

6 WORLD Trump to rally backers every day until election in North Carolina Harris appears on 'Saturday Night Live' as mirror image of Maya Rudolph 8 NATION Protecting Constitution is India's primary battle: Rahul Gandhi Tejashwi slams Nitish govt for delaying job proposal

India-US partnership most important globally for future: Makhija

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 3: The 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 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-Americans. On the India-US partnership, Makhija said it is the most important relationship for the future. "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," he said. 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

said. 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 added. In his campaign 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 is reelected. 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)



'Bhasha Gaurav Saptah' begins to celebrate classical language status to Assamese PM foresees deepening of people-culture connect

GUWAHATI, Nov 3: The Bhasha Gaurav Saptah (Language Pride Week) officially commenced in the state on Sunday to celebrate Assamese being granted classical language status. 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, Adarni Pradhan Mantri Shri @narendramodi ji, for your warm wishes on the commencement of #BhashaGauravSaptah."



"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 celebration of Assam's rich linguistic heritage, begins today. People from various linguistic groups will celebrate their languages and commit to preserving them," Sarma emphasized. 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 litter-

ateurs who have contributed to the growth and 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 success. 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, 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 Ranchi. 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 Sama 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 immigrants.

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 alleged. 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)

India and China made 'some progress' 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," Jaishankar 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 other steps could happen," said the minister. He said that the expectation after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia last month was that "both the national security advisor and myself, we would meet our counterpart. So that's where things are". On October (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Nov 27 declared holiday for Ngada festival

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 community. 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 good-will festival of the Rengma Naga community, which was previously recognized as a restricted holiday on November 28 each year in the KAAC calendar." 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 ecosystems. 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



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 Ghatowar. This constituency, along with four others in Assam, is set for by-polls on November 13. The five LACs going to by-polls in Assam are Behali, Dholai, Samaguri, Bongaigaon, and Sidi. Accompanied by MP Amarsing Tisso and MLAs Darsing Ronghang and Bidyasingh Englang, 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 Lohkimon 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 BJP 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

GUWAHATI, Nov 3: Union Minister 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 "Vishwa 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 promote overall (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

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 Chariduar, near Tezpur. Before World War II, Tawang was under the administrative control of the then independent Tibetan government. Despite several at-

tempts, the British could not annex it. 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 Monastery with local tax officials, 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 became 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. 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, he claimed at a rally at Mumbra 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 Ajit 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)



# 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 under way 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 state.

During the program, fourteen litterateurs

from the district, including Sahitya Academy awardee Geeta Upadhyay, Gyan Bahadur Chery, Chandramani Upadhyay, Dr Sanjeev Paul Deka, Dr Sanjeev Upadhyay, Gautam Daimari, Dr Jury Dutta, Chattarman Subba, and noted literary figures Dr Satish Chandra Bhattacharyya, Dr Swadinata Mahanta, Dr Ramesh Chandra Goswami, Bankim Sarma, Aiswariya 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 abroad.

The entire event, hosted by Pankaj Barua, former secretary of Tezpur Sahitya Sabha, was attended by noted citizens, institutional heads, and representatives of various socio-cultural and literary organizations from the district, along with Karabi Saikia Karan, CEO of Sonitpur Zila Parishad, additional district commissioner Kabita Kakati Konwar, Dyoitbha 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 to come.

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, Satriadhar of Ujjaini 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 Assamese language.

# MAAS marks 34th Foundation Day

### Event in Morigaon emphasises the need for impartial human rights activism



**HT Correspondent**  
**MORIGAO, Nov 3:** "Women are the most vulnerable to all aspects of human rights violations related to 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, Bubumon 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 evening.

While inaugurating the seminar, prominent literary researcher Mileswar 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 Aidee Sandikoi Cultural Multipurpose Association president Reena Rani Saikia.

The opening ceremony was

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 social worker Seema Deka.

## 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 2018.

Dr Baruah was also the state president of the Asoniya Sahitya Samilani 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 mortal 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 consoled his death.

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

# Bakaliaghat gears up for 31st Shishu, 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 Bhuin Bali Samanwaya Khetra, 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 Assistance 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 pm.

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 procession.

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 SSS.

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

Other dignitaries, including Rajankanta Dutta, former Padadhikar of SSS; Padmashree Rongbong Terang; deputy speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Dr Numa Momin; Dipu MP, Amarsing Tisso; cabinet ministers Atul Bora, Jayanta Malla Baruah, and Nandita Gorlosa; and many other guests will attend the Samaroh.

The Reception Committee president, Bimal Baruah; working president and KAAC executive member, Madhuram Lekthe; and general secretary, Jyoti Bora, appeal to the public for their support and cooperation.

## United forum of original Muslims formed in Nami

**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 Sammilita Yuva Samaj office, Nami 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, Fajrul 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.

## 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 Sadou 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 Rajkhowa.

## Jamugurihath prepares for 95th Srimanta Sankardev Sangha conference

**HT Correspondent**  
**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 Barkatakya, Bhupen Das, Lalan Orang, Minku Kalita, among others. The public meeting commenced with a 'Gosha' led by Pradiip Roy.

## 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 Bhetiyani 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 meeting 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 added.

## Kavach 4.0 set to revolutionise rail safety and efficiency



**HT Bureau**  
**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. Kavach 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 include automatic whistling at level crossing

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

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 direction. 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 signal 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 synchronization. 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.





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

GASTONIA (US), Nov 3: Donald 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

Committee, is from the state, and that Lara and Eric Trump named their daughter Carolina.

"It's an amazing place. You've been through a lot," Trump said, alluding to the hurricane before repeating 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 migrants instead."

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 recently.

Roughly half of North Carolina's 7.8 million registered voters had already voted as of Friday, buoyed by early in-person voting, which ended on Saturday afternoon.

North Carolina Republicans have been encouraged by early voter turnout among their supporters after national and state GOP leaders switched this year to a "bank your vote" strategy, rather than focusing on Election Day turnout.

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.

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 just 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 decade ago. (AP)

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

NEW YORK, Nov 3: Vice President 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 carry-on-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 public.

Harris departed immediately after the opening segment. She told reporters, "It was fun!" as she boarded the plane to leave New York. Host John Mulaney 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 26-year-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 a spot-on impression of the vice president, including calling herself "Momala" — a reference to the affectionate nickname her stepchildren 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 know. Probably not." (AP)

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

DUBAI, Nov 3: An Iranian-American journalist who once worked for a US government-funded 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 Leader Ayatollah 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

posted two messages suggesting he had returned to Iran despite Radio Farda being viewed by Iran's theocracy as a hostile outlet.

"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 verbal one."

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 de-

fendants face secret evidence, the agency reported. Valizadeh had faced arrest in 2007 as well, it said.

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 law."

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

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 Iran. (AP)

# 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 destroyed 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 16,000 people, and the search goes on for more missing, either in collapsed houses or in the gorge.

"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 vineyards below.

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

waded through the rushing water. They then made it up the stairs and some 20 people spent a sleepless night in her second-floor apartment and the apartment above.

Amparo Cerda, Cuevas' upstairs neighbour, described herself as traumatised by her memories 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 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

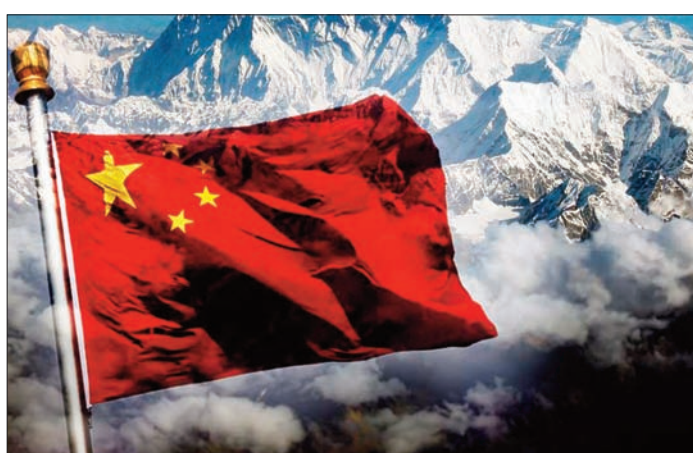
BEIJING, Nov 3: China has had footprints of the stories of Ramayana cloaked in Buddhist scriptures for centuries, scholars here have said, bringing to the fore perhaps for the first time, the influence of Hinduism in the country's checkered history.

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 Ramayana in China was introduced into the Han cultural sphere, primarily through Buddhist scriptures, he said.

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 noted as Buddhist characters."

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

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

In his presentation, Prof Liu Jian of the National Institute of International Strategies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said many Chinese scholars agree that Sun Wukong can be traced to Hanuman, though some scholars 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 from India," he asserted.

Speaking on the topic "Footprints

of Ram in China", Prof Qiu 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

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 twenty-four 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 Kingdom.

Through literary works and theatrical performances, Ramayana has not only become a subject of in-depth 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 reforms, expanded workplace support, and investments in skills development create welcoming conditions for women from diverse backgrounds," the spokesperson said.

"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 PTI.

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**

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’ vision.

“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 function held at his official residence in



Agartala on the occasion of Bhai Phonta on Sunday. The chief minister expressed that sisters from various parts of the state came to his official residence today and sought blessings for him.

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.

## Naga organisations condemn alleged torture of youths



IMPHAL, Nov 3: The Rongmei Naga Students’ Organisation, Manipur (RNSOM) and the Rongmei Naga Youth Organisation, Manipur (RNYOM) jointly condemned the “heinous and inhumane physical assault and torture” of V Hrangao Blessom 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 cadres”.

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

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

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 conflict”.

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 reached out to both sides in the recent past, the Rongmei bodies added.

However, the RNSOM and the RNYOM in general are taken aback to note that the two daily bread earning innocent Naga public were not only physically assaulted but also extorted their money which they had been earning with their sweat and labour to support their families. “Despite the Naga people maintaining 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 organisations asked.

The RNSOM and the RNYOM demanded that the culprits involved in the “brutal assault” of V. Hrangao Blessom Poumai and Dalou Poumai should be brought to book and initiate punitive actions according to the law of the land.

Therefore, the two organisations 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 normal situation between the Naga public and the valley people would not be disturbed”.

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 Naga public. (NNN)



zen wandering in the Aralia area of Sonamura. Acting on the tip, the police began patrolling the area.

## Bangladeshi citizen held in Tripura

**HT Correspondent**

AGARTALA, Nov 3: Tripura Police arrested a Bangladeshi national today after a tip-off led to the identification of an individual believed to be in the area illegally from Sonamura under Sepahijala District.

The arrested individual identified as Salim Ahmed (40) from Comilla district, Bangladesh, had allegedly crossed the border into India several months ago seeking employment.

According to police sources, the mobile police unit received confidential information early Sunday about a suspected Bangladeshi citizen wandering in the Aralia area of Sonamura.

Acting on the tip, the police began patrolling the area.

Spotting the police, Salim reportedly 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 cabinet shop in the Ahariya area.

The police reported that Salim could not produce any valid identification or documents justifying his presence in the country.

A senior officer at Sonamura Police Station said that Salim would be presented in court on Monday, where a request for police remand will be made to aid further investigation into his activities and verify his background.

## 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 said.

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,” he said.

“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 Vidya Pravesh 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)

## Six militants arrested in Manipur

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 Thoubal for their alleged involvement in abduction and extortion.

They were identified as Thokchom Bikram Singh (29), Sinam Bijen Singh (37), Thangjam Deepak Singh (30), Lambamayum Naobi Singh (26), and Huiningsumbam Ton Singh (21), the statement said.

A hand grenade, five demand letters of the outfit, five mobile handsets, 13 SIM cards and a four-wheeler were seized from their



possession during their arrest on Friday.

In another incident, police arrested one militant belonging to the PREPAK (PRO) outfit from Kumbi area in Bishnupur district

on Saturday.

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

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

**HT Correspondent**

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 weeks.

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

“The Commission recalls 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-



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 report said.

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 submission of reports”, the order said.

## Call for better infrastructure, traditional dress code in Tripura schools, colleges

**HT Correspondent**

AGARTALA, Nov 3: The Tripura 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 regular way. All this issues can be 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.

No. TDI/NIT/2024-25/TB/19 Date- 28/10/2024

### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise 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.

Sl. 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	II		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	III		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 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 05/11/2024.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Tamulpur Division (Irrigation)  
Tamulpur







## 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 crown-shaped 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'.

"I made it to New York today," she wrote.

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 filmmakers. "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.

Kaitin Yamall, 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," Yamall said.

Mike Pandey, founder of Green Stories, said Green Stories is not just an event, it's a platform for change.

"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" podcast, 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 added.

Holland and Zendaya, both 28 reprised their characters in 2019's "Spider-man No Way Home" (2021).

They will return for the currently untitled fourth "Spider-Man" film that will start filming in summer. (PTI)

## 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-to-wear stuff.

"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

**JAMSHEDPUR, Nov 3:** 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.

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 footing.

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, Chennaiyin FC's only win at the JRD Tata Sports Complex came nearly seven years back on December 28, 2017, by a slender 1-0 margin.



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 would help them get the consist-

ent 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 consistently. (PTI)

## BCCI to discuss NZ whitewash, some star seniors could be phased out post Australia series

**NEW DELHI, Nov 3:** The future 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 international careers.

"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

told PTI on the condition of 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 if 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 long-term prospects with chances given to players like Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, who look ready for international cricket.

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 series gets over. (PTI)

## 31 teams to fight for top honours in 14<sup>th</sup> Senior Men Nati C'ship hockey

**CHENNAI, Nov 3:** A total of 31 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 Chhattisgarh 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 Andaman & Nicobar.

Pool D consists of Hockey Karnataka, 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.

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 wicketkeeper-batter 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 McSweeney (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 play."

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 actions 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 conduct.

"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 the ball;

(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 the MCG on Thursday. (PTI)

## 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 made a strong impression, 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 tournament.

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, Krish Pal (all NCOE Rohtak), Aryan, Rishi Singh.

Girls - Krishna Verma (NCOE Aurangabad), Chanchal Chaudhary, Nisha, Vini, Akansha Phalasalwal (all NCOE Rohtak), Supriya Devi.

Medal-winning NCOE Athletes: NCOE Rohtak - Parthavi, Vanshika (Gold), Chanchal, Nisha, Vini, Akansha, Kritika (Silver), Krish Pal, Sumit, Lakshay Rathi (Bronze).

NCOE Aurangabad - Krishna Verma (Gold).

Overall medal winners: Gold: Krishna 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

**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 @blackcapz boys on doing what is a dream for every visiting team and no other could conquer in this



way." The crushing blow not 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 tweekers grabbed 37 out of 57 Indian wickets. Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner with 13 wickets was the wrecker-in-chief in the second Test in Pune, and in his absence in Mumbai following a

side strain, Ajaz Patel led the charge with an extraordinary 11-wicket 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 Mushtaq to take wickets.

"Turning pitches becoming our own enemy #INDvsNZTEST

Congratulations NZ you outplayed 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 @iamyusuffpathan bhair 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)

