Trump to rally backers every day until election in North Carolina

Harris appears on 'Saturday Night Live' as mirror image of Maya Rudolph



Protecting Constitution is India's primarybattle: Rahul Gandhi

Tejashwi slams Nitish govt for delaying job proposal

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#### India-US partnership most important globally for future: Makhija

India-US partnership is the most important engagement globally and the cooperation will flourish further if Kamala Harris becomes the US president as she recognises the significance of the relationship, prominent Indian-origin Democratic leader Neil Makhija has said.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, the young leader, considered to be close to Harris, also came down very hard on former president Donald Trump for his immigration policy that has triggered some concerns among immigrant communities in the US, including Indian-Ameri-

On the India-US partnership, Makhija said it is the most important relationship for the

"When you think about the competition the US has been having

with China, when you think about the actions that Russia is taking which are at odds with the interests of the US and its allies, India is really the most important country for the US to continue to build the relationship in terms of its sheer size, economic activities,"

Makhija said it is very important that the next US president understands that India is a very crucial partner for the US in many ways.

"When it comes to global priorities like our defence, tackling global issues like climate change. The US and India can lead the way if they work together. So, we need a president who recognises that and Kamala Harris is that person," he said.

Makhija called Trump a threat

to democracy. "He is engaging in the same kind of behaviour we have seen in some of the darkest moments in world history where leaders have scapegoated those individuals and communities that do not even have the right to vote," he

Makhija is presently serving as Montgomery County Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Elections. He is the first Indian American Commissioner elected in the history of Pennsylvania and many Democrats believe that the young leader could be in Harris' cabinet if she wins the election.

"You can see that he (Trump) is blaming all of the country's problems on immigrants and it is not real, it is not realistic, it is simply aimed at inflaming tensions and driving divisions among people who live here in the US," he said.

"Unfortunately, history does repeat itself. Hopefully, the people of our country recognise what happened in the past and we avoid a similar fate in the future," he

speeches, Trump promised a radical shift to tighten Washington's immigration policy and vowed to stage the "largest deportation operation in American history" if he

The Republican leader has even resolved to end birthright citizenship for the children of immigrants living in the US illegally, triggering concerns among various diaspora communities including from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

Makhija also appeared to hold the Republican Party responsible for not increasing the cap on H1B visas for Indians.

"Kamala Harris was the sponsor of a bill to fix that issue of H1B backlog when she was the senator. The problem was that the Republicans did not support it and they used to say that they were in favour of legal immigration," he said

"But now it is clear that they do not want any immigration and they do not support immigration reform. They do not support any of the bills (CONTD ON PAGE-2)

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Nov 3: The Bhasha Gaurav Saptah (Language Pride Week) officially commenced in the state on Sunday to celebrate Assamese being granted classical lan-

> This week-long celebration will include a variety of activities in schools, colleges, and other venues

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Assam government's initiative to observe Bhasha Gaurav Saptah.

"#BhashaGauravSaptah is a noteworthy effort, highlighting the enthusiasm for Assamese being conferred classical language status. My best wishes. May the programs planned over the week deepen the connection between people and Assamese culture. I also urge Assamese people outside Assam to participate," Modi wrote on X.

On the other hand, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked the Prime Minister for his kind words, stating, "Thank you, Adarniya Pradhan Mantri Shri @narendramodi ji, for your warm wishes on the commencement of #BhashaGauravSaptah."



'Bhasha Gaurav Saptah' begins to celebrate classical language status to Assamese

PM foresees deepening of people-culture connect

"The people of Assam are indebted to the Government of India for conferring Assamese with classical language status and for numerous efforts to preserve our linguistic diversity. This week is a celebration of the various languages that enrich Assam's cultural landscape," he added.

"#BhashaGauravSaptah, a week-long cel-

begins today. People from various linguistic groups will celebrate their languages and commit to preserving them," Sarma empha-

Earlier, the chief minister stated that all colleges, schools, and public offices would participate in this program, which will begin by expressing collective gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to litterand preservation of the Assamese language. Sarma further asserted that many facts about the 2,000-year-old Assamese language

will be highlighted during the celebration. "Assamese is over 2,000 years old; such facts need to be reinforced during Bhasha Gaurav Saptah. Along with online and offline activities in schools, colleges, and public offices, we will also release a booklet explaining the importance of classical language status," he noted.

The chief minister sought cooperation from all sections of society to ensure the celebration of Bhasha Gaurav Saptah is a grand

To recall, Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese were recognised as classical languages on October 3 in a Union cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Oriya had previously achieved this status, bringing the total number of classical Indian languages to eleven.

The designation as a classical language brings several (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

#### BJP to implement UCC in Jharkhand, India and China made 'some progress' tribals to be out of its ambit: Shah

RANCHI, Nov 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday announced that the BJP will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand if voted to power in the state, but would keep tribals out of its ambit.

Shah, while releasing the saffron party's manifesto, 'Sankalp Patra', for the upcoming assembly elections in Jharkhand, announced that a Displacement Commission would be formed to ensure the rehabilitation of people displaced by industries and mines in the state.

"Our government will introduce UCC in Jharkhand but tribals will be kept out of its ambit. Hemant Soren and the JMM government are spreading false propaganda that UCC will impact tribal rights, culture and relevant legislation, which is totally baseless as they will be kept out of its ambit," Shah said in

He said that though UCC would



be implemented, it will ensure that tribal rights are not impacted.

"The BJP, if voted to power in Jharkhand, will deliberate on the Sarna religious code issue, and take appropriate decisions," he said.

Shah said the saffron party, if voted to power, will create 5 lakh employment opportunities, including 2.87 lakh government jobs, in Jharkhand. The Home Minister said that BJP

will bring in a law to take back land from infiltrators in Jharkhand and identify and deport the illegal immi-

He claimed that 'Mati, Beti, Roti' (land, daughter and food) were under threat from the illegal immigrants and the BJP would provide security to the indigenous people.

The local administrations encourage infiltration in West Bengal and Jharkhand, Shah alleged.

"Crimes against women rose by 29 per cent during the five-year tenure of corrupt and insensitive Hemant Soren government, while rape cases saw an increase of 42 per cent during the period," Shah al-

He accused the JMM-led government of patronising infiltrators, while claiming that the tribal population was dwindling in the state and demography was changing fast.

Shah promised that the BJP will bring in a stringent law to take back land from infiltrators in Jharkhand as well as to drive them out. He announced 'Operation Suraksha', promising (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

in disengagement: Jaishankar BRISBANE, Nov 3: India and China have made "some progress"

in disengagement, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday, describing it as a "welcome" move which opens up the possibility that other steps could happen. His comment comes days after

Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh. The Indian Army commenced verification patrolling at Depsang while patrolling at Demchok started on Friday.

"In terms of India and China, yes, we have made some progress. You know, our relations were very, very disturbed for reasons all of you know. We have made some progress in what we call disengagement, which is when troops were very close to each other, with the possibility that could lead to

some untoward incident," Jais-

hankar said while responding to a question during interaction with the Indian diaspora here.

"There are very large numbers of Chinese troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control who were not there before 2020. And we, in turn, have counter-deployed. There are other aspects of the relationship, which also got affected during this period. So clearly, we have to see after the disengagement, what is the direction we go. But we do think the disengagement is a welcome step. It opens up the possibility that

He said that the expectation after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia last month was that "hoth the national security advisor and myself, we would meet our counterpart. So that's where things are" On October (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

other steps could happen," said the

#### Nov 27 declared holiday for Ngada festival

HT Bureau **DIPHU, Nov 3:** There is a palpable sense of enthusiasm and joy within the Rengma Naga community residing in Karbi Anglong, as the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has recently declared November 27 a holiday for the celebration of 'Ngada,' the post-harvest festival of the Rengma Naga

In a notification dated October 5, 2024, the KAAC stated, "The authority of KAAC is pleased to declare a holiday on 27th November on account of 'Ngada' - the goodwill festival of the Rengma Naga community, which was previously recognized as a restricted holiday on November 28 each year in the

Congratulating chief executive member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang for this decision, Autonomous Council (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## **COP16** suspended without agreement on new fund for nature

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: The 16th UN biodiversity talks in Colombia's Cali were suspended on Saturday without an agreement on setting up a new fund for the protection of nature. The conference, which ran around 12 hours past its scheduled end, did yield an important agreement to establish a subsidiary body that will include indigenous peoples in future discussions and decisions on biodiversity conservation.

The participating countries also agreed to establish a new global fund dedicated to sharing the benefits of digitally-sequenced genetic data taken from plants and animals with the communities they come from.

As the final plenary extended into Saturday morning, several negotiators departed to catch flights home, prompting Colombian Environment Minister and COP16 President Susana Muhamad to suspend the session due to a lack of quorum. It is not yet known when or where the session will resume.

COP16 aimed at assessing the progress on the agreement reached in 2022 in Canada to halt biodiversity loss, with more funding for biodiversity protection being a central issue.

Observers noted a clear divide between the Global

North and Global South during the talks. Wealthier nations were hesitant to increase funding, while developing countries argued that they cannot enhance their efforts without additional financial support.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted at COP15 in Canada in 2022, set 23 targets to be achieved by 2030, including placing 30 per cent of land and sea areas under protection and restoring 30 per cent of degraded

At the Canada summit, the countries agreed to make USD 200 billion available each year for biodiversity protection by 2030, including a transfer of USD 30 billion per year from developed countries to developing ones. However, in 2022, only about USD 15 billion were actually available, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Countries have pledged around USD 400 million to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) created under the US-based Global Environment Facility last year to help meet the United Nations' biodiversity targets. Developing countries argued that rich nations (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

#### Tuliram campaigns for BJP's Diganta Ghatowar in Bihali ahead of by-polls



HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 3: The Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang, is currently campaigning in the Bihali Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC) for BJP candidate Diganta

This constituency, along with four others in Assam, is set for bypolls on November 13. The five LACs going to by-polls in Assam are Behali, Dholai, Samaguri, Bongaigaon, and Sidli.

Accompanied by MP Amarsing Tisso and MLAs Darsing Ronghang and Bidyasing Engleng, the CEM has been in Bihali since November 2 to gather votes for Ghatowar. The campaign team is focusing on Karbi villages in Biswanath Chariali, assuring residents of development.

On Sunday, the CEM and his team visited Nahar Bari Kro village, home to Lokhimon believers of the Karbi community. The following day, he engaged with voters from Thaba Ingti, Longki Ingti, and Borsing Ingti villages, addressing their grievances and concerns.

During these interactions, the CEM met with religious leaders to instill confidence in the BJP's commitment to secularism and equal treatment for all communities. castes, and religions. He spoke with church leaders such as Bapu Phangcho, Jibasing Engti, and James Tisso, explaining the party's ideologies and assuring them of equal opportunities within a government.

Later, he also visited the Bihu Mari Baptist Church in Ram Chandra Tisso and Borsing Engti, further discussing the BJP's efforts for

community welfare. In his meetings, the CEM highlighted plans to establish a Karbi Welfare Council, as outlined in the Memorandum of Settlement (MoS-2) signed in 2021 by six Karbi armed organizations and the Indian government, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Doctors essential for scientific temperament: Sonowal HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Nov 3: Union Min-

ister Sarbananda Sonowal emphasized the essential role of doctors in fostering scientific temperament within society during his address in Dibrugarh on Sunday.

He spoke at the 78th Foundation Day of Assam Medical College & Hospital (AMCH) and the 62nd Foundation Day of Dibru College.

"The role played by any doctor is crucial in building a scientific temperament in society. It is a matter of immense pride that the rich legacy of Assam Medical College is in your capable hands, furthering this temperament while enriching the lives of people both physically and mentally," he stated.

The minister also highlighted the significant contributions of the Narendra Modi-led government in revamping the education sector, positioning India on track to become a 'Vishva Guru.

"Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are integrating the best of traditional medicine with modern practices to provide holistic treatment and pro-

#### The idea of setting up the museum to honour Khathing

## Museum honouring unsung hero who made Tawang part of India inaugurated in Arunachal

TAWANG, Nov 3: In 1951, an assistant political officer of the erstwhile North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) and the present-day Arunachal Pradesh carried out an audacious operation to bring Tawang under the Indian Union.

Seventy-three years later, a museum of valour has been inaugurated in Tawang in memory of the unsung hero, Major Ralengnao Bob Khathing.

The museum was inaugurated virtually by defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday from Tezpur in Assam as he could not fly to Tawang due to bad weather.

Khathing, who was a Naga from Manipur, was given the order by the then Assam governor Jairamdas Daulatram to march towards Tawang with 200 soldiers of the



Assam Rifles and 400 porters on January 17, 1951, from Chariduwar,

near Tezpur. Before World War II, Tawang was under the administrative control of the then independent Tibetan government. Despite several attempts, the British could not annex

According to the historical accounts of the NEFA, when Khathing and his men arrived in Tawang, he called a meeting on a high ground near the Tawang

village elders and prominent people of Tawang He used his diplomatic skills to

win over the locals and soon realised that the Monpa community was reeling under harsh taxes imposed by the Tibetan administration. He told the local people about India and its democracy and assured them that India would never impose unjustified taxes on them. Soon, with the Assam Rifles men, Khathing took control of Tawang. The Tricolour was hoisted in Tawang and Bumla, and the area be-

came part of India.

The idea of setting up the museum to honour Khathing, about whom very little is known in the country, was the brainchild of Arunachal (CONTD.P ON PAGE-2)

#### BJP to lose support of Nitish Kumar, Chandrababu Naidu at Centre if MVA wins in Maharashtra: Awhad

THANE, Nov 3: NCP (SP) leader Jitendra Awhad has claimed that Nitish Kumar of JD(U) and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu would withdraw their support from the BJP-led Centre if MVA is voted to power in Maharashtra. The sitting MLA from the Mumbra-Kalwa assembly constituency, who has been renominated by his party, targeted the Ekanath Shinde government over the state's "financial instability" and accused the BJP and RSS of trying

to disrupt peace in the country. If the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) forms the government after the November 20 assembly elections, BJP's allies at



the Centre Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu will stop backing it, near Thane on Saturday.

Once back in the saddle, MVA will "provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 3,000", said Awhad without elaborating. The BJP-led Mahayuti government cannot even meet essential expenses like police salaries, he said.

Awhad said deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, who triggered the acrimonious split in the NCP last year, had alienated his uncle and party founder Sharad Pawar from the activities of the outfit. He also accused Aiit Pawar of "straying towards RSS ideologies"

The BJP-led Mahayuti government has failed in curbing communal violence in the state, he claimed and slammed CM Shinde for sharing the stage with religious leader Ramgiri Maharaj, accused of making objectionable comments against Islam. Three-term MLA Awhad faces NCP's Najeeb Mulla in the Mumbra-Kalwa constituency. (PTI)

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# India is growing, but it wants to grow with world: Jaishankar

is on the path of growth, wants to grow with the world, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday, stressing that there is genuine goodwill and desire among nations to work with India.

Jaishankar arrived here earlier in the day on the first leg of his twonation tour which will also take him to Singapore.

"Namaste Australia! Landed in Brisbane today. Look forward to productive engagements over the next few days to take forward the India-Australia Dosti," he posted on X.

Addressing the Indian community here, Jaishankar said: "India will grow. India is growing, but India wants to grow with the world." When India looks at the world, it sees opportunities, he

"We are optimistic. There may be problems, but overall, we think

#### Punjab paddy procurement crosses 85 lakh tonnes

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Punjab has procured 85.41 lakh tonnes (LT) of paddy valued at ₹ 19,800 crore in the ongoing 2024-25 kharif marketing season, with procurement operations now in full swing after initial weather-related delays, the food ministry said on Sunday.

According to the ministry, about 90.69 LT of paddy arrived in mandis across Punjab till November 2, of which 85.41 LT has been procured by state agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI).

The procurement drive, which began on October 1, has already resulted in payments worth 19,800 crore reaching about 4 lakh farmers across the state.

"Though the procurement commenced a bit late due to heavy rain in September and high moisture content in paddy, it is back on track and has picked up in full swing now," the ministry said in a statement. The Centre has fixed a procurement target of 185 LT for Punjab for the ongoing season. The procurement is being carried out at ₹ 2,320 per quintal MSP fixed for 'Grade A' paddy.

To ensure smooth procurement, the state government has operationalised 2,927 designated mandis and temporary yards across Punjab. The ministry said 4,640 rice millers have applied for paddy shelling operations, with the state government already allocating work to 4,132 millers.

The government undertakes procurement operations through stateowned FCI and state agencies at

#### Mcap of 6 of top 10 most valued firms up ₹1 trn

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: The combined market valuation of 6 of the top-10 most-valued firms surged ₹ 1,07,366.05 crore last week, with State Bank of India and ICICI Bank becoming the biggest gain-

Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a one-hour special 'Muhurat Trading' session on the occasion of Diwali on November 1, marking the start of the new Samvat 2081

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 321.83 points, or 0.40 per

While Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, and Infosys faced erosion from their market



the world has goodwill and a desire to work with India. We see a sentiment overall in the world for India to succeed and it's important we harness that sentiment," Jais-

hankar said.

He mentioned that there are numerous opportunities for global tion and research.

"The image today of Indians abroad, the image of being well educated, of being personally responsible, the work ethic, the family-centric nature of our lives. I think the combination of all of this today makes us very, very atcooperation in the fields of educatractive in the global workplace,"

"And I think it's important that that brand is developed, that those skills are nurtured...And again, I emphasise that this era, you know, this era of AI, of electric mobility, of chips, this will require a global workforce," he added.

During his visit, Jaishankar will inaugurate India's fourth consulate in Australia in Brisbane

He will also co-chair the 15th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue (FMFD) with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong in Can-

He will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of the 2nd Raisina Down Under to be held in the Australian Parliament House

He is also scheduled to have interactions with Australian leaderparliamentarians, the

### DLF to invest ₹ 8,000 crore to build super-luxury project in Gurugram

**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** Realty major DLF will invest around ₹ 8,000 crore to develop an ultra-luxury housing project in Gurugram as it seeks to encash strong

demand for premium homes. Last month, DLF did a pre-launch of its 17-acre super-luxury housing project 'The Dahlias' at DLF 5, Gurugram, after obtaining all regulatory approvals

and has received a good response from customers. The company will develop around 420 apartments in this project, which is the second ultra-luxury offering from DLF after the successful delivery of 'The Camellias'

According to sources, DLF will invest around ₹ 8,000 crore over the next 4-5 years on the construction of this new project, comprising nearly 50 lakh square

In a conference call with analysts held recently, DLF's Managing Director Ashok Tyagi informed that the company is expecting ₹ 26,000 crore in revenue from this new super-luxury project in Gurugram based on the current pre-launch price.

"In RERA, what we have filed now is the revenue of ₹ 26,000 crore based on the pre-launch price. These numbers will obviously keep on going upwards, as prices keep on moving," Tyagi had said while replying to a query regarding the revenue potential of this project. The minimum size of an apartment is 10,300 square feet.

Elaborating more on the super-luxury project, Tyagi said the construction cost in this project will be very high at around ₹ 18,000 per square feet because of expenditure on infrastructure, an artificial lake and a 4

The selling price currently is around ₹ 1 lakh per square feet of carpet area

DLF's subsidiary DLF Home Developers Joint Managing Director Aakash Ohri noted that this project would be a lot better than its previous super-luxury project The Camellias, which of late has seen few secondary market deals of over ₹ 100 crore for an apart-

"I am very humbled by the response we have got so far for The Dahlias. Today, people are looking for the best lifestyle that money can buy, and 'The Dahlias' is today that option," Ohri told analysts.

He noted that this project once completed would be counted among the best luxury properties in the world. Ohri hoped to repeat the success that the company achieved in 'The Camellias' project, generating around ₹ 12,500 crore in revenue against the initial es-

timate of ₹ 7,000 crore. With the launch of this high-value project, DLF is confident of meeting its sales guidance of ₹ 17,000

The company has a strong launch pipeline in the second half of this fiscal as it plans to launch projects in Mumbai and Goa.

DLF has reported a 66 per cent increase in its sales bookings to ₹7,094 crore in the first half of this fiscal on strong housing demand.

Its sales bookings stood at ₹4,268 crore in the yearago period.

The company has been able to achieve growth in sales bookings during the April-September period of this fiscal because of strong performance in the first

#### FMCG firms express concern over inflation, hint at potential price hikes

**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** Leading FMCG companies reported a deurban. Besides, FMCG players reurban. Besides, FMCG players re"This could lead to an increase in quarter on account of higher input costs and food inflation, which ultimately slowed down the pace of

urban consumption. Rising prices of commodity inputs such as palm oil, coffee and cocoa were also accentuated and some FMCG firms have hinted at a price hike. HUL, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), Marico, ITC, and Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) have expressed concerns over squeezing urban consumption, which according to industry experts forms 65-68 per cent of FMCG total

"We think this is a short-term hit and we will recover the margins through judicious price increase and stabilising of costs," said GCPL Managing Director and CEO Sudhir Sitapati in a Q2 earning statement. GCPL, makers of Cinthol, Godrej No 1, HIT had a steady quarter given the headwinds of oil costs and tough consumer demand in India and its standalone EBITDA margin was lower, caused entirely by high inflation in palm oil.

ucts and from sales through

quick-commerce channels.

Another FMCG maker Dabur India also said the demand environment was challenging in the September quarter marked by "high food inflation and a resultant squeeze in urban demand." The maker of Dabur Chyawanprash, PudinHara and Real juice reported a decline of 17.65 per cent in its consolidated net profit to Rs 417.52 crore and revenue from operations slipped 5.46 per cent to Rs 3,028.59

Recently, Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan also raised concerns over decline and said "middle segment" is under pressure as high food inflation continues to cripple household budgets.

"It is extremely clear that the market is facing muted demand. The growth in F&B sector, which used to be in double digits a couple of quarters ago, is now down to 1.5-2 per cent," he said.

cline in margins in the September ported growth from premium prod-prices if raw material costs become unmanageable for companies. We are ourselves facing a difficult situation as far as coffee and cocoa prices are concerned, he said.

Nestle India, which owns brands such as Maggi, Kit Kat, and Nescafe also reported a marginal decline of 0.94 per cent and its domestic sales growth was at 1.2 per cent. Narayanan also pointed out that tier-1 and below towns and rural also seem to be reasonably stable. However, "pressure points" are coming from mega cities and met-

TCPL MD & CEO Sunil D'-Souza also said urban has softened and has an impact on consumer spending in urban areas.

"My hypothesis is probably food inflation is higher than what we think it is and the impact is far higher," said D'Souza in the earnings call for the September quarter.

HUL CEO & MD Rohit Jawa said the market volume growth trajectory remained muted in this quarter. At an MAT (moving annual total) level, total FMCG volume growth has slowed down slightly in

#### Over the rise of food inflation, The rural markets, which were Narayanan said there is a "sharp uptick" in prices of fruits and veg-India boosts global share in petroleum, gemstone, sugar exports over 5 yrs

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: India's export competitiveness has witnessed healthy gains in multiple sectors -particularly petroleum, gemstones, agrochemicals and sugar -- during the last five years, as these segments have increased their share in global trade, according to the commerce ministry data.

The other sectors where the share of India's exports has increased during 2018 and 2023 are electrical goods, pneumatic tyres, taps and valves, and semiconductor devices.

The ministry data analysis showed that petroleum exports rose to \$84.96 billion in 2023, with India's market share surging to 12.59 per cent last year from 6.45 per cent in 2018, positioning it as the second-largest global exporter. It was ranked fifth in 2018.

In the precious and semi-precious stones segment, the country's share in global shipments has soared to 36.53 per cent last year



from 16.27 per cent in 2018. It has propelled the country to the top position in the category, with exports reaching \$1.52 billion in 2023 from \$0.26 billion in 2018. It was at the

second spot in 2018 Similarly, in cane or beet sugar. the country's outbound shipments have more than quadrupled to \$ 3.72 billion from \$ 0.93 billion in

India has achieved tremendous growth in the export of cane or beet sugar, with its global market share increasing from 4.17 per cent in

2018 to 12.21 per cent in 2023. "As the world's second-largest exporter of sugar, India's success can be attributed to both favourable agricultural policies and its strong production base. The country has capitalised on the growing global demand for sugar, especially in regions like Southeast Asia and Africa," an official said.

India's share of the global market for insecticides and fungicides has also shown healthy improvement.

The country increased its global share from 8.52 per cent in 2018 to 10.85 per cent in 2023, with exports reaching \$ 4.32 billion.

India's ability to meet international agricultural and environmental standards and its emphasis on innovation in agrochemicals have led to this improvement, the official

India is now the third-largest exporter globally against the 5th position in 2018, the data showed

Further, the country's position in the global market for rubber pneumatic tyres has also strengthened, with exports growing to \$ 2.66 billion in 2023 from \$ 1.82 billion in 2018. India now holds a 3.31 per cent share of the global market, up from 2.34 per cent in 2018, and the country has moved up to the eighth position globally from 13th in 2018, indicating the rising demand for Indian-manufactured tyres, particularly in emerging markets.

The data also showed that exports of semiconductors and photosensitive devices have increased from a mere \$0.16 billion in 2018 to \$1.91 billion in 2023, with the country's share in the world market rising to 1.4 per cent, and the country now ranks ninth globally compared to 25th in 2018.

This underscores India's potential to become a key player in the global semiconductor supply chain. (PTI)

#### Contd. from Page 1..

#### PM foresees deepening

advantages, including the creation of a Center of Excellence for the study of the language, funds for Professional Chairs at central institutions, and worldwide awards for notable contributors.

#### India-US partnership most

that would give people who live here, work here and pay taxes a real pathway to citizenship," Makhija added. Describing the November 5 presidential election as very significant for the US, he said the country is at the crossroads. "On the one hand, we have a candidate who is protecting democracy and fundamental freedoms. Then we have a candidate who represents the past and wants to turn back the clock to a time before anyone from our community was here in the US. Who wants to turn back the clock on fundamental rights," he said.

'Their (Trump camp's) belief is that the country is supposed to be a specific demographic region. We think America is an idea, we think America is an idea that anyone can succeed no matter who you are," Makhija said. "This is the decision that we are making which is -- do we have a country which is pluralistic, that is welcoming, that is inclusive or do we think it should be exclusive and really meant to serve a particular demography?" he said. "I think Kamala Harris represents the future that is more inclusive, that will be welcoming and lives up to the ideals that our country truly was founded on," Makhija added. (PTI)

#### BJP to implement UCC

to end human trafficking in Jharkhand by 2027, besides the elimination of Naxalism from the state in the next two years. Shah said voters will have to choose between the "corrupt JMM government that patronises infiltrators" and the BJP which doesn't allow anyone to cross the border illegally. "Hindus are under attack and appearement is at its peak. Jharkhand is the most corrupt state in the country," he alleged. There will be CBI and SIT probes into "paper leaks" in competitive exams in Jharkhand and culprits will be put behind the bars, he said.

The manifesto provides that Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) Competitive Exam will be cancelled and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will investigate the previous CGL exams and all major paper leak cases. Besides, it promises to make Jharkhand the hub of eco-tourism in the country. "We will set up 10 new medical colleges in the state. We will increase the coverage under Ayushman Bharat Jeevan Dhara Yojana from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh for elderly persons aged over 70 years. We will increase the number of beds in primary health centres and community health centres by 25,000," he added. Shah promised that the poor in the state will be provided with houses if the BJP comes to power in the Jharkhand.

A total of 21 lakh houses will be constructed under PM Awas Yojna, while elderly, widows and persons with disabilities will get ₹ 2,500 as monthly pension, he added.

Under the Matritva Suraksha Yojna, every pregnant woman will be given six nutrition kits and assistance of Rs 21,000, while free education will be provided from "KG to PG" to girls from poor and backward communities, he

#### India and China made 'some

21, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said in Delhi that an agreement had been finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020. The agreement was firmed up on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff. The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict

between the two sides in decades. Jaishankar, who arrived in the Australian city of Brisbane earlier in the day on the first leg of his two-nation

tour, said that there are right now two conflicts, which are in everybody's mind. "One is Ukraine. And one is what is happening in the Middle East. In different ways, we are trying to do something in both," he said while replying to another question.

On the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Jaishankar said that India is making efforts to bring diplomacy back to the forefront, with Prime Minister Modi personally involved in meetings with leaders of the two countries.

The minister said the Prime Minister went to Russia in July, and then he went to Ukraine in August. He met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy separately, once in June and once in September. He again had a meeting last month with President Vladimir Putin in Kazan.

Jaishankar said that due to the conflict, every day, there is a cost to the world, apart from the cost to these countries - Russia and Ukraine - and to the rich. "So, it is a situation, which does call for some degree of activity

### or proactive diplomacy. We are trying to do that," he said. (PTI) Doctors essential for scientific

well-being," he added. Sonowal noted the crucial contributions of the medical and scientific communities in overcoming the challenges posed by COVID-19. "While vaccination helped heal individuals, the selfless service of the medical community was essential in healing society at large." He remarked on the high caliber of Indian doctors in clinical excellence, pointing to the rapid growth of medical tourism as a testament to this. "While we excel in contemporary medical practices, our age-old traditional medicinal systems have also proven effective in healing both health and mind. India's greatest soft power export is Yoga, which continues to benefit humanity globally," he said. Regarding Assam Medical College, Sonowal emphasised the need to hone its legacy to support a world-class talent pool of doctors and researchers.

"In addition to the Assam government's commitment of Rs 300 crore to improve infrastructure, as an MP of Dibrugarh LSC, I will certainly contribute to elevating the AMC's status as a leading center of care and healing in the region. AMC is the pride of Dibrugarh, Assam, and the Northeast. You shall continue to inspire generations and heal humanity," he asserted. The event was also attended by Bimal Borah, minister of Assam, Rameswar Teli, MP of Rajya Sabha; Bolin Chetia, MLA of Sadiya LAC; Dr. Saikat Patra, mayor of Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation; Prof Sanjeev Kakati, principal of AMC; Dr Reema Nath, vice principal of AMC; Arun Jyoti, CEM of Moran Autonomous Council; Indra Gogoi, vice chairman of Assam Gas Company Limited; Ujjwal Kashyap, district president of BJP Dibrugarh, among other dignitaries.

Additionally, Sonowal participated in the 62nd Foundation Day celebration of Dibru College, which was founded with public support and has become a pioneering institution in the region, receiving top honors from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). He paid floral tributes to the founding Principal Bharat Narayar Jamowar and vice principal Nanda Lal Borgohain.

"The 21st century is one of competition, and we must participate to achieve success with dignity. Dibru College prepares you for that challenge. Students from across the Northeast study here, honing their skills to contribute significantly to nation-building. You should be grateful for that. My appeal to students today is to focus on selfdevelopment. There are no shortcuts to success—you must work hard on your character and discipline. Our dynamic PM, Narendra Modi ji, works tirelessly for the nation, not just as a leader but as someone fully immersed in serving the country. May you find a role model in his life!" Sonowal remarked.

The event was also attended by Rameswar Teli, former Union Minister of State and MP of Rajya Sabha; Dr. Saikat Patra, Mayor of DMC; Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University; Pradeep Kumar Baruah, President of the Governing Council of Dibru College; Aditi Baruah, Principal of Dibru College, among other dignitaries.

#### Tuliram campaigns for BJP's

aimed at safeguarding the rights and interests of Karbi people living outside the Karbi Anglong district. Ronghang also prioritised road and infrastructure development, recognising its importance for regional growth. He promised to provide free handlooms to Karbi women in Biswanath district, empowering them economically and promoting local crafts

In his speech, Ronghang criticised MP Gaurav Gogoi's limited MPLAD fund allocation for the Jorhat Parliamentary Constituency, which he argued could only be utilized in Jorhat, not in Behali.

#### COP16 suspended without

hold significant influence over the GEF and proposed creating a new dedicated fund for nature. However, countries such as Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and members of the European Union rejected the proposal. The conference also saw several mega-diverse countries, including India, Peru and Thailand, submitting their action plans to protect biodiversity. However, around 150 countries, including Brazil, are yet to publish their biodiversity plans. "Nature is on life support and by not reaching a strong financial compromise here in Cali, the risk of its collapse increases. We are living in a time where it is clear that our future is at stake. Shame on us for allowing a lack of political expediency to delay action that the world -- and nature -- need to survive," said Patricia Zurita, chief strategy officer at Conservation International, a non-profit environmental

## organisation based in the United States.. (PTI) Nov 27 declared holiday

member Phenpiga Rengma expressed gratitude: "On behalf of the Rengma Nagas of Karbi Anglong, I would like to thank our Hon'ble CEM, Dr. Tuliram Ronghang, for declaring the 27th of November as a holiday on the occasion of Ngada.

Rengma further explained, "A memorandum was submitted to CEM Tuliram Ronghang by the Rengma Naga Cultural Society, Karbi Anglong, on September 28, 2024. Previously, Ngada was observed as a restricted holiday on November 28 each year. However, we, the Rengma Nagas, felt that this date coincides with the death anniversary of the late Khorsing Terang, the first CEM of Karbi Anglong district (1952). We believe our festival should not coincide with a day of mourning for the people of Karbi Anglong, as we also wish to pay tribute to this great soul on that day

#### Museum honouring unsung hero

Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu. Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen (retd) K T Parnaik, Khandu, Union minister Kiren Rijiju, Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh and several state ministers attended the inauguration of the museum on October 31. Khathing's family members were also present at the function.

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and several top military officers were virtually present along with the defence minister in Tezpur. At the event, Rajnath Singh also virtually dedicated to the nation 'Desh ka Vallabh', a statue of India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at Tawang. Paying homage to Khathing, Rajnath Singh said he was an extraordinary figure who made invaluable contributions to the northeast region and national security, "Major Khathing not only led the peaceful integration of Tawang into India but also established essential military and security frameworks, including Sashastra Seema Bal, Nagaland Armed Police, and Naga Regiment," he said. Rijiju said due recognition has been given to Khathing, who had been neglected so far.

During his lifetime, Khathing donned many hats. He was a student leader, an Army major, part of the team which brought Hyderabad under the Indian Union, a civil servant, an MLA, a minister in Manipur and India's ambassador to Myanmar, said Rijiju, the MP from Arunachal West, the Lok Sabha constituency under which Tawang falls. "I have never seen such a person in history who played so many roles in his lifetime. But unfortunately, the people of the country hardly know about Bob Khathing. Without Bob Khathing, Tawang would not have been part of India," he said.(PTI)

Statewide events commemorate Assamese linguistic heritage with public meetings

# State celebrates Bhasha Gaurav Saptah



HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Nov 3: To celebrate the recent recognition of Assamese as a classical language by the Centre and to honour the state's rich linguistic diversity, a week-long celebration of 'Bhasha Gaurav Saptah' is underway in Sonitpur district from Sunday, along with the rest of the state. For the occasion, the Sonitpur district administration organised a daylong program at the auditorium of the North East Regional Institute of Land and Water Management here on the inaugural day of the celebrations.

The event began with a welcome speech by Sonitpur district commissioner Ankur Bharali, who briefly outlined the literary and cultural heritage of the district, recalling the names of notable figures and their unmatched contributions to the literary and cultural history of the district as well as the

During the program, fourteen litterateurs

from the district, including Sahitya Academy awardee Geeta Upadhyay, Gyan Bahadur Chetry, Chandramani Upadhyay, Dr Sanjeev Paul Deka, Dr Sanjeev Upadhyay, Gautam Daimari, Dr Jury Dutta, Chattraman Subba, and noted literary figures Dr Satish Chandra Bhattacharyya, Dr Swadhinata Mahanta, Dr Ramesh Chandra Goswami, Bankim Sarma, Aiswarjya Kakati, and Dilip Kumar Barua, were felicitated by the Sonitpur district administration for their distinguished contributions to various aspects of the Assamese

literary world. MLA of Tezpur, Prithiraj Rabha, attending the program as chief guest, recalled the contributions of the district and its pioneers who dedicated their lives and works to building the foundation of Assamese literature and culture. Delivering his insightful speech, prominent educationist, retired professor, and former President of Tezpur Sahitya Sabha, Purneswar Nath, delved into the gradual development of the centuries-old Assamese classical language, highlighting its beauty, which attracts people from

REGION

The entire event, hosted by Pankaj Barua, former secretary of Tezpur Sahitya Sabha, was attended by noted citizens, institutional heads, and representatives of various sociocultural and literary organizations from the district, along with Karabi Saikia Karan, CEO of Sonitpur Zila Parishad, additional district commissioners Kabita Kakati Konwar, Dyotibha Bora, Raj Baruah, and officials from the Sonitpur district administration. The meeting also passed several resolutions, expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister of India for the government's initiative to recognise the centuries-old Assamese language as a classical language.

Our Sivasagar correspondent adds: Along with the rest of the state, the Sivasagar district administration observed

Bhasha Gaurav Divas with a well-attended public meeting at the Yuvadal Auditorium on Sunday. Prasanta Sharma, a noted theatre activist, writer, and assistant teacher at Fuleswari Girls' HS School, addressed the gathering as the chief guest. Citing a line from Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Sharma remarked that the Assamese language has truly entered the world stage of languages following its recognition as a classical language. He discussed the broad benefits for Assamese speakers and writers and the opening of new horizons for language researchers in many universities in the years

Dr Mayashree Goswami, HoD of Assamese at Sibsagar University, paid homage to language martyr Ranjit Borpujari. She emphasised that adhering to Sanskrit grammar and syntax is essential for preserving the Assamese language in its correct form. She expressed concern over mispronunciations and the incorrect use of words and sentences by the new generation of Assamese speakers.

Dr Saumerjyoti Mahanta, principal of Sibsagar Commerce College, spoke about the future of the Assamese language. He cited Israel's success in asserting itself on the global stage, where the Jewish community of fewer than 10 million speakers achieved prominence by translating various international classics into Hebrew. He suggested that Assam could follow a similar path. Sivasagar district commissioner Ayush Garg, IAS, DDC Samiran Bora, noted poet Prema Gogoi, Satradhikar of Ujjanial Satra Lakhikanta Mahanta, and several other dignitaries attended the function. The meeting adopted two resolutions, thanking the central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting recognition to the As-

## MAAS marks 34th **Foundation Day**

Event in Morigaon emphasises the need for impartial human rights activism



HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, Nov 3: "Women are the most vulnerable to all aspects of human rights violations reto war, terrorism, fundamentalism, and domestic violence, whether they are the families of victims or the family members of perpetrators," said the chief advisor of MAAS, Bubumoni Goswami. The 34th Foundation Day of the Human Rights Struggle Committee (HRSC) was celebrated centrally at the Morigaon District Journalists' Association hall, concluding on Saturday

While inaugurating the seminar, prominent literary researcher Mileshwar Patar emphasised the need for organisations like MAAS to remain relevant in protesting against human rights violations and urged the organisation to adopt a clearer and more impartial stance. The seminar was chaired by MAAS publicity secretary Jitumoni Nath and attended by All Assam Lekhika Samaroh Samiti's Morigaon president Reena Deka and Aideu Sandikoi Cultural Multipurpose Association president Reena Rani Saikia.

presided over by MAAS president Aditya Lahkar, with the welcome speech delivered by secretary general Lakhi Prasad Deka. Prominent poet and former MLA Harendra Bora, advocate Nekib Uddin Ahmed of Morigaon, MAAS secretary Raju Singh, Rubena Yasmin Ahmed, organising secretary Hareshwar Bora, Nagaon district chairman Budhen Bora, secretary Intu Sharma, Morigaon District Committee acting president Chanu Gogoi, secretary Manik Nath, and Lekhika Santha's Morigaon Sakha secretary Rita Mishra were also in attendance.

The program was inaugurated by the chairman of the Central Committee of MAAS, Aditya Lahkar. Other dignitaries who inaugurated the event included Rajen Deka, president of the All Assam National Martyrs' Family Coordination Council; Ghanshyam Sharma, family member of martyr Pradeep Sharma; prominent social worker Dharanidhar Buragohain; and president of the All Tiwa Chhatra Sangha, Cheniram Malang. The meeting was also attended by Jeevan Jeuti Krishak Sangha member Tulsi Deka and

### 'Mou Kooh' - a collection of poems released

**HT Correspondent** 

**JORHAT, Nov 3:** 'Mou Kooh' a collection of poems written by Adivit Bora was released on Sunday at Asom Saikhik Kendra here. Bora studies in Jonaki Sangha Bidyalaya in 4th standard.

The book was formally released by Jorhat MLA Hitendra Nath at a well packed Hall

where Ananta Sharma, Children literature Jogananda writer, Bora, educationist and social worker, Mrinalini Goswami, Safal Khound along with other dignitaries were present. The programmme was organised by Uttar Pachim Jorhat Kobi Sanmilon. The meeting was presided over by Bipul Hazarika and the welcome



Poems were also recited by children in the programme.

evening

The opening ceremony was social worker Seema Deka.

address was delivered by Ajanta Kumar Bora and Bhoben Hazarika

# Bakaliaghat gears up for 31st Shishu,

#### Noted academician Dr Sagar Baruah passes away HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Nov 3: Dr Sagar Baruah, a distinguished educationist and former principal of Khagarijan College, Nagaon, passed away on Sunday at his residence in Lanka, Hojai district.

Born in Lakhoujan, Bokakhat in Golaghat district, Dr Baruah began his teaching career at Lanka College before joining Khagarijan College as principal in 2007. He served with dedication until his retirement in

Dr Baruah was also the state president of the Asomiya Sahitya Sanmilani and an acclaimed Assamese poet. He authored several books and organised high-standard seminars on various issues at his own expense.

As a research supervisor, Dr Baruah worked at Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon, for a brief period. His demise has cast a pall of gloom over Nagaon. His mortai remains were taken to his hometown Bokakhat, where people from various walks of life paid their last respects.

Notable figures, including MLA Rupak Sarma, Girindra Kumar Baruah, teaching staff of Khagarijan College, Lanka College, Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya, Nowgong College, ADP College, Rupahi College, CPI, and Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad, have condoled his death.

Dr Baruah is survived by his wife, two sons, and a host of relatives and well-wishers

#### United forum of original Muslims formed in Namti

**HT Correspondent** SIVASAGAR, Nov 3: A united forum of five original Muslim groups—Garia, Moria, Sayed, Desi, and Jalaha—was formed at a public meeting held in the Sanmilita Yuva Samaj office, Namti Chariali, on Wednesday. Presided over by writer Samsul Barik, the meeting was attended by about a hundred people from these communities. Educationist Assad Ullah delivered the welcome address, while Anseruddin Borah spoke on the glorious tradition and heritage of Muslims in Assam. Abu Hussein of the Central Committee stated that the forum is apolitical and has been formed for the overall development of Muslims who are the state's original inhabitants.

A 41-member regional committee was established during the meeting, with Hyder Hussein as president, Samsul Barik as working president, and Farid Ali as secretary. Through a resolution, the gathering decided to compile a historical account of the original Muslims residing in the district since the Ahom era. Representatives from the five Muslim groups resolved to pursue a democratic movement for their rights and privileges. Sirajul Islam, Fijnur Ali, Sayed Zehirul Huda, Sehidur Rahman, Rekibuddin Ahmed, Musarul Haque, Touffique Ahmed, Farid Ali, Misbahuddin Ali, Rajibur Rahman, and Assad Ullah addressed the gathering, advocating for a united forum to draw government attention.

# Yuva and Aaeematri Samaroh

**HT Correspondent** 

BAKALIA, Nov 3: Brisk preparations are underway for the upcoming 31st edition of the Shishu, Yuva and Aaeematri Samaroh at Bhuyin Samanwaya Bakaliaghat in Karbi Anglong district. The three-day Samaroh will start on November 8 and conclude on November 10.

On November 8, the first day of the Samaroh, the program will begin at 6:00 am with a cleanliness drive, followed by 'Pratah Prasang' at 7:00 am. At 8:00 am, a sapling plantation drive led by Sarap Engti Kathar, forest officer, Bakaliaghat, will take place. This will be followed by the opening of the Naamghar archway. Starting at 9 am, the main archway, Reception Committee Office, guest house, main office, Aaeematri Seva Sub-Committee Office, Medical Assis-Sub-Committee, book exhibition-cum-stall, dining hall entrance, main stage, and pandal will be inaugurated.

At 1:00 pm, various competitions and a book launch event will take place. During this time, books such as 'Parbatya Suwas', a souvenir, 'Mahiyasi', 'Dekagiri', and



'Shishu-Manjari' will be released. 'Naam-Prasang' will be held on another stage by Sahitya, the Cultural Branch. The general meeting of Seva Bahini will be held at 5:30

On November 9, the second day of the Samaroh will begin with Naam Prasang and a cleanliness drive. At 9:00 am, the organisational flag will be hoisted by Bhabendra Nath Deka, Padadhikar Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha, followed by a Bhagawad and cultural

At 11:30 am, a seminar will be conducted, followed by the general

meeting of the Central Shishu and Aaeematri Kalyan Samiti at 4:00 pm, and Naam Prasang at 5:30 pm.

On November 10, the final day of the Samaroh, the morning will begin with Pratah Prasang and a cleanliness drive. Other programs of the day include a seminar at 9:00 am. At 11:00 am, an open session will be held, presided over by Bhabendra Nath Deka, Padadhikar

The chief executive member of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang, will grace the occasion as the chief

janikanta Dutta, former Padadhikar of SSS; Padmashree Rongbong Terang; deputy speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Dr Numal Momin; Diphu MP, Amarsing Tisso; cabinet ministers Atul Bora, Jayanta Malla Baruah, and Nandita Gorlosa; and many other guests will attend the Samaroh. The Reception Committee presi-

Other dignitaries, including Ra-

dent, Bimal Baruah; working president and KAAC executive member, Madhuram Lekthe; and general secretary, Jyoti Bora, appeal to the public for their support and

#### Sivasagar remembers martyr Dilip Chakraborty

**HT Correspondent** 

SIVASAGAR, Nov 3: The first government employee martyr of the Assam Movement, Dilip Chakraborty, was commemorated on Sunday through a meeting at the historic Sivasagar Barpukhuri par. District secretary of the Sadau Asom Karmachari Parishad, Ranjan Gogoi, inaugurated the program. Mrinanka Saikia, district president of SAKP, in his speech, urged all members to keep the flame ignited by the martyrs burning in their hearts. He said the martyrs' dedication to national interest would continue to inspire the Karmachari Parishad. Vice-president Rajen Milli paid tribute to all the martyred employees of the Assam Movement. The memorial service was attended by Saroj Barua and executive members Ranjan Rajkonwar, Madan Saha, Sonabar Taye, and Lalit

#### Jamugurihat prepares for 95th Srimanta Sankardev Sangha conference

<u>HT Correspondent</u>
BISWANATH CHARIALI, Nov 3: The 95th edition of the annual conference of Srimanta Sankardev Sangha will be held at Dhalaibil here in 2026. The Tezpur district committee of Srimanta Sankardev Sangha has undertaken initiatives in this regard. A public meeting convened by the Tezpur district committee of Srimanta Sankardev Sangha was held on Sunday at the Kirtan Ghar premises of the Jamuguri regional committee. More than two hundred members from various regional and primary committees attended the meeting, chaired by Prabhakaran Barman.

Addressing the media, Bipur Bora, secretary of the Jamuguri regional committee of the Sangha, stated that a budget of four crores has been prepared to organise the state conference. A good number of research books, along with memorabilia, will be published for the occasion. The meeting featured addresses from Bhaba Goswami, Narayan Saikia, Shailen Barkataky, Bhupen Das, Lalan Orang, Minku Kalita, among others. The public meeting commenced with a 'Gosha'

## Kavach 4.0 set to revolutionise rail safety and efficiency



GUWAHATI, Nov 3: Indian Railways is progressing towards the successful implementation of Kavach 4.0, an indigenous advanced safety technology system designed to enhance train operations across its network. Kayach 4.0 is a comprehensive, technology-driven solution developed by Indian Railways to prevent accidents and ensure smooth train operations, providing an additional layer of safety and control. The system is capable of automatically applying brakes if the loco pilot fails to do so, displaying real-time line-side signals in

the driver's cab, and providing continuous

movement authority updates through radio-

based communication. Other key features in-

clude automatic whistling at level crossing

gates, direct locomotive-to-locomotive communication to prevent collisions, and an SOS function to alert authorities in case of emer-

The Kavach 4.0 system is built upon several critical technological components, including Station Kavach, which receives information from Loco Kavach and signaling systems to guide the locomotive, and RFID tags, which are installed along the tracks at regular intervals to monitor the train's location and direc-The Communication Backbone, consisting of optical fiber cables and communication towers along the track, ensures seamless information exchange between the locomotive and the station. Additionally, the Driver Machine Interface (DMI) provides loco

pilots with essential information, such as sig nal aspects and movement authority, directly within the cab for quick decision-making.

The system incorporates advanced technologies like relay-based interlocking, UHF radio for signal communication, RFID for precise location tracking, GSM for secure communication, and GPS for accurate time synchronisation. This integration of modern technology reflects the railway's commitment to adopting cutting-edge solutions to enhance safety and efficiency.

The implementation of Kavach 4.0 across 10,000 locomotives by IR is part of a broader initiative to modernise infrastructure and improve safety standards. By leveraging technology like Kavach 4.0, the connectivity system will ensure smoother operations, minimising human error and, most importantly, preventing accidents. This initiative is a significant step towards providing a safer travel environment for train passengers. As the Kavach system has already been deployed on key routes within the IR network, the advanced 4.0 system will further replace the existing ones on a pilot-project basis. NFR, as part of the national railway connectivity system, will soon integrate this advanced technological system, providing safer, more reliable, and efficient rail services within its vicinity.

## 16 satras unite in protest against land encroachment in Nagaon



**HT Correspondent** 

NAGAON, Nov 3: The satradhikars of 16 satras staged a protest demanding the release of encroached satra lands. Due to the encroachment by some groups, many satras have been threatened in their existence. Assam's satras are the repositories of the state's heritage and traditions. To protect this heritage, the satradhikars and bhaktas of 16 satras in the Nagaon and Marigaon districts gathered on Sunday and launched a movement to reclaim the lost lands.

Notably, the lands of Narowa Satra, Kuji Satra, Balisattra, Upper Dum-Dumia Satra, Kobaitaka Satra, Shalaguri Satra, and Bhetyani Narowa Satra have been encroached upon, threatening the satras' survival. Many satras have lost almost all their land, except for small portions. To address this crisis, the satradhikars and bhaktas of the affected satras held a meet-

ing at Narowa Kuji Satra. The meeting resulted in the formation of a five-member coordination committee, with Indramohan Baruah as president and Manik Barua as secretary, to oversee the movement. Addressing the gathering, Indramohan Baruah said, "Our heritage-rich satras face threats due to encroachment by people from West Bengal. Specifically, Kobaitaka Satra, Balisattra, Narowa Satra, and Kuji Bil are under attack. Rampur Satra has ceased to exist. We demand the government free these lands from encroachment, protect the satras, and preserve our national culture. We will continue our movement until the satra lands are reclaimed and the existence of indigenous people is secured," the satradhikars and bhaktas

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#### QUOTE OF THE DAY

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition -Henry James

#### Selection of new **BJP** president

ajya Sabha MP and BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi's inadvertent disclosure of who lords over the BJP, lock, stock and barrel, during a recent press conference, came even as the BJP has begun preparations to elect a new party president, the deadline for which is by the last week of December 2024. There would be "new presidents" for all levels of the party, from booth to state-level, but the Haryana election victory had offset the 2024 Lok Sabha setback and reset the Prime Minister's leadership credentials. The new party president will kowtow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as if there's no break. But whose name tops the list? The name is in Modi's head and close to his chest. Not just the appointment of a new national president, the changes will span the entire party hierarchy, in every state, from the booth to the district, Pradesh to 'desh'. The RSS is active in this "selection process" and the party has to accomplish the metamorphosis keeping in mind "Modiji's" diktats. Incumbent president JP Nadda will remain at the helm till the new guy takes over. The BJP constitution mandates a given electoral process, but only the naïve will concede that the person wouldn't have to get Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nod.

Whoever becomes BJP President will answer not just to Prime Minister Modi but also to Union Home Minister and former BJP President Amit Shah, who will ensure whoever is chosen will always be at his beck and call. Lofty statements will be issued, but the BJP top brass will act and behave exactly like the Congress "high-command". Let's not fool ourselves that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will "retire" at age 75, nothing of the sort. A fourth prime ministerial stint for Narendra Modi is already the talk of the BJP. What happens to Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitions isn't part of the conversation. Modi commands the loyalty of a cabal of media and ministers owing their present and future, their all to him, to him alone. Ask the editors-in-chief and the "group editors" of mainstream media, all have an interest in who will become the next BJP president. The party's local committees will be "elected" first. Then, there will be "polls for mandal, district, regional and state committees." Then, the nomination of teams of office-bearers at each level. There is already a clamour for these posts.

Modi likes to keep control and check in his hands is too well known. Modi has spoken of changing the fortunes of the BJP with a complete overhaul of the party apparatus, by inducting fresh blood, by encouraging youth with no previous political experience to join the BJP, youth who are complete strangers to politics. As many as 100000 to 200000 of highly qualified young people with multi-tasking in their blood. The next national president of the BJP will nominate his own set of office-bearers. The BJP national president has a tenure of three years and he can be president for two terms. Past BJP presidents include Nitin Gadkari and Rajnath Singh. Once a BJP President, never the Prime Minister

## Trump or Harris - voters of seven swing states will have decisive role in electing

November 5 polls, the question who is going to win the 2024 presidential election in the USA is vexing the country as well as the outside world. All kinds of prognosticators - poll stars, academics or International odd makers are presenting their data and opinion about the outcome of the election in tandem.

But no one knows exactly what is going to happen on November 5 as tens of millions of early votes have already been cast with tens of millions still yet to vote in person on the Election Day.

The whole country is anxiously awaiting the outcome amid an increasingly bitter political divide and significant stress among people about the nation's future.

As the unprecedented election between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris comes to a close, experts say it is irresponsible for observers to foretell a winner.

The race is very close; the 50 -50 contest has been largely unmoved by major news events so far, including Biden's summer exit, Harris' historic bid and two assassination attempts against

The US hasn't had a double digit blowout White House race since 1984 when Republican incumbent Ronald Regan coasted to victory by winning 49 states out of 50 states against Democrat Walter Mondale.

Elections have been closer since then, including the race in 2000 and 2016 where Democrats won the popular vote but Republicans won the electoral college and the presidency.

The scenario has become more complex now, with a hyper competitive media landscape, pollsters often with political angles, pundits and even gamblers and nervous undecided voters. It's very hard to give a preview what will happen

Many pollsters have jumped into the prediction arena. Chief among them is 'Five thirty eight' (538), the most popular database which currently favours Trump (51% - 49%) against Harris.

But the site notes when the chances of winning hovers in the

xactly three days before the 50 - 50, it is a 'little better than a coin flip for the leading candidate', and its founder Nate Silver, penned out a New York Times oped saying 50 - 50 is the only responsible forecast during this

> And the models aren't always right, such as in the 2012 election, when the then president Barack Obama defied the poll trajectory to defeat Republican Mitt Romey. Trump similarly overcome forecast that predicted Hillary Clinton would win in 2016.

And in the era of disinformation, herds of pollsters with political bias are deceiving the predictive models to bulk up the polling average of their favourite parties and to inspire their base.

About 35 million Americans have voted early already in 2024, with Democrats holding slight edge, 41% versus 35% Republi-

With 3 days still to go before November 5, Kamala Harris currently has 1.4% lead over Trump nationally (Oct.31) according to 538 and New York Times poll. As the final electoral college vote which ultimately matters in electing the president, the seven swinging or battle ground states will be the most important to watch. Those 7 states are Arizona, Georgia, Mitcigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wis-

According to 538 daily poll trackers, Harris retains a narrow margin in Mitcigan and Wisconsin, while Trump holds a slight edge in Arizona and Georgia.

In Pennsylvania, Trump has a narrow lead (1%) and both the candidates are even in Nevada and North Carolina. But an incident in Trump's Madison square rally in N.Y last Sunday may change the scene considerably, especially in Pennsylvania and other swinging states.

At that event comedian Tony Hinchcliffe called Puerto Rico 'a floating island of garbage'. He also made crude and racial comments about Latinos and Black people. Trump who was present there didn't oppose or condemn it.

The Puerto Rican population in PA is about 5,000,000, they are



the biggest share of Latino voters

cided and independent.

The Madison square comment disparged a slice of electorate could tip a close election in battleground states. In

all the states, however the candidates are within 2 points of each other, well within the poll's margin of error, leaving each state a ssup just before the final vote.

It is important to note that while national surveys offer a trend of the popular vote nationwide, the ultimate result who will win the president's post depends on electoral college vote.

Every state has a fixed quota of electoral college representatives depending on the lawful census of that state. For example, Texas has 40. California 52 electoral college representatives, while Pennsylvania has 19. The total no. of electoral college is 538. Who wins 270 votes wins the presidency.

It happens that a candidate winning more electoral college vote than the other in spite of losing the popular vote, becomes the president. That happened in the case of President George .W. Bush in 2000 and Donald Trump in 2016.

All states except Maine and Nebraska have a winner take all policy. That's why the vote in the 7 swinging states are so important. All those states together have 93 electoral college votes.

The presidency will be decided by those states which are neither Blue (Democrat) or Red (Repub-

lican) and voters are mostly unde-Any swing in voters mood, may

that **DEGREE OF THOUGHT** those states. For example, in De-**Debabrata Biswas** troit, Michigan, there is a major population of Palestinians and Arabs and they are deadly against

tilt the result of

Biden's Israel - Gaza policy and are very angry about the Democrats, whom they generally gave their votes before. It should be a big concern for Kamala Harris. But the realization of the Pales-

tinians that if Trump comes to power, he will give Netanyahu a freehand to destroy the Arabs, might make them to reconsider their decision not to vote Kamala Harris in favour of a third party candidate. That will make a huge difference in Mitcigan's voting.

Amid these uncertainties, the predictions about the polls are becoming quite partisan. Psephology is being used to boost the moral and influence on the voters in partisan lines during the last phase of election.

The stakes of the election are sky high and its outcome is not knowable in advance - a combination that most of us find discomforting. People crave for certainty and there's just one place to look for it - in the data. But the truth is that the models that rely primarily on polling data to forecast the election results - are not fool-

Amidst these fluctuating poll predictions, one person often called the Nostradamus of the

tion that Kamala Harris will win the presidential race. He is historian Allan Lichman who has correctly predicted the results of 9 out of 10 presidential election.

He predicted Trump's win in 2016 in spite of all other polls predicted Hillary Clinton's win. His method of forecasting the race so accurately is known as 'the keys to the White House', a system devised with the Russian academic Vladimir Keilis Borok in 1981.

Lichman bases his prediction on 13 keys to the White House that are determined not by opinion polls but by true- false answers to the performance of the political party in power.

These 13 keys are midterm gains, incumbency, primary contest, short term economy, long term economy, policy change, social unrest, White House scandals, incumbent's charisma, challenger's charisma, foreign policy failure and foreign policy success.

Lichman gave his prediction in September and still firm on it. His prediction runs counter to the forecast by a top policy guru and world's leading economist Christopher Barrud who said that the most probable outcome will be a Trump victory with Republicans also taking the Senate and the House.

Lichman has come under fire for his prediction notably with political pollsters like Nate Silver of 538, calling his method 'totally arbitrary'. But Lichman refuses to back up. He said his system is based on history and is very ro-

Lichman said "there's always been an election anxiety, even dating back to 1960 when John F. Kennedy beat Richard Nixon in one of the closest election in American history.

But I have never seen such kind of election anxiety because a lot of people feel the future of the country is in the line here, that democracy in America could be a thing of the past.'

The stakes are so high. Not only the Americans, probably many people around the world are awaiting the result with bated

## Elon Musk and the new age of space exploration

the landscape of space exploration and sustainable energy. Born on June 28, 1971, in South Africa, Musk is the driving force behind groundbreaking companies like SpaceX and Tesla, Inc. His overarching ambition is to ensure that humanity becomes a multi-planetary species while also spearheading the transition to sustainable energy solutions. Through SpaceX, he seeks to democratize access to space travel and establish a sustainable human presence on Mars, turning a once-distant dream into a tangible goal.

From a young age, Musk's fascination with the cosmos fueled his ambition. Inspired by the vastness of space and humanity's potential to explore it, he developed a relentless commitment to making space travel affordable and accessible. Musk perceives space not merely as a frontier to explore but as a vital refuge for humanity in the event of catastrophic disasters on Earth. This revolutionary mindset has propelled him beyond the limitations of traditional, government-funded space programs.

In 2002, Musk founded Space Exploration Technologies Corp (SpaceX) with a clear objective: to significantly reduce the costs associated with space travel and pave the way for the colonization of Mars. SpaceX's vision transcends the mere construction of rockets; it encompasses a holistic re-engineering of space travel. The company pioneered the development of reusable rockets, breaking away from the outdated practice of discarding them after single use flights. A watershed moment occurred in 2015 when SpaceX successfully landed the first stage of its Falcon 9 rocket, setting the stage for a new era of cost-effective space missions.

With each successful launch, Musk moves closer to his vision. The achievements of rockets like the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy, alongside the ongoing development of the Starship vehicle are pivotal in laying the groundwork for human exploration beyond Earth. Starship, designed for long-duration missions, aims to carry large crews to Mars and beyond. It embodies Musk's ultimate ambition to create a reliable launch system capable of transporting people to the Moon, Mars, and potentially other celestial

bodies on a regular basis. SpaceX has not only revolutionized the economics of space travel but also revitalized the entire industry. In collaboration with NASA, the company developed the Crew Dragon spacecraft, the first commercially built crew vehicle to receive NASA certification. This achievement restored American human spaceflight capabilities after the retirement of the Space Shuttle programme marking a significant milestone in the resurgence of U.S. space explo-

However, Musk's ambitions extend far beyond this collaboration. He envisions SpaceX

as a leader in a global movement toward space colonization, inviting private companies and lon Musk is a visionary entrepreneur governments worldwide to join the cause. Musk ieves that SpaceX's ach a competitive spirit in space exploration, driving humanity to advance its technological capabilities and collaborate on expanding our presence throughout the solar system.

> At the heart of Musk's vision lies the colonization of Mars. He argues that the Red Planet presents the best opportunity for humanity's survival should Earth face existential threats, such as climate disasters or technological self-de-

Musk's dream involves constructing a selfsustaining city on Mars, equipped with agriculture, transportation and living spaces designed to withstand the planet's harsh conditions. His ambition is not merely to make life on Mars possible but to create a thriving, independent community for future generations.

The Starship development is crucial to realizing this vision. Musk has referred to Starship as the 'holy grail' of space travel- a fully reusable spacecraft capable of carrying 100 passengers or 100 tons of cargo per launch. Success with Starship could enable humans to establish a permanent foothold on Mars, ushering in a new chapter in human history.

Musk's journey has not been without its share of challenges and criticisms. Space exploration is fraught with risks, and SpaceX has encountered technical setbacks and launch failures. Critics often label Musk's ambitious timelines as overly optimistic, a sentiment he acknowledges. Financial constraints, environmental concerns, and ethical questions surrounding the privatization of space further fuel ongoing de-

Yet, Musk remains steadfast in his mission. He frames his ambitious deadlines as motivational tools, inspiring his team to achieve what seems impossible. Despite the hurdles, SpaceX continues to push boundaries, proving that dreams once thought unattainable can become

Whether Musk's timelines for Mars colonization materialize as envisioned remains uncertain, but his impact on space exploration is undeniable. SpaceX has reshaped the trajectory of human space travel, reinvigorating interest in the cosmos. By challenging technological boundaries and inspiring a new generation of explorers, scientists and engineers, Musk has fostered a renewed sense of possibility.

In an era marked by significant challenges, Musk's determination to reach beyond Earth serves as a powerful reminder of humanity's potential. His vision of a spacefaring civilization encapsulates the indomitable human spirit - the drive to explore, survive, and thrive in the face of adversity.

Through his relentless pursuit of innovation, Musk continues to redefine the limits of possibility, bringing humanity one step closer to its future among the stars.

## the reality of Ayushman Bharat

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

West Bengal on October 29 for not joining Ayushman Bharat scheme, and expressed his concern that senior citizens in these two states would not be able to avail themselves of free treatment under the expanded scheme which he was launching. Only a day after AAP supremo Arvind Keiriwal hit back claiming that the programme was

"a major scam" citing CAG's 2023 report. Politically speaking, Delhi is AAP's fort and West Bengal is TMC's, where PM Narendra Modi's BJP's has been unsuccessfully trying to make inroads for a decade. Healthcare has been a political issue in both the states. Arvind Keiriwal in Delhi, and Mamata Baneriee in West Bengal has been refusing to implement PM Narendra Modi's Ayushman Bharat Scheme under Pradhan Mantri -Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) claiming that they

have better healthcare schemes. Since Delhi is going to have Vidhan Sabha election early next year, AAP Supremo Arvind Kejriwal had to hit back on PM Modi's slamming on Delhi government for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. He said on October 30 that there is no need to implement the Ayushman Bharat Scheme since AAP government provides free treat-

ment of up to Rs 1 crore to all city residents. Additionally, Union government's flagship health insurance is worth only ₹ 5 lakh, he said. "Every resident of Delhi, whether they have a simple cold or need hospitalisation, receives treatment, medication, and tests free of charge - no limits, no caps. In Delhi, whether it's a five-rupee tablet or a treatment costing ₹ 1 crore, everything is provided

Kejriwal further said, "If medicines, tests, and treatment are all free in Delhi, then there is no need for the Avushman Bharat scheme here. Modiji should study the Delhi healthcare scheme and implement it across the country." However, more serious was his claim that Ayushman Bharat Scheme is riddled with scam referring to CAG's 2023 re-

What exactly the CAG's report has found? One must revisit the report on Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY), the central scheme. The Scheme aims to provide health cover of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crore families from the poor and vulnerable section of the population, based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011. The aim is to improve affordability, accessibility, and quality of care for

the poor and vulnerable section of the population. However, the audit noted numerous faults in its implementation. As per the National Health Authority (NHA) records only 7.87 crore beneficiary households were registered, constituting 73 per cent of the targeted households of 10.74 crore (November 2022). Out of this, 2.08 crore households had been identified from SECC-2011 database, as

envisaged in the Scheme guidelines. When pointed out this dismal record, the NHA had replied that Government of India has approved scribed quality standards and criteria, which were Food Security Act (NFSA) data

Ugly face of politics on healthcare and

CAG said in its report that the match confidence score, which the online system of beneficiary registration, generates based on matching the documents of a beneficiary with the SECC list of eligible beneficiaries, has been rendered ineffective as applications for registration were approved or rejected irrespective of the match confidence score. Data analysis revealed that match confidence score was not applied during the approval/rejection process of registration of a person.

In the absence of adequate validation controls, errors were noticed in beneficiary database i.e. invalid names, unrealistic date of birth, duplicate PMJAY IDs, unrealistic size of family members in a household etc. In 36 cases, two registrations were made against 18 Aadhaar numbers and in Tamil Nadu, 4761 registrations were made against seven Aadhaar numbers.

Registration of multiple beneficiaries against same or invalid mobile number ranging from 11 to 7,49,820 beneficiaries were noted in the Beneficiary Identification System (BIS). In Jammu& Kashmir and Ladakh, during the period 2018 to 2021, 16865 and 335 ineligible beneficiaries respectively were identified by the SHA after cleaning the

In six States/UTs, ineligible households were found registered as PMJAY beneficiaries and had availed the benefits of the Scheme. The expenditure on these ineligible beneficiaries ranged from ₹ 0.12 lakh in Chandigarh, to ₹ 22.44 crore in Tamil Nadu. In nine States/UTs, there were delays in processing of rejection cases. The delay ranged from one to 404 days.

In seven States/UTs, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) cell was formed. In12 States/UTs, IEC Cell was not formed whereas no information was available in the remaining States. IEC plan was prepared only in four States, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Rajasthan. In Maharashtra, although plan was prepared in2020-21, it was not implemented.

In 14 States/UTs, expenditure on IEC activities ranged from 0 to 20.24 per cent of the allotted budget against the prescribed benchmark of 25 per

In several States/UTs, there was shortage of infrastructure, equipment, doctors, etc. The available equipment were found non-functional. Some of the Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs) neither fulfilled minimum criteria of support system and infrastructure nor conformed to the quality standards and criteria prescribed under the Guide-

In several States/UTs, mandatory compliances criteria for empanelment of hospitals relating to infrastructure, fire safety measures, Bio-medical waste management, Pollution Control and Hospital registration certificate were not fully followed. In some EHCPs, fire safety certificates had expired before empanelment under PMJAY.

Some of the EHCPs did not conform to the pre-

(January 2022) the expansion of the beneficiary crucial to the safety and wellbeing of the beneficirime Minister Narendra Modi slammed Delhi base to cover 12 crore families based on National aries in care and were mandatory minimum condi-

The availability of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs) per lakh beneficiaries is very low in the States/ UTs, Assam (3.4), Dadra Nagar Haveli-Daman Diu (3.6), Maharashtra (3), Rajasthan (3.8) and Uttar Pradesh (5), etc. Further. availability of EHCPs per one lakh beneficiaries ranged from 1.8 EHCPs in Bihar to 26.6 EHCPs in

Physical verification was not conducted by District Empanelment Committee (DEC) before empanelment in 163 EHCPs in Manipur (17), Tripura (103) and Uttarakhand (43).

In Jharkhand, two private EHCPs were not providing three specialities under the PMJAY, which were otherwise available for the general public. In Assam, 13 EHCPs were providing4 to 80 per cent of available facilities to PMJAY beneficiaries. In four States/UTs, lack of Specialties were noted in EHCPs.

In five States, Assam (18), Chhattisgarh (65), Gujarat (20), Jharkhand (08) and Manipur (15), EHCPs treated beneficiaries for non-empanelled specialities.

In Andhra Pradesh (524 EHCPs), Jharkhand (59 EHCPs), Punjab (5 EHCPs), Tamil Nadu (19 EHCPs) and Uttar Pradesh (40 EHCPs), no treatment was provided by the EHCPs.

In 14 States/UTs, 2,733 hospitals were empanelled with delay ranging for period of more than one day to 44 months. Further, in six States, empanelment of 418 Hospitals was under process with delay ranging from two days to 29 months.

In Himachal Pradesh (50) Jammu and Kashmir, (459), Jharkhand (36) and Meghalaya (13,418) beneficiaries were charged for their treatment in empanelled EHCPs resulting in increase in out-ofpocket expenditure of beneficiaries.

In Bihar, empanelment of Ananya Memorial Hospital was suspended on 30 August 2019, but payment of 12 claims amounting to ₹ 67,900 was settled during 2018-20. SHA did not conduct necessary investigation of the claims paid to the hospital. In Jharkhand, five de-empanelled EHCPs treated 1,777 patients and got claim amount of ₹

In 11 States, 241 hospitals were de-empanelled either voluntarily or due to low-performance and mal-practices noted in EHCPs. In Jharkhand, eight EHCPs were empanelled twice by SHA with different identification, though locations of the EHCPs were the same. In Tamil Nadu, 57 empanelled Government/ private EHCPs were allotted two or more unique ID.

These are only examples. CAG's 2023 report has found many irregularities in claims management, financial management, and monitoring and grievance redressal. PM Modi on the other hand, has twitted, "Augmenting the healthcare infrastructure is our priority. Initiatives relating to the sector launched today will make top-quality and affordable facilities available to the citizens." (IPA Serv-











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## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

By: Adam Felman

ngaging in exercise of any intensity every day ✓ is essential for preventing various diseases and other health issues. Learn more about different exercise types and their benefits here.

Physical activity and fitness resources

Visit our dedicated hub for more research-backed information and in-depth resources on physical activity and fit-

Types of exercise People divide exercise into

- the following broad categories:
- aerobic anaerobic
- · agility training
- stretching and flexibility This section outlines each of

these categories.

Aerobic exercise

Aerobic exercise aims to improve the body's use of oxygen. Most aerobic exercise takes place at moderate intensity over longer periods.

An aerobic exercise session involves warming up, exercising for at least 20 minutes, and then cooling down. Aerobic exercise mostly uses large muscle groups.

Some examples of aerobic exercise include:

- running
- cycling walking
- swimming

**Anaerobic exercise** Anaerobic exercise does not

use oxygen for energy. People use this type of exercise to build power, strength, and muscle mass.

These exercises are high intensity activities that should last no longer than around 2 minutes before taking a short rest. Anaerobic exercises include:

- weightlifting • sprinting
- · intensive and fast skipping with a rope
- interval training
- isometrics • any rapid burst of intense

Agility training Agility training aims to improve a person's ability to maintain control while speeding up, slowing down, and

changing direction. In tennis, for example, agility training helps players maintain control over their court positioning by helping them recover well after each

People who participate in sports that heavily rely on positioning, coordination, speed, and balance need to regularly engage in agility training. The following sports are examples of ones that require agility:

- American football hockey
- badminton
- volleyball
- basketball
- soccer · martial arts
- boxing
- wrestling

Stretching and flexibility

Some exercises combine stretching, muscle conditioning, and balance training. A popular and effective example is yoga, which can improve balance, flexibility, posture, and circulation.

Pilates is another stretching option that promotes flexibility and core strength. Tai chi is also an effective exercise that promotes calm stretching rather than intensity.

Benefits of exercise

Engaging in regular exercise is beneficial for both physical and mental health. Research has shown it can boost a person's mood, increase energy levels, and reduce the risk of chronic disease. This section outlines the main benefits of

exercise. Boosts mood and mental

Exercise can improve a person's mood and decrease feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress. According to a 2019 review, just 10 to 30 minutes

Many studies have also found exercise to be therapeutic for mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and drug addiction.

Helps with weight manage-

Exercise, particularly aerobic exercise, burns calories and can help a person achieve and maintain a healthy weight for

Although they burn fewer calories, anaerobic exercises such as weightlifting can build muscle and improve strength.

Increasing muscle mass causes the body to burn more fat, even when resting. Muscle is the most efficient tissue for burning fat.

Combining aerobic exercise and resistance training may also maximize fat loss and muscle mass maintenance. This could help manage weight and maintain lean mus-

Reduces the risk of chronic conditions

Much research associates lifelong, regular exercise with a longer health span and a delayed onset of at least 40 chronic conditions.

Exercise has been shown to reduce the risk of diabetes, stroke, and cardiovascular disease (CVD). It can also improve life expectancy and symptoms for people with coronary artery diseases.

High intensity exercise also stimulates bone growth and reduces the risk of osteoporosis. A 2023 review showed that strengthening, jumping, and weight-bearing aerobic exercises reduce osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

Helps brain health and memory

Regular exercise promotes brain health and can help preserve a person's cognitive function, or their ability to think.

In fact, many researchers suggest that regular exercise has neuroprotective effects

conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

What to know about exercise and how to start

Research from 2021 showed that exercise can cause the hippocampus to increase in size, which may help improve mental function. The hippocampus is a part of the brain that is important for memory and learning. Regular physical activity is also important in older adults because it can help slow down the physiological effects

of aging in the brain. Improves relaxation and sleep quality

Regular exercise can help with relaxation, including helping people sleep better and alleviating symptoms of sleep disorders.

This is because physical activity increases melatonin production, a hormone that regulates sleep. As a result, exercise can help people fall asleep faster and improve sleep quality. Exercise also reduces stress, aiding relaxation.

A 2018 study examined the sleep quality of people with chronic insomnia over 4 months. They found that stretching

and resistance exercise helped increase their sleep quality and duration and helped them fall asleep quicker.

Risks of not exercising

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), physical inactivity is a leading risk factor for many chronic conditions and deaths worldwide.

A sedentary lifestyle can increase the risk of the following health problems:

- · heart disease • high blood pressure
- stroke
- · diabetes
- depression
- dementia · several cancers

It can also contribute to an increased risk of premature death from all causes, including the complications of obe-

Finding time to exercise A busy schedule may make

it difficult to find time to exercise. However, there are ways to incorporate exercise into a person's daily life.

Here are some tips for fitting physical activity into a busy

- See which car journeys you can replace with walking or cycling. Is driving to work necessary? If so, try parking half a mile away from the office and walking the final bit. • People who commute to
- work by public transport could try getting off their bus or train a few stops early and walking the rest of the way.
- Consider walking up and down the stairs at your office instead of taking elevators or escalators.
- Try to think about the amount of time spent watching television and avoid watching for extended periods. While watching television, one could try light exercises, such as stomach crunches or jumping
- If a person enjoys video games, they could consider playing games that encourage physical activity, such as exercise routines on a Nintendo
- · Vigorous housework, gardening, and going up and down the stairs while doing chores also qualify as physical activity and can help people meet the guidelines productively.

People will likely benefit most from exercises they enjoy that fit their lifestyle.

- Some of the examples below are the easiest to fit into a daily
- routine: • Go for a brisk 30-minute walk five times every week.
- Walk your dog more often or go for walks and jogs with friends.
- Try to add swimming to your weekly routine, even if it
- is not every day. Join some exercise classes that are fun, collaborative, and

• Become a member of a martial arts club. Beginner's

educational

Exercise can be a gradual learning curve. One should spread sessions across the

week and scale up the intensity It is a good idea to drink plenty of water during and

after exercise. Checking with a doctor is a good precaution to take if someone has a health condition or injury that could affect exercise levels or that exercise could worsen.

While a combination of aerobic and anaerobic exercise provides the most benefit, any exercise is better than none for people who currently have an inactive lifestyle.

Guidelines Current U.S. guidelines recommend that people aim to do:

• at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise a week

• at least two strength-training sessions or workouts per week a combination of aerobic,

muscle-strengthening, and balancing activities Sports such as dance and tai chi can be good options for

people who want to meet these exercise guidelines, as they count as more than one activity If the guidelines seem like

too much, a person can start slow and work their way toward these goals. Even 5 minutes of physical activity provides health benefits.

Some people may find it hard to exercise. Here are some helpful exercise tips for different people:

- Exercise for people with obesity • How and why to try chair
- exercises · Best exercises for fi-

bromyalgia Exercise tips for pregnancy Tips for starting

Exercise may be difficult for some people to maintain. Consider the following tips to achieve long-term success:

 Have a clear goal: Whether for health reasons or otherwise, try to always keep in mind the reason you started increasing your exercise lev-

• Work at your own pace: Doing too much too quickly can increase the risk of injury and the chance to develop a stable routine.

Set targets based on the goals you established at the start of the regimen and celebrate small wins to boost confidence.

• Enjoy yourself: A regimen is more sustainable if a person enjoys the physical activities that it involves

• Join a club with a friend: Joining a fitness club or exercising with a friend may make the sessions more enjoyable.

• Trainers and teachers can be helpful: People just starting an exercise routine or those looking to improve their routine may benefit from a personal trainer or teacher. They can provide motivation and guidance, helping people track their goals and stay dedicated.

Vary your exercises: Change exercise programs every few weeks. Mixing it up can help a person work on different muscle groups and increase the range of benefits. If you enjoy one particular exercise, such as running, try changing the speed and distance of a run or following a different route with more hills.

• Make it a habit: After a few weeks of regularity, an exercise routine becomes a habit, even if it is difficult or boring at first.

Summary

Whether people engage in light exercises, such as walking, or high intensity activities, such as uphill cycling or weight training, regular exercise provides many benefits for the body and mind.

Having a clear goal in mind, choosing activities that bring excitement and enjoyment, and exercising with friends and family can all help build motivation to exercise. (Courtesy:

## Why robotics in joint replacement benefitting patients

Dr Ramneek Mahajan n today's landscape, technological advancements have permeated every industry, includ-Ling the medical field. Consequently, we frequently encounter advertisements for robotic joint replacement surgeries. However, it is essential to clarify certain misconceptions associated with this procedure to ensure informed decision-

From a robotic arm, which allows for greater precision. In more complex cases, a robotic-assisted knee replacement offers a better balance in aligns the joint. With the help of a MAKO Robot, a CT scan is performed to create a 3D virtual model of your knee's unique anatomy. The uniquely detailed and personalized view enables the surgeon to create a surgical plan that can be adjusted. By utilizing the MAKO Robot, a CT scan is performed to generate a three-dimensional virtual model of the patient's knee anatomy. This highly detailed and individualized visualization empowers the surgeon to meticulously plan the surgical procedure, allowing for

necessary adjustments during the operation. This cutting-edge technology offers several advantages: It can be used for partial or total knee replacements, enabling the creation of a tailored surgical plan. This facilitates more precise implant placement, resulting in minimal blood loss

Additionally, it helps preserve healthy bone and soft tissue, leading to reduced post-operative pain compared to manual techniques. Consequently, patients experience a swifter recovery and a shorter hospital stay. In complex cases, robotic-assisted knee replacement provides enhanced balance in the soft tissues surrounding the knee and superior joint alignment. There are Myths pertaining Robotic surgery also which need to be clear at this point.

Robotic Surgery: A Comprehensive Overview

Robotic surgery offers a minimally invasive approach to surgical procedures, providing enhanced precision and accuracy. The surgeon retains complete control throughout the procedure, utilizing the robotic arm as a tool to facilitate the

Dispelling Common Misconceptions-1. Robotic Surgery is Riskier than Traditional Surgery:

2. Robotic Surgery is overly Complex: Robotic joint replacement surgeries are meticulously pre-planned, with implants customized

to the patient's unique anatomy, ensuring a pre-

cise and personalized procedure. 3. Prolonged Recovery Time: After robotic knee replacement surgery, patients can typically walk with assistance on the same day. The use of a walker for a few days to a week is recommended, with most individuals achieving independent walking within the second or third week. A comprehensive physical therapy program of at least six weeks is also part of the recovery process

4. Robotic Knee Replacement is Only for Complex Cases:

Robotic knee replacement is not limited to complex cases; it can be effectively employed for both primary and complex knee replacement pro-5. High Cost of Robotic Surgery: The cost difference between robotic and tradi tional surgery is minimal. While there may be ad-

ditional charges for the specialized equipment used during robotic surgery, many modern med-

ical insurance plans offer cashless coverage for robotic procedures, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. By dispelling these common misconceptions, we aim to provide a clearer understanding of robotic surgery and its benefits, empowering patients to make informed decisions about their healthcare. If I may conclude, your surgeon will engage in a comprehensive discussion encom-

stream. passing all available knee replacement options, including an assessment of your suitability for robotic joint replacement. (The author is the Senior Director (Orthopaedics) & Head Joint Replacement (Hip & Knee), MAX Smart Super

## How social media drives sales of organic food

mericans are buying apples and spinach, Canadians have blueberries and raspberries on their list, Japanese can't have enough matcha tea, and Indians are stocking up on

These are just some global favourites from the organic produce sections. As concerns around health, food safety and sustainability drive dietary choices in a post-pandemic world, the once niche market for or-

search study that analysed 300,000 social media posts on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, TikTok and These platforms serve as spaces where information,

changes in consumer behav-The analysis of consumer discussions on social media platforms between 2015-

Niche to mainstream Pre-covid, organic food consumption was growing

steadily, but remained largely confined to niche markets. Social media conversations were relatively stable, with spikes during festive seasons such as Christmas, or

increase in social media discussions about organic foods, with mentions spiking from 12,000 to 40,000 per month, particularly during major

pled with growing concerns about food safety and immunity, fuelled this spike. Consumers became more

aware of what they were eating and sought healthier options to boost their immune

Organic foods, free from

percent of post-pandemic social media discussions were positive, emphasising terms such as "immunity," "protection," and "boost.

This shift in sentiment also

translated into real-world be-

haviour, with a significant rise in sales of organic products globally. In countries such as the US, Germany, and Japan, demand for organic fruits, vegetables, and dairy products soared, reflecting growing

consumer preference for or-The shift was not just a fleeting response to an immediate crisis, but reflected a deeper, growing awareness of health, sustainability, and environmental responsibility.

**Sustainable consumption** Environmental concerns also played a crucial role in driving organic food consumption. Consumers became more

aware of the environmental impact of conventional farming, which relies on harmful chemicals that degrade soil health and contribute to climate change.

Organic farming, on the other hand, promotes biodiversity, soil conservation, and reduces greenhouse gas

emissions. The research highlights a significant increase in discussions linking organic food consumption to sustainability, especially with respect to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Ac-

The study also found notable differences in the geodistribution of graphic discussions on organic food. Before the pandemic, most conversations were concentrated in North America and

tion).

Post-pandemic, however, there was a marked increase in discussions in Asian countries, particularly in China and India, where organic food consumption was not widespread.

The pandemic also broad-

ened the demographic profile of organic food consumers, with younger generations and a more balanced gender distribution driving the trend. High costs, limited avail-

While the rise of organic food consumption presents a positive outlook for global health and sustainability, the study also highlights several

A significant issue is the higher cost of organic foods. which continues to be a barrier for many consumers. Although organic farming has become more efficient,

organic products are still

challenges.

more expensive than their conventional counterparts, making them less accessible to lower-income populations. Moreover, supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic led to shortages

and price hikes, further exacerbating this issue. Another challenge is the limited availability of organic products in certain re-

gions. While the US and Europe have well-established organic markets, developing countries still face challenges in terms of production and distribution.

This disparity underscores the need for policies that support organic farming and make organic products more accessible to a broader audi-

Despite the challenges, the future of organic food consumption appears promising.

As the world continues to grapple with the effects of climate change, there is a growing need for sustainable farming practices that protect the environment while ensuring food security.

The insights provided by this study are valuable for policymakers and marketers, as they work to develop strategies that promote organic foods and support the SDGs.

Possible solutions to overcome the challenges of organic food production and consumption include increasing government subsidies for organic farmers, improving supply chain efficiency, and launching public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the long-term benefits of organic foods.

Social media, of course, will continue to play a crucial role in shaping consumer behaviour, making it an essential tool for promoting sustainable eating practices. (Courtesy: The Wire)

#### Data suggests that robotic surgery carries fewer complications compared to traditional

Why are heart attacks becoming more common in young people?

By: Raj Kosaraju eart attacks, known scientifically as myocardial infarctions, have been long associated with men in their late 50s. In recent years, however, Indian doctors have seen several cases

of heart attacks in younger individ-

Even's resident cardiology spe-

cialist, Dr Okaly tells us that "heart

attacks are seen at least one decade

earlier among Indians compared to western populations." What are the risk factors behind this concerning trend? Here is Dr Okaly's perspec-In recent years, India has witnessed an upsurge of heart attacks among young adults and people in their 30s and 40s. According to a comprehensive medical study published in October 2023, heart at-

year age group. As of today, 1 in 5 heart attack patients are younger than 40 years of age. Dr Okaly confirms that "In in the past, children used to bring their parents to the doctors for heart related issues.

tacks were the underlying cause of

up to 45% of deaths in the 40-69

their 30s and 40s to the doctors for heart related issues". The question is why India's younger and overall healthier gen-

erations are becoming so vulnerable

Now it is not uncommon to see

parents bringing their children in

to heart attacks? A sedentary lifestyle and related health conditions like high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes are the leading culprit of heart attacks. But there seems to be additional reasons which are not as readily in-

tuitable I come from a family of doctors. They say that prevention is preferable to cure and treatment. They recommend having a regular medical checkup to determine any issues that can be addressed and identify any problems that can be resolved.

What causes heart attacks?

A heart attack, also known as a

myocardial infarction (MI), occurs

when the flow of blood to a part of

the heart is blocked, preventing the

heart muscle from getting enough

oxygen. This can cause damage or

death to the affected heart muscle if not treated promptly. Here's a breakdown of key aspects of heart

other substances)

attacks: 1. Causes: **Coronary Artery Disease** (CAD) is the most common cause, where the coronary arteries become narrowed or blocked due to plaque (a mixture of fat, cholesterol, and

clots, which block blood flow to the Spasms of coronary arteries: Temporary spasms of the arteries

Blood clots: Plaques can rupture,

leading to the formation of blood

can also reduce blood flow to the

2. Symptoms:

Shortness of breath.

Common symptoms of a heart attack include: Chest pain or discomfort: A feeling of pressure, tightness, or pain in the chest, often radiating to the neck, back, arms, or shoulders.

Fatigue: Some people, especially women, may experience unusual fatigue or weakness.

Nausea, sweating, or lightheaded-

Indigestion or heartburn-like symptoms. These symptoms may vary, and some people (particularly women, diabetics, and the elderly) may experience less typical signs, such as

unexplained tiredness or dizziness.

The following are some factors

that raise the risk of heart attacks: · High blood pressure (hyperten-

· High cholesterol levels.

· Sedentary lifestyle.

3. Risk Factors:

· Smoking.

· Diabetes.

Obesity.

4. Diagnosis:

Electrocardiogram Measures the electrical activity of the heart to detect abnormalities. **Blood tests:** Check for markers like troponin, which is released

· Family history of heart disease.

Coronary angiography: A procedure to visualize blood flow through the coronary arteries.

inhibitors, and statins. **Procedures:** Angioplasty and stenting to open blocked arteries. Coronary artery bypass graft-

ing (CABG): Surgery to bypass

cise, quitting smoking, and manag-

Lifestyle changes: Diet, exer-

Medications: Includes blood

thinners (aspirin), thrombolytics (to

dissolve clots), beta-blockers, ACE

ing stress are essential to recovery and prevention of further heart is-

avoiding smoking

blocked arteries.

5. Treatment:

6. Prevention: Healthy lifestyle: Regular exercise, a balanced diet (low in saturated fats, cholesterol, and sodium), maintaining a healthy weight, and

**Monitoring health conditions:** 

Keeping blood pressure, choles-

terol, and diabetes under control

with the help of medications if nec-

Recognizing the signs early and seeking prompt medical attention can greatly improve survival and outcomes in the event of a heart attack. If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of a heart attack, calling emergency services immediately is crucial for receiving timely treatment. (Courtesy: Youth

## By: Jolly Masih

turmeric.

ganic foods has turned main-Social media has played a key role in precipitating this consumer behaviour, our re-

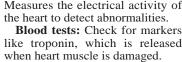
YouTube, suggests. opinions, and health advice is exchanged, often leading to

2024 reveals that they have indeed been instrumental in shaping food choices.

environmental campaigns. However, when COVID-19 hit, there was a dramatic

waves of the pandemic. The fear of infection, cou-

synthetic pesticides, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and harmful fertilisers, offered a safer and healthier option.





## Trump to rally backers every day until election in North Carolina, swing state he won twice

Trump will rally supporters in North Carolina every day until Tuesday's election, a flurry of late activity in the only swing state that he won in both his 2016 and 2020 campaigns.

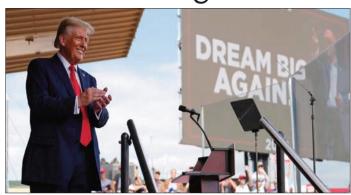
Even as Trump looks to expand the electoral map and project strength with trips to New Mexico and Virginia, two Democratic states not widely viewed as competitive, he is putting considerable time into North Carolina, which last backed a Democrat for president in 2008.

The former president's path to the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the presidency gets significantly more complicated if he loses North Carolina. The fast-growing Southern state gave Trump his smallest margin of victory — 1.3 percentage points — over Democrat Joe Biden four years ago.

Trump campaigned in Gastonia, west of Charlotte, and Greensboro on Saturday, with a stop in Salem, Virginia, in between. He will be in the eastern city of Kinston on Sunday and in Raleigh on Monday. Those four rallies will bring his total events in North Carolina since Oct. 1 to nine. His running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, has been in the state six times during the same period, most recently on Friday.

Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump's Democratic rival, also was in North Carolina on Saturday for a concert and rally in Charlotte. Her campaign has not announced any other travel to the state before Election Day, though she's sending her husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, to Greenville on Monday.

The extensive damage from Hurricane Helene across western North Carolina has created a dose of uncertainty about the state of play here. Flooding destroyed homes



and displaced residents in several counties, including the liberal city of Asheville and the conservative rural areas surrounding it.

Trump's team has said it is confident about his chances in North Carolina. Democrats see Trump's attention on the state as a signal of optimism for Harris.

"The repeat appearances may signal Trump's campaign is in trouble," said Democratic state Rep. Marcia Morey of Durham. "If Trump continues with his dangerous, violent rhetoric these last few days, it may backfire. A campaign of personal retribution does not win votes from people.'

Trump adviser Jason Miller said Trump's late-campaign travels are not a signal of alarm.

"I'm not worried about anything," Miller told reporters Friday. "We have a smart strategy that's going to get President Trump across 270, maybe even a couple of states that surprise you, that slide in there. But we're going to follow our strategy. Our strategy comes from our data and our targeting.'

As he does at most of his events in North Carolina, Trump said in Gastonia that his daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, whom he installed as co-chair of the Republican National

that Lara and Eric Trump named

been through a lot," Trump said, al-

luding to the hurricane before re-

peating a debunked claim that the

Federal Emergency Management

Agency prioritized people living in

the country illegally over hurricane

victims. "Your government has not

helped you too much, I can tell you.

Your government, FEMA, has let

you down because they wanted to

spend the money on illegal mi-

Later in Greensboro, only about

half of the seats were filled in a

massive 22,000-seat arena when

Trump started speaking after 9 p.m.

Trump spoke at another arena that's

part of the same complex just 11

days earlier, though Harris filled the

larger venue when she spoke there

7.8 million registered voters had al-

ready voted as of Friday, buoyed by

early in-person voting, which ended

North Carolina Republicans have

been encouraged by early voter

turnout among their supporters after

national and state GOP leaders

on Saturday afternoon.

Roughly half of North Carolina's

grants instead.

"It's an amazing place. You've

their daughter Carolina.

Entering the final days of the campaign, over 50,000 more GOP registered voters than Democrats had voted early or by absentee ballot, even though there are over 100,000 more registered Democrats than Republicans statewide, according to state elections data. It is unclear whether the Republicans' early vote surge will result in a higher overall turnout for Trump supporters.

vote" strategy, rather than focusing

on Election Day turnout.

Independent voters now make up the largest group of registered voters in North Carolina. Trump lost ground with independents between 2016 and 2020.

Harris took the stage in Charlotte after rocker Jon Bon Jovi warmed up the crowd, sticking closely to the speech she's been delivering in her final tour of the battleground states.

Harris supporter Gwen Garnett. 66, said Trump barnstorming North Carolina is "just part of the process. It does not worry me at all." She gave Harris' candidacy a spiritual dimension

'This is an anointed time for her to be in this role," Garnett said. "I iust believe it's God's timing.'

The state's voters have shown a propensity to split their ticket over the years. That's why while Republicans have controlled the state legislature since 2011, Democrats have held the governor's mansion for all but four years since 1993.

The GOP's hopes to break that hold on Tuesday appeared to dwindle in recent weeks after the party's nominee for governor, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, received unwanted publicity from a CNN report that alleged he made explicit racial and sexual posts on a pornography website's message board more than a

## Harris appears on 'Saturday Night Live' as mirror image of Maya Rudolph with election looming

dent Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" in the final days before the election, playing herself as the mirror-image double of Maya Rudolph's version of her in the show's cold open.

The first lines the candidate spoke as she sat across from Rudolph, their outfits identical, was drowned out by cheers from the audience. "It is nice to see you Kamala," Harris told Rudolph with a broad grin she kept throughout the sketch. "And I'm just here to remind you, you got this.'

In sync, the two said supporters need to "Keep Kamala and carryon-ala," declared that they share each other's "belief in the promise of America," and delivered the signature "Live from New York it's Saturday night!"

Harris made the surprise trip to New York City with the election looming, briefly stepping away from the battleground states where she's been furiously campaigning in favor of NBC's iconic sketch comedy show, where she was hoping to generate buzz and appeal to a nationwide audience.

Harris came to New York on Air Force Two after an early evening campaign stop Saturday on in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was scheduled to head to Detroit, but once in the air, aides said she'd be making an unscheduled stop and the plane landed at LaGuardia Airport. Harris arrived at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan, where "SNL" tapes, shortly after 8 p.m., enough time for a quick rehearsal before the show airs live at 11:30 p.m. It is the final "SNL" episode before Election Day on Tuesday.

The visit wasn't previously announced and an official familiar with Harris' planning only officially confirmed it for reporters traveling

with the vice president moments before the live airing began. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss plans before they were made

Harris departed immediately after the opening segment. She told reporters, "It was fun!" as she boarded the plane to leave New York. Host John Mulanev and musical guest Chappell Roan shifted the show away from politics. Neither addressed the election.

Mulaney, the standup comic and former "SNL" writer, hosted for the sixth time and talked about his kids with wife Olivia Munn, Catholicism, and his stint in rehab.

Some expected Roan, the 26year-old singer who has become a major star in recent months, to make a political statement in her first appearance on the show. She has previously been harshly critical of the Democratic party and declined to endorse Harris, though Roan has said several times she plans to vote for her.

But she played it straight, or as straight as the wildly theatrical performer gets. She sang her hit "Pink Pony Club," on an all-pink set bathed in pink light. Senator Tim Kaine also made a surprise appearance, in a game-show sketch where the gag was that no one remembered him despite his being Hillary

Clinton's running mate in 2016. "It's been less than eight years What's my name?," he said, as the contestants stood silent and flummoxed. Rudolph first played Harris on the show in 2019 and has reprised her role this season, doing spot-on impression of the vice president, including calling herself 'Momala" — a reference to the affectionate nickname her stepchil-

dren gave her. Her fellow former cast member Andy Samberg appeared again Saturday night as Harris' husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, standup comic Jim Gaffigan played running mate Tim Walz, and longtime alum Dana Carvey again played President Joe Biden.

Rudolph's performance has won critical and comedic acclaim - including from Harris herself.

"Maya Rudolph — I mean, she's so good," Harris said last month on ABC's "The View." "She had the whole thing, the suit, the jewelry, everything!

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to former president and Republican nominee Donald Trump, expressed surprise that Harris would appear on "SNL" given what he characterized as her unflattering portrayal on the show. Asked if Trump had been invited to appear, he said: "I don't

## US says Iranian-American held in Iran as tensions high following Israeli attack on country

American journalist who once worked for a US governmentfunded broadcaster is believed to have been detained by Iran for months now, authorities said Sunday, further raising the stakes as Tehran threatens to retaliate over an Israeli attack on the country.

The imprisonment of Reza Valizadeh, acknowledged to The Associated Press by the US State Department, came as Iran marked the 45th anniversary of the American Embassy takeover and hostage crisis on Sunday.

It also followed Iran's Supreme eader Avatollah Ali Khamenei threatening both Israel and the US the day before with "a crushing response" as long-range B-52 bombers reached the Middle East in an attempt to deter Tehran.

Valizadeh had worked for Radio Farda, an outlet under Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that's overseen by the US Agency for Global Media. In February, he wrote on the social platform X that his family members had been detained in an effort to see him return to Iran. In August, Valizadeh apparently

he had returned to Iran despite Radio Farda being viewed by Iran's theocracy as a hostile out-

"I arrived in Tehran on March 6, 2024. Before that, I had unfinished negotiations with the (Revolutionary Guard's) intelligence department," the message read in part. "Eventually I came back to my country after 13 years without any security guarantee, even a ver-

Valizadeh added the name of a man who he claimed belonged to Iran's Intelligence Ministry. The AP could not verify if the person worked for the ministry.

Rumors have been circulating for weeks that Valizadeh had been detained. The Human Rights Activists News Agency, which monitors cases in Iran, said that he had been detained on arrival to the country earlier this year, but later released.

He was then rearrested and sent to Evin prison, where he now faces a case in Iran's Revolutionary Court, which routinely holds closed-door hearings in which defendants face secret evidence, the agency reported. Valizadeh had faced arrest in 2007 as well, it

The State Department told the AP that it was "aware of reports that this dual US-Iranian citizen has been arrested in Iran" when asked about Valizadeh.

"We are working with our Swiss partners who serve as the protecting power for the United States in Iran to gather more information about this case," the State Department said. "Iran routinely imprisons US citizens and other countries' citizens unjustly for political purposes. This practice is cruel and contrary to international

Iran has not acknowledged detaining Valizadeh. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for

The Voice of America, another US government-funded media outlet overseen by the Agency for Global Media, first reported the State Department was acknowledging Valizadeh's detention in

## Crashing waves in hilltop village, night of terror from Spain's floods

CHIVA (SPAIN), Nov 3: Irene Cuevas will never forget the sound of the waves crashing below her apartment's balcony.

If only there had been a flash of lightning in the darkness to let her glimpse what sounded like a roaring sea.

"It was a constant fear because we didn't have light to see by," Cuevas told The Associated Press. "We could hear the roar of the waves, which was unbelievable. The street was completely flooded and we were hoping for some lightning so that we could at least see what situation we were in. It was all waves, currents everywhere.

"We have that sound of the waves burned in our memory."

The devastating flash floods in eastern Spain this week that claimed over 200 lives and destroved countless homes and livelihoods also seared a scar of terror in many survivors

Cuevas, a 48-year-old embryologist, is a resident of Chiva, a village perched on a hill about 30 kilometres from Valencia city, whose southern outskirts were likewise ravaged by the floods on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Chiva got more rain in eight hours than the town had experienced in the preceding 20 months. Cuevas was at home and saw how the gorge dividing her village suddenly overflowed with rushing water.

The tsunami-like wall of water claimed at

least seven lives in Chiva, home to some waded through the rushing water. They then 16,000 people, and the search goes on for more made it up the stairs and some 20 people spent missing, either in collapsed houses or in the a sleepless night in her second-floor apartment

"It was terrifying because that night it began to rain and the water began to overflow the gorge and started carrying away cars and trees," Cuevas said. "The underpasses of the bridges started to clog with debris, and the water started to flow through the entire village."

The gorge, called the "Barranco de Chiva," is normally dry, but it is fed into by several other runoff gorges and channels water to vine-

The huge storm sent a blast of water that knocked down two of the four bridges crossing the gorge, while a third was left unsafe to cross. The sides of the gorge were eaten out, bringing down a sidewalk and several houses and tearing holes in others.

Cuevas, who moved to Chiva when she got married 18 years ago, lives one street over from the buildings bordering the gorge. She and other people living in her apartment building helped several neighbours from the building in front when they feared it would come down. The neighbours said their building trembled from the force of the water.

Cuevas and her fellow residents helped tie ropes or cords across the street so that the people on the other side could hang on as they

and the apartment above. Amparo Cerda, Cuevas' upstairs neighbour,

ries of the fury of the waves and the sound of "doors exploding" from the water's force. It was as if their building had become a ship

described herself as traumatised by her memo-

lost in a storm at sea in the pitch black night.

"There were waves in the gorge, waves in the street below where the water came in the other direction and ran into the water coming from the gorge," Cuevas said. "So right here, at this corner, just where the houses fell down, the two currents hit and produced terrifying waves.'

"When the daylight came we could see the damage," Cuevas said. "We saw all the houses that had disappeared and there was a feeling of impotence because you didn't know where to start looking for people.

Five days have passed since that night of terror, and in Chiva and other localities, such as Paiporta, Barrio de la Torre, and Massanassa. citizens and volunteers are pitching in to clean up the mountains of debris and the thick brown layers of mud left by the water.

Five thousand more soldiers are arriving in the area this weekend to help the 2,500 already deployed. Thousands of police officers have also been sent in. (AP)

# Chinese scholars highlight Ramayan's footprints in China buried in Buddhist texts

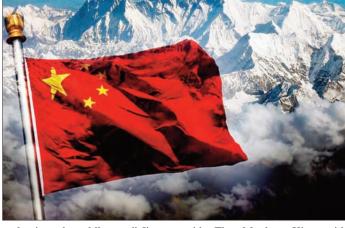
BEIJING, Nov 3: China has had footprints of the stories of Ramayana cloaked in Buddhist scriptures for centuries, scholars here have said, bringing to the fore perhaps for the first time, the influence of Hinduism in the country's checkered history.

At a symposium on "Ramayana-A Timeless Guide" organised by the Indian Embassy here on Saturday, a host of Chinese scholars associated with longstanding research on religious influences, made candid presentations tracing the historical routes through which Ramayana reached China and its influence on Chinese art and literature.

"As a classic intertwining the religious and the secular world, the influence of Ramayana has grown ever more significantly through cross-cultural transmission," Dr Jiang Jingkui, Professor and Dean of the Institute for International and Area Studies of Tsinghua University said.

"China, too, has absorbed elements of this epic, which not only left traces in Chinese (majority) Han culture but was also reinterpreted and given new meaning in Chinese Xizang (Tibetan) culture," he said. China officially refers to Tibet as Xizang.

"This cultural migration and adaptation demonstrate the openness and flexibility of Ramayana as



a classic and worldly text," Jiang said. The earliest content related to Ramavana in China was introduced into the Han cultural sphere, primarily through Buddhist scriptures, he

While it was not fully incorporated as a complete work into the Han cultural sphere, parts of the epic were incorporated into Buddhist scriptures, he said, citing Chinese translations of Buddhist scripts in which "key figures such as Dasharatha and Hanuman were

"A famous example is that Hanuman was transformed into a Monkey King who obeyed Buddhist teachings, blending into classic Buddhist moral narratives," Jiang

noted as Buddhist characters".

said. The Monkey King with human characteristics called Sun Wukong, has remained forages in the best-loved and most enduring

Academy of Social Sciences, said many Chinese scholars agree that Sun Wukong can be traced to Hanuman, though some scholars

from India," he asserted.

Chinese literature and folklore. In his presentation, Pro Liu Jian of the National Institute of International Strategies of the Chinese

say he is a "domestic product". "Chinese scholars generally agree that the image of Sun Wukong comes from that of Hanuman. Therefore, Sun Wukong is not a domestic product, but a character

Speaking on the topic 'Footsteps

Yonghuai, Chief expert and Deputy Director of China Centre for South Asian Studies of Sichuan University, in her presentation displayed photos of a wide variety of different Hindu deities in the museum Quanzhou, in China's Fujian province

She even showed a photo of a Buddhist temple managed by a Hindu priest.

"It was primarily through Buddhism that Indian culture took its stronghold in China. This is the reason why in the history of Sino-Indian cultural relations, Hinduism occupies a negligible position," she said. "Multifaceted Indian culture -- both Buddhist and non-Buddhist - made its mark on Chinese soil,' she added

Jiang, in his speech also recalled how the famous seventh-century Chinese scholar Xuanzang who visited India, studied at Nalanda University and brought back a host of Buddhist scriptures providing detailed accounts of Ramayana stories he heard during his pilgrimage.

"However, due to the Hindu

background of Ramayana and the

predominance of Buddhism in China, the text was neither fully translated nor widely circulated within Han culture," he said. The first Chinese translation of

Ramayana from Sanskrit was done

of Ram in China', Prof Oiu by Ji Xianlin in 1980.

Ji's translation was a "significant breakthrough for Chinese academia, providing Chinese readers with access to an Indian literary classic and establishing a new bridge for Sino-Indian cultural exchange," Jiang said.

Ji dedicated nearly a decade to translating this vast work of twentyfour thousand verses, and his version has become a cornerstone for the study of Ramayana in China, he said. Jiang added that Ramayana has a more extensive and longstanding history of influence in Tibet, where it was first introduced during the period of the Tubo King-

Through literary works and theatrical performances, Ramayana has not only become a subject of indepth study among Tibetan scholars but has also gained widespread popularity among common people in Tibet.

"This demonstrates the powerful vitality of Ramayana as a cross-cultural classic," he said

"Ramayana is not only an epic but also a profound exposition of the ideal personality and ideal society. Through the actions and words of Rama, as well as the establishment of the 'Ram Rajya', the epic presents multiple dimensions of the concept of 'Adarsh' (ideal) in Indian culture," he said. (PTI)

#### Welcoming working conditions encouraging more Indian women seeking employment in Saudi Arabia: Official

RIYADH, Nov 3: Indians represent the second-largest expatriate community in Saudi Arabia and "welcoming conditions" for women are increasing the kingdom's appeal for Indian women seeking meaningful employment here, according to the country's human resources and social development ministry.

Official figures show that as of 2024, over 2.4 million Indian workers reside in the kingdom, with 1.64 million in the private sector and 785,000 in domestic work. Bangladesh has the highest number of expat workers at 2.69 million.

A spokesperson in the ministry said Indian workers, including women, play a vital role in Saudi Arabia's labour market, comprising a substantial portion of the expatriate workforce. "Comprehensive reexpanded workplace support, and investments in skills development create welcoming conditions for women from diverse backgrounds," the spokesperson

"Improved infrastructure, including women-only transportation and childcare support, further enhances the appeal for Indian women seeking meaningful employment, enabling them to contribute to the kingdom's growth while pursuing their professional and personal aspirations," the spokesperson told

Asked about some instances of

Indians being duped by agents and touts in India on employment opportunities in Saudi Arabia, he said Saudi Arabia is dedicated to upholding international labour standards and has implemented substantial labour reforms to protect workers' rights. "To further support these efforts, Saudi Arabia has established bilateral agreements with various countries, including India, to ensure the protection of workers during recruitment, focusing on information exchange, joint investigations, and capacity-building to combat forced labour," he said.

The Musaned and Qiwa platforms allow workers to file complaints regarding wages, contract terms, or mistreatment, ensuring that these concerns are addressed and, where necessary, legal action is taken, he added.

On the over 11,000 lawsuits involving Indian workers this year, the spokesperson said the first stage of consideration of labour disputes between the worker and the employer is the mediation process conducted to resolve the dispute and try to reach an amicable resolution acceptable to both parties if possible or refer the case to the labour court.

Elaborating on the working conditions for women, he said that Saudi Arabia's advancements in supporting female employment position the country as a conducive environment for success. (PTI)

# Women's safety key for 'Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura': CM 'Various beneficiary schemes are being implemented for them'

**HT Correspondent** 

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024** 

AGARTALA, Nov 3: Chief minister Manik Saha said on Sunday that the state government has undertaken various important schemes for the welfare of women. and additionally, the current state government is giving special attention to the safety of women in line with 'Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura'

"We all have to unite to build an Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura. The state government has initiated various important schemes for the welfare of women, and besides this, the present state government is prioritizing women's protection," said Dr. Saha.

Dr. Saha said this during a func-



Agartala on the occasion of Bhai Phonta on Sunday. The chief minister expressed that sisters from various parts of the state came to

sought blessings for him.

"They prayed that no one can harm me and that I may have a long life. I am very happy and exhis official residence today and cited. Everyone from Bharatiya

However, the RNSOM and the

RNYOM and the Rongmei people

in general are taken aback to note

that the two daily bread earning in-

nocent Naga public were not only

physically assaulted but also ex-

torted their money which they had

been earning with their sweat and

labour to support their families.

'Despite the Naga people main-

taining neutrality, why time and

again the valley based militants and militias have been targeting

the innocent Naga public including

hijacking vehicles and extorting

money?" the two Rongmei organ-

demanded that the culprits in-

Therefore, the two organisations

normal situation between the Naga

public and the valley people would

The RNSOM and the RNYOM

then said they will fully support any

action as and when the apex Naga

body initiated in the larger interest of

Spotting the police, Salim report-

edly attempted to flee, but officers

quickly apprehended him. During

interrogation, Salim confessed that

he had entered India without any

legal documents, intending to find work. He was employed in a cabi-

The police reported that Salim could

not produce any valid identification or

documents justifying his presence in

Station said that Salim would be pre-

sented in court on Monday, where a re-

quest for police remand will be made

to aid further investigation into his ac-

tivities and verify his background.

A senior officer at Sonamura Police

net shop in the Ahariya area.

the country.

not be disturbed"

The RNSOM and the RNYOM

isations asked.

Janata Party's Pradesh Mahila Morcha to corporators joined the celebration. I also pray to God for all of them. Protecting our sisters and mothers is one of our duties. Let us hope that their lives will be spent happily and their socio-economic status will improve further," he said.

The chief minister also mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the development of all.

"He always provides guidance for the welfare of the people. Various beneficiary schemes are being implemented for them. On this auspicious occasion, I just want to say that we should come together to build Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura," he added.

AIZAWL, Nov 3: Campaigning for the elections to the Sinlung Hills Council (SHC) in Mizoram

ended on Sunday. The polling for the 12-member council will be held on Tuesday.

The ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and Hmar People's Convention (HPC) combine held a slew of rallies on Saturday to mark the conclusion of campaigning in all 12 constituencies with ministers, MLAs and senior party leaders addressing them.

Similar programmes were also held by the opposition MNF and Congress. A total of 23,789 voters, including 11,914 women, will decide the fate of 49 candidates in the SHC polls.

Counting of votes will be under-

taken as soon as voting concludes. The government has sealed all entry points at the inter-state borders with Assam and Manipur to avoid untoward incidents and en-

#### IMPHAL, Nov 3: Six militants belonging to two proscribed outfits have been arrested in Manipur's Thoubal and Bishnupur districts, a police statement said. Five militants of Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) have been apprehended from Charangpat Mayai Leikai in

Six militants arrested in Manipur

Deepak Singh (30), Lambamayum Naobi Singh (26), and Huiningsumbam Ton Singh (21), the stateossession during their arrest on

A hand grenade, five demand In another incident, police arrested one militant belonging to the letters of the outfit, five mobile PREPAK (PRO) outfit from handsets, 13 SIM cards and a fouron Saturday.

The militant, identified as Nongmaithem Gunamani alias Allu (32). was also allegedly involved in extortion. A hand grenade was seized

## Human Rights body takes suo-moto against ragging at Tripura Medical College

Kumbi area in Bishnupur district

Thoubal for their alleged involve-

They were identified as Thok-

chom Bikram Singh (29), Sinam Bijen Singh (37), Thangjam

ment said.

ment in abduction and extortion.

AGARTALA, Nov 3: The Tripura Human Right Commission has a suo-moto cognizance after FIR has been filed against 12 students in Tripura Medical College for their alleged involvement in ragging and directed the District Magistrate, District Superintendent of Police and the college authority to inquire the matter and submit a detailed report with-in next three

In the suo-moto cognizance the Chairperson of the commission Justice SC Das, members Udit Chowdhurt and BK Roy said that ragging is not only a criminal offence, but it also violates the human rights of the rigged students. It calls for immediate action in terms of "The Tripura Educational Institutions (Prevention of Ragging) Act, 1990".

"The Commission recollects that earlier also, on the basis of newspaper reports, Commission had taken cognizance of such incidents occurred in Jawhar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bandowar, Udaipur under Gomati District, Jawhar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kherenjuri, Dharmanagar under North District etc.

Certain recommendations were made by the Commission in Complaint No. 08 of 2022, the case relating to Jawhar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bandowar, Udaipur. It is reported in the news item that ragging is practiced at random in Tripura Medical College (TMC), Hapania, West Tripura and a case has been registered against 12 students.

It is also reported that the College authority has failed to prevent and/or stop the ragging, which has polluted the learning atmosphere of the Medical Col-



lege. It is not clear from the newspaper report as to whether action has been taken or not in terms of the State enactment. Any leniency in taking action in terms of the provisions would encourage such anti-social activities in the educational institutions", the re-

The Commission further directed the Principal, Tripura Medical College and Hospital to submit a detailed report about the incident within 3(three) weeks.

"The Commission also thought it appropriate to have an independent inquiry by the District Magistrate, West Tripura in respect of the incident and get a report within 3(three) weeks.

The Superintendent of Police, West Tripura also should inquire into the matter and submit a report within 3(three) weeks. Send a copy of this order along with a copy of the news item to the authorities for sub-Call for better infrastructure, traditional

#### Naga organisations condemn alleged torture of youths cent past, the Rongmei bodies



**IMPHAL, Nov 3:** The Rongmei Naga Students' Organisation, Manipur (RNSOM) and the Rongmei Naga Youth Organisation, Manipur(RNYOM) jointly con-"heinous and inhumane physical assault and torture" of V Hrangao Blesson Poumai of Kodom Khullen and Dalou Poumai of Liyai Khullen village, belonging to Poumai Naga community from Senapati district, in the wee hours of October 31, 2024 at Lamsang area while the duo was on the way back to senapati, by people "suspected to be from the Arambai Tengol and some valley based underground

The two men are daily wage earners who came to Thoubal and brought some cattle to sell in the Senapati district to support their

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Nov 3: Tripura Po-

lice arrested a Bangladeshi na-

tional today after a tip-off led to

the identification of an individual

believed to be in the area illegally

from Sonamura under Sepahijala

The arrested individual identi-

fied as Salim Ahmed (40) from

Comilla district, Bangladesh, had

allegedly crossed the border into

India several months ago seeking

According to police sources, the

mobile police unit received confi-

dential information early Sunday

about a suspected Bangladeshi citi-

District.

employment.

The joint statement then said, "It may be noted that the Naga people in their consultative meeting held on May 16, 2023, under the aegis of the United Naga Council (UNC) unanimously decided to maintain neutrality in the ongoing Kuki-Zomi-Hmar and Meetei ethnic

That meeting further decided to play the role of peacemaker in between the two conflicting communities, the statement also said. Accordingly, the UNC had also constituted a peace committee to bridge the two conflicting parties, and the said committee had also

Bangladeshi citizen held in Tripura

zen wandering in the Aralia area of

Acting on the tip, the police began

this evening.

said in a joint statement signed by Ripuilan Pamei, president of RNSOM, and Kamei Meikhangsuang, president of RNYOM issued to Newmai News Network

conflict".

#### volved in the "brutal assault" of V. Hrangao Blesson Poumai and Dalou Poumai should be brought to book and initiate punitive actions according to the law of the

urged both the Government of Manipur and the valley based civil society organisations to discipline them not to repeat such "unwanted and uncivilized acts of physical assaulting and extorting money and properties of the innocent Naga public in the near future so that tranquility and

#### dress code in Tripura schools, colleges **HT Correspondent**

AGARTALA, Nov 3: The Tipra Indigenous Students Federation (TISF) the students body of Tipra Motha Party, met Tripura Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu demanding establishment of libraries, providing good infrastructures including all the basic facilities to the students and making Rignai a traditional dress code twice in a week in all the educational institutions.

The TISF in the memorandum said that as a student federation body they observed many disadvantaged points are redraw the future generations at very far from.

"As a state representatives we all around the schools and colleges of the state and found looks different small issues are creating major issues in about the students carrier and needs. As student federation body we observed that there are many schools in the state but the schools only having the name of a study center but it is not have any particular materials of a schools needs. We all know school, Colleges and study centers are made

for every single student where belongings from any religion, community, caste and tribe can join and can earn the same knowledge under a roof of institutions", the memorandum reads.

It said that after visiting every

colleges and most of the schools there are not a single room arrangements of the study materials which are the main source of the students, no proper rest rooms for girls and boys, no proper drinking water managements the basic needs of human beings, as same no proper sitting arrangements and schools without proper needs of electricity, without proper education facilities if we say in a single word.

"Establishment of libraries in every schools where the students basic needs may get relief in a large number. We strongly demand for the compulsory traditional Dress code (RIGNAI) for every school, college's and education institutions at least twice in a week. "RIGNAI" attire known as identity of our state and our rich custom from so long reflects our



state and identity by it's self", the TISF demands.

They have also demanded to the Governor in making of proper Scholl by providing the student good Infrastructures in every schools and education institutions by providing good sitting arrangements, water connectivity, proper restrooms especially for girls, proper Class rooms and every single needs the students are de-

served without any negligence. "We the Tripuri's always respect others and step forward without expecting from so far. We acknowledged for the same in every education institutions without any fall in regural way. All this issues are can easily solved by anytime for the people's of the state and the future generations can deserved it as their rights as a student of nation", it added.

Date- 28/10/2024

## NCERT team to visit Tripura to review Vidya Pravesh implementation

Team will review the improvement of students after undergoing Vidya Pravesh module

AGARTALA, Nov 3: A six-member team of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is scheduled to visit Tripura from November 5-7 to review the implementation of Vidya Pravesh school preparation module for class 1 students, an official said on Sunday.

Vidya Pravesh is an NCERT prescribed project aimed at bringing newly admitted class 1 students to a common platform of learning level.

"The NCERT team will visit Gomati, West Tripura, Sepahijala, Khowai and other districts to review the improvement of students after undergoing Vidya Pravesh module," Abhijit Samajpati, Officer on Special Duty of School Education Department, told PTI.

"Since students coming from various backgrounds, including pre-primary schools, Anganwadi centres or directly from home take admission in class 1 there is a need to bring them on a common learning level before they start taking classes under the curriculum," he

Samajpati said students of class 1 must recognise all the alphabets, read easy words and recognise numbers up to 10.

"Considering these factors, the state has adopted a nine-week bridge course on Vidya Pravesh, running it from the



first day of class for students," he said. Earlier, Vidya Pravesh was evaluated by an NCERT team in June this year.

"In the first phase of review, officials not only evaluated the students, but also interacted with teachers and parents regarding the pros and cons of the project,"

"The NCERT team was very pleased

about the use of teaching learning materials (TLMs) in the schools. Improvement was also found among students due to Vidva Prayesh module," he said.

With this second phase of evaluation, the total scenario regarding the implementation of Vidya Pravesh as well as students' improvement will be clearly reflected, he added. (PTI)

#### No. TDI/NIT/2024-25/TB/19

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/816

#### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paisa twenty five) only in the prescribed form subsequently to be drawn in A.P.W.D. F2 form of Tender Agreement are hereby invited from the registered contractors of Irrigation Department, Assam for the following works and will be received by the Division up to 2.00 PM on 05/11/2024 and will be opened on the same place and date at 3.00 P.M by the undersigned or officers authorized to open in presence of intending bidders or their authorized agent who wish to be present.

In the event of non-functioning of office on the date due to some reason, the next working day of the office hours will be the date of receiving and opening the Tenders

SI. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value	Gr. No.	Earnest Money	Time of Completion
1	Boring and Installation of Tube Well Installation and Commissioning Solar PV Modules including Mounting Structures, Construction of Approach road, operator shed, Boundary Wall and Sign Board at Bheterkur FIS under Tamulpur Division (Irrigation), Tamulpur	Rs.22,56,954.00	I	2 % for General and 1% for MOBC/OBC/ ST/SC	60 Days
2	Bed filling and raising of walls of existing R.C.C canal from ch. 0.00m to 210.00m of Bheterkur FIS under Tamulpur Division (Irrigation), Tamulpur	Rs.7,13,333.00	п		30 Days
3	Bed filling and raising of walls of existing R.C.C canal from ch. 210.00m to 442.00m of Bheterkur FIS under Tamulpur Division (Irrigation), Tamulpur	Rs.6,02,893.00	ш		30 Days
4	Construction of Afflux Bund at Kalbari Batia Dong FIS under PMKSY-HKKP for the year 2021-22	Rs.8,89,706.00	IV		30 Days
5	Construction of Afflux Bund at Kalbari Batia Dong FIS under PMKSY-HKKP for the year 2021-22	Rs.8,20,723.00	v		30 Days
6	Construction of Afflux Bund at Kalbari Batia Dong FIS under PMKSY-HKKP for the year 2021-22	Rs.8,58,070.00	VI		30 Days
7	Strengthening of U/S afflux Bund of Ajaladong FIS under Tamulpur Division (Irrigation), Tamulpur	Rs.1,00,000.00	VII		15 Days
8	Strengthening of U/S afflux Bund of of Sorendong FIS under Tamulpur Division (Irrigation), Tamulpur	Rs. 38,000.00	VIII		15 Days
9	Silt clearance of Main Canal and U/S river bed of Beaker Bund FIS under Tamulpur Division (Irrigation), Tamulpur	Rs.2,90,000.00	IX		20 Days

Detail particulars may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Tender papers may be obtained from the aforesaid office on payment of Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only in cash, up to 1.00 PM on

Sd/- Executive Engineer Tamulpur Division (Irrigation) Tamulpur

# Protecting Constitution is India's primary battle, says Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Rahul calls for 'politics of love, Priyanka vows to tackle local issues, slams Modi govt

then she said to me that I'm feeling

bad for her," Rahul Gandhi re-

received. And to me, this is the

type of politics that needs to be

done in India. Not the politics of

hatred, but politics of love and af-

During the second phase of her

campaign, Priyanka continued her

tirade against the central govern-

ment alleging that Prime Minister

Narendra Modi has done every-

only for his big businessmen

friends. His objective is not to give

you a better life. It is not to find

new jobs for your young one who

"Modi ji's government works

thing for his business friends.

"That is the training that she has

WAYANAD (KERALA), Nov 3: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday emphasised that the primary struggle in the country today is to protect and preserve the Con-

He said the Constitution of the country was not written with hatred, but with humility and love.

"The main fight in the country today, that is taking place, is the fight for the Constitution of our country. The protection that we get, the greatness of our country, all emerged from the Constitution," the Lok Sabha MP said while addressing a corner meeting in Mananthavady here as part of the campaign for his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Priyanka is the Congress candidate for the Wayanad Lok Sabha by-election.

'The Constitution was not written with anger or with hatred. It was written by the people who fought the British, the people who had suffered, who spent years and years and years in jail. And they wrote the Constitution with humility, with love and with affection,"

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha pointed out that this is a fight between love and hatred.

"A fight between confidence and insecurity. And if you truly

called.

want to win this fight, then you must help by removing anger from your heart, by removing hatred from your heart, and replacing them with love, humility and com-

passion," he told the gathering. Rahul Gandhi highlighted the qualities of her sister and shared nostalgic memories of their child-

He also said it was the first time he is seeking votes for his sister, who has campaigned for him, and their parents earlier.

"She is the person who went and hugged the girl who was implicated in my father's (Rajiv Gandhi) assassination. She said to me after she came back after meeting Nalini, she went emotional and are educated. It is not to provide better health, education and well being of the people," she alleged.

Priyanka accused the Modi government of dividing people, spreading hatred among them and taking away their rights, besides

damaging democratic institutions. "They attacked Rahul Gandhi Ji for fighting for people's rights," the Congress leader said.

She also mentioned her work with Mother Teresa and also about sister Rosebell who resides in Mananthavady.

Priyanka promised to continue her fight for the establishment of a medical college here with full health facilities.

In her speech, the Congress leader also highlighted night ban, traffic issues on Ghat Road, mananimal conflicts, tribals and agrarian issues in the mountain constituency.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme (MGNREGA) which greatly benefited the tribal community, she alleged that the Centre's funding for this programme and the job availability through the scheme have been reduced.

"We need to raise our voice in the Parliament, and all the platforms to push the government to increase the funding.

Priyanka Gandhi resumed her campaign from Sunday by holding public and corner meetings in the hill constituency with her brother Rahul Gandhi

The Congress general secretary, who is making her electoral debut, will be in Kerala till November 7, according to her itinerary released by the party.

After the meeting at Gandhi Park in Mananthavady here, she attended corner meetings separately at Valad and Korom in Mananthavady Assembly constituency on Sunday.

Priyanka resumed her campaign for the by-poll amid criticism from rival candidates that she would visit the constituency like a guest or a seasonal festival.

The Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency consists of seven Assembly segments-- Mananthavady (ST), Sulthan Bathery (ST) and Kalpetta in Wayanad district, Thiruvambady in Kozhikode district and Eranad, Nilambur, and Wandoor in Malappuram district.

The by-election for Wayanad LS seat was necessitated after Rahul Gandhi, who won the Lok Sabha polls from there and Rae Bareli constituency, decided to vacate Wavanad.

Voting in Wayanad will be held on November 13. (PTI)

#### Tejashwi slams Nitish govt for delaying job proposal



PATNA, Nov 3: Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday accused the Nitish Kumar government of dragging its feet on one of his proposals that would have generated over one lakh jobs in the health sector.

The RJD leader, who is now the leader of the opposition in the state assembly, also sought to claim his share of credit for the recent cabinet nod to a proposed MoU to be signed between the Sports Department and the BCCI for the renovation of the Moinul Haq Stadium in

"Being the CM, Nitish Kumar may get credit for large-scale recruitments in various departments. But everybody can recall his incredulity when I first promised 10 lakh jobs. He had taunted me with the remark as to whether I would use my father's money to meet the expenses involved. But, during the 17 months that we shared power. we made him work on it.

"You name any department, be it education, a portfolio held by our party... even the sports policy and dynamic proposals like the one for Moinul Haq stadium were envisaged by us," said the young leader, who is engaged in a war for claiming credit, with his ex-boss, for the good work that has taken place in

Yadav, who had held the crucial health portfolio as Deputy CM, also said "a proposal for setting up a public health cadre, which would have generated 1.5 lakh jobs, had been put on hold by the CM in the state cabinet. Now that there is no Tejashwi to hog the limelight, I urge him with folded hands to get it through". The RJD leader, who spoke to journalists here before hitting the campaign trail for bypolls to four constituencies, expressed confidence that the INDIA bloc will emerge victorious. (PTI)

## Ajit Pawar to emerge as key player after Maharashtra polls: Nawab Malik



MUMBAI, Nov 3: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar will emerge as a key player after the November 20 assembly polls in the state, predicted former minister Nawab Malik on Sunday.

In an interview with PTI over 54 seats last time. the phone, the NCP candidate from Mumbai's Mankhurd-Shivajinagar seat said the politics of ideology is over in Maharashtra and nobody knows who will side with which

"There are even speculations that NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Eknath Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, will join hands," he claimed.

Malik, who was arrested in a money laundering case and is also accused of having links with people close to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, is pitted against Samajwadi Party nominee and MVA-backed sitting MLA Abu Azmi and Shiv Sena's Suresh Patil.

Sena and NCP are partners in the Mahayuti coalition, and leaders from the other constituent, BJP, have declared that they won't campaign for Malik. The BJP has been a trenchant critic of Malik.

The 65-year-old politician said the assembly polls will be a neckand-neck contest between the ruling Mahayuti coalition and opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and NCP chief Ajit Pawar will emerge as a key player after

Of the 288 assembly seats in the state, the undivided NCP had won

Aiit Pawar snl Pawar-founded NCP last year after he and MLAs loyal to him joined Mahayuti. Ajit Pawar subsequently got the party's name and 'clock' symbol. Sharad Pawar now heads the NCP (SP) and a constituent of MVA besides Congress

and Shiv Sena (UBT). Malik said he is grateful to the then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar for not seeking his resignation as minister after his arrest in 2022, when MVA was in power.

"I have already said I am grateful to them. I spoke to Uddhav ji over the phone after my release from jail and met Pawar saheb personally," he told PTI.

Malik said he is with Ajit Pawar as the deputy CM stood by him during difficult times but did not elaborate.

Malik accused his rival and sitting MLA Abu Asim Azmi of being hand in glove with the government. "He voted for them in the legislative council and Rajya

Sabha elections. He controls the local administration in the constituency," he claimed.

In the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year, the Mahayuti candidate from the Mumbai North seat got only 28,000 votes from the Mankhurd-Shivajinagar assembly segment, he said.

"You can't win the assembly elections with 28,000 votes. It's true that Mahayuti has put up a candidate (Sena's Suresh Patil) there, but I'm not in the fray out of my own will but that of the people. I am confident that I will be elected," Malik said.

"People of Mankhurd-Shivajinagar want me to end the reign of anti-social elements and drug menace under the current MLA for the last 15 years," he said.

The NCP leader said he has been on medical bail since July last year until the disposal of his regular bail plea before the Bombay High Court in the money laundering case. "I'll sue anyone having links with Dawood Ibrahim," he said.

As an MVA minister, Malik had repeatedly targeted the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) then the Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede, following the arrest of Aryan Khan, actor Shah Rukh Khan's son, over alleged possession of drugs on board a cruise ship in 2021.

The anti-drug agency later dropped drug charges against Aryan Khan and five others due to lack of sufficient evidence.

The NCP has also nominated Malik's daughter Sana Malik from the Anushakti Nagar constituency in north Mumbai, a seat which he represented multiple times in the past. The BJP has made it clear that it will not campaign for Nawab Malik, but has no objection to his daughter's candidature.

Polling for the 288 seats in the Maharashtra assembly will be held on November 20 and votes will be counted on November 23. (PTI)

#### Delhi polls: Kejriwal to resume 'padyatra' from Rajouri Garden



**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** The AAP on Sunday said party national convener Arvind Kejriwal will resume his 'padyatra' (foot march) from west Delhi's Rajouri Garden later in the day.

AAP leaders are undertaking foot marches in Delhi's different assembly segments in the run-up to the February 2025 assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said Kejriwal will resume his 'padyatra' from Rajouri Garden.

"Padyatras were halted due to festivals. Today Arvind Kejriwal is going to resume his padvatra from Rajouri Garden and the foot marches will continue throughout November and December," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Singh accused the BJP of trying to stop these foot marches by "attacking" Kejriwal.

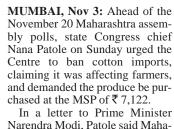
"The BJP has tried to stop Kejriwal from reaching out to people directly by attacking him during his padyatra. I challenge the BJP to compete with the work done by the AAP as it has governments in 22 states," he said.

He also alleged that the BJP put AAP leaders in jail to stop the development work being done by its government for the people of Delhi.

There was no immediate response from the BJP to the AAP's allegations.

On October 25, the AAP had alleged that Kejriwal, a Z-plus protectee, was attacked by "BJP goons" during his 'padyatra' in west Delhi's Vikaspuri, a charge trashed by the saffron party. (PTI)

#### Ban cotton import, buy from farmers at MSP: Cong leader Patole to Centre MUMBAI, Nov 3: Ahead of the



than 40 lakh farmers engaged in its cultivation. "Despite the state producing an ample cotton yield, reports of import of 22 lakh bales of cotton have raised concerns about a potential sharp decline in the domestic cot-

rashtra ranks second in the country

for cotton production, with more

ton prices," he said in the letter. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) also has 11 lakh million unsold bales in stock, the Congress



welfare, Patole said the Centre should impose an immediate ban on cotton imports and instruct the CCI to purchase cotton at the guaranteed price

He said the current cotton price is between ₹ 6,500 and ₹ 6,600 per quintal, which is below the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹ 7.122. With the low market price, farmers have refrained from selling their cotton, the Congress

ers as well as by the CCI, he added.Importing cotton when the country already has such a large stock would lead to collapse of the cotton market, significantly impacting farmers while benefitting only traders, Patole said. The cotton farmers in Maha-

Cotton stocks are held by farm-

rashtra are already facing difficulties due to low prices, 12 to 18 per cent GST on agricultural equipment, and unseasonal rains, he

The adverse weather has damaged cotton across 19 lakh hectares this year, and the compensation announced by the central government remains only on paper, the Congress leader claimed.

Patole further claimed that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana benefits insurance companies

#### Athawale denies rift in Mahayuti over Mahim seat

MUMBAI, Nov 3: Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Sunday denied reports of a rift in the ruling Mahavuti over the Mahim assembly constituency in Mumbai, which will see MNS leader Amit Thackarey taken on Shiv Sena's Sada Sarvankar.

The RPI (A) chief said three-time sitting MLA Sarvankar is a stronger candidate than Amit Thackeray, whose only qualification is that he is the son of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thack-

The Republican Party of India (Athawale) is an ally of the Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, NCP and Shiv

Amit Thackeray is making his electoral debut, while Sarvankar is seeking re-election from Mahim. The Shiv Sena leader has asserted that he will not withdraw from the fray, even as the BJP has expressed keenness to back the MNS candidate.

Talking to PTI, Athwale said, "The Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial and Indu Mill come under the Mahim constituency, and I don't think it is good to pressurise Sarvankar. He is the sitting MLA and a stronger candidate than Amit Thackeray, and he will

While refusing to comment on the BJP's show of support for the MNS candidate, he said Sarvankar was the Mahayuti official's candidate.

"Amit Thackeray has not done any work in the con-



stituency, and his only qualification is that he is Raj Thackeray's son. He has just entered politics and has a lot to do in the future," Athawale said.

Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly will be held on November 20, and the votes will be counted on November 23. Mumbai accounts for 36 assembly segments. November 4 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Asked about the possibility of rebel candidates hurting the alliance in different constituencies, the Union minister said, "Whenever rebels contest elections, it hurts. It affected the Congress in Haryana. I think tomorrow 99 per cent of the rebels will withdraw. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other leaders are meeting with these candidates." (PTI)

## NC's Abdul Rahim rather likely to become JK Assembly speaker

SRINAGAR, Nov 3: Veteran National Conference leader and seven-time MLA from Charar-e-Sharief Abdul Rahim Rather is likely to become the first speaker of the legislative assembly of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which is scheduled to meet for a five-day session on Monday.

According to the provisional calendar for the session issued by the Assembly Secretariat, the House will elect the speaker in the first sitting on Monday.

Sources in the National Conference (NC) said the 80-year-old Rather is most likely to be the party's candidate for the post of speaker.

"We are comfortably placed as the treasury benches have the numbers. As of now, Rather sahib is all set to be the speaker of the legislative assembly," a senior NC leader

said on the condition of anonymity. Rather had earlier held the post of the speaker in the legislative as-



sembly of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He was also the leader of the opposition from 2002 to 2008 when the PDP-Congress coalition government ruled

During a meeting of its legislature party held earlier on Sunday,

the BJP nominated Narinder Singh Raina as its candidate for the post While the BJP has not named a candidate for the speaker's post, it was not clear if the government and the opposition have reached an informal understanding on these key posts in the assembly.

The House will meet after a gap of more than six years on Monday. with the last session held in early 2018, a year before the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

Stringent security measures have been put in place for the assembly session.

According to the calendar for sittings of the House, the speaker's election on Monday will be followed by the lieutenant governor's (LG) address.

Obituary references will be made on November 5 and discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the LG's address will be taken up on November 6 and 7, it showed.

The reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks will be taken up on November 8, an official spokesperson said. (PTI)

#### Former minister Sat Sharma returns as head of J-K BJP

JAMMU, Nov 3: Former minister Sat Paul Sharma returned as the head of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of BJP, a post he had held for two-and-a-half years between 2015 and 2018.

Sharma, 63, was denied a party ticket in the recent assembly election. He was appointed as working president of the party in September amid resentment over ticket distribution and is now elevated to the post of president, replacing the party's longest-serving J-K unit

president Ravinder Raina. Raina, who had replaced Sharma in May 2018 and held the post for six-and-a-half years, has been made a member of the party's national executive. He had failed to retain his Nowshera constituency of Rajouri district as he was defeated by National Conference candidate

and now deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary. Born in a Dogra family in Jammu, Sharma is a chartered accountant and won from the Jammu West assembly constituency on a BJP ticket for the first time in 2014 and also served as cabinet minister for 40 days in the PDP-BJP government which collapsed in 2018 after

the saffron party withdrew its support. "I am thankful to the central leadership for giving me this responsibility for the second time. I will try to overcome any shortcoming during my first tenure and will play my role to ensure the party can script history," the BJP leader said. He said the recent assembly elections



gave the BJP "a historic mandate of 29 seats (out of 90) with a 26 per cent vote share as it made big strides

across the Union Territory, especially in the Valley". "I am a long-time party worker and we will try to take the party to new heights with the support of the workers and the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Sharma said. Sharma was appointed J-K BJP president for the first

term in December 2015. It has been less than three weeks after the assembly election results in Jammu and Kashmir and the change of guard in the BJP comes at a time when the Union Territory is gearing up for the urban local bodies and panchayat elections which are likely to take place early next year. (PTI)

## JK: 11 injured in grenade attack Digital arrests: ED files charge sheet, I4C issues fresh advisory Some victims of this scam were 'manipulated' under the guise of a fake arrest (digital arrest) by the Customs and the CBI

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging people to guard against the menace of 'digital' arrests, probe agencies said they are taking action against this category of cyber crime with the ED filing a charge sheet in one such case and the I4C issuing a fresh advisory.

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The Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued a statement on Saturday, saying it filed a prosecution complaint before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Bengaluru last month against eight accused who allegedly "lured" common people through "fake" IPO allotments and stock market investments through fraudulent apps

"Probe found that a huge network of cyber scams in India, involving fake stock market investments and digital arrest schemes executed primarily through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram.

'Known as 'pig-butchering' scams, stock market investment scams entice victims with promises of high returns, using fake websites and misleading WhatsApp groups that appear connected to reputable financial

SRINAGAR, Nov 3: A success-

ful anti-terror operation that led to

the elimination of a high-profile

terrorist commander in Jammu and Kashmir was marked not only by

strategic planning but also uncon-

Senior officials highlighted the

importance of coming up with

unique solutions that mitigated the

challenges faced during the opera-

tion against Usman, a commander

of the Pakistan-based terror organ-

Usman was killed on Saturday

in a day-long encounter in the

densely-populated Khanyar local-

ity of downtown Srinagar, marking

the first significant gunfight in the

summer capital in more than two

years. The operation involved a

joint effort from the local police

and the Central Reserve Police

The officials said Usman, who

was well familiar with the Valley

terrain, was a significant figure in

orchestrating numerous terror at-

tacks since his initial activity in the

After a stint in Pakistan, he infil-

2016-17 and was implicated in the

shooting of police inspector Mas-

Wani was shot dead from close

When intelligence indicated

Usman's presence in a residential

area, a meticulous nine-hour plan-

ning phase ensued to ensure the

operation's success without collat-

Coming up with a novel ap-

proach to prevent the target being

alerted as the security forces ap-

proached him, the entire deploy-

ment -- including cordoning off a cluster of 30 homes -- was done

before Fajar (pre-dawn prayers).

evacuation of locals.

The operation also included the

The standoff escalated when

Usman -- armed with an AK-47, a

roor Wani in October 2023.

range while playing cricket.

Force (CRPF)

eral damage.

isation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

ventional solutions.

Unconventional methods

play key role in Srinagar

anti-terror operation

firms," the Enforcement Direc-

Scammers, it said, establish credibility through fake ads and fabricated success stories, ultimately leading victims to invest significant amounts.

The ED said some victims of this scam were "manipulated" under the guise of a fake arrest (digital arrest) by the Customs and the CBI, ultimately making them transfer huge funds to various shell or dummy companies under fake 'fund regularisation process."

It said 'digital' arrest scams involve fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials, intimidating victims into transferring their savings by fabricating scenarios that suggest illegal involvement of the victim, the federal agency said.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) issued a public advisory on Sunday asking people to "Beware of Digital Arrests" reminding that "those making video calls are not police, CBI, Customs officials or judges".

They are cyber criminals, the organisation that functions under the Union home ministry said.

engaged in a fierce gunfire ex-

During the confrontation, some

grenades detonated, igniting a fire

in the house that was quickly con-

tained by the security personnel to

prevent it from spreading to nearby

After several hours of intense

gunfire, Usman was neutralised.

The encounter resulted in injuries

to four security personnel who are

reported to be in stable condition.

nificant victory for the forces, particularly against The Resistance

Front, a LeT offshoot that has in-

creasingly targeted non-local

labourers and security personnel.

Usman was also the right-hand

This was the first encounter in

man of Sajad Gul, the Pakistan-

based commander of The Resist-

Srinagar in more than two years.

The last one took place in Septem-

ber 2022 in Nowgam. Two local

terrorists of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-

Hind were killed in that encounter.

ance Front.

The operation represents a sig-

change with the security forces.

The advisory asked people to not fall for these "tricks" and report such crimes "immediately" by

calling the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or logging at the portal www.cybercrime.gov.in. Prime Minister Modi had during

his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' radio address on October 27 flagged the issue of fraudsters targeting people with 'digital' arrests and urged people to adopt the mantra of 'stop, think and take action" when faced with such a scam, asserting that these steps will provide digital security to them.

The ED said it booked a money laundering case into this crime after studying multiple police FIRs and it arrested eight persons, also named as accused in its charge sheet filed on October 10, named Charan Raj C, Kiran S K, Shahi Kumar M, Sachin M, Tamilarasan, Prakash R, Ajith R and Aravindan and 24 related companies.

All the arrested persons are currently lodged in jail under judicial

This cyber crime case involves proceeds of crimes to the tune of ₹ 159 crore and the court has taken cognisance of the ED charge sheet on October 29, it said.

The ED said fraudsters, in order to perpetrate this fraud, obtained hundreds of SIM cards which were either linked to the bank accounts of shell companies or were utilised to create WhatsApp accounts.

"The anonymity afforded by these untraceable SIMs allow scammers to defraud victims with a reduced risk of immediate detec-

"The scammers created 24 shell companies in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and some other states to facilitate the acquisition and laundering of proceeds from cybercrimes," it said.

These shell companies, registered mainly at the addresses of coworking spaces (where no actual business presence exists), have used fake bank statements in filings before Registrar of Companies as proof of commencement of business of these companies. Scammers operated through

"mule" accounts to transfer the funds and the proceeds are ultimately converted into cryptocurrency and transferred abroad, the ED probe found. One of the accused, Charan Raj

C, played a "key" role in this scheme by recruiting individuals for directorships and managing bank account openings.

Shashi Kumar M assisted in "incorporating" several shell compa-

in Srinagar nies which became instrumental in collecting and integrating proceeds of crime into the banking system.

Kiran S K, linked to several shell companies as per the ED, had connections with bank accounts of multiple shell entities created by overseas scammers, who submitted fake documents to incorporate these companies.

Sachin M, a Director in several firms, "admitted" to assisting overseas scammers in recruiting dummy directors and facilitating bank accounts, being "well aware" of their illegality, according to the

Tamilarasan played a "significant" role in facilitating these activities, collaborating with both Indian and overseas scammers and he "assisted" in opening bank accounts for shell companies. like Cyberforest Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and "knowingly" continued these operations despite of knowledge of their connection to cybercrime, the agency said.

The ED said it has "incriminating" evidence like chequebooks and communication records to say that these individuals participated in a syndicate that laundered proceeds from cyber frauds across

The blast took place close to the weekly flea market, popularly known as the Sunday market, which is thronged by thousands. The explosion caused panic in the area and sent shoppers scrambling for cover. The officer said the attack was borne out of the desperation of terrorists following Saturday's killing of the LeT commander. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the attack.

SRINAGAR, Nov 3: Terrorists

lobbed a grenade at a CRPF bunker

near a crowded flea market in the

heart of the city here on Sunday,

injuring at least 11 civilians, offi-

The attack, which took place

near a heavily guarded complex

housing All India Radio and Door-

darshan Kendra near the Tourist

Reception Centre (TRC), comes a

day after security forces eliminated

a top Pakistani commander of

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the

Khanyar locality of downtown Sri-

nagar. A senior police officer said

the terrorists hurled the grenade at

the Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF) bunker near the TRC.

However, the grenade missed the

intended target and landed on the

roadside, injuring 11 people," the

officer said.

"The last few days have been dominated by headlines of attacks and encounters in parts of the Valley. Today's news of a grenade attack on innocent shoppers at the Sunday market in Srinagar is deeply disturbing. There can be no justification for targeting innocent civilians," Abdullah said in a post on X. "The security apparatus must do everything possible to end this spurt of attacks at the earliest so that people can go about their lives without any fear," he added.

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress called for measures to curb such attacks. "It is deeply disturbing to learn about the unfortunate and ghastly incident of a grenade attack on shopkeepers," Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tario Hameed Karra said in a statement.

"Jammu and Kashmir Police must take effective measures to contain such brutal and inhuman attacks so that the public can move freely and

## Odisha govt concerned about Mahanadi issue, held discussions with Chhattisgarh CM: Majhi

BHUBANESWAR, Nov 3: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday said his government is concerned about the Mahanadi water dispute with neighbouring Chhattisgarh. Majhi said he has already held discussions with his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai twice on the Mahanadi water dispute.

While replying to a media query in Bolangir, Majhi said the state government is conscious about the issue and giving it all importance.

"Discussion on the Mahanadi issue is going on and I personally held discussions with the Chhattisgarh chief minister twice during courtesy meetings," said Majhi, who is in charge of the Water Resources Department.

The CM further said that the state government is also giving emphasis on expediting the proposed barrages, dam projects on Mahanadi river in Odisha.

Majhi, who was on a two-day visit to Bolangir district for the first time after becoming the Chief Minister of Odisha, alleged that the previous BJD government had neglected the district even though there was no dearth of strong political leadership in Bolangir.

During the press conference, he said that 83 development projects worth ₹ 890 crore have been either inaugurated or foundation stone was laid in Bolangir district on Saturday.

The foundation stone of the Upper Lanth irrigation project in Belpara block of the district



was laid by the CM on Saturday. The upper Lanth irrigation project is proposed across river Lanth, a tributary of Tel river.

The project after completion will provide irrigation to 15,000 acres of land in 25 villages and 38,000 farmers of Belpada will benefit from it, he said. Among the projects inaugurated by Majhi included a Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH) and a dialysis centre at Patnagarh and Titlagarh. He also laid the foundation stone of a bypass road for Patnagarh town.

Majhi said Bolangir district will be developed as one of the best districts in the state as the BJP government has been taking several ini-

Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo who hails from Bolangir district will review the projects every month for its timely completion, he said. The state government has decided to enhance the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to ₹3,100 per quintal. The state government will pay a bonus of ₹ 800 per quintal of paddy in addition to the MSP (₹ 2,300) set by the Centre, the chief minister pointed out. Besides, the government would continue to

provide ₹ 10,000 per year under PM-Kisan and CM-Kisan schemes to farmers, he added. While reacting to the CM's statement on the

Mahanadi issue, senior BJD leader Prasanta Muduli said the people of Odisha are hopeful that the Mahanadi water dispute will be resolved as there is a BJP government in the state and at the Centre.

"As the chief minister has said that he held discussions about the issue with the Chhattisgarh CM twice, the details of the meetings should be made public," he said.

Odisha alleges that it does not receive sufficient water from the Mahanadi river during non-monsoon months as Chhattisgarh obstructs the flow of the water by constructing barrages upstream. The previous Naveen Patnaik had moved the Supreme Court in this matter in 2016. The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal was constituted in 2018, following orders of the

#### tiatives for the development of the district. Delhi: 2 sisters assault former DSP over honking dispute, held after chase

**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** Two sisters armed with a knife allegedly barged into the house of a former Uttar Pradesh deputy superintendent of police (DSP) and attacked him and his family following a dispute over honking in east Delhi's Vasundhara Enclave area, police said on Sunday.

The successful mission under-The incident took place on Satscores the lengths to which the authorities will go, including finding urday night after former DSP unique and unconventional solu-Ashok Sharma, who is a cancer pations, to ensure their operations' tient, requested the two sisters to resafety and effectiveness. The enfrain from honking their car a day before, a police officer said, adding counter not only marks a pivotal moment in counter-terrorism efforts in that Sharma escaped with minor injuries in the attac $\bar{k}$ . Both Sharma and Jammu and Kashmir but also highthe two sisters -- Chhavi Jain (21) lights the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in maintaining and Bhavya Jain (23) -- are resipeace in the region. (PTI) dents of Anekant Apartments soci-

ety, the officer said. A high drama was witnessed when police was called after the two women allegedly reacted aggressively. Later, the accused, who tried to flee in their car, were arrested after a chase, police said."It has been alleged that on Saturday, both the sisters entered the house of Sharma forcefully and confronted him and his family with a knife, creating a disturbance that drew neighbours to the scene. Some residents who attempted to intervene also sustained minor injuries," said the officer. Police said after the confrontation, the sisters tried to flee in their vehicle and allegedly hit a scooter rider and dragged it for a few metres, injur-

"They (sisters) were chased and apprehended from Noida. We have started further investigation into the matter," said the officer. A total of four FIRs have been registered at New Ashok Nagar police station against the two accused on the basis of complaints filed by former DSP Sharma, his daughter Reena, head constable Sunil and scooter rider Joginder, police said. The two sisters have been booked under various sections of BNS including 109(2) (attempt to murder), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), and 132 (assaulting or using criminal force against a public servant), the officer said. (PTI)

### Suvendu Adhikari visits home of girl raped, murdered in Alipurduar

**KOLKATA, Nov 3:** Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari termed the alleged rape and murder of a girl in Alipurduar district as horrific and heart-shattering

The senior BJP leader visited the home of the minor and met her mother on Saturday and assured the family of any help that they might require, be it legal or anything else. Adhikari alleged irregularities in the post-mortem procedures. "I met her mother and spoke to her father over phone. I got to know about the irregularities in the post-mortem procedures which might prove to be a hindrance later on when the matter would be on trial in a court," he posted on X. Adhikari demanded that the Mamata Banerjee government introspect what's wrong with the system and how to tackle the situation proactively so that prowl-

stopped. "This horrific and heartshattering incident in Alipurduar district is another addition to the series of sexual crimes against children and women of the state. Mamata Baneriee govt must introspect what's wrong with the system and how to tackle the situation proactively so that the prowling sexual predators can be stopped in their tracks before another unsuspecting innocent girl becomes the victim of such gruesome crime," the leader of the opposition posted on X. A girl was allegedly raped and murdered, following which enraged villagers lynched one of the accused in West Bengal's Alipurduar district on Friday. The girl's body was found in a pond, following which the villagers tied a man, whom they alleged was one of the accused, to a tree and beat him up mercilessly. Police rescued the man, in his forties,

#### and took him to a hospital, where ing sexual predators can be doctors declared him dead. (PTI) Chhattisgarh: Death toll in Balrampur SUV accident rises to 8

BALRAMPUR, Nov 3: Two more persons have died after a sports utility vehicle (SUV) fell into a pond in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district, taking the toll to eight, police said on Sunday.

While one more body was recovered from the accident site late Saturday night, the vehicle's driver succumbed to his injuries while being shifted to hospital, a senior police official told PTI.

Earlier, six persons were reported killed after the SUV fell into the roadside pond between 8 pm and 8.30 pm on Saturday at Ladua turn on Budha Bagicha main road under Rajpur police station limits.

The victims were heading from Larima (Balrampur) to neighbouring Surajpur district, the official said. As per preliminary information, the driver failed to negotiate the turn following which the SUV skidded off the road and plunged into the small pond, he said. After being alerted, a police

team was rushed to the spot.

out of the pond, while the driver was rescued in a serious condition, the official said. Later, one more body was found and the driver succumbed to in-

Six bodies were initially fished

juries while being shifted to hospital, he said. The SUV was also pulled out of

the pond using a machine, the of-

The deceased have been identified as Sanjay Munda (35), his wife Chandravati (35), their daughter Kirti (8), their neighbours Mangal Das (19), Bhupendra Munda (18), Baleshwar (18) and Udaynath (20) and driver Mukesh Das (26), he said. (PTI)

#### pistol, and numerous grenades --Himalayan glacial lakes saw 10.81 per cent area expansion from 2011 to 2024: Report pacts of GLOFs, it underlined.

**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** Glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region saw a 10.81 per cent increase in area from 2011 to 2024 due to climate change, signalling a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), according to a government report.

The Central Water Commission's (CWC) report, which was accessed by PTI, states that with a 33.7 per cent expansion of the surface area, the lakes in India experienced an even more substantial rise.

"The total inventory area of glacial lakes within India was 1,962 hectares during the year 2011 which has increased to 2,623 hectares during the year 2024 (September). There is a 33.7 per cent increase in area," the report said.

It also identified 67 lakes in India that witnessed an over 40 per cent increase in surface area, placing them in the high-risk category for potential GLOFs

Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh showed the most notable expansions, signalling a heightened risk of GLOFs and the need for intensified monitoring and disaster preparedness.

Glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region saw an overall area increase of 10.81 per cent from 5,33,401 hectares in 2011 to 5.91.108 hectares in 2024 due to climate change, the report said.

The rapid expansion of these lakes is attributed to accelerated melting of glaciers due to rising temperatures in the region, with potentially severe consequences for downstream communities, infrastructure and biodiversity, it said.

Physically, the shrinking of mountain glaciers and expansion of glacial lakes are amongst the most recognisable and dynamic impacts of climate warming in this environment, it said.

"Therefore, under such a changing environment, a close watch on the relative change in water spread area of even smaller lakes has become very crucial in this region," the report said. The sudden and often catastrophic floods occur when glacial lakes breach their natural moraine dams, releasing large vol-

umes of water downstream. The CWC stressed that the in-



creased water spread of these lakes demands rigorous monitoring and urgent risk management strategies.

To overcome challenges in tracking these remote lakes, a senior official said, the CWC has leveraged advanced satellite technology, particularly the Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Sentinel-2 multispectral imagery that enable precise and all-weather monitoring.

"The high-resolution capabilities of these satellites allow CWC to detect changes in lake size with 10metre accuracy, even in challenging conditions such as cloud cover. This monitoring technology is critical in providing timely updates on the state of these high-risk lakes, thereby enabling early interventions when necessary," the official said.

The CWC report also underscored the transboundary risks posed by expanding glacial lakes in neighbouring countries, including Bhutan, Nepal and China. Given the interconnected nature of river basins across the Himalayan watershed, collaboration with these countries is crucial to managing the potential im-

sessment and mitigation strategy. It highlighted the urgent need for

international and regional cooperation in developing early warning systems, enhancing disaster management plans, and promoting community awareness initiatives to safeguard vulnerable populations.

The report called for joint moni-

toring efforts and data sharing to

build a more comprehensive risk as-

The implications of area expansion of glacial lakes extend beyond flood risks and can impact water availability in the region's major river systems, including the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Indus. Using data from 2011 and drawing comparisons with five and 10-year averages, the CWC's report identified patterns of glacial lake expansion that allow au-

thorities to pinpoint high-risk areas. The official cited above said with its commitment to reducing monitoring intervals and improving data precision, the CWC aims to establish a robust system for early detection and response to the evolving challenges posed by the Himalayan glacial lakes. (PTI)

Shah Rukh Khan celebrates 59<sup>th</sup>

birthday with family, fans

MUMBAI, Nov 3: Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan celebrated his 59th birthday on Saturday, marking the occasion with his family and attending an event to connect with his fans.

Shah Rukh's wife, Gauri Khan, shared a glimpse of the intimate family celebration on Instagram, featuring their daughter Suhana Khan in the photo. Meanwhile, Suhana shared throwback photos with her father on Instagram Stories, writing, "Happy birthday. Love you the most in the world."

In the evening, Shah Rukh celebrated with fans at a city event, where videos circulating on social media captured him cutting a cake decorated with his initials, "SRK," as fans sang "Happy Birthday." Later, he expressed gratitude on social media platform X, posting, "My love to everyone who made it for my birthday. And for those who couldn't, sending you all my love."

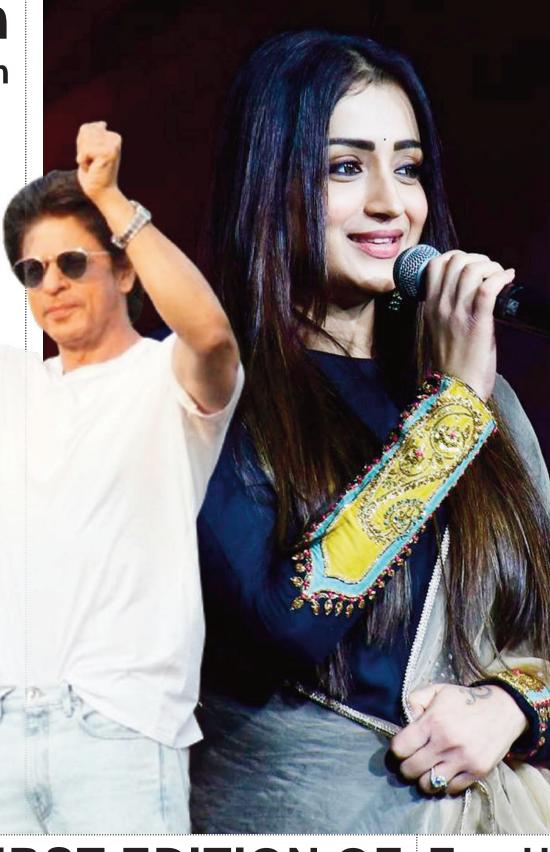
As is customary, many fans gathered outside Shah Rukh's iconic sea-facing bungalow, Mannat, in Bandra. Due to security measures, however, some fans couldn't gather directly outside, adding a bittersweet note to the celebrations. Over half a dozen police officers and a van were stationed outside his residence. Despite the restrictions, fans displayed their devotion with gestures like 59 crownshaped balloons and reenacting Shah Rukh's iconic wide-arm pose.

Among the fans was Sudhir Kothari from Chennai, who leads the SRK Chennai Fan Club. "We celebrated with our club members, bringing banners, posters, and dancing to his songs," Kothari shared. This year, the fan club gifted Shah Rukh a ceramic figure of his character from Jawan.

Known as King Khan, Shah Rukh is one of Bollywood's last true superstars, alongside Salman Khan and Aamir Khan. His illustrious career includes iconic roles in Baazigar, Darr, and Anjaam, with seamless transitions into romance and action through films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Veer Zaara, Chak De! India, Swades, Don, Pathaan, and Jawan.

Birthday wishes poured in from across the film industry. Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote, "Happy birthday King," with a heart emoji, while Katrina Kaif posted, "Nobody like you." Director Farah Khan, who collaborated with Shah Rukh on Main Hoon Na, Om Shanti Om, and Happy New Year, shared throwback photos and wrote, "Tons of happy memories & lots more to make.. happy birthday SHAH @iamsrk."

Shah Rukh's last release was Rajkumar Hirani's comedy-drama Dunki in 2023. Earlier in the year, he delivered blockbuster hits with Pathaan, directed by Sidharth Anand, and Jawan, an action thriller by Atlee. Next, Shah Rukh will star in King, directed by Sujoy Ghosh of Kahaani fame, with Suhana Khan in a pivotal role. (PTI)



Actor
Trisha
Krishnan's
name
featured
in New York
Times
crossword
puzzle

**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** Actor Trisha Krishnan was in for a surprise on Sunday when she found her name mentioned in the New York Times (NYT) crossword as one of the answers in the puzzle.

On her Instagram Story, the actor shared a screenshot of a social media user's post which read 'Actress Krishnan of South Indian cinema' as a clue for the number 52 word across 'TRISHA'.

52 word across "TRISHA'.

"I made it to New York today,"

According to NYT Crossword, Trisha's name featured as an answer for the Sunday crossword.

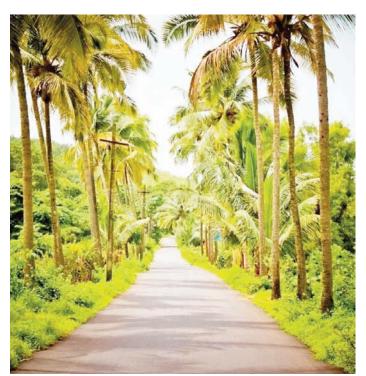
"K bye! Done showing off (sic)' the "Ponniyin Selvan" star wrote in another Instagram Story.

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu also gave a shout-out to Trisha on social media.

"NYT crossword @trishakrishnan QUEEN," Samantha wrote. In her reply, Trisha said: "Awww Sam, you all heart my gal (sic)"

Trisha will next be seen in a string of films, including "Vidaamuyarchi", "Thug Life", "Vishwambhara", and "Identity". (PTI)

# GOA TO HOST FIRST EDITION OF GREEN STORIES DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FROM NOVEMBER 5



**PANAJI, Nov 3:** The inaugural edition of Green Stories, billed as Asia's first mentoring and pitching lab for wildlife and environment documentaries, will take place in Goa from November 5 to November 10.

According to the organisers of the festival, the non-profit initiative, launched in April 2024, aims to fill a critical gap in the global film industry by providing a much-needed space for mentorship and exposure to filmmakers across India and Southeast Asia.

"Supported by the National Geographic Society and Royal Enfield Social Mission, and hosted in association with Sunaparanta Goa Centre for the Arts, Green Stories brings together filmmakers, mentors, and industry leaders in an effort to foster impactful storytelling that addresses pressing environmental challenges," the organisers said.

Over 55 submissions were received for the first edition, out of which 16 projects were selected to participate in an intensive, four-day incubation lab where they will be mentored by global experts, including Emmy, Academy, and Peabody Award-winning film-makers. "This hands-on guidance will culminate in a major pitch event, where participants will present their projects to a panel of 25 plus international broadcasters, distributors, and festival organisers, offering an unparalleled opportunity for global exposure and collaboration," the organisers added.

Kaitlin Yarnall, Chief Storytelling Officer, National Geographic Society, said the organisation believes in the power of stories to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. "Central to the power of our stories are the storytellers who dedicate their time, talent, and creativity to telling them. For this reason, we are honoured to work with Green Stories to further support storytellers in India, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, those dedicated to bringing stories that inspire illumination and protection," Yarnall said. Mike Pandey, founder of Green Stories, said Green Stories is not just an event, it's a

"Our vision is for Green Stories to evolve into a nurturing mentorship safe space for filmmakers, while also creating crucial access to markets and resources, something we all stumble around for." (PTI)

## Tom Holland says he Googles partner Zendaya 'to see if everything's good'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 3: Actor Tom Holland may not be on social media but he says he often Googles news about his partner and frequent collaborator Zendaya to check on her.

The couple met on the sets of 2017's "Spider-Man: Homecoming", which stars Holland as the titular superhero/ Peter Parker and Zendaya as his classmate and love interest, MJ.

The "Spider-Man" co-stars, who have been dating since 2021, have continued to keep their relationship private despite posing together at red carpets and other promotional events.

On Samah

Dada's "On The Menu" pod-cast, Holland said: "The last thing I Googled was actually Zendaya. I'm not on (social media), and I delete it when I'm not using it." "Sometimes, like, it's more of a bit of an anxiety thing, but I'll check to see if everything's good and to make sure we're all cool. So I just give her a little Google and look (through) the news, and I'm like, 'She's good. We're fine'," he

Holland and Zendatya, both 28 reprised their charactwers in 2019's "Spider-man Noi Way Home" (2021). They will return for

They will return for the currently untitled fourth "Spider-Man" film that will start filming in summer.

# Rohit Bal was truly inspirational, put India on map of couture: designer Rick

MUMBAI, Nov 3: Legendary is how one would describe Rohit Bal and that's what will always be, says film costume designer Rick who worked with the late fashion industry veteran when he was just starting out. One of India's fashion pioneers, Bal fondly called Gudda by peers and friends died on Friday at a south Delhi hospital following a heart attack at the age of 63.

Bal was "the OG of what fashion used to be in India", Rick said remembering his mentor.

"I worked with Rohit Bal for a couple of years as a backstage helper for fashion shows. So I used to meet him often. He was truly inspirational. He put India on the map of couture. He was a pioneer in the world of fashion.

"I can't tell you how amazing it was to have access to his clothes and to him. It's very sad, but I guess he was suffering for a long time. He

was legendary, and the word legendary is what Rohit Bal was and he will always be that," Rick told PTI.

Rick, who has styled Bollywood stars like Vidya Balan, Akshay Kumar, Sonakshi Sinha, and Sonam Kapoor, said Bal was an institution in himself.

"What we used to study in design was that there are different kinds of finishing. Like in couture or high fashion, garments need to have a certain kind of finishing. That's what makes it different from ready-

"Rohit was one of those designers whose finishing was brilliant. It was what we were learning in school. To be able to experience those amazing garments, touch and see them was brilliant," added the former student of Mumbai's National Institute of Fashion Technology. Besides being a celebrated designer, Rick said

Bal's sense of styling garments was "phenomenal".Recalling an anecdote from behind-the-scenes of a fashion show in the early 2000s, Rick said the designer once entered a room with the clothes from his collection along with four bags full of jewellery.

"Swarovski jewellery was not that prevalent in 2003 and 2004. He came with like these four to five boxes, full of broaches and gorgeous jewellery, and he gave it to me and another assistant. He said, 'These are the clothes, these are all the broaches, I just want you guys to put all the broaches on all the clothes and I want to see what you guys do'.

"I was like, I'm a child. I'm 18', and he was like, 'You're a student and I'm sure you have ideas. So, I want you to implement your ideas'. It was extremely important and a big show. Celebrities, his clientele and everybody was going to be there. And he gave us those boxes and said, 'Do what you feel like I want to see what you guys can do with it'. I'll never forget it. It was an amazing experience," he added.

Rick said Bal's clothes used to be "outrageous and completely different" from other designers.

"He was a creative genius... The fact that who he was and how he used to walk into every fitting, I'm influenced more by the person he was, and his personal style rather than his design aesthetic... He was like this amazing ball of energy." (PTI)



# JAMSHEDPUR FC, CHENNAIYIN FC SEEK URGENT RECOVERIES

Chennaiyin FC and Jamshedpur FC will be marching on their retrieval routes in a bid to recover from their recent losses, when they clash in their Indian Super League match here on Monday.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

The match marks a reunion of friends-turned-foes, with the likes of Owen Coyle, Farukh Choudhary, and Daniel Chima Chukwu returning to their old hunting ground.

Coyle had even propelled the Red Miners to championship success in 2021-22, and hence the home fans are likely to give him a warm reception.

Both teams have put on a show for their respective fan bases in the current campaign. They have performed as cohesive, well-oiled units, garnering much-needed victories and starting the season on a strong foot-

However, they suffered minor setbacks in their previous games, with Jamshedpur FC encountering a challenging away fixture in the face of a 5-0 defeat to NorthEast United FC and Chennaiyin FC going down 3-2 to Punjab FC in New Delhi.

They will be eager to regroup, to set their processes right, and hit the reset button so that they can rejuvenate a positive-looking season thus far.

The Men of Steel are unbeaten in their previous four matches at this venue against the Marina Machans. They have won once and drawn thrice in this period. In fact, Chenniayin FC's only win at the JRD Tata Sports Complex came nearly seven years back on December 28, 2017, by



With three consecutive home victories, Jamshedpur FC have been relentlessly good in their backyard this season. They have netted at least twice in each of these games, and a possible win in this match will mark their

longest such streak in the competition's history.

Jamil's men have certainly captured the imagination of their supporters and extending this stretch for as long as possible

tent backing of their beloved fans. The Marina Machans have been lethal from the flanks in this season. They have made 26.5 crosses per game - the highest in the league. Coyle's blueprint has been

palpable in their gameplay, stretching the opposition's defences wide, making pinpoint deliveries into the box and relying on their efficient forwards to convert those chances consis-

## BCCI to discuss NZ whitewash, some star seniors could be phased out post Australia series

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: The fu-told PTI on the condition of ture of some senior India players will be decided after the tour of Australia as the BCCI evaluates the shocking 0-3 drubbing against New Zealand at home while rolling out a structured phaseout policy before the start of the next WTC cycle.

There is a high possibility that the five-match Test series against Australia could be the final one for at least two of the four seniors among Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin, who are in the last leg of their interna-

"Look, I don't think we can look that far ahead. It's important to focus on the next series, which is Australia," Rohit said when asked for his thoughts on India's Test future given there is limited time left in his captaincy.

"I'm not going to look beyond Australia series. Australia series, for us is now very, very important. We will try and focus on that rather than thinking what happens after," he said.

An informal discussion could take place between BCCI bigwigs and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, head coach Gautam Gambhir, and skipper Rohit about the way forward for an ageing team.

"Stocks will be taken certainly and it could be of informal nature since the team leaves for Australia on November 10. But this has been a huge debacle but, with Australia series round the corner and the squad already announced, there won't be any tinkering," a senior BCCI source

anonymity.

"But if India doesn't qualify for WTC final in England, one can be rest assured that all four super seniors won't be on that flight to UK for the ensuing five-Test series. In any case, all four have likely played their final Test at home together," the source added.

It is understood that the BCCI is not keen on repeating the 2011 saga when suddenly an old team was found to be out of sorts and hence the selectors, especially chairman Agarkar and head coach Gambhir, would need to talk to the senior cricketers about the plan ahead.

For India to not depend on any other calculations to qualify for the WTC final, they would require a 4-0 result Down Under, which as of now looks next to impossible.

India can still qualify after losing the Border Gavaskar-Trophy other teams don't fare well.

But once the Australia series is over and if India don't qualify -- the next cycle will start with five Test series in England from June 20 next year at Leeds -the selection committee might be compelled to look at longterm prospects with chances given to players like Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, who look ready for international

With Washington Sundar emerging as a strong prospect for the next 10 years, Ashwin's future in India whites could be up for discussion once the Australia

## 31 teams to fight for top honours in 14th Senior Men Nati C'ship hockey

teams will fight for the top honours at the 14th edition of the Hockey India Senior Men National Championship set to begin here on Monday.

The 31 teams were divided into eight pools, and the tournament will conclude on November 16. During the league stage, each team will play against every other

side in their pool. The top team from each pool will advance to the quarterfinals to be played on November 13, followed by semifinals on November

15, and the final and 3rd/4th place play-off match on November 16. Pool A features defending champions Hockey Punjab along with Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu Hockey and Chhat-

tisgarh Hockey. Pool B includes Hockey Haryana, Telangana Hockey, Hockey Himachal, and Hockey Mizoram, while Pool C comprises Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu, Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Andhra Pradesh, and Hockey Annataka, Hockey Chandigarh, Hockey Uttarakhand, and Tripura Hockey. In Pool E, Hockey Association of Odisha will compete with Le Puducherry Hockey, Hockey Rajasthan, and Hockey Arunachal, while Pool F includes Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Delhi Hockey, Kerala Hockey, and

Hockey Jammu and Kashmir. Pool G consists of Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Maharashtra, Goans Hockey, and Hockey Gujarat, while Pool H features Manipur Hockey, Hockey Bengal, Hockey Bihar, and Assam Hockey. The tournament will open with a series of matches, including Uttar Pradesh Hockey vs Kerala Hockey and Hockey Karnataka vs Hockey Uttarakhand, among other exciting fixtures, setting the stage for a thrilling championship. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming tournament. "We are delighted to host the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship in Chennai, a city with a

rich hockey legacy. (PTI)

## Ball-change controversy involving Kishan dominates India A's 7-wicket loss to Australia A

MACKAY (AUSTRALIA), Nov 3: India A wicketkeeperbatter Ishan Kishan was embroiled in a ball-change controversy, facing accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" during their seven-wicket defeat to Australia A on the final day of the first 'Unofficial Test' here on Sunday.

Resuming at the overnight score of 139 for 3 while chasing 225, skipper Nathan Mc-Sweeney (88 not out) and Beau Webster (61) remained unbeaten, stitching unconquered 141 runs for the fourth wicket to ensure the comfortable win for the hosts.

However even before play began, a group of Indian players were involved in a heated exchange with umpire Shawn Craig after the change of ball at the start of day four.

The umpire was heard saying it had been replaced because of scratches with Kishan terming the decision to change the ball as "stupid".

Umpire Craig was heard in stump microphone explaining his decision to change the ball :"Scratch it, we change the



ball...no more discussion, let's

Kishan retorted: "So we are going to play with this ball... that's a very stupid decision.'

To which Craig responded: "Excuse me, you'll be on report for dissent. That's inappropriate behaviour. Because of your ac-

tions we changed the ball." However, Cricket Australia later issued a statement, saying

Kishan will not be charged with dissent after match officials clarified the ball was changed

"due to deterioration". CA added that captains and managers of both teams were informed of the decision prior to start of the final day's play, and no further action was required.

Even though the ball was changed, Australia A were not

awarded five penalty runs as stated in the Law 41.3.4 for when umpires consider the ball has been "unfairly changed".

Altering the condition of the ball is a level three charge under Cricket Australia's code of con-

'Any action(s) likely to alter the condition of the ball which are not specifically permitted under Law 41.3.2 may be regarded as 'unfair'.

The following actions shall therefore, not be permitted (this list of actions is not exhaustive but included for illustrative purposes): (a) deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up; (b) applying any artificial substance to the ball; and applying any non-artificial substance for any purpose other than to polish

"(c) lifting or otherwise interfering with any of the seams of the ball; (d) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement," the code reads.

The second first-class match between the two sides begins at

## Parthavi, Vanshika, Hemant win gold, *Indian boxers return* with 17 medals from U-19 World C'ships

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Parthavi Grewal, Vanshika Goswami and Hemant Sangwan punched their way to gold as Indian boxers clinching a haul of 17 medals at the inaugural U-19 World Championships organised by World Boxing in Colorado, USA.

It was the female boxers who stole the show with as many as 10 of them standing on the podium at the age group tourna-

While Parthavi notched a dominant 5-0 win over Netherlands' Aaliyah Hoppema in the women's 65kg final Vanshika emerged victorious in the woman's +80kg category against Germany's Victoria Gatt by Referee Stops Contest (RSC) one minute and 37 minutes on Saturday. In the next bout, Hemant clinched India's sole gold medal in the men's category by securing a 4-1 split decision victory over the USA's Rishon Sims in the 90kg category.

Nisha (51kg), Supriya Devi Thokchom (54kg)and Kritika Wasan (80kg) lost their respective finals to sign off with silver medals.

This significant medal count was highlighted by the contributions of 11 Khelo India Athletes (KIAs), of which eight are SAI National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) trainees.

The medallists also included three NCOE trainees who are non-KIAs, all training out of NCOE Rohtak.

Medal-winning Khelo India Athletes:

Boys - Sumit, Lakshay Rathi, Krrish Pal (all NCOE Rohtak), Aryan, Rishi Singh. Girls - Krisha Verma (NCOE

Aurangabad), Chanchal Chaudhary, Nisha, Vini, Akansha Phalaswal (all NCOE Rohtak), Supriya Devi. Medal-winning NCOE Ath-

letes: NCOE Rohtak – Parthavi, Vanshika (Gold), Chanchal, Nisha, Vini, Akansha, Kritika (Silver), Krrish Pal, Sumit, Lakshay Rathi (Bronze).

NCOE Aurangabad - Krisha Verma (Gold).

Overall medal winners: Gold: Krisha Verma (F75kg), Parthavi Grewal (F65kg), Vanshika Goswami (F+80KG), Hemant Sangwan (M90kg). (PTI)

## Tendulkar calls for introspection, Sehwag says 'upgrade against spin' after unprecedented defeat Congratulations NZ you out-

MUMBAI, Nov 3: India's former cricketers fell into stunned silence in the immediate aftermath of the unmitigated disaster against New Zealand here on Sunday. But once they have gathered their thoughts, they pulled no punches while reviewing the team's debacle.

The likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Harbhajan Singh called for "introspection", urged the team management to stop "needless experimentation" in the Test format and start playing on better pitches.

India faced a humiliating 0-3 whitewash at home for the first time ever after suffering a 25-run defeat in the third Test against a New Zealand side that arrived here on the back of a 0-2 loss to Sri Lanka. "Losing 3-0 at home is a tough pill to swallow, and it calls for introspection. Was it lack of preparation, was it poor shot selection, or was it lack of match practice?" Tendulkar posted on X. Set a target of 147 on a crumbling Wankhede pitch, India lasted just 29.1 overs to be bowled out for 121, making it the lowest target to be successfully defended against them at home. Rishabh Pant (64), who struck fifties in both the innings, was the only batter to show some fight,

while Shubman Gill (90) was the

top-scorer in India's first innings.

'@ShubmanGill showed resilience in the first innings, and @RishabhPant17 was brilliant in both innings — his footwork made a challenging surface look like a different one altogether. He was simply superb," Tendulkar noted. Terming it a terrible show by Rohit Sharma's team, former India opener Sehwag wrote on Instagram: "While as supporters it's imperative to support the team but this has been a terrible

performance from our team. "The skill to play spin certainly needs an upgrade and certain experimentations are good for the shorter format but in Test cricket doing some needless experimentations just for the sake of it was indeed poor. "Congratulations to Tom Latham and his @blackcapsnz boys on doing what is a dream for every visiting team and no other could conquer in this



only toppled India from the top of the World Test Championship standings but also exposed severe cracks in their batting against spin as New Zealand tweakers grabbed 37 out of 57 Indian wickets. Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santer with 13 wickets was the wrecker-in-chief in the second Test in Pune, and in his absence in Mumbai following a

way." The crushing blow not side strain, Ajaz Patel led the charge with an extraordinary 11wicket match haul.

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh said on these kind of pitches "anyone can get anyone out" and teams don't need legends like Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, or Saqlain Mushtag to take wickets.

"Turning pitches becoming ur own enemy #INDvsNZTEST

played us. Been saying from many years. Team India needs to play on better pitches. These turning pitches making every batsman look very ordinary, Harbhajan wrote on X. "Earlier generations batsmen

never played on these kind of tracks. These tracks are prepared for 2/3 day Test matches. You don't need Murli, Warne or Saqi on these pitches to get the teams out. Anyone can get anyone out." Former all-rounder Irfan Pathan highlighted the lack of red-ball cricket for the senior India batters as one of the reasons for the debacle. "This is embarrassing display by team India at home. Lot to ponder over by the decision makers. Well done New Zealand on such a terrific performance.

"Had a solid conversation with @iamyusufpathan bhai yesterday. He made a valid point about domestic cricket we're either playing on grassy pitches or flat tracks, but rarely on turning surfaces anymore.

Plus, top players aren't playing domestic cricket. This could hurt us in the long run." Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar added, "And with that we come to the end of a long phase of rank turners in India." Reactions also came from overseas with former England captain Michael Vaughan saying the Indian batters now struggle like most teams against spin. "To win in India is incredible

but to deliver a clean sweep is remarkable... has to be the greatest ever Test series victory. India now have a group of batters that struggle like most teams against spin...," Vaughan wrote. Former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop posted: "Amazing from

New Zealand. A population of less than 6 million. No Kane Williamson. They have conquered an unenviable task, and both men's and women's teams have had an historic and proud few weeks." The win was doubly special for New Zealand who had landed on Indian shores after suffering a 0-2 whitewash in Sri Lanka. (PTI)

We wanted to come here

and try and fire a few

shots: Tom Latham

MUMBAI, Nov 3: Skipper

India were all out for 121.

ers did the job in Bangalore, dif-

ferent guys stood up at different

times. More contributions we

"Last week it was Mitch

(Mitchell), this time it was Ajaz

(Patel). We wanted to come here

and try and fire a few shots.

Tried to be aggressive with the

bat, be proactive and with the

New Zealand came into the

series after losing 0-2 to Sri

Lanka in an away rubber, but

Latham said they didn't play

"I don't think we played all

that bad over there. Fell on the

right side of the toss in these

tion ceremony.

were looking for.

ball, keep it simple.'

badly against Islanders.

## Pant's heroics in vain; New Zealand inflict humiliating 3-0 whitewash on India

MUMBAI, Nov 3: Packed with proven performers, Indian team seemed like a bunch of clueless cricketers as it endured an unprecedented and humiliating 0-3 whitewash at the hands of a resolute New Zealand with a 25run defeat in the third Test, a result that put the home side to its lowest ebb, here Sunday.

12 THE HILLS TIMES

A courageous Rishabh Pant raised hopes of a great escape with his valiant 64-run knock but once he trudged back to the pavilion following a contentious third-umpire call, the Indian fortress, that had been breached twice in this series before, was completed raged by the Black Caps.

In pursuit of a manageable 147, India's famed batters, a few classified as modernday greats, were a picture of pity as they all folded for 121.

It is the first time that the India team has been clean swept in a three-match series. The last time India suffered a whitewash was in 2000 when it lost 0-2 to South Africa.

The aura of invincibility around the Indian team at home was broken with remarkable ease by the Kiwis, who not only adapted but mastered the conditions that have always favoured them.

India had only themselves to blame in failing to chase a sub-par target on a day three wicket, losing five key wickets for a mere 16 runs at the start for an embarrassing collapse. With 55 runs needed post lunch and five wickets intact, India's hopes rested on Pant but he was a casualty of a contentious thirdumpire call which swung the game in New Zealand's favour completely.

The baffling collapse was triggered by captain Rohit Sharma's harakiri act and Ajaz Patel's (6/57) accuracy that left them tottering at 29 for five. India's ineptness had exerted pressure on

Rashid ends tied

25<sup>th</sup>, Canadian Lee

wins title in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Nov 3: Rashid Khan,

who won the last of his two Asian

Tour titles 10 years ago, put him-

self in the frame with 67-67 in the

first two rounds of the BNI Indone-

sian Masters, a USD two million

Asian Tour event that is part of The

as Canadian Richard T. Lee (62-

67; 15-under) opened up a three-

shot lead with an action packed

round of 67 that had nine birdies,

two bogeys and a double bogey,

that saw him drop three shots in the

Apart from Rashid the other In-

dians to make the cut were the de-

fending champion Gaganjeet

Bhullar (70-71) and SSP Chawrasia (71-70) in Tied-57th place.

Sandhu, Veer Ahlawat and Rahil

day following a first-round 10-

under-par 62, carded a 67 for a

tournament total of 15-under-par,

and leads from second-placed Jazz

Janewattananond from Thailand.

shot their second successive 67.

With India's Rashid is Kieran

Jazz triumphed in this event in

2019 – the year he won four-times

on the Asian Tour and claimed the

Lee, the leader at the start of the

The Indians missing the cut were Yuvraj Sandhu, Karandeep Kochhar, S Chikkarangappa, Shiv Kapur, Varun Chopra, Aieetesh

Rashid at 10-under is tied third

International Series.

last two holes.

Gangjee.

who shot a 69.

Order of Merit title.

ter against the odds until the ghosts of inaccurate technology in the game arrived to haunt him and India. Pant had belittled every challenge that New Zealand threw at him. blasting nine fours and a six to make 64 from only 57 balls. Having not taken a review earlier in the

morning session for a leg-before, New Zealand burned one when they took against Pant for a caught-behind but the replays showed Patel's delivery in the 22nd over had neither been in contact with the bat or the

But on the next, Pant was contentiously

back and perhaps for the last time at his

Rohit's (11) erroneous attempt to play his signature pull shot off Matt Henry on a delivery which was barely waist-high led to his

As soon as Rohit's top edge went up, Henry broke into celebration knowing it was headed towards Glenn Phillips — one of the best fielders - who ran behind from midwicket to take a fine catch.

Coming off a fine 146-ball 90, Shubman Gill shouldered arms on a delivery from Patel (4/43) expecting the ball to turn away but it straightened to crash into his off-

Virat Kohli (1) marched onto the ground once again with his bat trained on his shoulder, perhaps to exude confidence, but he could not reach the pitch of a floated delivery which took the edge of his bat to the first

From the other end, Yashasvi Jaiswal (5) had watched some part of this surrender and he too became a part of it when he was beaten by Phillips (3/42) for a leg-before.

Sarfaraz Khan (0) went for a pre-meditated sweep shot on the first ball for the second time in the Test and paid heavy price too, top edging it for Rachin Ravindra to move in from deep square leg and complete a pair for the batter.

Ravindra Jadeja (6) played second fiddle in a 42-run partnership with Pant in their bid to take India closer to the target but the allrounder was caught brilliantly at short leg by Will Young off Patel.

Sundar and R Ashwin (6) tried to delay the inevitable, but Phillips claimed two wickets in a row and Patel one to bring a swift end quired in a tricky situation, had him walking

Tom Latham's joy knew no wicket, it is important to have bounds after leading New runs on the board." Zealand to historic 3-0 clean He also lauded New Zealand sweep over India in the threewomen's team for winning the match Test series, saying his recently-concluded T20 World

players rose to occasion by Cup.
"Girls winning the World Cup being aggressive with the bat and proactive with the ball. was fantastic, being in this position, we can only brag once we get to this position," Latham India faced a humiliating 0-3 defeat at home for the first time ever after losing the third Test

by 25 runs. Set a target of 147, Player-of-the-match Ajaz Patel, who returned with a rich "Very very ecstatic. Looking match haul of 11 for 160, said he just focussed on exploiting back at the start of the series and to be in this position, boys have the pitch and was confident of done a very good job and to fitossing the ball up, which paid nally to do it here in Mumbai, dividends.

chasing a target on a tricky

we were challenged with bat "Spin bowling is about and ball. Very happy," Latham rhythm. When you are in said at the post-match presentarhythm it is about making the most of it. I felt confident even in the morning session (on day "Just being able to adapt to each ground. There is no one two) but the wicket did not offer way of doing things - the seamme much.

"After lunch I got the confidence to toss it up and use my guile. He's (Pant) batted phenomenally throughout the series, I had to think out of the box and made sure to come up with a new plan and stay ahead of him," he said.

Will Young was named player-of-the-series for his 244 runs in the three matches.

"One win was huge but to go again and again was huge. I tried to keep it simple, at times I need to trust my defence and at times I need to work out where I want to score," he said.

"Memories with the boys we have created with the boys. We go back and enjoy each other's



Pant, who could not have responded any bet-

adjudged out caught-behind by third umpire.

## India lose top spot to Australia in WTC standings, slip to 2<sup>nd</sup>

collect 34 runs off his 27 deliveries.

New Zealand were convinced hearing a

noise as DRS replays showed a tiny spike,

which Pant did convey to the on-field um-

pires that it was the sound of his bat brushing

the pads, but former Australia player and

third umpire Paul Reiffel ruled it against the

Until he fell to Patel for his fifth wicket in

the innings and 10th in the match, Pant had

thoroughly dominated the New Zealand

spinner, clobbering five fours and a six to

For yet another instance, captain Rohit's

ultra-aggressive approach to take on the

bowlers, when a calculated approach was re-

DUBAI, Nov 3: India lost their top position in the World Test Championship standings, slipping to second place after suffering an embarrassing home series defeat to New Zealand on Sunday.

India lost to New Zealand by 25 runs in the third and final Test in Mumbai resutling in a 0-3 whitewash, their first in a home Test series since South Africa's 2-0 win in 1999-2000. This was also for the first time India have been swept 0-3 in in a home series.

It was India's fifth loss in the ongoing WTC cycle, causing a significant drop in their points percentage (PCT), which fell from 62.82 to 58.33.

India thus dropped to the second spot behind reigning champions Australia, who have regained the top spot with a PCT of 62.50.

India are now schedule to fly Down Under to play the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which has gained more significance now as both teams

will be vying for the top two spots.

India were considered favourites to win a majority of their remaining matches in their quest for a third consecutive WTC final appearance.

However, to qualify for the final without depending on external results, they now must win four of their remaining five games -- a challenging task in

Australia, on the other hand, are in a better position as they need to win four of their remaining seven Tests. New Zealand's historic series sweep

final aspirations. They have climbed to the fourth spot with a PCT of 54.55, while Sri Lanka occupy third place with a PCT

in India has also bolstered their WTC

South Africa, currently fifth with a PCT of 54.17, also remain in contention



#### conditions and put enough runs for a top-two finish and a place in the on the board. When you are next year's one-off Test at Lord's. (PTI) Something like this will be a very low point of my career: Rohit Sharma Anahat Singh clinches PSA

MUMBAI, Nov 3: India captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday described the unprecedented 0-3 whitewash to New Zealand at home as "a very low point of my career" and took full responsibility for the debacle in the Test series. India faced a defeat of this magnitude in their own den for the first time ever after suffering a 25-run defeat in the third Test against New Zealand here.

Set a target of 147, India were all out for 121. The hosts also suffered embarrassing Vincent from Zimbabwe at joint defeats in the first two Tests of the series. third. Both Rashid and Vincent

"Something like this will be a very low point of my career and I take full responsibility for it," Rohit said at the post-match press conference

He added that losing a Test series like this at home is not "easily digestible".

Asian Tour and International Se-"Yes absolutely (bitter pill to swallow). ries number one John Catlin from Losing a series, a Test match, is never easy... the United States fired a 66 and is something that is not easily digestible. We in a large group in joint fifth, six didn't play our best cricket. New Zealand

played better throughout the series. There were a lot of mistakes we did," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"The first two Tests we did not put enough runs in the first innings. This game we got the 30 runs (28) lead and the target was

"We failed as a unit. When you are chasing a target like that, you want runs on the board. That was in my mind and it did not come of. When it does not come off it does not look great," he added. Rohit also admitted that he was disappointed with his own performance in the series.

"I go in with certain plans and those did not come off this series. We did not play our best cricket in these conditions and are facing the result of that."

"I was not at my best as captain in leading the team as well as with the bat also. Collectively as a unit we failed to perform," the

Elaborating on his batting, the skipper who could endured a poor run in the series, said he will review his game.

"My defence... I have not defended a lot because I have not been there much. I need to look at it. I try to put my team in best situations, sometimes you fall on the other side.

"I don't see that I have lost my faith on my defence. I accept I haven't batted well in this series, but it has been only two series I have not batted well.

"As you grow you try and evolve and I am trying to see what else I can do. There is a chance you can fall on the other side of it and I have, but I will relook.'

The humiliation was inflicted by a side that landed here after being thrashed 0-2 by a Sri Lankan team that is in transition. The Black Caps were also without their biggest batting star -- Kane Williamson -- thanks to injury. Coming up next is a tough tour of Australia, a place where the visitors won on

their last two tours, but it is going to be a different ball game altogether this around.

"That will be very challenging," he said when asked how difficult it is going to be for the young batters in Australian conditions.

"We talk about it a lot, getting mindset right is going to be challenging. Australia will be a different ball game for all those who have not been there. We need to create an environment where they feel safe and not intimidated by where they are playing against whom." He also backed the new support staff headed by coach Gautam Gambhir and which also includes Dutchman Ryan ten Doeschate and former player Abhishek

"Coaching staff has been good, they have just come in. They are still understanding how the players and the team operate. It's the players' responsibility to make their lives easier, never easy to start doing what they are doing since they are different." (PTI)

#### Anahat Singh Challenger title

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Teenage squash sensation Anahat Singh secured her sixth PSA Challenger title of the year by winning the women's singles crown at the Costa North Coast Open 2024 in Coffs Harbour, Australia, on Sunday. Seeded third in the tournament, the 16-year-old downed Japan's sixth seed Akari Midorikawa in straight games 3-0 (11-6, 11-6, 11-7). Throughout the tournament, she displayed remarkable form, dropping only one game.

In the semi-finals, she defeated Hong Kong's seventh seed Kirstie Wong 3-1 (11-5, 7-11, 11-7, 11-9), after having previously swept aside Bobo Lam and Helen Tang from Hong Kong in the ear-

## Non-performance of batters is worrying, we will strive to do something special in Australia: Rohit

MUMBAI, Nov 3: The disastrous performance of star batters is certainly a cause of concern for India, admitted Rohit Sharma after a stunning reversal against New Zealand but the skipper promised that the team will fight to deliver something 'very very special' in Australia.

New Zealand went strength to strength in the series while hosts India could not bring their floundering campaign back on track and ended up suffering a rare and

humiliating 0-3 whitewash. Rohit and Virat Kohli managed less than 200 runs across three Tests, a major reason for India's debacle.

"It's a cause of concern without a doubt. If the batters are not performing, that is a cause of concern," Rohit said.

"What is done, is done now. As a player, as a captain, as a team, we all have to look forward and see how we can correct what we didn't manage to achieve here. There is a good opportunity for us to go and do something really, really special in Australia. We will focus on that."

India have already been displaced from the top of the World Test Championship table following the embarrassing result at home and it could hasten the impending transition for the Test side but Rohit preferred to look only at the immediate challenge of Australia tour.

"I don't think we can look that far ahead. I'm not going to look beyond Australia series. Australia series, for us is now very, very important. We will try and focus on that rather than thinking what happens after. Ā lot of our guys have been there be-

fore and a lot of the guys haven't been there before, which is why we are trying to go there a little early just to get used to the conditions." Rohit said India will have to draw a lot

of confidence from their last two series wins with the team set to play five Tests Down Under for the first time ever.

"Australia is not an easy place to play cricket. But we can take a lot of confidence how we played in the last two series in Australia. In the back of our mind, we have to think like that," said Rohit.

Rohit, of late, has adopted an ultra aggressive and risky approach while batting, and it has resulted in him losing his wicket rather quickly.

He maintained that he has not lost faith in his defensive skills and his style of batting was more of an evolution process he chose for himself but promised to have a re-look into it.

"I haven't defended a lot in this series because I haven't been there to defend. Clearly I have to look at my own game and try and see what best I can do. When



I go to bat, I always think how I can put the team in the best situation of the

"When the openers go in, they set the

tone and sometimes you can fall on the other side of it as well. This series, I have fallen on the other side of it. But I don't see that I have lost faith in my defence.

"I accept that I haven't batted well in this series. But it's been only these two series where I have not had enough time in the middle.

"The series that I played before Bangladesh, I spent a lot of time. As you grow you try and evolve and I am trying to evolve as a batter as well to try and see what else I can do. I will re-look at my game and see what best I can do," he added. Rohit said it is important for him and Kohli to address what has not worked for them.

"Those mistakes need to be addressed and something that we will talk about,' he said.

Rohit also admitted that it will be a challenge to keep the young Indian batters in the right mindset Down Under.

"We all understand that Australia is going to be a different ball-game. For all the young players who haven't been there before, for us it will be important to create that environment where they feel comfortable and don't get intimidated by where you're playing and who you're playing against.

"The last two times we've been there, we won the series. We can take a lot of confidence from that and then keep moving them ahead with that.

"We don't want to create a classroom where we make everyone sit and talk to them about what needs to be done. They all understand, they all are quite smart about their plans. I expect them to come really, really good in Australia," he said. (PTI)

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