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Bhupen to seek meeting with ASOM leaders to end differences in December

'All anti-BJP parties must unite to fight 2026 polls'



GUWAHATI, Nov 22: A month after the Congress exited the opposition front in Assam over differences in seat sharing for the bypolls, its state president Bhupen Kumar Borah on Friday said he would try his best to reunite with it to defeat the BJP-led dispensation in the next state elections.

In an interview with PTI ahead of the counting of votes for the bypolls to the five assembly constituencies, Borah said he would seek a meeting with leaders of the opposition bloc, Asom Sonmilto Morcha (ASOM), in the first week of December to resolve the differences. "What will be the impact of breaking oppo-

sition unity, it is difficult for me to say today. We will discuss it after the results are declared tomorrow. But one thing I can announce here is that I will try my level best to unite all anti-BJP parties as soon as possible so that we can fight the 2026 assembly elections together," he said. Borah resigned as the president of ASOM on October 22, stating that he was under "tremendous pressure" after the Congress national leadership refused to accept the CPI(M)L Liberation candidate in the Behali seat. Following this, ASOM appointed Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Kumar Bhuyan of the Anchalik Gana Morcha as its president, and the bloc supported the CPI(M)L Liberation nominee in the seat against a Congress candidate. Besides Behali, bypolls were held in Samaguri, Dholai, Bongaigaon and Sidli on November 13. The by-elections were necessitated as the MLAs of these constituencies won the Lok Sabha polls. Borah claimed that the INDIA bloc was "not working" in many states due to "internal problems". He said the ASOM bloc has 16 parties, including RJD, SP and Shiv Sena, which do not have much base (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Canada rejects report linking Modi, Jaishankar, Doval to Nijjar killing



OTTAWA, Nov 22: The Canadian government has dismissed a media report linking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, external affairs minister S Jaishankar and national security advisor Ajit Doval to criminal activities in Canada, including the alleged plot to kill Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, terming it as "speculative and inaccurate". The denial came from Nathalie Grouin, National Security and Intelligence advisor to Canadian

Prime Minister, on Thursday came a day after India strongly trashed the report as "smeared campaign". Quoting an unnamed senior national security official, The Globe and Mail newspaper on Tuesday reported that Canadian security agencies believe Prime Minister Modi knew about the killing of Nijjar and other violent plots. The official said Canadian and American intelligence tied the assassination operations to home affairs minister Amit Shah. Also in the loop, the

official said, was Doval and Jaishankar. In a statement issued by the Privy Council Office on Thursday, Grouin said, "On October 14th, because of a significant and ongoing threat to public safety, the RCMP and officials took the extraordinary step of making public accusations of serious criminal activity in Canada perpetrated by agents of the Government of India." However, he said, "The Government of Canada has not stated, nor is it aware of evidence, linking Prime Minister Modi, Minister Jaishankar, or NSA Doval to the serious criminal activity within Canada. Any suggestion to the contrary is both speculative and inaccurate." In a press conference on Oct 14, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme warned of widespread violence, homicides and a public security threat linked to "agents" of the Indian government. Hours after Duheme's conference, Prime Minister (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Rich countries' \$250B climate pledge at COP29 faces backlash

BAKU (AZERBAIJAN), Nov 22: In the closing hours of the UN climate conference here, rich countries on Friday proposed increasing climate finance for developing nations from USD 100 billion to USD 250 billion per year by 2035, far short of the trillions needed to address the escalating climate crisis. A new draft text on a climate finance package for developing nations emerged on Friday afternoon, presenting concrete numbers from developed countries for the first time, hours after countries were left facing an 'X' sitting in a bracket instead of a clear figure after two weeks of intense negotiations. However, the text says the USD 1.3 trillion per year in climate finance, demanded by all developing countries, will be raised from both public and private sources without placing the responsibility solely on the developed nations' public exchequer. It specifies that the USD 250 billion per year by 2035 will be mobilised by developed countries from a variety of sources, including public and private, bilateral and multilateral, as well as alternative sources. More than 190 countries are negotiating climate finance obligations by rich nations for the developing countries as part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement of 2015. The pact binds collective action to cut down on emission of greenhouse gases to restrict the temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial times. Climate policy experts and observers have criticised the proposal as detrimental to developing countries, predicting a strong backlash. Vaibhav Chaturvedi, a senior fellow at the Delhi-based think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said, "The apparent increase in the provision from the developed world to the developing world of USD 250 billion per year by 2035 is essentially the same as the USD 100 billion by 2020 if a 6 per cent annual average inflation is accounted for. There is no grant or low-cost finance component. "This is a bad deal for the developing world, irrespective of how it is portrayed by the presidency." He also dismissed the USD 1.3 trillion figure as a "sham." "The USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 for the developing world includes finance from all public and private sources. Investment in renewable energy technologies in developing countries was USD 544 billion in 2022 alone. This figure should naturally exceed USD 1.5 trillion by 2035, factoring in growth in the sector and inflation," he explained. Developing nations have repeatedly stressed the need for at least USD 1.3 trillion annually -- 13 times the USD 100 billion pledged in 2009 -- starting from 2025 to meet their escalating climate challenges. Linda Kalcher, executive director of the European think tank Strategic Perspectives, said, "The USD 250 billion reads like a provocation (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Repercussions of Cong's abject failure felt in Manipur even today: Nadda to Kharge

NEW DELHI, Nov 22: BJP president J P Nadda on Friday accused the Congress of pushing an "incorrect, false and politically" motivated narrative on the issue of Manipur unrest, as he hit back at Mallikarjun Kharge for seeking President Droupadi Murmu's intervention and alleging the Centre's complete failure in defusing the crisis. In a rejoinder to Kharge, Nadda claimed the repercussions of the Congress's "abject failure" in dealing with local issues in Manipur when it was in power are being felt even today. What is shocking is how repeated attempts are being made by the Congress party to sensationalise the situation in Manipur, he told Kharge, asserting that the current dispensation has been working since the first incidents of violence to bring stability and peace in the state. He said Kharge seemed to have forgotten that not only did his government legitimise the illegal migration of foreign militants to



India, the then home minister P Chidambaram had signed treaties with them. These known militant leaders fleeing their country to avoid arrest were wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged to carry on their destabilising efforts, Nadda claimed. "This complete failure of India's security and administrative protocols under your government is one of the major reasons why militant and habitually violent organisations are attempting to destroy the hard-won peace in Manipur and push it back several decades into the age of anarchy," he said. Unlike the Congress, the BJP-led NDA government will not allow this to happen at any cost, he added. He said the governments at the Centre (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

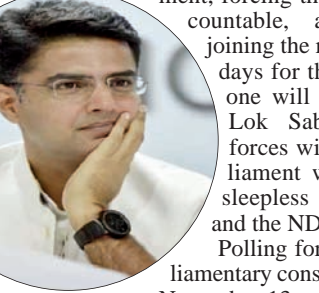
Bodies of nine Manipur victims handed over to family members in Assam

SILCHAR, Nov 22: The bodies of nine people from Manipur, including those of six abducted and killed in Jiribam, have been handed over to their family members at the Silchar Medical College Hospital (SMCH) in Assam, officials said. Postmortem examinations of the bodies were conducted at SMCH in Silchar district bordering Jiribam district of Manipur. The next of kin of the victims, all belonging to the Meitei community, had initially refused to accept the bodies till they got justice. They, however, later agreed to accept the bodies as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is inquiring into the incidents of violence. The family members were also demanding that those 10 slain Kukis be declared as militants as they had come from Churachandpur to Jiribam with arms and could not be members of an ordinary village defence party. Officials said that both Assam and Ma-

nipur police personnel are escorting the convoy of nine bodies being taken to Jiribam, around 55 km away. The convoy was stopped at several places along the way as representatives of various Meitei groups offered floral tributes to the deceased. The bodies include six women and children, who were allegedly abducted from a relief camp on November 11 by Kuki-Zo militants from Jiribam's Borobekra area when a group of Kuki youths were engaged in an encounter with CRPF in which 10 of them were killed. The six women and children were identified as Yumrembam Rani Devi (60), Telem Thoibi Devi (31) and her daughter Telem Thajamanbi Devi (8), Laishram Heithoibi Devi (25) and her two children Laishram Chingkeingamba Singh (two-and-a-half-years old) and Laishram Lamngamba Singh (10 months). The bodies of the two other persons are Laishram (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Priyanka-Rahul alliance in Parl to unsettle BJP, NDA: Pilot

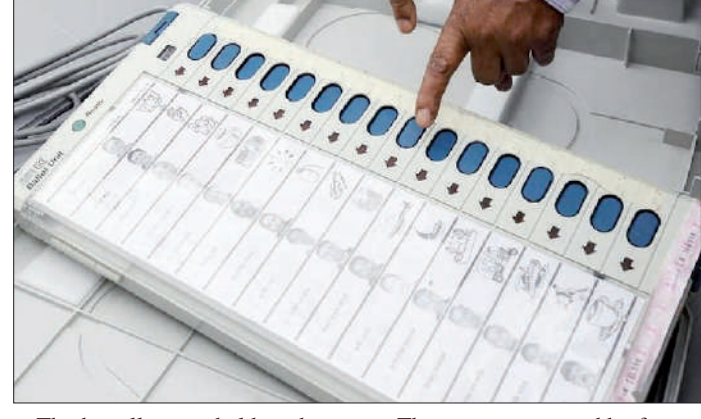
NEW DELHI, Nov 22: Predicting a big win for Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll, Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Friday said her joining forces with Rahul Gandhi in Parliament will "certainly give sleepless nights" to the BJP and the NDA. In an interview with PTI a day before the poll results, Pilot said, "We are looking at a historic win for Priyanka ji from Wayanad." "She has been working in the party for many years now and campaigned extensively for Rahul ji, Sonia ji and even Rajiv ji at one point in time, so she is very well connected with the party workers across the country," the former Union minister said. As the general secretary of the party, she has shown her capacity to motivate the cadre, Pilot said. She is a very popular face across the



country and will be a fine advocate not only for people in Kerala but as a voice for women and young people in Parliament, he told PTI. "Rahul Gandhi as Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has taken on the government, forcing them to be more accountable, and Priyanka ji joining the ranks will be tough days for the NDA. One plus one will become 11 in the Lok Sabha. Her joining forces with Rahul ji in Parliament will certainly give sleepless nights to the BJP and the NDA," Pilot said. Polling for the Wayanad parliamentary constituency took place on November 13 and results would be declared on November 23. Priyanka Gandhi thanked people for exercising their franchise and said they are an inspiration for her to work even harder as well as keep (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Counting of votes in 5 state assembly seats today

GUWAHATI, Nov 22: Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the counting of votes for the by-elections in the five assembly seats in Assam on Saturday, officials said. The counting of votes will start at 8 am in Dholai, Samaguri, Behali, Bongaigaon and Sidli constituencies to decide the fate of 34 candidates, they said. The counting of votes for the Dholai seat will be held at the Inter-State Truck Terminal in Ramnagar. The counting for the Sidli seat will be held at the district centre in Kajalgaon, while the counting for Bongaigaon will be held at Bongaigaon College. In Behali and Samaguri, the counting will be held at the district commissioner's offices. All preparations for the counting of votes have been completed, officials said on Friday evening.



The bypolls were held as these seats fell vacant following the election of their MLAs to the Lok Sabha. The campaigning in Samaguri was marked by sporadic incidents of violence and clashes between BJP and Congress supporters. The seat was vacated by former Congress minister Rakibul Husain who won the Dhubri Lok Sabha seat by a record margin of over 10 lakh votes. The Congress fielded his son Tanzil Hussain in the seat against BJP's Dipu Ranjan Sarma. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

FTA talks with India to relaunch early in 2025: UK PM

LONDON, Nov 22: The Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India -- expected to significantly boost the estimated GBP 42-billion a year bilateral trade partnership -- will be relaunched early in the new year, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has informed the UK Parliament here. It came during his statement to update the House of Commons on Thursday about his G20 Summit visit to Brazil, where he said he had a "good discussion" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi among other world leaders. The meeting earlier this week had led to both countries agreeing to resume the election-stalled Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks. "I had a good discussion with Prime Minister Modi about deepening our bilateral ties," Starmer told the members of Parliament. "We agreed to raise the ambition of our UK-India comprehensive strategic partnership, which covers security, defence, technology, climate, health and education, building on the unique bonds and cultural ties between our two countries. "Crucially, this work will start with trade and in-



vestment and I am pleased to say that we agreed to relaunch Free Trade Agreement negotiations early in the new year," he said. The talks had been paused in the 14th round as the general election cycles kicked in for both nations, with FTA negotiations that began under a Conservative Party government now being picked up by a Labour-led administration in charge in Britain. "Boosting economic growth is key to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

'Tourism is declining and our global reputation is crumbling' Air pollution in North India a 'national emergency', MPs must discuss ways to end crisis: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Nov 22: Asserting that air pollution in North India is a "national emergency", Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday urged fellow MPs to come together in the upcoming Parliament session and discuss how the nation can end this crisis once and for all. He said the air pollution crisis needs a collective national response, not political blame games. Gandhi shared a video on X in which he is discussing the air pollution issue with environmentalist Vimlendu Jha at the India Gate here. In his post along with the video, the Congress leader said air pollution in North India is a national emergency -- a public health crisis that is stealing our children's future and suffocating the elderly, and an environmental and economic disaster that is ruining countless lives.



"The poorest among us suffer the most, unable to escape the toxic air that surrounds them. Families are gasping for clean air, children are falling sick and millions of lives are being cut

short. Tourism is declining and our global reputation is crumbling," the former Congress chief said. "The cloud of pollution covers hundreds of kilometres. Cleaning it up will need major changes and decisive action -- from governments, companies, experts and citizens. We need a collective national response, not political blame games," he added. As Parliament meets in a few days, the MPs will all be reminded of the crisis by our irritated eyes and sore throats, he said. "It is our responsibility to come together and discuss how India can end this crisis once and for all," Gandhi said. In the video, the Congress leader asks the reasons for the air pollution crisis from Jha who responds by saying that it is a pan India problem and in NCR there are (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Awards don't create value for independent films in India: Manoj Bajpayee

PANAJI, Nov 22: Actor Manoj Bajpayee, known for starring in critically-acclaimed indies such as "Gali Guleiyan", "Bhosle", and "Joram", on Friday said awards at international film festivals don't necessarily ensure that an independent film will be received warmly at home.

The actor, said the glory of such award is short-lived unless it is Oscars.

"No matter how big an award the independent cinema from our country wins outside, some film that brought recognition for the country, it has nothing to do with the corporates or the business of the film. This is the problem I have with the awards. Awards don't create value in an actor or director's life," Bajpayee told PTI on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here.

"We receive an award, we party in the evening and forget the next day. But is that award getting me more films or are my films getting a good release? Is it helping me get a pay raise? No, it does nothing. An award's value lasts only for one night," he added.

On Monday, Hansal Mehta shared a review of Payal Kapadia's Cannes Grand Prix-winning "All We Imagine As Light" by American news outlet The New Yorker and said that he has heard that no OTT platform has bought the film as of yet.

Asked about Mehta's post on X, the actor, who has worked with the director on "Dil Pe Mat Le Yaar" and "Aligarh", said, "This is the truth. Hansal hasn't said anything that's not true."

Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine..." is the first film from India in 30 years to be chosen in the official competition at Cannes and also to win the Grand Prix award.

The Malayalam-Hindi film, an official Indo-French co-production, released in theatres across India on Friday. It is distributed by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media. On the other hand, Bajpayee said if someone is an Oscar nominee, a whole new value is added to their name. (PTI)



Alia Bhatt returning as goodwill ambassador of ALT EFF

MUMBAI, Nov 22: Bollywood star Alia Bhatt is set to return as the goodwill ambassador for the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF).

Bhatt said she is thrilled that her production banner Eternal Sunshine Productions is partnering with the film gala for its 2024 edition.

"This festival is truly special—it celebrates films that uplift and showcase nature's resilience while reminding us of the importance of protecting our planet.

Through powerful storytelling, ALT EFF allows us to see and feel the real impact of environmental change," the 31-year-old actor said in a statement.

Filmmaker Richie Mehta, who recently directed the series "Poacher" that was produced by Bhatt's company, will join the actor in championing the festival's mission.

With over 100 screenings planned across India, the 2024 edition of ALT EFF will feature an engaging lineup of films, workshops, and panel discussions aimed at fostering global dialogue on urgent environmental issues.

Festival Director Kunal Khanna hailed Bhatt as a "remarkable artist" who is also passionate about the environment.

"Her creative endeavours through Eternal Sunshine exemplify the transformative power of storytelling in addressing pressing global challenges.

"With Alia and Richie Mehta as our ambassadors, ALT EFF is uniquely positioned to amplify the voices of filmmakers who seek to use impact film and storytelling to drive environmental action," he added. (PTI)

Bhargav Saikia's debut film 'Bokshi' to have its world premiere at IFFR

NEW DELHI, Nov 22: Bhargav Saikia's directorial debut feature "Bokshi", a folk horror fantasy shot in the deep forests of Sikkim in Northeast India, will have its world premiere at the prestigious International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025.

The film is selected in the Harbour section which is named after Rotterdam's port city identity and focuses on a wide range of contemporary cinema from across the world. The festival will be held from January 30 to February 9, next year.

Starring Mansi Multani of "Pari" fame and "Farrey" actor Prasanna Bisht, the film is in Hindi, English, Nepali and an invented language Bokshiri, a fully developed fictional language spoken by a few characters in the film.

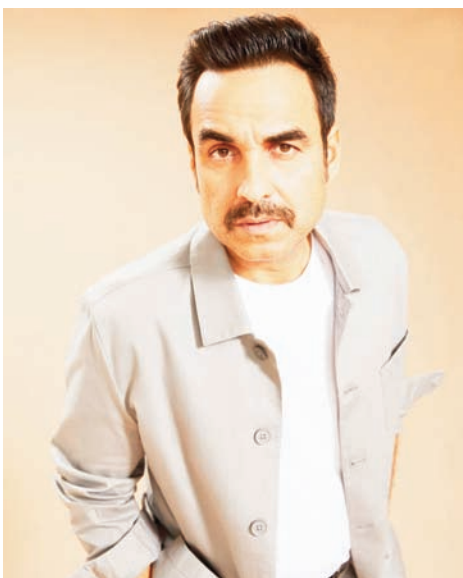
This invented language, presented as the progenitor of all modern languages, has been exclusively created for "Bokshi" by renowned Dutch linguist, Jan van Steenberghe, the director said. Written by debutant screenwriter Harsh Vaibhav, the film explores the journey of a troubled teen, who goes on a high school expedition to a little-known prehistoric site and finds herself tested as a long-forgotten myth unfurls.

Bhargav earlier adapted Ruskin Bond's "The Black Cat" for a short, which starred late Tom Alter and Shernaz Patel.

"IFFR, which is renowned as a discovery festival and for their edgy programming, is just the ideal place to launch my debut feature, 'Bokshi' (which means witch in Nepali). It is an ambitious independent production and an adventurous genre film that took nearly five years to complete. I am grateful to IFFR for giving us this dream premiere," Bhargav said in a statement.

At the centre of the story is troubled teen, Anahita, who finds comfort in Shalini, the mysterious History teacher leading a trek to a little-known prehistoric site, dubbed "The Navel". This unconventional school trip into an ancient forest turns eerie as cryptic connections emerge between the Navel and a cult that worships Bokshi, a much-feared folkloric demoness from antiquity. (PTI)

Pankaj Tripathi joins Arunachal Pradesh govt's effort to promote theatre in state



MUMBAI, Nov 22: Actor Pankaj Tripathi on Friday said it is a great honour to be appointed as the festival ambassador for the Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024.

This prestigious international theatre festival, the largest of its kind in Northeast India, runs from Friday to December 5, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and creative talent of Arunachal Pradesh. The actor, known for his performance in "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Bareilly Ki Barfi", "Fukrey", "Gunjan Saxena", "Stree" franchise and "Mirzapur" and "Criminal Justice" series, hails from Belsand village in Gopalganj, Bihar. Over the years, Tripathi has become one of the most sought-after actors in Indian cinema, earning widespread acclaim for his versatility and authenticity. Tripathi, who is attending the festival along with wife Mridula, said theatre holds a special place in his heart as it is where he began his journey as an actor.

"It's a great honour for me to be associated with the Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024 as its Festival Ambassador. Theatre holds a very special place in my heart, as it was my first teacher, my first love in the performing arts. I owe everything I am today to the lessons I learned on the stage and the passion I developed for storytelling during my early days in Gopalganj, performing street plays and rangmanch," Tripathi, a National School of Drama graduate, said in a statement.

The actor said it is inspiring to see Arunachal Rang Mahotsav celebrating the power and beauty of theatre. "This platform not only honours the traditional and contemporary performing arts of the region but also provides a dynamic space for artists from across the world to collaborate and showcase their work. I am particularly excited about the festival's emphasis on Arunachal's oral folklore traditions, martial art forms, and local performing arts, which are an essential part of our cultural fabric. (PTI)

Nagarjuna says his grandmother used to dress up father ANR like a girl

PANAJI, Nov 22: Veteran actor Nagarjuna on Friday said his grandmother always wanted to have a girl child and when that didn't happen, she started dressing up his father and Telugu cinema star Akkineni Nageswara Rao as one.

Nagarjuna recalled his father, fondly known as ANR, would look cute in plaits and believes that's one of the factors that attracted the late legend to acting.

At an in-conversation session at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the actor shared many anecdotes about ANR, whose birth centenary was observed in September. The film gala is also celebrating the legacy of the Telugu cinema stalwart by showcasing a restored version of his 1953 movie "Devadasu".

"He came from a very humble family, a farmer's family. He was born near Andhra Pradesh (erstwhile part of the Madras residency), a village which didn't have electricity. "My grandmother always wanted to have a woman child. She used to dress him up (like a woman) in plaits. He used to look very pretty and cute. We still have a photograph of him dressed as a girl. He

looked exactly like my older sister Sathya. I think these were the things which led him to become an actor," Nagarjuna said.

ANR, whose seven-decade career includes diverse films such as "Vipra Narayana", "Tenali Krishna", "Sri Ramadasu", "Laila-Majnu", and "Balaraju", started out playing roles of women on stage.

"In those days women were not allowed to be an actor or act on stage. So, he started playing women's roles. He first became a heroine on stage.

"As fate took its turn, he was at a railway station when famous producer Ghantasala Balaramayya, who was sitting in the train, saw him walking and said 'nice eyes, nice nose'. Would you like to act? Rest, as they say, is history," recounted Nagarjuna.

In 1944, ANR got his first film "Sri Seeta Rama Jananam" as a lead. He then moved to Chennai with his older brother as his father had expired by then, Nagarjuna added.

"I distinctly remember him swaying his hips. He thought that was acting because he had done this on stage," he said.

ANR also faced a lot of mock-

ery from people who made fun of him for his 'feminine' mannerisms.

"People made fun of him and that really dejected him. He went to Marina Beach where he said he wanted to kill himself because there was so much laughter (mockery) and all of that. He told me he went waist deep into the sea water and then something in him told him (to not do it) and he corrected himself," Nagarjuna said.

The actor said his father, who received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1990 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2011, also worked hard to make his 'feeble' voice rougher.

"Somebody told him your voice becomes rougher if you smoke cigars. He didn't smoke earlier. He also used to go to the beach early in the morning and scream at the ocean for 5-10 minutes to make his voice more hoarse," he added.

On Thursday, Nagarjuna launched the season two of the animation series "Krish, Trish and Baltiboy: Bharat Hain Hum" at IFFI.

The film gala will come to a close on November 28. (PTI)



Punjab FC, NorthEast United clash in battle of attacking flair and defensive strength



NEW DELHI, Nov 22: The Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 action returns from international break with an exciting contest between two teams whose charts are on the upward trajectory – with Punjab FC and NorthEast United FC locking horns here on Saturday.

Both these teams had narrowly missed out on qualifying for the playoffs last year, with the Highlanders finishing seventh and Punjab FC trailing them at eighth.

However, they have turned a new chapter this time around – starting the season on a strong

footing, with NorthEast United FC positioned third with 12 points thanks to three wins and as many draws from eight games.

Punjab FC, on the other hand, have secured four victories in six clashes and claim the sixth spot in the standings. They will hope to brush aside any rustiness after

the two-week-long break and rejuvenate the campaign with similar vigour and vehemence come Saturday.

Punjab FC hold an unbeaten record over NorthEast United FC, winning and drawing once in their two matches against them. They had notched a 1-0 triumph

over the Highlanders in their most recent fixture.

A clean sheet in this match will see the Highlanders become only the second team after Hyderabad FC against whom Punjab FC go back-to-back games without conceding a goal.

Speaking of clean sheets, a key factor swinging things in the favour of Punjab FC is that they have conceded the fewest shot attempts (65) and shots on target (20) in the current ISL campaign. Thereby, they have given away only seven strikes in total, winning thrice in their previous five encounters. NorthEast United FC have recorded the best differential between expected goals (11.95) and actual goals scored (19) in ISL 2024-25 (+7.05 xG value). Their 19 strikes after eight games is five more than their previous-best tally after these many matches (14 in 2018-19). At the heart of all of this has been Alaeddine Ajaraie, who has scored 11 goals and made four assists in eight appearances.

The Highlanders stand at an unprecedented stage right now, since they have netted multiple goals in each of their previous three ISL matches.

However, they have never scored 2+ strikes in four straight away encounters in competition's history – something that they can achieve tomorrow if their front-line comes to the fore perfectly tomorrow.

Kick-off: 5 pm IST. (PTI)

Sreejesh-coached Indian colts depart for Oman to defend Junior Asia Cup title



BENGALURU, Nov 22: Fresh from winning the bronze medal in the Sultan of Johor Cup, PR Sreejesh-coached Indian colts on Friday departed for Muscat to defend the Junior Asia Cup title.

India, who defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 to lift the title last year for a record fourth time, will open their campaign against Thailand on November 27 in their Pool A fixture.

They will next face Japan on November 28 and Chinese Taipei on November 30. Their last group stage match is against Korea on December 1. India need a top-two finish to secure a semifinal berth.

Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Oman, and China constitute Pool B.

Confident of a positive start, captain Amir Ali said they have prepared well and are determined to reach the final.

"We have been preparing rigorously and are ready to face the challenges ahead," Ali stated in a Hockey India release.

"We all understand the importance of this tournament and the opportunity to showcase our skills on the big stage. Our focus is on giving our best from the very first match and secur-

ing a strong position to make it to the final."

Vice-captain Rohit said the whole team is motivated ahead of the campaign.

"The energy in the camp is fantastic, and there is a strong sense of unity among the players. Our recent performance at the Sultan of Johor Cup has given us confidence, and we're focused on building on that momentum."

"We are determined to work hard, stay disciplined, and perform to our full potential in every match," Rohit said.

"We are all feeling very motivated and eager to start our campaign at the Men's Junior Asia Cup. The energy in the camp is fantastic, and there is a strong sense of unity among the players."

India have so far won the title in 2004, 2008 and 2015, making them the most successful side in the tournament.

For legendary Indian goalkeeper Sreejesh, this will be his second assignment as the coach.

He began his stint with a bronze medal victory at the Sultan of Johor Cup, beating New Zealand 2-2 (3-2) in a thrilling shootout. (PTI)

Lewis Hamilton paces both F1 practices on opening day of Las Vegas Grand Prix

LAS VEGAS, Nov 22: Seven-time Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton paced both of Thursday night's practices at the Las Vegas Grand Prix just two weeks after one of the worst races of his career.

The Mercedes driver was despondent over his performance in Brazil when he intimated after the race he wasn't even sure he wanted to finish the final three races of the season. Hamilton is moving to Ferrari at the end of the season.

"I didn't really want to come back,"

Hamilton said in Las Vegas of his Brazil performance, where he struggled with the handling of his car, called it "undrivable" and "the bumpiest ride ever" after finishing 10th.

"If this is the last time that I get to perform, it's a shame it wasn't great, but (I'm) grateful for you," Hamilton said on his team radio after the race.

Hamilton clarified those remarks in Las Vegas, explaining how frustrated he was by the Brazilian performance.

"In the moment, that's how I felt," he

said.

"I didn't really want to come back after that weekend, but I think that's only natural. It's frustrating when you have a season like this, which I'm pretty sure I won't have again, or at least I'll work towards not having again."

"It wasn't a great feeling in that moment but I'm here, I'm standing strong, and I'm going to give it absolutely everything for the last few races."

He proved he could bounce back as he

led both the first and second practice sessions Thursday in Las Vegas. He was followed in second practice by championship contender Lando Norris of McLaren and Mercedes teammate George Russell.

Max Verstappen, who only needs to finish three points ahead of Norris on Saturday night, was 17th in the second practice. Hamilton and Russell went 1-2 in the opening practice, with Norris third. Verstappen was a more respectable fifth for Red Bull. (AP)

CA to honour late Phillip Hughes ahead of India-Australia Test in Adelaide



PERTH, Nov 22: Cricket Australia has planned a series of initiatives to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragic death of Phillip Hughes including a tribute before the start of the second Test between India and Australia at the Adelaide Oval scheduled from December 6-10.

CA will also honour the late Australian cricketer during the upcoming three Sheffield Shield games, as players will wear black armbands and flags will fly at half-mast.

A promising left-hander who played 26 Tests, Hughes lost his life just days before his 26th birthday in 2014 after being struck by a bouncer during a domestic match.

Representing South Australia, Hughes was hit on an unprotected area below his left ear while attempting a hook shot against Sean Abbott at the SCG. Despite wearing a helmet, the impact proved fatal.

"We understand this will be a time of reflection for the many people who knew and admired Phillip Hughes," Cricket Australia (CA) CEO Nick Hockley said on Friday.

"We wanted to ensure that the Hughes family, particularly, were

comfortable with any commemorations and that we celebrate Phillip's life and incredible achievements appropriately," he added.

The home association, which has produced a special documentary on him, will broadcast it ahead of the second Test, as part of a two-week commemoration programme.

A moment's silence will also be observed before play on day four of all matches.

Batting on 63, Hughes collapsed before receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and was subsequently taken to St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, where he underwent surgery and was placed in an induced coma.

Hughes, however, could not recover from the blow and died on November 27. The left-hander was viewed as one of the promising Australian cricketers as the team went through a transitional phase.

In the Australia-India Adelaide Test that followed his death a decade ago, the southpaw was named as the home team's 13th player with 63 (the score he was batting at in his last match) seconds of applause observed ahead of the game. (PTI)

Jasmine clinches 15th and final leg of Hero WPGT, wins season's second title

HYDERABAD, Nov 22: Jasmine Shekar produced the only bogey free round on the final day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour while scoring a 4-under 68 to grab her second title of the year here on Friday.

Earlier, she had won the 13th Leg of the event, also becoming the fourth player to win more than once in 2024.

Jasmine parred the entire front nine but then trailed Amandeep Drall at the turn.

Jasmine then produced a super finish with four birdies in a row from the 14th to the 17th and

parred the 18th that eventually gave her a convincing four-shot win. Amandeep after two early bogeys managed to edge ahead with three birdies on the front nine. But a double bogey on the Par-5 14th proved costly and despite a birdie on the back nine, she could not match Jasmine's run of four birdies on the back nine.

Amandeep (72) finished at 4-under 212 in sole second place.

Jasmine, who shared the 36-hole lead with the experienced Amandeep, played very steady and parred her first 13 holes, though she missed a few birdie



chances. Meanwhile, Hitaashee Bakshi with two birdies on the front joined Jasmine.

However, at the turn Amandeep was ahead by one. Hitaashee gave away back-to-back bogeys on the 13th and 14th and lost her chance to close the season with a fourth win.

Hitaashee ended with 71 and was in a tie for third place with Gaurika Bishnoi (70), Vidhatri Urs (70) and Nayanika Sanga (72). They were all at 3-under 213. Sri Lankan amateur Kaya Daluwatte (69) with the day's

second-best score, was tied seventh with Sneha Singh (74) while Ananya Garg (72) was ninth. Kaya also won the prize for best amateur.

Ridhima Dilawari (71) and Anvitha Narendar (75) were tied for the 10th place at 4-over 220. At the end of the season, Hitaashee and Vidhatri Urs won three times each while Sneha and Jasmine won twice each.

Amandeep, Gaurika Anvitha Narendar and Vani Kapoor won once each. The season's opening event was won by amateur Nishna Patel. (PTI)

Depth that shooting has doesn't exist in other sports: Abhinav Bindra

GURGAON, Nov 22: Shooting has flourished in the country over the last decade and now boasts an unmatched "depth of talent" in the sport, remarked the legendary Abhinav Bindra.

Manu Bhaker led the way with an unprecedented double bronze as Indian shooters soared to a new high, returning with their best-ever haul of three medals from the Paris Olympics.

"The depth of talent available in the sport of shooting doesn't exist in any other sport in this country," Bindra, the first Indian to win an individual gold medal at the Olympics in Beijing 2008, told PTI Video in an exclusive interview at the Artemis Hospital here on Friday.

"There are so many sporting athletes performing at the national level and at the world level. This clearly shows the amount of progress the sport has made in the last decade or so."

India's achievement at Paris Games also ended a 12-year

drought at the Olympics, with Manu, Sarabjot Singh, and Swapnil Kusale securing three bronze medals.

"There was a bit of a lull where in two Olympics we didn't win any medals but that is part and parcel of the sport. There are big learnings that the athletes have had, the federation made which resulted in good results in Paris," Bindra said.

The 42-year-old further stressed the importance of strategic planning, attention to detail, and continuous evolution of the ecosystem to sustain the momentum in future Olympic performances.

"I hope that the momentum continues, and the strategic planning continues because I think the performance at the Olympics has a lot to do with the detailing of planning."

"Little things matter a lot, they need to be taken care of. I hope that the ecosystem continues to evolve and keeps putting its best foot forward."

The 2026 Commonwealth Games has dropped shooting,

hockey, cricket, wrestling from its roster in a big blow to India's medal prospects at Glasgow.

Pointing out that the decision to reduce the scale of the Games was made for sustainability, Bindra said this is "not permanent" and hopes that shooting will return in the future.

"The whole Commonwealth movement is going through a difficult time, many hosts have withdrawn which has resulted in many problems in the Commonwealth movement," Bindra said.

"The organisation then came up with a solution to keep the Olympic movement alive, the solution lies in sustainability and keeping the whole programme of the games very small and that is what resulted in shooting not having a pres-

ence in the next Commonwealth Games.

"But that is something not permanent and I hope that Shooting as a sport does make a comeback. I don't think this is an era of boycott, it was something back in the 80's and we have moved on from that."

"I don't think that it is an option, the talent in the sport of shooting is immense and the sport can continue to perform as medal winners and athletes who are performing at a great level."

"I don't have any doubts that we will continue to perform better and keep improving our medal count at the Olympics," Bindra said.

Bindra further said Manu has the potential to win multiple Olympic medals and establish herself as one of India's greatest shooters.

"Manu is a very young athlete and has a wonderful career ahead of her, the world is like a canvas for her. She had an incredible Olympics in Paris."

"She has a tremendous amount of character, and a lot of mental fortitude to not just be an athlete but a great athlete."

"She has the ingredients to continue to perform and win multiple medals at every level, including the Olympics. If she continues to put in the work then there are tremendous possibilities ahead of her."

Bindra also hailed Manu's resilience after returning empty-handed at her debut Olympics in Tokyo.

"I think what was wonderful to see was her resilience after she had a very difficult Games (Olympics) in Tokyo. To come back and show resilience and persistence, turn it around and win two medals shows she has a tremendous amount of character, and a lot of mental fortitude to not just be an athlete but a great athlete," Bindra concluded. (PTI)

BGT DAY 1: AUSTRALIA 67/7 IN REPLY TO INDIA'S 150

Bumrah leads India's spectacular bowling comeback after batting no-show

PERTH, Nov 22: Skipper Jasprit Bumrah made amends for his debatable toss call to bat first with a mesmerising opening spell that left Australia scurrying for cover at 67 for 7 and helped India make an emphatic comeback after a flop show with the willow on the opening day of the first Test here.

The match, which was billed as a battle between two out of form batting units, lived up to the prediction at least on the first day. As many as 17 wickets fell, which is the first time in seven decades for a Test match on Australian soil.

The stand-in India skipper, much to everyone's surprise, opted to bat on a track with a liberal grass cover which generated appreciable seam movement and midriff high bounce.

But neither the youngsters nor the seasoned ones in the Indian line-up were up to the task.

It was debutant Nitish Reddy's gutsy 41 and Rishabh Pant's 37, including an unbelievable sixer, that got India to 150 in 49.4 overs with Josh Hazlewood (4/29), Mitchell Starc (2/14 in 11 overs), Pat Cummins (2/67 in 15.4 overs) and Mitchell Marsh (2/12 in 5 overs) sharing the spoils.

On the driver's seat when they came out to reply, Australia had no answer to Bumrah's (4/17 in 10 overs) quality that was on display. Defending a low first innings total cannot be a one-man show and Mohammed Siraj (2/17 in 9 overs) and debutant Harshit Rana (1/33 in 8 overs) stepped up to support their skipper.

The lengths they hit were immaculate, around five metre from the stumps and on



the off-stump channel. The live grass did the rest whenever the ball landed on the seam.

Debutant Nathan McSweeney (10) got a nip-backer and DRS ruled him leg before.

Usman Khawaja (8) just froze in his crease once Bumrah decided to square him up by coming round the wicket. Virat Kohli, who had earlier dropped Marnus Labuschagne (2 off 52 balls), didn't make any mistake on this one.

But it was out of form Steven Smith (0), who got a very difficult first delivery that zoomed in and dipped catching him plumb in front.

Once Bumrah set the tone, debutant Harshit, with a bustling action, got one that pitched on middle stump, drawing Travis Head (11) forward before it deviated to dislodge the off-bail.

Australia were reeling at 31 for 4. Labuschagne took 24 balls to get off the mark and also found himself at the receiving end of some heated words from an agitated Siraj.

The Indian then pitched one up to Mitchell Marsh and the resultant edge was brilliantly snapped by KL Rahul before ending Labuschagne's 52-ball agony with an in-

cutter. Bumrah then came for his final spell of the day to remove the rival skipper as India took control of the proceedings.

But this resurrection was preceded by a horror show with the bat.

Reddy's grit and Pant's brief daredevilry were the only saving grace against a disciplined Australia.

Pant and Reddy had added 48 when rival skipper Cummins, who had dropped a skier, got a fuller delivery to straighten as the southpaw closed his bat face and the thickish leading edge flew to the second slip.

Pant and Reddy were the only two players who were intent on a pushback. Among the top-half, KL Rahul (26 off 74 balls) was ready to grind it out before getting a contentious caught behind decision.

Young guns like Yashasvi Jaiswal (0) and Devdutt Padikkal (0) looked completely out of place during a brilliant opening spell bowled in tandem by Starc and Josh Hazlewood.

Virat Kohli (5) was done in by a short ball from Hazlewood. The star Indian batter couldn't remove his bat from the line of the ball and the resultant edge became a regulation slip catch.

Rahul followed the basics during this course -- playing the one coming into his body while leaving all other deliveries from length.

He got out when Starc, back for his second spell, got one to move a shade and the snicko showed deflection although the batter suggested that his bat hit the pad at the same time when the ball went past the edge. (PTI)

Big stars, proximity to IPL auction give Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy massive context



NEW DELHI, Nov 22: Presence of a few frontline stars like Hardik Pandya, Mohammed Shami and its co-existence with the IPL mega auction has given the latest edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, beginning across venues from Saturday, a meaty context.

But interestingly, the players are not sewn by a common auction thread in the country's premier domestic T20 tournament.

Pandya need not to worry about impressing the IPL scouts after finding a place in Mumbai Indians' retention list ahead of the auction on November 23 and 24 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The all-rounder's appearance in Baroda's jersey is more in line with the BCCI's policy of leading cricketers mandatorily appearing in domestic tournaments.

So, his aim will be to keep in touch with the game and possibly help Baroda to a rare title victory.

But Shami's outing for Bengal is multi-dimensional. The veteran pacer will be eager to come up with a fine show to further underline his fitness after recently taking seven wickets for his state in a Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh.

It's a chance for him to continue to chart his way back to top-level cricket, and his efforts here will also have a bearing on him boarding the flight to Australia, at least for the latter part of the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

That's the larger picture, but the 34-year-old will also be looking to get picked up in the IPL auction after getting released by Gujarat Titans. Considering his lofty pedigree and skills, Shami will certainly find a taker in the auction

room, but a couple of power spells in the SMAT will add more gravitas to his profile when his name is read out by the auctioneer.

Similarly, Shreyas Iyer (Mumbai), who had led Kolkata Knight Riders to title in IPL 2024, and Yuzvendra Chahal (Haryana) will be looking to boost their already impressive IPL CV with fine efforts in the tournament.

After all, in the pacy auction world, a recent productive outing can further add to the monetary value surrounding a player irrespective of his stature.

A quick rewind to Shah Rukh Khan's value rising a few rungs after guiding Tamil Nadu to SMA title with a final ball six against Karnataka a couple of seasons ago will validate that point.

This year too, a plethora of young and relatively unfamiliar names will be hoping to make this tournament a platform to attract big quids from the auction.

Bengal wicketkeeper batter Abhishek Porel, who was part of India A tour to Australia recently, can score runs at a furious pace and the 22-year-old would want to press his best foot forward in the initial rounds itself.

Then we have Abhinav Manohar of Karnataka, who was let go by the Titans.

Abhinav garnered 507 runs at an average of 84.5 at a whopping 196.5 strike-rate in the KSCA Maharaaj T20 recently, and he would be eager to further buttress claim with substantial knocks here in the middle-order.

Young Manav Suthar of Rajasthan too fall in the same category, as he has already constructed the image of a thrifty left-arm spinner and a handy lower-order batter. Along with these established and budding stars, an array of players, who have been pushed behind, such as Karun Nair (Vidarbha), Krunal Pandya (Baroda) and Deepak Hooda (Rajasthan) too will dream to resurrect their sagging IPL careers with some excellent outings in the event. (PTI)

IPL 2025 from Mar 14 to May 25, BCCI shares schedule for next 3 seasons with franchises

NEW DELHI, Nov 22: Next year's Indian Premier League will be held from March 14 to May 25, the BCCI has told the IPL franchises while also setting aside similar widows for the event's 2026 and 2027 editions in an uncharacteristically elaborate plan. The BCCI has also decided to include injury-prone England pacer Jofra Archer, Indian-born American pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and uncapped Mumbai-wicket-keeper-batter Hardik Tamore in the two-day mega players' auction to be held in Jeddah on Sunday.

In its communication to the franchises, the Board has stated that the dates for the next three seasons are being shared at once to "assist the franchises in planning for the players' auction."

The 2026 edition of the tournament will start on March 15 and the grand finale has been scheduled for May 31.

The 2027 edition will once again start on March 14 with the final on May 30. All three finals will be held on Sundays.

The BCCI had plans to increase the number of matches in the IPL to ensure that it runs for 10 and half weeks and looking at the windows set aside, it looks imminent

that the league's game count will increase. Archer did not feature in the IPL this year and his run in the 2023 edition was cut short by an elbow injury.

Netravalkar was one of the breakout stars of the T20 World Cup in the USA earlier this year with impressive performances that were crucial to his side advancing to the Super 8s.

The former India Under-19 player, who also turned up for Mumbai in Ranji Trophy, migrated to the USA to pursue computer engineering and is currently employed with Oracle. (PTI)

Spain drawn against Netherlands

NYON (SWITZERLAND), Nov 22: European champion Spain was drawn against the Netherlands in the quarter-finals of the Nations League on Friday, while France was paired with Croatia in a rematch of the 2018 World Cup final.

Italy will face Germany and Portugal will play Denmark. Spain is also the defending Nations League champion after winning the tournament last year. The quarter-finalists advanced by placing first or second in the four Nations League top-tier groups that finished this week. The two-leg quarter-finals will be played on March 20 and 23. The winners advance to a Final Four mini-tournament scheduled for June 4-8, hosted by one of the teams involved. (AP)

মুকলি হ'ল মিছন বসুন্ধৰা ৩.০
মোৰ মাটি, মোৰ অধিকাৰ

মেৰা পূৰ্বৰ গ্ৰাম্য আৰু পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ত নগৰ অঞ্চললৈ
ৰূপান্তৰিত হোৱা এলেকাৰ দখলীকৃত ৰায়তক মালিকীস্বত্ব প্ৰদান

বিশেষত্বসমূহ

- নগৰ এলেকাত অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত হোৱা ৰায়তক মালিকীস্বত্ব প্ৰদানৰ বাবে অসম (অস্থায়ী বন্দৱস্তি এলেকা) ৰায়তী সংশোধনী আইন, ২০২৪ৰ প্ৰণয়ন
- ৫৫ নং ধাৰামতে ৰায়তী খতিয়ানভুক্ত আৰু ধাৰাবাহিক দখল থকা লোকৰ বাবে আবেদনৰ সুবিধা
- ভূমিৰ ব্যবহাৰৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত শিথিলকৰণ

কিদৰে সুবিধা লাভ কৰিব?

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প'ৰ্টেলৰ জৰিয়তে লগ ইন কৰি আধাৰ আৰু পান কাৰ্ডৰ সহায়ত e-KYC সম্পন্ন কৰি আবেদন সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰিব পাৰে
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আবেদনৰ অন্তিম তাৰিখ
৩১ ডিচেম্বৰ, ২০২৪

বিঃদ্র: উপ-নিৰ্বাচনৰ বাবে চলি থকা এমচিচিৰ পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতত এই সেৱাসমূহ নগাঁও, বঙাইগাঁও, বিশ্বনাথ আৰু কাছাৰ জিলাত প্ৰযোজ্য নহয়

ৰাজহ আৰু দুৰ্যোগ ব্যৱস্থাপনা বিভাগ, অসম চৰকাৰ

তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

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