where we really want to do well."

Norris sounded confident this week that McLaren will keep the pressure on Red Bull.

"I know people ask every weekend if this is a weekend that's going to change something. It can go my way. It can go Max's way," Norris said. "But I'm happy with what we're doing as a team and how we're working together... It's not easy. I need more than just me first and Max second."

Mercedes driver George Russell predicted Norris to win the title based on current form, despite the points gap.

"I think Lando can absolutely win this championship and I would probably say he's (the) favorite to do so with their form right now comparing with Red Bull," Russell said. McLaren chief executive Zak Brown tapped the brakes on that just a bit. (AP)

NZ close in on Test win on Indian soil after 36 years despite Sarfaraz, Pant heroics

BENGALURU, Oct 19: Sarfaraz Khan's maiden century and Rishabh Pant's cavalier 99 is unlikely to prevent New Zealand from earning their first-ever Test match victory on Indian soil in 36 years with only 107 runs to get on the final day of an intriguing start-stop series opener.

Tom Latham (0) and Devon Conway (0) were at crease when bad light and later rain forced early stumps on fourth evening.

The last time New Zealand won a Test match in India was way back in 1989 when Sir Richard Hadlee was still an active Test cricketer and got 10 wickets at the Wankhede to ensure a huge 136-run win.

Tom Latham's team is on cusp of history despite a gallant fight-back from India to score 462 in their second innings largely due to Sarfaraz continuing his happy knack of notching up 'Daddy Hundreds' from first-class to Test arena with a brilliant 150 off 195 balls and a stand of 177 with a half-fit Rishabh Pant, who missed his seventh Test hundred by a solitary run.

Once the second new ball was taken, India lost seven wickets for 54 runs with tall fast bowlers Matt Henry and William O'Rourke getting extra bounce and movement off the Chinnaswamy surface. After all, India were 52 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand. But Latham taking the new ball on the first available opportunity turned the tide in New Zealand's favour.

At that point, hopes were high of a miracle triumph similar to



Kolkata 2001 with both Sarfaraz and Pant at the crease.

The first one to perish was Sarfaraz, who spooned Tim Southee to Ajaz Patel at covers and Pant followed soon, dragging William O'Rourke (3/92) on to his stumps. It was his seventh dismissal in 90s in Test cricket, and he will certainly rue it after doing all the hard work till then.

Henry (3/102), who took five wickets in the first innings, looked pedestrian till then regained his mojo and movement with the new ball, mopped India's tail with the wickets of Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah. But before the Blackcaps'

bowlers found some wind in their sails, Sarfaraz and Pant dictated the course of the match like puppet masters.

The sight of Pant walking out to bat in the first session in itself was soothing as he had missed the whole of third day because of the blow he copped on the knee while 'keeping.

Pant understandably made a slightly gingerly start and was even involved in a mix-up with Sarfaraz, saved only by an erratic throw at stumps by wicketkeeper Tom Blundell.

Once swam past that period, Pant was unstoppable, clobbering left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel for a

couple of six. The left-hander soon brought up his fifty off just 55 balls with a thumping cover drive off Glenn Phillips before rain halted his march.

Despite the break, Pant started the middle session with confidence, biffing left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra for a couple of sixes over the covers.

There were a couple of jittery moments for him but DRS saved him on both the occasions – once from an appeal for a bat-boot catch and once from a caught-behind appeal.

However, those blips did not affect his concentration and gradually began playing those shots

exclusively crafted in the Pant manufacturing unit.

He sashayed and pirouetted around the crease to find all possible angles and the Kiwis bowlers were a clueless lot in finding an ideal line and length against him.

The prime example was an amazing slog swept six off Southee that sailed over the mid-wicket fence as the pacer tried to pitch it full, searching for swing.

Meanwhile, Sarfaraz, at the other end, chugged to a 150 after reaching his maiden Test hundred during the first session of the day, which he celebrated with unbridled joy. His batting too was far from conventional, dishing out a melange of late cuts to accumulate his runs.

In that sense, the Mumbai man's brusque batsmanship has a close resemblance to Pant's.

In fact, 40 out of his first 100 runs came in the arc between point and third man through late cuts of various nature – dabs, swish swat and an odd upper cut.

When the spinners were introduced, Sarfaraz used sweeps and nudges between square leg and fine leg to collect his runs. He made 39 runs in that region.

Latham struggled to keep a proper field for him. He even had to resort to the unusual placing of three players in the wishy arc behind the square of the wicket.

But still Sarfaraz found a way to score runs between them. However, all those heroics will remain just as a bright footnote unless Indian bowlers conjure some magic of their own on the fifth day. (PTI)

Gaikwad leads strong Maharashtra response after Iyer's ton lifts Mumbai



MUMBAI, Oct 19: Rituraj Gaikwad hit an unbeaten 80 to lead a strong reply for Maharashtra but they were still trailing by 173 runs in their Group A Ranji Trophy match against Mumbai, here on Saturday.

Maharashtra reached 142 for one in their second innings at the end of the second day.

Sachin Dhas was batting on 59 (7x4s, 1x6s) was giving company to Gaikwad at the end of the day.

The defending champions Mumbai had taken a massive lead of 315 runs as they posted 441 in the first innings after dismissing Mumbai for a mere 126.

Mumbai, who resumed their first innings at 220 for three, were bolstered by a robust 176 from their 17-year-old opener Ayush Mhatre who struck a ton in only his third first-class match.

While India T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav had to deal with disappointment of being dismissed for seven, Iyer made the most as he cracked 142 from 190 balls with 12 fours and four sixes.

At the Air Force Ground in Palam, Services were trailing by another 403 runs as they reached 74 for two in reply to Baroda's 477 for six declared in the first essay, having resumed at 249 for three.

Shivalik Sharma, resuming at 120 not out, eventually fell for 178 from 394 balls with 10 fours and two sixes while Vishnu Solanki added a few more runs before being dismissed for 125 (297 balls, 10 fours).

Skipper Krunal Pandya made a

brisk 86 off 117 balls with eight fours and two sixes while Atit Sheth made 50-ball 53 not out with eight fours.

In another match, Tripura produced a strong recovery after early blows on the rain-hit opening day to reach 346 for six at stumps on the second day.

Sridam Paul hit 146 from 178 balls with 20 fours and two sixes while others in skipper Mandeep Singh (59), S Sharath (54 not out) and Mura Singh (53 not out) provided adequate support from the other end. For Odisha, Govinda Poddar reached 87 not out as they were 198 for five, trailing by another 72 runs in the first innings Jammu and Kashmir.

Brief Scores:

Mumbai: Maharashtra 126 & 142/1 in 31 overs (Sachin Dhas 59, Rituraj Gaikwad 80; Shardul Thakur 1/27) trail Mumbai 441 in 103.1 overs (Ayush Mhatre 176, Shreyas Iyer 142; Hitesh Valunj 6/134) by 173 runs.

Delhi: Baroda 477/6 decl. in 150 overs (Shivalik Sharma 178, Vishnu Solanki 125, Krunal Pandya 86, Atit Sheth 53; Poonam Poonia 2/45) lead Services 74/2 in 74 for two in reply to Baroda's 477 for six declared in the first essay, having resumed at 249 for three.

Shillong: Tripura 346/6 in 74.2 overs (Sridam Paul 146, Mandeep Singh 54, S Sharath 54, Mura Singh 53) vs Meghalaya.

Cuttack: Jammu & Kashmir 270 lead Odisha 198/5 69.1 overs (Anurag Sarangi 35, Govinda Poddar 87*, Atid Mushtaq 2/52) by 72 runs. (PTI)

3 Indian footballers selected to go through training session at Old Trafford in Manchester

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Three Indian footballers, along with two others, will undergo training at Old Trafford in Manchester after winning the fourth edition of United We Play, a grassroots football initiative.

The event saw the participation of over 15,000 budding Indian footballers across 18 cities, culminating in a grand finale in the presence of Manchester United legend and all-time great Gary Neville in Chandigarh.

In the finale, PC Lalchuanawma (Mizoram), Shreejal Kisku (Bhubaneswar), and Mohd Ayan (Lucknow) were selected alongside Nepal's Bhakta Bahadur Pariyar and Chanason Chaiyatham from Bangkok.

These players will be given the opportunity to visit Old Trafford to participate in activities like a match-day experience, training session with Manchester United Soccer School coaches and legend interactions. (PTI)

Guwahati City Chess Championship 2024 for U-9, U-13 category begins

GUWAHATI, Oct 19: Guwahati City Chess Championship for under 13 and Under 9 category began from Saturday at Shikshak Bhawan, R G Baruah Road here. The tournament is being held in swiss league system with a classical time control.

In the under-13 boys' category, Jishnu Ranjan Das, Harsha Deep Deka, Anish Goswami and Bhaumik Kishore Das are leading the field with 3 points after completion of 3 rounds. In under-13 girl's category Ritisha Mayra Rajbongshi and Ameya Gupta are jointly leading the field with 3 points after completion of three rounds. In under-9 boys' category, Reyan Nobis, Aryan Chariyo, Sarasvat Deka, Barnil Baishya, Mahir Jain and Sharavast Sarma are leading the field with 3 points after three rounds. In under-9 girl's category, Imaima Sinha, Senior National Arbiter Khanindra Barman, National Arbiter Sankar Barooh and Prayag Hazarika.

Charvi Shree Barman, Abri Nayla Bora and Akanksha Kalita are in second position with 2.5 points from same number of rounds. The tournament will end on Sunday. The prize distribution ceremony will be held at 4.30 pm on October 20.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by Mukuta Deka, President of Guwahati City Chess Association & Vice Chairman of GMDA. Dr Siben Dutta, Working President, Guwahati City Chess Association, Dr Devajit Sarma & Antanta Goswami, both Vice President of Guwahati City Chess Association were also present at the opening ceremony. The tournament is being conducted as chief arbiter by Fide Arbiter Pranab Kumar Nath and He is being aided assisted by International Arbiter Monimala Sinha, Senior National Arbiter Khanindra Barman, National Arbiter Sankar Barooh and Prayag Hazarika.



Delhi pay price for sub-standard spin attack as TN pile up mammoth 674 for 6

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Washington Sundar and Pradosh Ranjan Paul feasted on Delhi's sub-standard spin attack to hit hundreds as Tamil Nadu drowned Delhi under a deluge of runs to take complete control of their Group D Ranji Trophy match at the end of second day here on Saturday.

Tamil Nadu declared their first innings at 674 for 6 and in the remaining time, Delhi reached 43 for no loss in 16 overs with stand-in opener Harsh Tyagi joining Sanat Sangwan after regular opener Dhruv Kaushik split his webbing.

Delhi are also hamstrung by an on-field injury to all-rounder Pranshu Vijayarayan and not conceding an innings defeat to Tamil Nadu would be a big achievement for the hosts.

After Sai Sudharsan's (213) double ton on the opening day, his fellow India international Washington Sundar repaid the team management's faith of promoting him to No. 3 as he scored a polished 152 off 269 balls with 19 fours and a six.

Having added 232 for the second wicket with Sundharsan, Washington shared another 92 runs for the fourth wicket with India 'A' batter Paul

(117 off 175 balls) while Andre Siddharth also chipped in with an unbeaten 66.

Navdeep Saini (2/78 in 24 overs) was the only bowler who looked like making some kind of difference but questions will be asked about the quality of the two spinners – left-arm orthodox Tyagi (1/181 in 37.4 overs) and unfit-looking off-break bowler Mayank Rawat (0/194 in 50 overs), who were cut, pulled, driven, swept and lofted to all parts of the Kotla.

In total, the two specialist spinners bowled close to 88 overs and they had only three maidens which showed that they couldn't even check the run-flow, forget about getting breakthroughs.

Tyagi, a former India U-19 spinner was released by Delhi a few seasons back and went to Railways where also he failed to find a footing and was back in DDCA fold since last year.

He has been rewarded for his DPL performance but neither chief selector Gursaran Singh nor head coach Sarandeep Singh looked at specialist red ball spinner Sumit Mathur, who got nine wickets on his debut during the final match of last season.

Both Tyagi and Rawat consistently bowled short and were hammered into submission. With Pranshu Vijayarayan injured while bowling his sixth over on the opening day, skipper Himmat Singh continued using Rawat even as Tamil Nadu batters made merry.

While Tyagi was hit for 21 boundaries and a six, Rawat conceded 19 hits to the fence plus two maximums. In the outfield, he was sloth and often allowed ones to be converted into twos. One doesn't know what kind of tests senior Ranji team has undergone but Rawat in any top first-class team wouldn't even qualify if fitness is the main criterion.

Brief Scores: In Delhi: TN 1st Innings 674/6 decl (B Sai Sudharsan 213, Washington Sundar 152, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 117). Delhi 1st Innings 43/0.

In Rajkot: Chattisgarh 1st Innings 578/7 (Amandeep Khare 203 batting, Sanjeet Desai 146, Parth Bhut 2/138, Dharmendra Jadeja 2/118).

In Ahmedabad: Jharkhand 1st Innings 417 (Ishan Kishan 101, Virat Singh 128, Nazim Siddique 96, Himanshu Sangwan 5/94). Railways 1st Innings 19/1. (PTI)

Assam boy Himangshu Talukdar joins Kankanala Sports Group

GUWAHATI, Oct 19: Former international table tennis player and renowned sports administrator Himangshu Talukdar has been appointed as the Head of Operations and Strategic Partnerships of Kankanala Sports Group (KSG), stated a release issued by KSG.

Himangshu, based in Guwahati, will lead the Group's operational and strategic initiatives to strengthen its position as a leader in the Indian sports industry. With a successful track record as the founder of Indian Collegiate Athletic Program (ICAP), Himangshu has consistently championed the development of Indian athletes. His role at Kankanala Sports Group will include expanding strategic partnerships, enhancing operations and building a framework for growth across the company's franchises.

Kankanala Sports Group is home to several high-profile sports franchises, including INDE Racing -

FIM E-Xplorer, Hyderabad Blackhawks - Prime Volleyball League, Telugu Talons - Premier Handball League, Bengaluru AllStars - Poker Sports League and Bengaluru Raptors - Premier Badminton League.

"We are excited to have Himangshu with us at KSG. His vision for sports aligns with our company ethos and culture and he will be a great addition to our growing team," said Abhishek Reddy Kankanala, Chairman & Owner KSG.

Kankanala Sports Group is a premier sports organization, committed to fostering talent and driving growth in Indian sports through its franchises, athlete development programs, and global partnerships. It's also noteworthy to mention that INDE Racing is India's first FIM licensed team and INDE Racing has created history by bagging a podium finish (3rd) in its debut season at the 2024 FIM E-Xplorer World Cup.



Delhi's poor air quality not much of concern: VDHM participant Priti

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Podium contender Priti Lamba admitted facing "breathing problems" ahead of Sunday's Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon due to worsening air quality in the city but sought to play it down, saying "only Indians are concerned about air pollution while foreign athletes think about winning races".

Priti, who has competed several times in the Delhi Half Marathon earlier, is vying for a top-three finish among the elite Indian runners. She finished third among Indians in 2022. She had also competed in 2015, 2016 and 2020.

Her pet event, though, is the 3000m steeplechase in which she won a bronze medal in Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

"There were dust (in Delhi) in the evening, no doubt. Because of dust in the throat, I had some breathing problem. But in two days here, it's all right. I have adjusted to the conditions," said the 28-year-old Priti said at the pre-event press conference on Saturday.

"It is not much of a concern and not new also. Foreign athletes are also competing and why it's a concern for us? We Indians always think about air pollution or heat while the foreigners think only about winning races," she added.

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'poor' category in the past three days.

Sawan Barwal, who finished third in 2023, also said he experience dust on Friday evening due to

pollution.

The Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, which is into its 19th edition, is a World Athletics gold label road race event. It has a prize purse of USD 260,000 and will be flagged off from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Priti said she even will think of running in the full marathon in the future.

"Half marathon is not my pet event but I have been taking part in Delhi Half Marathon for many years. So, I will give my best and try to be on podium.

"I know some foreign athletes who run from 1500m to marathon, so I want to do like that. Moreover, running longer distances will give me more endurance while running 3000m steeplechase.

"It's off season (for track) now, so I am competing in half marathon. My focus next year will be in 3000m steeplechase as there is Asian Championships and World Championships.

"My sports career almost ended in 2017 because of an injury. After a break of a couple of years, I decided to get married. Then, my husband pushed me back into the field, and he trained me for a year, and since then there has been no turning back and I won Asian Games medal."

Defending champion Kavita Yadav also exuded confidence of winning the title once again. She said she will be satisfied if she betters her personal



best.

"It will be a tough race and there is more pressure. Priti didi is a senior athlete with a lot of experience, and so anything can happen. But I have prepared very well, trained very well, so I am looking to win once again.

"It's a flat and fast course and I will try to do my personal best. If that is achieved I will be satisfied," said the 25-year-old Kavita who had won

the race in 2023 with a time of 1:17:42.

Asked why Indian elite runners are far behind their international counterparts in timing, she quipped with a laugh, "I always wonder how they (foreign athletes) run so fast."

Another title contender in the Indian women's elite field is Nirma Thakore, a farmer's daughter from Hajipur village in Patan taluka of Gujarat. Nirma secured victory at the 19th Tata Mumbai

Full Marathon in the Indian elite women's category this year, completing the gruelling 41.195 km course in an impressive 2 hours, 47 minutes and 11 seconds.

Among top contenders in the Indian men's elite race will be Kiran Matre, Sawan Barwal and Kalidas Hirve.

The 23-year-old Matre won the Indian men's elite category at the TCS World 10K in Bengaluru and a half marathon silver in Tata Mumbai Marathon this year. He has a personal best of 1 hour 5 minute 29 seconds.

"As a part of the army, we are taught to stay focused and dedicated. I have brought this into my practice for half marathons and it has helped me improve as an athlete.

"I suffered an injury a month back and it was literally a 'race' against time to get fit for the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon," he said.

Barwal won a bronze medal in the Delhi Half Marathon in 2023. He also won a bronze medal in the inaugural Asian Half Marathon in 2023.

"I will try for my personal best (1:04:17). But it depends on the day. If start of the race is fast, there is always a chance of doing personal best," said the 26-year-old Barwal.

"Outside India, pace-setters help us improve as athletes. If we introduce this concept in India, we can expect the standard to improve massively." (PTI)