

**6 WORLD**

- Head of UN's nuclear watchdog visits Iran as Mideast wars
- China's president will unveil a megaport in Peru

**7 NORTHEAST**

- Manipur BJP demands family's release
- Present BJP government fails to safeguard children: Tripura Cong

Cash-strapped Assam Tea Corporation Limited asked to submit list of its properties

## SC may direct ATCL to sell gardens to clear staff dues

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the chairman of Assam Tea Corporation Limited to submit the details of movable and immovable properties owned by it after the state government said it does not have capacity to pump-in more funds into the loss making corporation, which runs 14 tea gardens.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih noted the submission of Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota that the state has tried its best to bail out the cash-strapped Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL) but has not been able to bring it out from the situation.

Kota, who appeared virtually before the court, submitted that the state cabinet has discussed the situation of ATCL and decided it will



not be prudent to pump-in more funds into the loss making enterprise. The bench observed if the state government is not willing to put in more money into the corporation, then it will direct the selling

of its 14 tea gardens to pay the dues of its employees, including the provision funds.

The top court was hearing a contempt petition for non-payment of dues to the workmen working in these tea estates of the ATCL, a state-owned enterprise. The contempt petition has been filed in the 2006 petition filed by the International Union of Food and Agriculture Workers for payment of dues and pensionary benefits.

During the hearing, the bench at the outset asked the ATCL how it was going to pay the dues as it was not disputing the liability to pay the workers. Senior advocate Nalin Kohli, appearing for the ATCL and the Assam government, told the bench that the corporation is having shortage of funds and it can pay the present salaries or the past one but it cannot be treated as a precedent and cannot be directed to pay the arrears time and again. "We are a deficit state and do not have funds. Tomorrow, again someone will come and urge the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Sonia Gandhi's 'Rahul plane' will crash again in Jharkhand: Shah

**GIRIDIH, Nov 14:** In a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Sonia Gandhi tried to launch her son 20 times, and her "Rahul plane" was also going to crash on the 21st attempt in Jharkhand.

Addressing an election rally in Jharkhand's Giridih, he alleged that the waqf board in Karnataka grabbed lands of ancient temples, and an amendment will be made in the law to stop it despite stringent opposition.

"Sonia-ji is fond of launching her son. Sonia-ji tried to launch the 'Rahul plane' 20 times but it failed to land. It crashed 20 times. It is going to crash on the 21st time at the Deoghar airport," he said.

Shah also accused the waqf board of grabbing farmlands.

"This waqf board is in the habit of grabbing land. In Karnataka, they have devoured assets of entire villages, 500 years old temples.



They have grabbed farmlands. Tell me whether changes are required in the waqf boards or not. Hemantbabu and Rahul Gandhi oppose it, let them oppose it. BJP will pass a bill in Parliament for amendment to the Waqf Board Act and no one can stop it," he said.

Shah alleged that the ruling JMM-led coalition has turned infiltrators into its "vote banks", and announced to check illegal immigration once the BJP is voted to power in the state.

"We will wipe out Naxalism and infiltration from Jharkhand," he said, promising to deport "each and every infiltrator". "The JMM-led alliance has been shown the exit door in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Govt bans Meghalaya-based insurgent group HNLC

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Meghalaya-based insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) was on Thursday declared banned by the government for five years for its involvement in violent incidents and for carrying out activities prejudicial to India's sovereignty and integrity.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the Central government is of the opinion that the HNLC has declared objective for secession of areas in the Meghalaya, largely inhabited by Khasi and Jaintia tribes, and continued intimidation and bullying of the civilian population to extort funds for their organisation.

It said the group is also maintaining links with other insurgent groups of the northeastern region for carrying out extortion and intimidation and indulging in 48 criminal cases, including that of explosion or planting of explosives in Meghalaya, from November 2019 to June 2024. During this period, 73 cadres of the outfit were also arrested by the security forces.

"The HNLC along with all its factions, wings and front organisations of Meghalaya has been involved in such activities which are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India," the notification said.

The Home Ministry said it is of the opinion that the activities of the HNLC are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India.

If these are not immediately curbed and controlled, the HNLC may regroup and rearm itself, expand its cadres, procure sophisticated weapons, cause loss of lives of civilians and security forces and properties and thereby accelerate its anti-national activities, the ministry said. It is also of the opinion that for the reasons aforesaid, it is necessary to declare the HNLC together with its factions, wings and front organisations, as an unlawful association. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Centre reimposes AFSPA in Manipur's six police station areas, including Jiribam



**NEW DELHI/IMPAL, Nov 14:** The Centre on Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam, with the Union home ministry asserting that the decision was taken given the "continuous volatile situation" there due to the ongoing ethnic violence.

The Central government notification on the reimposition of AFSPA came the same day the Manipur police announced the seizure of a cache of arms and ammunition from Manipur's Jiribam and Churachandpur districts.

During cordon and search operations in Champanagar, Narayanpur and Thangboipunjre areas of Jiribam district on Wednesday, one 2-inch mortar, thirty-six live barrel cartridges and five

empty barrel cartridges were seized, a police statement said.

The police statement also said that one .303 rifle, one 9mm pistol, two short-range locally made cannon, two long-range locally made cannon, five AK 47 live rounds, two 9mm live rounds, four 12-bore cart cases, and eighteen .303 rifle modified live rounds were also seized from H Kotlian village in Churachandpur district.

An area or district is notified as "disturbed" under AFSPA to facilitate operations by the armed forces. AFSPA gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order".

The decision to reimpose AFSPA was taken given the continuous volatile situation there due to the ongoing ethnic violence, the Union Home Ministry said in the notification. The police station areas where AFSPA has been reimposed are Sekmai and Lamsang in Imphal West (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Assam DGP meets child sexual abuse victims on Children's Day



**GUWAHATI, Nov 14:** On the occasion of Children's Day on Thursday, Assam DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh met the victims of child sexual abuse and held discussions on their experiences while passing through the difficult phases of life.

Singh, along with special director general of Police Harmeet Singh, met a group of child abuse victims at the Assam Police Headquarters here and listened to their stories.

"It is critical to talk with children regularly and understand their viewpoints. The Assam Police has always been taking initiatives to ensure that our system is responsive to their needs and concerns," the DGP said in a statement.

The two top officials, with the child sexual abuse victims, held discussions on a range of topics, including their experiences while interacting (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## State-level workshop held for NERAMAC GI products in KA

**DIPHU, Nov 14:** A State-Level Workshop and User Authorisation Drive for North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) GI products and Karbi Anglong Ginger was organised on Thursday here.

The said workshop and authorization drive were organised by NERAMAC, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (Marketing) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), at the Farmer's Bata (a type of pumpkin), Scented Ash Gourd, Karbi Anglong Pineapple, and Thengthe Bara (another variety of maize). Securing GI tags for these products will help preserve and promote Karbi Anglong's agricultural heritage, while increasing market value and fostering rural development. Today, we submitted 200 farmer forms to NERAMAC for authorization licenses," he added.

Anjal Kr Dutta, DGM of NERAMAC, noted in his speech that GI tagging is a marketing tool, and the GI Authorisation Drive is a key part of helping farmers benefit from it.

It is worth mentioning that thirteen products, including Arunachal Pradesh's oranges, Tezpur's litchi, Tripura's Queen Pineapple, Dalle Khusani and Large Cardamom from Sikkim, Nagaland's Sweet Cucumber and Naga Tree Tomato, Mizoram's Mizo Chilli, Karbi Anglong's ginger, Meghalaya's Khasi Mandarin and Memang Nareng, as well as Manipur's Chak Hao Black Rice and Kachai Lemon, have already received GI tags through NERAMAC.

The secretary, I/c Agriculture, Si im Taro, expressed hope for agricultural growth in Karbi Anglong, both in terms of production and market reach, through the GI Tag.

Dilip Kr Saha, deputy manager of NERAMAC, discussed agricultural marketing linkages with farmers, emphasising the benefits of direct (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Why Mumbai made to lose big-ticket projects to Gujarat: Congress to PM

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** The Congress attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday by posing questions to him on Mumbai, asking why is the metropolis "made to lose" big-ticket projects to Gujarat and why is the BJP "sponsoring Adani's Dharavi land grab".

Ahead of Modi's poll engagement in Mumbai, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh posed five questions which he said the people are asking the PM. He asked whether the BJP is scared of losing the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls.

"The Mahayuti government's repeated delays in holding the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections is a blatant attack on democracy and the rights of Mumbai's citizens. The government claims that the delays are due to issues like OBC reservations and ward delimitation but the reality is that the BJP was afraid of facing the electorate, fearing a loss that would undermine its image before the elections," Ramesh alleged in his post on X.

"With the BMC under an un-elected administrator, the ruling coalition has been using the civic body's funds and resources to benefit its own MLAs and supporters," he alleged. Without elected representatives, Mumbai's citizens have also struggled to get their voices heard and grievances addressed by the BMC, Ramesh said.

"This is a clear attempt to consolidate power, and a blatant subversion of democratic principles. Why has the BJP betrayed the people of Mumbai? How much longer do the people have to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Modi to inaugurate 1st Bodoland Mahotsav in Delhi today

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first Bodoland Mahotsav on Friday at the SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here and address a gathering on the occasion, his office said.

The two-day mahotsav is a mega event on language, literature and culture to sustain peace and build a vibrant Bodo society, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

It aims to integrate the indigenous Bodo people residing not only in Bodoland but other parts of Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and international border areas of the Northeast.

The theme for the mahotsav is "Peace and Harmony for Prosperous Bharat" with a focus on the rich culture, language and education of the Bodo community along with other communities from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

It aims to capitalise on the richness of cultural and linguistic heritage, ecological

## Civil aviation minister eyes seaplanes to boost connectivity in remote areas

**SHILLONG, Nov 14:** In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to improve connectivity across the country, Civil Aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday said the Ministry is exploring the use of seaplanes to connect even the most remote areas of India, including the North East.

Naidu, who was here to participate in a two-day aviation conference, also took a test ride on a seaplane during a demonstration at the scenic Umiam Lake, where Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma and other senior officials of the ministry were present.

"Let it be road, rail, or air connectivity, Modi wants the North East to be integrated with the mainland with the best connectivity possible. The Ministry of Civil Aviation wants to ensure that his (Modi) vision becomes a reality," Naidu told reporters after a 30-minute joyride on the seaplane.

He said people come to Meghalaya and the region for a variety of reasons, such as tourism, spirituality, to connect with nature, and for business activities. "We are going to support Meghalaya in whatever plans it has and ensure that the state is properly connected through air, whether it be through regular airports, seaplanes, or helicopters." Taking inspiration from the Maldives, where over 110 seaplanes are in operation, the minister said such aircraft could be a game changer for tourism, particularly in Meghalaya and other parts of the North East. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## USD 1 trillion a year needed for developing nations by 2030: High-Level Group on Climate Finance

'Global climate action requires USD 6.3-6.7 trillion annually by 2030'

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Negotiators at the UN climate conference in Azerbaijan should focus on mobilising USD 1 trillion per year by 2030 to help developing countries cope with the warming world, a new report the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance said on Thursday.

This money, according to the group of international climate finance experts, is needed from public and private sources.

As countries negotiate at COP29 a new climate finance package to support developing countries beyond 2025, the report cautions against the risks of delayed action.

"Any shortfall in investment before 2030 will place added pressure on the years that follow, creating a steeper and potentially more costly path to climate stability,"

Failing to invest sufficiently now, it warns, "Means we will



group's third report.

The group said it is necessary to tap into all funding sources to meet the climate finance needs.

"External finance from all sources, international public and private, along with others, will need to cover USD 1 trillion per year of the total investment needed

by 2030 and around USD 1.3 trillion by 2035," the authors said.

They said that a fourfold increase in total climate finance and a sixfold increase in external finance by 2030 are necessary to keep pace with climate goals, adding that "these are the investment levels that are necessary for delivery on the Paris targets".

The report also said that bilateral climate finance from advanced economies, which currently amounts to USD 43 billion per year, needs to double or more, given the central role that it plays in building trust and financing the most difficult needs.

It said the multilateral development banks (MDBs), including the World Bank, "should come forward with a commitment and plan to triple lending capacity by 2030 as part of the NCCG, with each MDB doing its part, which will require shared commitment and leadership from shareholders".

At COP29, countries are required to reach an agreement on the NCCG -- the new amount developed nations must mobilise every year starting in 2025 to support climate action in developing countries.

At COP15 in 2009, developed countries pledged to mobilise USD 100 billion per year to help developing nations cope with climate change by 2020.

However, this target was only met in 2022, with loans accounting for around 70 per cent of the total climate finance provided.

Developing countries have been pushing for an ambitious climate finance package that is publicly funded by developed countries, grant-based, concessional, supports their needs and priorities, and covers mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage from climate impacts. Estimates indicate that developing and poorer countries will require trillions of dollars to adapt to and combat climate change in the coming years. Among the Global South negotiators, the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) group has suggested that USD 1 trillion per year is needed. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

# Indian economy sailing smoothly amid global headwinds: Das

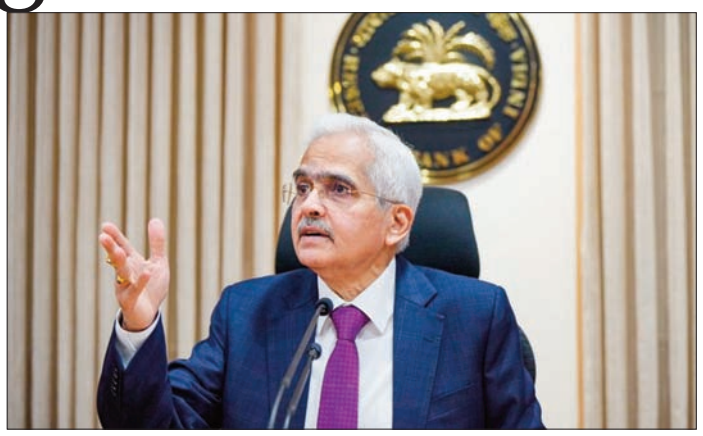
**MUMBAI, Nov 14:** Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the Indian economy has been sailing "smoothly" amid the global headwinds.

Speaking at an event organised by CNBC-TV18 here, Das declined to comment on a suggestion by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal for a rate cut, maintaining that the rate-setting panel will take an appropriate call on it at its next meeting in December.

In comments made days after headline inflation shot up beyond the 6 per cent tolerance band of RBI for October, Das said inflation is "expected to moderate despite periodic humps".

The Governor said the domestic economy has sailed very well through the prolonged period of turbulence in the recent past exhibiting resilience, but added that there are a slew of headwinds prevailing in the global economy right now like rising bond yields, commodity prices showing a divergence and a contradiction of financial markets showing resilience despite rising geopolitical risks. "The Indian economy is sailing smoothly, powered by buffers like strong macroeconomic fundamentals, a stable financial system and a resilient external sector," said the bureaucrat-turned-central banker, who will be completing six years at the helm at RBI soon.

With the rupee hitting new lows, Das said India's external sector has exhibited "strength and stability" in the recent period as seen in the current account deficit remaining at a manageable level, merchandise exports starting to grow, and



service exports growth being strong. He reminded that the country has the fourth largest forex reserves in the world. The forex reserves, which stood at USD 682 billion as of October 31, are sufficient to cover the entire external debt and a year's import payments, he added. The Governor also made it clear that the RBI does not target a rate for the rupee, and the fore interventions are for ensuring orderly movement and curbing volatility in the currency.

"If the Indian rupee has remained relatively stable despite severe external shocks, including the largest and the steepest tightening by the US Fed in 2022 and 2023, it speaks volumes about the sea change in our macro fundamentals from the days of the taper tantrum," Das said.

On the issue of regulation, he said the RBI will be issuing a draft of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework and the final guidelines will come out post public comments. Without giving a timeline

adding that early detection and preemptive action on any risks is the intent of the central bank.

With an eye on the cyber risks, the RBI is setting up a cyber security center in Bhubaneswar along with a computing and data centre, he said, adding that further work on setting up the Reserve Bank cloud facility is also gathering pace. "Our consistent effort is to take a holistic view of stability, which encompasses price stability, financial stability and sustained growth," he said.

Referring to the work carried out earlier, Das said the RBI had issued a draft and got public comments which were examined by an external working group.

On the issue of rates, Das said the change in the stance to "neutral," from the "withdrawal of adoption" adopted unanimously by the rate-setting panel at its last meeting in October, provides "greater flexibility and optionality to act in sync with the evolving conditions and the outlook."

He said the receding headline inflation in FY23 and the first half of FY25 is representative of the successes of RBI's policies, and underlined that the actions did not undermine financial stability.

Das said a sound regulatory framework for the regulated entities together with robust supervision is a key enabler of financial stability. There is a continuing need for the financial sector entities to strengthen their levels of levels and also the quality of capital, while further sharpening the risk management standards, he said. (PTI)

for the introduction of the draft guidelines. Das said the RBI had issued a discussion paper on the subject in 2023 and also constituted a working group to study the comments received on it.

Das said the RBI is taking a very "careful" approach on ECL, which is widely feared to increase the provisioning requirements for Indian lenders as they need to set aside money ahead of an asset being classified as non-performing, and also called it a "major transformation".

"Now the idea is to get stakeholder comments on certain specifics of the (ECL) framework, considering its significance for the banking sector," Das said, making it clear that the RBI's endeavour is to maintain a balance between banking sector stability and economic growth. He said the final guidelines for the disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks will also be issued shortly.

The RBI's "primary objective" is financial stability, Das said,

## Exports jump 17.25 pc in Oct, highest in over 2 years

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent, highest in over two years, to USD 39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to USD 27.14 billion.

According to the government data released on Thursday, imports increased by 3.9 per cent to USD 66.34 billion in October compared to USD 63.86 billion in the year-ago period.

The trade deficit (gap between imports and exports) narrowed as compared to USD 30.42 billion recorded in October last year. However, it has widened from USD 20.78 billion recorded in September this year.

India's merchandise exports had marginally risen by 0.5 per cent to USD 34.58 billion in September.

During April-October this fiscal, exports increased by 3.18 per cent to USD 252.28 billion, and imports by 5.77 per cent to USD 416.93 billion. Commenting on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "This has been an extremely good month for exports... If we continue in this manner, we will cross USD 800 billion of exports (goods and services together) this (fiscal) year."

He said that the government's strategy to focus on six sectors -- engineering, electronics, pharma, chemicals, plastics and agriculture -- as well as 20 countries is yielding positive result. These 20 countries account for 60 per cent of the total global imports and these six segments have a share of 67 per cent in global imports. (PTI)

## Sensex drops 110 pts, Nifty slides for 6th day on FII selling

**MUMBAI, Nov 14:** Benchmark Sensex declined by 110 points in a see-saw trade on Thursday, marking its third straight session of losses amid continued FII selling, disappointing quarterly results and soaring inflation.

The 30-share Sensex dropped 110.64 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 77,580.31 in a lacklustre trade. The index started on a positive note but lost momentum later due to increased selling. During the day, it dropped 266.14 points or 0.34 per cent to 77,424.81.

Broader NSE Nifty dropped by 26.35 points or 0.11 per cent to close at 23,532.70, extending its losing streak to the sixth day.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever, NTPC, Nestle, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Adani Ports, Tata Motors and Bajaj Finserv were the major laggards.

Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra and HDFC Bank were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 2,502.58 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth ₹ 6,145.24 crore, according to exchange data.

"The domestic market experienced a lacklustre trading, but some stability was observed throughout the day, from the low. The sustainability of this trend remains uncertain as FIIs continue to be on the selling side. But on a positive note the degree of selling is reducing," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

After a brief positive start driven by gains in HDFC Bank, Reliance, and major IT stocks, both Sensex and Nifty reversed the course as global pressures and persistent foreign investor selling weighed on sentiment, Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhu-das Lilladher, said.

Wholesale price inflation rose to a four-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, showed the government data released on Thursday.

Retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices.



"Markets witnessed a range-bound session with a negative bias as selective selling in FMCG, oil & gas and power stocks weighed on the sentiment. Despite the lacklustre trend, selective buying in realty, auto, banking and telecom stocks kept the losses under check," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.83 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.41 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, utilities declined 0.88 per cent, oil & gas (0.48 per cent), power (0.37 per cent), services (0.09 per cent), metal (0.07 per cent) and consumer durables (0.05 per cent).

Realty jumped 1.11 per cent, BSE consumer discretionary (0.81 per cent), telecommunication (0.64 per cent), auto (0.60 per cent) and commodities (0.33 per cent).

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Seoul ended in the positive territory.

European markets were trading higher. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.06 per cent to USD 72.24 a barrel.

Sensex tanked 984.23 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 77,690.95 on Wednesday. Registering its fifth day of decline, the Nifty tumbled 324.40 points or 1.36 per cent to 23,559.05.

Equity markets will remain closed on Friday for Guru Nanak Jayanti. (PTI)

## WPI inflation rises to 4-month high of 2.36 pc in Oct; food prices spike

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Wholesale price inflation rose to a 4-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, showed the government data released on Thursday.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 1.84 per cent in September 2024. It was (-) 0.26 per cent in October last year.

As per the data, inflation in food items shot up to 13.54 per cent in October, as against 11.53 per cent in September. This was led by 63.04 per cent inflation in vegetables, as against 48.73 per cent in September. Inflation in potato and onion remained high at 78.73 per cent and 39.25 per cent, respectively, in October.

Fuel and power category witnessed deflation of 5.79 per cent in October, against a deflation of 4.05 per cent in September. In manufactured items, inflation was 1.50 per cent in October, as against 1 per cent in the previous month.

The month of October witnessed the second consecutive month of rise in WPI inflation print. WPI higher than October's level was



recorded last in June 2024, when it was 3.43 per cent.

"Inflation in October 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of machinery & equipment, manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers, etc.," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

Barclays Regional Economist Shreya Sodhani said perishable food prices, particularly vegetables, are driving both retail and wholesale prices. Manufactured products WPI rose moderately, re-

fecting the WPI inflation to ease to approximately 2 per cent in November 2024," Agrawal said.

Looking ahead, the robust increase in kharif output for most food items and the healthy outlook for rabi crops amid elevated reservoir levels augurs well for the WPI food inflation prints in the near term, even as fertiliser stocks are a monitorable.

However, the outlook for the headline WPI inflation remains vulnerable to movements in global commodity and crude oil prices, Agrawal said.

The consumer price index data released earlier this week showed retail inflation surged to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent with a sharp rise in prices of food items.

The level is higher than the upper tolerance limit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which may make cutting the benchmark interest rates difficult in the policy review meeting in December. The RBI, which mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy, kept benchmark interest rate or repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its monetary policy review last month. (PTI)

"Owing to the expected softening in food inflation, ICRA esti-

Contd. from Page 1.

## Sonia Gandhi's 'Rahul plane' will

the first phase. Results are out -- BJP is going to form govt in Jharkhand," he claimed. Shah said that while Jharkhand powers the nation with coal, the people of the state have remained poor. He claimed that if the BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand, it will make it the most prosperous state in the country in five years.

"If BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand, SIT will be set up to probe corruption by leaders of the JMM-led coalition and they'll be put behind bars," he said. "Each paisa looted by JMM-Congress leaders will be returned to the treasury," he added. Shah said mineral-based industries would be set up in Jharkhand, and such an environment would be created that no one has to migrate from the state for work. (PTI)

## SC may direct ATCL to sell

court to pass direction for payment of arrears," he submitted. The bench said the state is a welfare state and it has to take care of its citizens and it cannot say that it is obliging by making payment to its workers.

Kohli said the tea board of India can help the ATCL by putting some funds into it. Justice Oka said the ATCL is owing 14 tea gardens and it will order for sale of these tea gardens for paying the workers.

The senior advocate sought one more opportunity to take instructions and said that he would talk to the chief minister over what should be done in case of the ATCL.

Amicus curiae advocate Gaurav Agarwal said the state has to come up with some solution as the workers cannot be left stranded. The bench said it is listing the matter for further hearing on December 9 and asked the chairman of the ATCL to furnish a list of movable and immovable properties.

On October 21, the top court while summoning the Assam chief secretary had said, "The Government of Assam will have to seriously answer the question why there is no sincere effort made by the Government of Assam and the ATCL to pay the dues of the workmen who have worked in the tea estates owned by the state of Assam."

The top court had in 2010 directed for payment of dues to the workmen but after non-compliance of direction, a contempt petition was filed in 2012. A committee set up by the top court in 2020 calculated the dues of workers to be around ₹ 414.73 crore and around ₹ 230 crore towards provident funds.

On February 7, 2023, the top court had directed payment of around ₹ 650 crore towards 28,556 workers of the 25 tea gardens of Assam which include 15 run owned by the ATCL. The rest are private gardens. (PTI)

## Govt bans Meghalaya-based

Considering all these facts, the Ministry of Home Affairs decided to declare HNLC outlawed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) with immediate effect for five years, the notification said. (PTI)

## Why Mumbai made to lose big-ticket

wait to have their voices heard?" he said. Ramesh further asked why is the BJP "sponsoring Adani's Dharavi land-grab". "The Dharavi Redevelopment Project has turned into a BJP-sponsored land grab for the non-biological PM's best friend, the Adani Group. The latest tender, floated by the Mahayuti government in September 2022, was allegedly geared specifically towards the Adani Group, the eventual winner," he alleged.

The structure of the Adani-led Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established through this tender served to completely alienate Dharavi's seven lakh residents, he said. The share of the Slum Rehabilitation Authority was reduced to 20 per cent, the ability of residents to negotiate at the planning level was removed and the process of public debate and participation that had emerged from the start of the process was scrapped in its entirety, Ramesh said. "The new tender has also gifted the Adani group an inordinate amount of valuable Transferable Development Rights (TDR) -- the original tender only awarded 5 crore square feet of TDR to the developer, but the Adani remaster has gifted the group a whopping 10.5 crore square feet," he said.

While only 54,461 slum inhabitants and 9,522 residents living in chawls and buildings will receive homes within Dharavi according to the latest documents, Adani is anticipating astronomical profits and a profit margin that could be as high as 434 per cent, Ramesh claimed. "A November 2023 notification issued by the Maharashtra government provided numerous additional concessions to the Adani group, including higher valuations for Dharavi TDR and a rule that 40% of all TDR used in any construction project in the city must come from Dharavi," he said. Just before it is set to lose power in the elections on November 20 (the day voting takes place in Maharashtra), the Mahayuti went on overdrive to clear permissions for the project in Dharavi, he claimed. "This lucrative 'revdi' for the Adani Group comes at the expense of millions of Mumbaiers, not just the residents of Dharavi. Does the non-biological PM have any defence for the massive loot that he is orchestrating in full public gaze?" Ramesh said. (PTI)

## Modi to inaugurate 1st Bodoland

discussion on building "vibrant Bodoland" region through culture and tourism" will be organised with the objective of promoting tourism and culture of the Bodoland region. The gathering will include more than 5,000 cultural, linguistic and art enthusiasts attending the event from the Bodoland region, Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, other parts of India, and also from neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan, among others. (PTI)

## Centre reimposes AFSPA in Manipur's

district, Lamlai in Imphal East district, Jiribam in Jiribam district, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Moirang in Bishnupur. On October 1, the Manipur government imposed AFSPA in the entire state, barring 19 police station areas that included these six.

The police stations excluded from the Manipur government's order were Imphal, Lamphal, City, Singjamei, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Wangoi, Porompat, Heingang, Lamlai, Iribung, Leimakhong, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Nambol, Moirang, Kakching, Jiribam. The Manipur police on Monday said 10 suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces after insurgents in camouflage uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent CRPF camp in Manipur's Jiribam district.

The suspected militants allegedly abducted six civilians, including women and children from the same district. Also on Thursday, school and college students across the Imphal valley formed multiple human chains outside their respective educational institutions to protest against the alleged abduction.

Holding black flags and wearing black badges, the students raised slogans demanding immediate safe release of the six and called for action by the Central and State governments. The event was organised by COCOMI Students Front, a Meitei community outfit. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

The ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes in Imphal Valley and the adjoining hills, witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year.

The disturbed area declaration was in force in Manipur (except the Imphal municipality area) from 2004 till early 2022. In April 2022, the Manipur government issued a notification where it said the disturbed area tag would no longer be applicable in seven police station areas of Imphal West district, four police station areas under the Imphal East district and one police station area each in the districts of Thoubal, Bishnupur, Kakching and Jiribam. There are 16 districts in Manipur.

There have been protests and demands for the complete withdrawal of AFSPA from the northeast as well as Jammu and Kashmir for its alleged "draconian" provisions. Manipuri activist Irom Chanu Sharmila fought against the law by being on hunger strike for 16 years, before ending it on August 9, 2016. (PTI)

## Assam DGP meets child sexual

with the police system, their challenges during the trial, education and mental health. "Regular feedback from children helps us make necessary changes within the system in a way that is representative of the voices and needs of children," the Special DGP, also the Convener of the Assam Police Sishu Mitra Programme, said. Assam Police's Child Rights Week celebrations, held from November 14 (National Children's Day) to November 20 (World Children's Day), included this interactive session as a key event.

During Child Rights Week every year, the Assam DGP interacts with children to understand the various challenges they face while navigating the justice delivery mechanism. "Child sexual abuse victims are vulnerable and have to navigate the complex procedures of the justice delivery mechanism," the statement said. (PTI)

## Civil aviation minister eyes

He also encouraged leading local manufacturers like HAL and Mahindra Aerospace to collaborate with foreign seaplane manufacturers to develop and build these aircraft in the country.

"There are many lakes in India like this, and we have the opportunity to run seaplanes. With a seaplane connecting Guwahati and Umiam Lake, in three and a half hours from Delhi, you can be in this rich landscape of Meghalaya," the Minister said. He pointed out, "India has over 1,300 islands, more than 7,000 km of coastal areas, rivers, and lakes. We are poised to take advantage of seaplanes," and announced that seaplanes will also be included in the UDAN scheme for regional connectivity.

Meanwhile, chief minister Conrad K Sangma mentioned that the state government is constructing a 7-star hotel by the Umiam Lake as part of the state's effort to promote tourism. "From the tourism point of view, we are very happy that Shillong is now one of the most sought-after destinations. Shillong has even surpassed Azerbaijan's Baku as the most sought-after destination for Indian travelers in 2025. That shows the kind of attention and opportunities Shillong and Meghalaya have from a tourism perspective," he said. (PTI)

## State-level workshop held for

marketing without middlemen. He also highlighted NERAMAC's recent initiatives across the northeast.

District Agriculture Officer (DAO) I/c Nabajyoti Dutta encouraged farmers to recognize the significant commercial value of the GI Tag and to embrace its benefits. The program was conducted by ADO (Rongmongve) Gauranga Chetia, and the welcome address was delivered by DGM Anjal Kr Dutta.

Present at the workshop were DGM, Agribusiness, Anjal Kr Dutta; district agriculture officer (DAO) I/c, Nabajyoti Dutta; senior agriculture development officer (ADO), Marketing, Karbi Anglong, PIRBI Tissopi; and district agriculture information officer (DIAO), Karbi Anglong, Serjili Hansepi.

## USD 1 trillion a year needed for

the Arab Group has called for USD 1.1 trillion, the African Group USD 1.3 trillion, India USD 1 trillion and Pakistan USD 2 trillion. In contrast, developed nations want the NCCG to be a broad, global investment goal that includes funding from multiple sources, including governments, private companies and investors.

They argue that the global economic landscape has changed significantly since adopting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992 and that countries that have become wealthier since then, such as China and some Gulf states, should also contribute to the new climate finance goal.

Developing countries view this as an attempt to shift responsibility away from those who have historically benefited from industrialisation and contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions.

They argue that expecting them to contribute -- especially when many are still struggling with poverty and inadequate infrastructure amid worsening climate impacts -- undermines the principle of equity. (PTI)

## Schools and organisations marked the day with cultural performances and educational activities

# Children's Day celebrations held across state

### HT Correspondent

**JORHAT, Nov 14:** To commemorate 'Bal Diwas' (Children's Day), the Hemolota Handique Trust of Jorhat distributed uniform sweaters to all students of Madhupur Lower Primary School near Demow in the Sivasagar district of Assam on Thursday.

The Trust also announced a tuition fee award of Rs 5,000 each to two students of Hemalata Handique Memorial Institute for excelling in academic performance and in recognition of their hard work and dedication to self-improvement.

The recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year are Smeeta Roy of class 9 and Abhilakshmi Dutta of class 6.

"Special events are being organised in schools across the country to celebrate 'Bal Diwas'. To mark the occasion, the Hemolota Handique Trust is extending support to these two initiatives as a way to encourage students to become good citizens and contribute to the nation's progress and development," said Tapan Chandra Dutta, chairman of Hemolota Handique Trust.

Each year, the celebration of Children's Day highlights the critical importance of child development, and the Trust is committed to providing need-based assistance to students in Assam.

This year, the Trust has taken the initiative to find donors for underprivileged schools in Assam. The Hemolota Handique Trust is a public trust focused on education and development. The members of the Trust include Surajit Sharma, Gautam



Barooah, Maitreyee Handique, and Upanga Dutta.

**Our Tezpur correspondent adds:** Along with the rest of the state, various schools and organisations in Tezpur celebrated Children's Day, organising events for children and students. In keeping with the festivities, Snehabandhan CCL, in collaboration with CCI and CHL Helpline 1098, celebrated Children's Day with children at the CCI participating in drawing, dance, and song performances alongside DCPU, CHL, and CCI staff to mark the day. The district commissioner of Sonitpur, Ankur Bharali, presented small gifts as tokens of appreciation to all the children at CCI. Dignitaries in attendance

included additional district commissioner (WCD) Kavita Kakati Konwar, the district social welfare officer, representatives from DLSA, the chairperson and members of CWC, ex-chairperson of CWC Dilip Kumar Baruah, and officials from DCPU, CHL, and CCI. Nababrabhat Shelter Home also celebrated the day with various programmes. The district commissioner and additional district commissioner (WCD) graced the event at Nababrabhat, distributing educational materials to 24 girls at the shelter home after a cake-cutting ceremony and brief interaction with them. Additionally, Tezpur Silver Jubilee Primary School, Tezpur Rashtrabhasha School, Tezpur

Moonlit High School, Tezpur Bengali Oboitnik Natya Samaj, Dimension Academy, Tezpur Science Academy, and Inspire Academy celebrated the day with various programmes.

Meanwhile, Don Bosco Higher Secondary School in the Nikamul area celebrated Children's Day with a captivating performance by renowned magician Shivaji, adding a magical charm to the event. Shivaji's illusions and skilful tricks thrilled students, filling the air with wonder and excitement.

Blending science, technology, and creativity, the magic show not only entertained but also sparked curiosity among young minds. Shivaji's illusions, crafted through scientific techniques and masterful artistry, left students in awe, inspiring them to explore the science behind the magic.

This event added a festive sparkle to the school ahead of its golden jubilee celebrations, creating cherished memories and underscoring the importance of imagination and curiosity.

**Our Morigaon correspondent adds:** Along with the rest of the country, Children's Day was celebrated with fun and fanfare at Delta Public School on Thursday. The principal of Delta Public School inaugurated the day in the presence of teachers and students. The program kicked off with a dance performance by the students. Thereafter, teachers and students performed songs to mark the occasion of Children's Day.

**Our Sivasagar correspondent adds:** Along with the rest of the country, Rangpur Jatiya Bidyayiketan, Darikapur, observed Children's Day with a day-long program. Addressing the children and the guardians as the chief guest, Manoj Kumar Borthakur said that the warmongers have compelled about a million children in 26 conflict zones globally to face the worst kinds of violations of children's rights, including killings, rape, mutilation of limbs, deprivation, etc. "We all must strive to bring back peace for them all," he added.

Prof Ranjit Tamuly said that the early stage of a child, from birth to the age of 6, is vitally important, during which parents should keep their children away from mobile phones. Jehiruddin Khan, coordinator of Aranyak, urged students to love birds. Buddheswar Chutia, president of the management committee of the school, and Jagat Chetia, pradhan acharya of Sankardev Sishu Niketan, Betbari, also addressed the meeting.

Jaffar Isaque Ali, principal, coordinated the program. The Bal Bikas program in Tai Ahom Sanskriti Vikas Kendra, organised on the occasion by Jawahar Bal Mancha of Nehru Yuva Kendra, was participated in by the students of Sankardev Sishu Niketan, Betbari.

Sajid Hussain hoisted the flag, and Samul Barik inaugurated the program. In almost all other schools, the day was observed with much enthusiasm.

## Khel Maharan 2.0 kicks off in KA

### HT Correspondent

**BOKAJAN, Nov 14:** As part of the Assam government's Khel Maharan 2.0, implemented by the Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, various sports events kicked off at the Hanjlangso Sports Association Stadium in Bokajan, Karbi Anglong district. The sports Maharan started on Thursday and will continue till November 16.

During the three-day competition, events such as athletics, kabaddi, football, chess, cycling, long jump, high jump, etc., will be held.

At the inauguration, district sports officer Relip Ronghang, president of the Hanjlangso Bazar Committee Hemari Tokbi, president of the Hanjlangso Press Club Klengdung Terang, president of the Khatkhati Press Club Anand Terang were present.

## TU students' beverage idea wins international acclaim

### HT Correspondent

**TEZPUR, Nov 14:** A multidisciplinary team of students from Tezpur University (TU) has demonstrated the use of bael (wood apple) as a tea-like beverage. Wood apple, commonly known as bael in Assam, is a locally available fruit. The idea, developed by Mizanur Rahman, Shikha Rani Gogoi, Chinmoy Talukdar, Rishi Paul, all from the department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), and Bastab Tapan Bordoloi from the department of Business Administration, was adjudged one of the best teams (along with four other teams) out of 175 participating teams by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Smart Village (ISV) South Asia Working Group (SAWG) for a national-level student project contest titled 'Idea Run'.

Shishu Niketan celebrates annual function 'Harmony'



**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, Nov 14:** Shishu Niketan Higher Secondary School celebrated its annual function, 'Harmony', at Pragjyoti ITA Cultural Centre, Machkhowa, Guwahati, for Performing Arts with great enthusiasm, zeal, fun, and frolic. Dr Hitesh Barua, CEO and managing director of Nencare Hospitals Pvt. Ltd., was the chief guest. The occasion was attended by members of the School Managing Committee, parents, teachers, students, and other distinguished guests. The function started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The annual academic awards were presented to the meritorious students. A Power-Point presentation on the different academic and non-academic activities of the school was showcased on this occasion. The 26th edition of 'Shishu Jyoti'—the school magazine—was released by Dr Hitesh Barua.

## Awareness prog on parthenium control held

### HT Bureau

**DIPHU, Nov 14:** An awareness programme on the control and sustainable use of parthenium was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Karbi Anglong, in collaboration with the Department of Agronomy and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Weed Management, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, at Amlokhi on Wednesday.

The head of KVK, Karbi Anglong, Dr Subal Maibangsa, in his welcome address, spoke on the objectives of the programme.

Following this, the head of the Department (Agronomy), Dr Kalyan Pathak, in his speech, emphasised the detrimental effects of the alien invasive weed, parthenium, on human beings, cattle, as well as agricultural lands.

Principal scientist and PI (AICRP on weed management), Dr Khagen Kurmi, discussed the control and management of the parthenium weed and its sustainable use in agriculture.

The programme saw the participation of 25 farmers from the village, along with the subject matter specialists and other officials of KVK, Karbi Anglong.

Extension specialist (Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat), Dr Manoj Chauhan, and president of the Karbi Anglong Cultural Society of Amlokhi, Rahul Chakma, participated in the programme.

## Cairn celebrates Children's Day with education and community initiatives

### HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 14:** Ahead of Children's Day, Cairn celebrated the potential of young learners in Assam through several community-focused initiatives. These efforts included distributing essential educational tools, hosting art competitions, and enhancing local school infrastructure, aligning with their commitment to fostering educational growth and quality of life for local communities.

At Chomua LP School in Mariani, Jorhat, a desk distribution event was organised, providing 24 students with high-quality study desks to improve their learning experience. A similar event at Kotha LP School in Jagun North, Tinsukia, saw 69 desks distributed to students in classes 1 to 5. These distributions aimed to create a

more conducive learning environment by offering students practical, durable desks. The events were graced by representatives from the company, along with local leaders, parents, and Anganwadi workers. "We believe in empowering students with the resources needed to excel. Providing these tools supports not only their studies but also our vision of sustainable, community-centered growth," said a company spokesperson.

In Jagun, an art competition was organised at Kothagoan LP School. Ninety-three students from three schools participated, showcasing their creativity through various artworks. The event drew a crowd of over 150, including teachers, local authorities, and parents. The winners were awarded prizes, and all participants received certificates of appreciation. "Art is a powerful medium of expression, and we were pleased to see the talent of these young students. We hope this experience motivates them to explore their creative potential," shared a Cairn representative, highlighting the initiative's success in nurturing community engagement.

Additionally, the company distributed electric fans to 666 No Toratoli Agchomua LP School and Gohainbari Bagisa A Anganwadi Centre in Naginjan to improve learning conditions during the warmer months. This effort aimed to enhance educational infrastructure, ensuring that students have a comfortable and inviting environment for learning.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, will grace the occasion as the chief guest on Friday evening in the august presence of dignitaries from various fields across the country. During the event, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union cabinet ministers Dr Dharmendra Pradhan and Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union minister of state Pabitra Margherita, CEM of BTR Pramod Boro, and Assam cabinet minister Urkha Gwra Brahma

## Bodoland Mohotsov at SAI Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi

### HT Correspondent

**KOKRAJHAR, Nov 14:** The first-ever Bodoland Mohotsov, a mega event, is commencing on Friday with a two-day program scheduled to be held at the SAI Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.

The event is organised under the theme 'Ethos of Peace and Harmony: An Integral Part of Nation Building' by the All Bodo Students Union, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, and Dularai Bodo Harimu Afad, in association with the government of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The event coincides with the 73rd foundation day celebration of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha (Bodo Thunlai Saan) on Saturday.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, will grace the occasion as the chief guest on Friday evening in the august presence of dignitaries from various fields across the country.

During the event, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union cabinet ministers Dr Dharmendra Pradhan and Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union minister of state Pabitra Margherita, CEM of BTR Pramod Boro, and Assam cabinet minister Urkha Gwra Brahma

will attend as guests.

Nearly five thousand people from different states, including the Bodoland Territorial Region and Assam, are expected to participate in the event. A multicultural performance, exhibitions, rallies, seminars, and open discussions are planned for the event.

The necessary preparations and arrangements were completed this evening to host the event.

ABSU president Dipen Boro stated that the Bodoland Mohotsov is being organised in New Delhi to promote the upliftment and development of the Bodo language, literature, and culture across the country. He informed that all arrangements and preparations are fully completed, and more than five thousand people are expected to participate grandly.

He said the event will emphasise peace and tranquility among citizens across the Bodoland region and the state of Assam as a whole.

"The event will commemorate the restoration of peace following the historic signing of the third Bodo Peace Accord on January 27, 2020, which established the Bodoland Territorial Region," he said.

## Free beauty parlour training for women begins at SBI-RSETI in Diphu

### HT Bureau

**DIPHU, Nov 14:** SBI's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) has started a one-month free training course on beauty parlour management for local women and girls aspiring to open their own parlours. The training programme began on November 1 and will end on November 30. It is being conducted on the second floor of the SBI Diphu market branch.

Informing about the training programme, the director of SBI-RSETI, Dasarath Brahma, said that RSETIs are managed by banks with common objectives of identifying, training, motivating, and facilitating unemployed youth to take up self-employment opportunities.

He further informed that SBI is managing RSETI, offering more than 30 training courses for local youth and women to create self-employment avenues. The training courses include custom jewellery



making, women's tailoring, general EDP, dairy farming, vermicompost production, jute product manufacturing, beauty parlour management, soft toy making, paper cover and envelope making, and many more.

The SBI-RSETI director also stated that 30 women trainees are currently participating in the beauty parlour management course.

Hostel facilities are available for candidates during the training pro-

gramme. So far, 18 training programmes have been conducted across various courses, benefiting 524 individuals. This year, the target is to reach 900 persons. Interested individuals can submit an application, Brahma explained. An Aadhar card is mandatory, along with BPL certificates like job cards, caste certificates, or ration cards as proof. Those wishing to join any of the training courses can visit the RSETI office at the SBI Diphu branch building, he added.

## World Diabetes Day observed in Diphu

### HT Bureau

**DIPHU, Nov 14:** To create awareness about diabetes, the Association of Physicians of India, Assam State Chapter, Diphu, in collaboration with the Department of Medicines, Diphu Medical College & Hospital (DMC&H), has observed World Diabetes Day here, with the theme 'Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps', by organising an awareness-cum-free screening for diabetes at the Karbi Anglong Primary Teachers Association (KAPTA) office here on Thursday.

Primary school teachers availed the facility of free screening for diabetes and blood pressure check-ups. Medical advice, along with free medicines, was given at the screening camp.

The free screening camp, organised by the Association of Physicians of India, Assam State Chapter, Diphu, was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Medicines, Diphu Medical College & Hospital (DMC&H), and Karbi Anglong Primary Teachers Association (KAPTA).

Explaining the importance of observing World Diabetes Day, Dr Dhormsing Timung, assistant professor, DMC&H, and honorary secretary, Association of Physicians of India, Assam State Chapter, Diphu, said it was Dr

Frederick Banting, a researcher, who first discovered insulin for the treatment of diabetes. In his memory, and on his birthday, i.e., November 14, World Diabetes Day is observed to create awareness about diabetes.

He informed that, in the screening, out of 53 persons, 16 were found with high blood pressure, while 10 were found with diabetes. Eight were already diabetic, and two were newly diagnosed. Proper advice on the management and control of diabetes was given, along with prescribed medicine for diabetes control.

Dr Timung said diabetes occurs when the body doesn't use insulin properly or produce enough insulin. It has now become a global concern, as diabetes is rapidly increasing.

Dr Timung advised a change in food habits by limiting the intake of carbohydrate-rich foods that increase sugar levels in the blood. Regular exercise and increased intake of leafy vegetables are recommended.

Dr K Bhattacharjee, professor & HOD of Medicine, DMC&H, said, "People are now more aware of diabetes. We advise people to eat healthily, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and exercise regularly to stay away from stress, hypertension, and diabetes."

## Former BTC leader passes away

### HT Correspondent

**KOKRAJHAR, Nov 14:** Alindra Kumar Machahary, former executive member of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) and a prominent leader in the Bodoland People's Front, passed away earlier Thursday after a prolonged illness.

A noted social worker and well-known public figure, Machahary served three terms as a Member of the Council Legislative Assembly (MCLA) of the Bodoland Territorial Council and held the position of executive member in the BTC. He was elected to the BTC legislative assembly from the Rowta constituency from 2005 to 2020 for three consecutive terms.

## Kokrajhar to host BTR-level National Press Day celebration

### HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 14:** The Information and Public Relations Department of the Bodoland Territorial Region, in association with the Bodoland Journalists' Association, will host a grand celebration for National Press Day 2024 on November 16, 2024, at the Auditorium of Kokrajhar Planetarium.

In this connection, 10 media personnel from BTR will be felicitated across various categories for their significant contributions to journalism and media in the Bodoland Territorial Region. This includes four veteran journalist pensioners: Imran Hussain (Udalguri), Khagen Baishya and Ananda Ramchiary (Tamulpur), and Swapan Kumar Esh (Kokrajhar). Additionally, five senior journalists, namely Dhruva Sharma (Amar Asom, Baksa), Durlav Talukdar (Dainik Janambhumi, Chirang), Hari Shankar Thakur (Dainik Purvadaya, Kokrajhar), Bapu Ram Boro (Dainik Janambhumi, Tamulpur), and Gunajit Das (DY 365, Udalguri), will be felicitated. A special acknowledgment will also be given to Sibatos Bhadury, the senior-most newspaper hawker of Kokrajhar, for his dedicated service.

The open session will be graced

by chief guest Professor BL Ahuja, vice chancellor of Bodoland University. Consulting editor of Pratinidhi Time, Mrinal Talukdar, will deliver the keynote address on the theme 'Changing Nature of Press'.

Dr Zakir Hussain, chairman of NEF Group of Institutions and editor of Dainik Gana Adhikar, and Rakesh Sharma, editor of Vikshit Bharat Samachar, will attend the open session as guests of honour, while Baburam Basumatary, editor of Bodosa, and Danswarang Daimary, editor of Hayenni Kadab, will attend as special guests. The open session will also be attended by the president of Bodoland Journalists Association, Abu Bakkar Siddique, and Raktim Buragohain, joint secretary of the Information and Public Relations Department, BTC, who will conduct the session.

The day-long event will commence at 9:30 am with flag hoisting, swahid tarpan, and a plantation drive under the Green Bodoland Mission. A special 30-minute planetarium show titled 'Biography of the Universe' will be screened at 2:45 pm for media attendees. Media personnel from all five districts of the BTR—Kokrajhar, Tamulpur, Baksa, Udalguri, and Chirang—will participate in the celebration.

## Guv extends greetings on Guru Nanak Jayanti

### HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 14:** Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, on the eve of Guru Nanak Jayanti, extended his warm greetings to all, particularly to the people belonging to the Sikh community. In his message here, Shri Acharya said, "We celebrate the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism and a revered spiritual leader, to pay our highest order of reverence to him. He taught us the values of love, equality, and unity. May Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings inspire us to walk on the path of truth and righteousness. May his message of universal brotherhood and compassion guide us on our way forward." Acharya also said, "As we celebrate this 555th birth anniversary, let us remember the importance of peace, harmony, and development. Let us strive to create a society that is just and equitable for all."



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real riches are the riches possessed inside.  
- BC Forbes

## Politics influences judiciary?

A large number of critical appraisals and commentaries have been written on the occasion of the retirement of Chief Justice of India (CJI), D.Y. Chandrachud. This is but natural as Justice Chandrachud is considered to be one of the most consequential chief justices of the Supreme Court in recent years. Moreover, he had a two-year tenure, which is longer than any other chief justice in the past two decades.

The entire body of his work as chief justice must be taken into consideration to correctly assess his role as the head of the judiciary that is ordained to safeguard the Constitution and the rights of citizens. While doing so, the background in which Chief Justice Chandrachud exercised his judicial and administrative responsibilities should be kept in mind. The Modi government, in its second term in office, was pushing ahead with its aggressive efforts to fulfill the Hindutva agenda, which was subversive of the Constitution and the fundamental rights of citizens. It is in this context that Chief Justice Chandrachud's judgments on Constitutional issues and the majoritarian onslaught should be viewed. Here two judgments – one as a judge of the court and the other as chief justice – provide the acid test. Justice Chandrachud was on the five-member bench, which gave the verdict on the Ayodhya dispute. The judgment which he authored handed over the entire disputed area where the Babri Masjid stood to the Hindus for the construction of the Ram temple. This judgment was based more on religious sentiments and faith rather than the evidence and facts on the ground. Further, it gave such a verdict despite acknowledging that the demolition of the Babri Masjid was an unconstitutional and egregious act.

It is this judicial verdict that legitimised the claim of the RSS-Vishwa Hindu Parishad and fulfilled one of the core agenda of the BJP. That this was not a one-time aberration become evident when as CJI, Justice Chandrachud opened the way for reopening of the Gyanvapi mosque case in Varanasi. Disregarding the protection of Religious Places of Worship Act, 1991, which prohibits reopening of such cases, on the dubious ground that Hindus were not seeking to change the character of Gyanvapi mosque only to determine its religious character, CJI Chandrachud permitted the suits to go on. This has handed the Hindutva forces the licence to rake up the disputes in Varanasi and Mathura. The other major judgment given by a bench led by CJI Chandrachud is on the abrogation of Article 370 and the dismantling of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The judgment upheld the unilateral executive power exercised to amend Article 370 since the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir was no longer in existence. On the downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir to union territory through a process of violating Article 3 of the Constitution, the judgment ducked the issue and accepted the assurance of the State that at some future date, the statehood of J&K would be restored. The only sense that can be made of this judgment is that it somehow seeks to endorse the executive's arbitrary action to nullify Article 370. It would be pertinent to note that abrogation of Article 370 was another core issue in the BJP-RSS agenda. There are other aspects of Chief Justice Chandrachud's tenure concerning the 'master of the roster' duties and the functioning of the collegium system. Here too, there is a clear discernible pattern. The allocation of cases, which concerned the individual liberty of citizens such as those incarcerated for long years in the Bhima Koregaon case and the north-east Delhi communal riots show a deliberate design of referring such cases to a specific bench, where the judges concerned have a conservative view on matters of civil liberties and granting bail. As for the collegium's work, the main feature has been ceding control to the executive on the appointment of chief justices of High Courts and selection of judges.

## Dangerous plans to escalate the Ukraine war before Biden steps down

By: Ben Chacko

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer could respond to a renewed Donald Trump presidency by confronting the far right in Britain and internationally. He could have used his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss the common causes of the rise of Reform UK in Britain, National Rally in France and analogous movements across Europe.

All are emboldened by Trump's win - and without addressing public perceptions of long-term societal decline across Europe and the US, linked to falling living standards, failing services and a feeling that today's politics leaves us powerless playthings of corporate interests, many have the potential to take political power. If he felt a British premier should focus not on domestic US politics but foreign policy, he could have used the summit to warn that Trump's open support for Israeli annexation of the West Bank is unconscionable and assert Britain's official commitment to a sovereign and independent Palestine. He could make a dramatic statement of intent here without even directly criticising Trump, by simply restoring Labour's previous policy - which he disgracefully dropped as Palestinians face their most severe assault since 1948 - of recognising the state of Palestine, in line with over three-quarters of all member states of the United Nations, most recently Ireland.

Nobody will be surprised that Starmer has done none of these things. Britain is complicit too in the ongoing Palestinian genocide. Labour mimic the far right in comparing the so-called threat posed by refugees to that of terrorism. As for waking up to the threat of Reform UK, Starmer still boasts so often of having made Labour electable that he may not even have grasped the implications of the sharp fall in its vote at the last election. It is a grim indication of the depth of the European Establishment's commitment to war, though, that they see the most worrying aspect of a Trump presidency as the risk it might try to end the war in Ukraine.

In fact, US enthusiasm for continuing the torrent of money and weapons to Kiev has been ebbing for some time. Both US and European diplomats have been briefing for months something similar to the ideas now being aired by Trump's advisers - that Ukraine needs to give up on the idea of achieving total victory and the eventual settlement of a war which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives will involve concessions. Reports from Starmer and Macron's talks, however, suggest they see Trump's looming presidency as an opportunity to convince Joe Biden - whose increasing mental frailty is, after all, why he dropped out of the presidential election - to throw caution to the winds and agree to let Ukraine fire long-range missiles deep into Russia.

This key aspect of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "victory plan" is unlikely to make much difference on the battlefield. Like his request for fast-tracked Nato membership, it is best understood as a strategy to further entangle or directly involve Nato in the war: Russia, after all, says that these missiles cannot be targeted without the use of US systems and therefore would constitute a direct US attack on its soil.

If the aim is to so escalate the war in the next two months that Trump will find it impossible to back out, it's an exceptionally dangerous game - one which risks its spread to neighbouring states and even into a direct Nato-Russia shooting match, which would put millions of lives in Britain and France at risk. Like the EU's embrace of far-right leaders who trample on refugee rights and restrict free media so long as they toe the line on Ukraine - the contrast in treatment of Italy's Giorgia Meloni and Hungary's Viktor Orban is instructive - it illustrates the bankruptcy of a political class desperate to uphold US imperialism at the expense of the economies, living standards and safety of their own countries. (IPA Service)

# Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: Honouring the legacy of India's tribal communities

India's rich cultural heritage is a tapestry woven with the diverse traditions, languages, and customs of its many communities. Among the most significant yet often overlooked contributors to this vibrant mosaic are the Janjatiya (tribal) communities, whose resilience, bravery, and sacrifices have shaped the nation's history in profound ways. For far too long, the contributions of these indigenous groups were neglected in the broader narrative of India's struggle for independence.

However, it was under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the nation took a pivotal step towards recognising and celebrating the valor and sacrifices of the Janjatiya people, with the establishment of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, a day dedicated to honouring these communities.

The birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, one of India's most revered tribal heroes, has been designated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. This day is marked annually to celebrate the courage, determination, and selfless contributions of the Janjatiya people towards the nation. This year marks the third commemoration of this auspicious occasion, which continues to garner growing reverence and respect. It has become a powerful moment of national reflection, a day where the entire country pauses to acknowledge the importance of tribal culture, values, and their vital role in the building of India.

**Bhagwan Birsa Munda: A guardian of nature and culture**

Bhagwan Birsa Munda, often referred to as Dharti Aaba (Father of the Earth), is a towering figure in the tribal history of India. His life and struggles were not only about protecting the forests of Jharkhand but also about upholding the socio-cultural values of the Munda people. His fight against the British colonial forces was not just a resistance against external oppressors, but also a battle to preserve the identity, land, and culture of the indigenous people.

Birsa's vision transcended beyond territorial preservation; it was about ensuring that the indigenous way of life remained untouched by external forces.

His most significant victory came with the passing of the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act by the British, which sought to protect the ancestral land rights of the tribals. This legislation was a precursor to the broader struggle for land rights that would later take shape in the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and the PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act in independent India.

Birsa's legacy, therefore, is deeply embedded in the framework of modern-day policies designed to protect the rights of tribal communities, and these legislations continue to benefit millions across India.

**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: Celebrating tribal resistance**

The inception of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a monumental step in acknowledging the historical significance of tribal resistance movements. While much of the Indian independence struggle is associated with mainstream leaders, the Janjatiya communities had long been at the forefront of resistance against British imperialism.

From the Pahadia Movement led by Tilka Manjhi to the Santhal Hul led by Siddhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu, the Naga Movement led by Rani Gaidinliu, the Rampaa Movement ignited by Aluri Sitaram Raju, and the Bhagat Movement of Govind Guru, tribal communities across India have consistently resisted foreign oppression and fought to preserve their lands, forests, and way of life.

These uprisings are part of the rich legacy of tribal resistance that needs to be acknowledged at the national level. Bhagwan Birsa Munda's role in this resistance, culminating in the fight for self-rule and autonomy, laid the foundation for the broader tribal empowerment movements that



would come after independence. Birsa's struggle was emblematic of the tribal quest for justice, land rights, and cultural preservation.

**Forest rights and PESA: A legacy fulfilled**

The Forest Rights Act (FRA) and the PESA Act introduced by the Government of India were pivotal in fulfilling the vision of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The FRA provides tribals the legal recognition to forest lands and resources they have traditionally cultivated or depended on. This act was passed to ensure that the tribals, the original stewards of the forests, have the rights to use, protect, and manage these natural resources.

PESA, on the other hand, focuses on preserving the autonomy of tribal communities in the governance of their regions.

The introduction of these laws in India serves as a long-awaited recognition of the importance of tribal systems in the nation's development and serves as a tribute to the sacrifices made by tribal leaders like Birsa Munda. Their vision was not just to protect land and resources but to ensure that tribal communities continue to lead self-reliant, harmonious lives, closely integrated with nature.

**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: A celebration of indigenous culture and heritage**

The observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is more than just a

political gesture - it is a cultural celebration. The day invites all Indians to explore and embrace the rich and diverse traditions, languages, and cultural practices of the Janjatiya communities. This celebration plays an essential role in educating the nation about the unique heritage of these groups, whose cultures are deeply intertwined with the environment and nature.

Through various cultural programs, exhibitions, and discussions, Janjatiya Gaurav Divas has become a day for the nation to come together and learn about the customs, folklore, dances, music, and art forms of the Janjatiya people. It is a day to celebrate their resilience, culture, and contribution to the fabric of Indian society.

Additionally, it is a reminder of the government's ongoing efforts to preserve and protect tribal cultures through educational reforms, socio-economic initiatives, and empowerment programs.

**The future: Empowering tribal communities for nation-building**

The commemoration of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is part of a broader effort by the Government of India to uplift and empower tribal communities. It is a day of reflection, a moment where the nation takes stock of the strides made in ensuring social justice and equality for these communities. With policies such as the

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), the government continues to work towards the socio-economic empowerment of tribals, ensuring that their voice is heard and their concerns addressed in the development process.

Tribal communities have always been integral to India's nation-building process, often playing the role of protectors of the land and the environment. As we look ahead, it is important that we continue to build on the foundation laid by Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other tribal leaders. Empowering these communities through education, employment, and cultural preservation is essential to ensuring that their legacy continues to inspire future generations.

**A tribute to tribal heritage and nation building**

The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is not just a commemoration of the past but a celebration of the future. It is a recognition of the ongoing contribution of Janjatiya communities to the cultural, social, and economic fabric of India. By highlighting the struggles and sacrifices of tribal communities, the nation acknowledges their rightful place in history, and honours their continued role in shaping the nation's future.

As we look forward to the future, the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas serves as a reminder to every Indian to honour the deep connection these communities have with the land, culture, and nature, and to continue working towards a more inclusive and equitable society. It is a day to remember the words of Bhagwan Birsa Munda: "The forests are our sacred inheritance, and we must preserve them for future generations." This day, India renews its commitment to preserving this legacy while ensuring the empowerment and recognition of its tribal communities. (The writer can be reached at [dipakkurmigptd@gmail.com](mailto:dipakkurmigptd@gmail.com))

## Guru Nanak: The light of compassion

By: Satyabrata Borah

Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, was born in 1469 in a small village called Talwandi, now known as Nankana Sahib, located in modern-day Pakistan.

He was born to a Hindu family, but from an early age, he displayed a deep interest in spirituality. As a child, he questioned the customs and beliefs around him, showing a keen desire to seek the truth beyond ritual and tradition. This curiosity led him to meditate, think deeply, and study various spiritual texts, which was quite unusual for a young child. His questioning nature and thirst for truth were early signs of his journey towards becoming a spiritual leader.

As Guru Nanak grew older, he continued to search for deeper meanings in life. He spent time with both Hindu and Muslim scholars, learning from them and understanding their teachings. His interactions with people of different faiths shaped his outlook on spirituality and humanity. He believed that there was a divine force beyond human comprehension, one that was universal and accessible to everyone, regardless of their religion, caste, or social standing. This belief led him to reject the rigid rituals and practices often associated with religion at the time. He saw spirituality as something deeply personal and internal, not bound by external rituals.

One of the most significant moments in Guru Nanak's life was his disappearance for three days. He was around thirty years old when he vanished while bathing in the river. His family and friends thought he had drowned, but after three days, he returned. He said that he had experienced a divine revelation during this time. This experience profoundly changed him and solidified his belief in one God, whom he referred to as the "One Creator."

After this event, Guru Nanak began to spread his teachings more actively. His message was simple but powerful: "There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim," signifying that all humans are equal in the eyes of the divine. This was a groundbreaking idea, as society at the time was deeply divided along religious, caste, and social lines.

Guru Nanak traveled extensively to spread his teachings. These journeys, known as "Udasis," took him across India and to various parts of the Middle East and Central Asia. He visited places like Mecca, Medina, and Baghdad, engaging with people of different faiths and backgrounds. These travels allowed him to share his message of love, unity, and equality with a wide audience. Wherever he went, he encour-

aged people to live an honest life, work hard, and share their wealth with those in need. His teachings emphasized that true spirituality was about helping others and living a life filled with compassion and humility.

Guru Nanak's teachings were revolutionary. He challenged the established norms of society, including the caste system. During his time, people were divided by rigid social hierarchies, and the lower castes were often treated with disdain. Guru Nanak condemned this system and taught that everyone is equal, as all are children of the same Creator. He believed that no one should be judged by their birth or social status. He emphasized that one's worth is determined by their actions and devotion, not by their family background. This was a radical idea that brought hope to many marginalized and oppressed communities.

Another core teaching of Guru Nanak was the concept of "Naam Japna," or meditating on the name of God. He encouraged his followers to remember God in every action they performed. This practice, he believed, brought people closer to the divine and helped them live a meaningful life. He also stressed the importance of "Kirat Karni," or earning an honest livelihood. He believed that one should work hard and live by their own efforts, rather than depending on others or engaging in dishonest practices. Guru Nanak also promoted "Vand Chakna," the practice of sharing one's earnings with those less fortunate. He believed that true happiness and fulfillment come from helping others and being generous.

Guru Nanak's teachings were not confined to words alone; he lived by them. He demonstrated humility, compassion, and love for all. One well-known story tells of how he distributed food to the poor, even when he had very little for himself. He believed that serving humanity was the highest form of worship. Guru Nanak's lifestyle and teachings attracted many followers, who admired his simplicity and wisdom. He showed them that true spirituality lay not in rituals but in actions that reflected love and respect for others.

As Guru Nanak's following grew, he established a community where people could come together, regardless of their background. This community, known as the "Sangat," was based on equality, mutual respect, and support. In the Sangat, people from different social and religious backgrounds would gather to pray, discuss spiritual matters, and help each other. This communal way of worship and fellowship became a central part of Sikh practice and continues to be an essential element of

Sikhism today.

In his later years, Guru Nanak settled in Kartarpur, a village he established as a place for his followers to live and practice his teachings. In Kartarpur, he introduced a system where people would come together to work, share food, and engage in spiritual discussions. This collective living model embodied his principles of equality, humility, and community. At Kartarpur, Guru Nanak spent his time teaching and guiding his followers. He would lead prayers and discuss the importance of living a truthful, honest life. Kartarpur became a place of spiritual learning, a sanctuary where people could come to find peace and purpose.

One of the lasting contributions of Guru Nanak was the introduction of the concept of "Langar," a communal kitchen where food is served to all, free of charge. The practice of Langar was revolutionary, as it broke down social barriers. In the Langar, everyone would sit together, regardless of their caste or social standing, and share a meal. This act symbolized equality and reinforced Guru Nanak's belief that everyone is equal before God. The tradition of Langar continues in Sikh Gurudwaras today and serves as a reminder of Guru Nanak's commitment to equality and service to humanity.

Guru Nanak composed numerous hymns and verses, which were later compiled in the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhism. His verses are simple yet profound, filled with wisdom about life, God, and humanity. Through his writings, he conveyed the essence of his teachings: love, compassion, humility, and devotion. His hymns emphasize the unity of God, the importance of truthful living, and the beauty of a compassionate heart. The verses he composed continue to be recited by Sikhs worldwide and serve as a source of inspiration and guidance.

Before his death, Guru Nanak appointed his disciple, Bhai Lehna, as his successor. Bhai Lehna, who would later be known as Guru Angad, became the second Sikh Guru. This act of succession established the Guru lineage in Sikhism and ensured that Guru Nanak's teachings would be passed on and preserved. Guru Nanak's decision to appoint a successor based on merit rather than family lineage was a powerful statement about equality and fairness. It showed that he valued devotion and commitment over birthright.

Guru Nanak's legacy lives on through Sikhism, a faith that upholds his teachings and values. His message of love, compassion, and equality continues to resonate with people of all backgrounds. Guru Nanak's life and teachings are celebrated every year on Guru Nanak Gurpurab, a festival observed by Sikhs worldwide. During this festival, people gather in Gurudwaras to recite his hymns, engage in prayers, and participate in the Langar. The festival is a time of reflection and gratitude, reminding Sikhs of Guru Nanak's profound impact on their lives.

Guru Nanak's teachings have inspired

millions, transcending religious and cultural boundaries. His message of universal brotherhood and equality remains relevant today, as people continue to struggle with issues of discrimination, inequality, and division. His emphasis on selfless service, humility, and respect for all living beings serves as a guiding light for those seeking a path of compassion and peace. Guru Nanak's life story is not only a tale of a spiritual leader but also a lesson in humanity and kindness.

Throughout his life, Guru Nanak exemplified the values he preached. He demonstrated that true spirituality is about love, empathy, and understanding. His teachings remind us that all humans are connected and that every person has a spark of the divine within them. He showed that by recognizing the divinity in others, we can overcome prejudice and hatred. Guru Nanak believed that each individual has a purpose, and that purpose is to serve others and make the world a better place.

Guru Nanak's influence extended beyond religion. He inspired a way of life that encourages people to be kind, honest, and humble. His teachings remind us that our actions should reflect our inner beliefs and values. Guru Nanak's message is timeless, as it addresses the fundamental aspects of human nature and the importance of living a meaningful life. He believed that true happiness comes from connecting with others, helping those in need, and living a life filled with love and respect.

In a world that is often divided by differences, Guru Nanak's teachings offer a vision of unity and harmony. He showed that spiritual enlightenment is not confined to a specific religion but is accessible to anyone who seeks it with an open heart. Guru Nanak's teachings continue to inspire individuals to look beyond material desires and find joy in simple, selfless acts. His life serves as a reminder that we can all make a difference, no matter how small, by living with compassion and understanding.

Guru Nanak's message is as relevant today as it was centuries ago. His teachings provide a path for those who seek inner peace and a meaningful existence. In a world facing challenges of division and inequality, Guru Nanak's life and teachings offer hope and guidance. He showed that by embracing love and compassion, we can overcome our differences and create a world where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

Guru Nanak's legacy is one of love, unity, and service. His teachings have left an indelible mark on humanity, reminding us of the importance of kindness and compassion. Through his life, Guru Nanak showed us that true spirituality transcends rituals and is rooted in the way we treat others. His vision of a world where all people are equal and united continues to inspire millions around the world, making him a spiritual leader who belongs to all of humanity. His life and teachings are a testament to the power of love and the beauty of a heart filled with compassion.

# President Donald Trump and the next four years

By: **Gautam Chikermane**

The return of Donald J. Trump as President of the world's most powerful nation has great embedded expectations. From inward-looking domestic economic shifts to outward disruptions through international geopolitical swings, Trump's presidency, over the next four years, is going to be unpredictable.

And yet, in the overall sense of the recent shifts in global politics, the results are predictable. What is clear is that people across democracies are fed up with the Left and their stretched domains. Here, the power accorded to the fringes of the Left by agenda-chasing governments and ideology-driven media has delivered votes to the Right.

From the European Union (EU) to the United States (US), the use-by date of the Left agendas has been rejected in electoral battles. The commonality in the way Americans and Europeans voted centres on the inability or unwillingness of governments to tackle illegal migrants wreaking havoc in these geographies. High inflation led by the Ukraine-Russia war is another concern, along with recession and the lack of jobs.

The case of the world's largest democracy—India—is unique: despite narratives, the country refuses to be cleaved into a Left-Right divide, even though the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been labelled 'Right'. Modi will now have the

company of Trump as being labelled anti-democratic, even though their democracies voted them back to power—Trump for a second term and Modi for a third.

Beyond these labels lie bigger questions about how Trump's second—and final—term will play out and what his voters and the world at large can expect. Under his "Make America Great Again" electoral stance, he made 20 promises. These include sealing the border, ending outsourcing and turning the US into a manufacturing superpower, defending free speech, restoring peace in Europe and West Asia, maintaining the US dollar as the world's reserve currency, keeping men out of women's sports, and deporting pro-Hamas radicals and making college campuses "Safe and Patriotic Again".

**Security and geopolitics**  
Underlying several of these 20 core promises is a perception that the US is a declining power, which Trump will attempt to change. His first few moves, therefore, will be around security and geopolitics. In the Russia-Ukraine war, which both Russia and the West wish to end, Trump will wade in and be counted.

A new deal around a new compromise, recognising new red lines, will usher in an uncomfortable peace in the region. Kyiv will likely lose some of its territory, Moscow will get a face save, and Brussels will continue to hold peace conferences while twiddling its thumbs.

Trump will also enforce his

earlier demand on Brussels—to finance its own security.

So far, Europe's security cover has been provided by the US. In his first term, Trump had made it clear that the EU would have to pay for its security, with 2 percent of its GDP. He is likely to revise that demand alongside more Europeans in military service. Compliance by the EU will be a key determinant of the degree of US presence in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Germany has begun conversations around conscriptions; other countries will follow.

The other war—between Israel and Hamas and Hezbollah, supported by Houthi and Iran—will get a different treatment. He is likely to ignore pressures of moral support to Hamas domestically while engaging the region. Deporting "pro-Hamas radicals" is easy in speech but may be difficult to execute. Iran is already feeling the first impact of Trump, with its currency crashing soon after Trump's victory; how finance pressures security remains to be seen.

In his first term, Trump called out China. As his second term begins, China's President Xi Jinping is already making conciliatory statements seeking ways to get along. "History has shown that China and the United States benefit from cooperation and suffer from confrontation," Xi said. On his part, Trump, while countering China, will likely have a more transactional approach.

This approach will trickle down to India as well. In his first

term, Trump promoted defence partnerships and arms sales to India. This is likely to continue. Here, the arena of transaction is the Indian Ocean Region. So, surface-level changes aside, expect the overall direction of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) to continue.

The region also houses Bangladesh under Chief Advisor Muhammed Yunus. Here, Trump's engagement is likely to get tougher, his support to Hindu and condemnation of the "barbaric violence" against them stronger; without addressing the violence, Yunus has sent a message of "peace, harmony, stability, and prosperity for all".

How this translates into the end of violence against Hindus present there will be watched closely. And whether Trump's support for Hindus extends to the community under attack in Canada, whose Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been whitewashing the crimes, remains to be seen.

**Business and regulation**  
For a long time, Trump supporter and the world's wealthiest man Elon Musk has been complaining about over-regulation and the accompanying fines as "lawfare". Musk is likely to head a new government efficiency commission tasked with cutting US\$2 trillion from the US\$6.75 trillion federal budget. Not one to stretch time, the US can expect quick recommendations and actions.

This will hurt a few incumbents in the short term but will be

good for the country in the medium term, the results of which will show up before Trump's term ends.

A regulatory rethink of the sort with two mega disruptors at the wheel will result in speedy growth. This is something India started in the second term of Modi when Parliament enacted the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act in August 2023 to decriminalise a few economic offences. But this step is merely the framework of a larger rationalisation ahead—out of 26,134 imprisonment clauses for doing business, this law decriminalised only 113. Jan Vishwas 2.0 is underway.

At the Union Government level, the task is not as big: 5,239 clauses need to be rationalised. Once done, this will reduce rent-seeking and corruption by the bureaucracy, India's homegrown deep state that is unwilling to change. It is up to the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, to own this and usher in change rather than attributing challenges solely to the industry. He has the data, he has the mandate, he even has the intent, but all of it seems to be getting hijacked by inertia. Perhaps Musk's approach could serve as an inspiration for Minister Goyal.

There is an unintended consequence of Trump wanting to turn the US into a manufacturing superpower. It would mean an inward-looking economic entity. Trump will attempt to make the US attractive to entrepreneurs

from across the globe, particularly in cutting-edge industries. But how that will translate into higher labour wages is unclear. For countries like India or Vietnam that wish to expand their manufacturing, it would mean in being direct competition with the US.

An inward-looking economy will also mean a rationalisation of tariffs. Here, countries such as India will be on the back foot. In his first term and the run-up to his second term, he had termed India a "tariff abuser". A low-hanging political fruit, tariffs will be an important conversation between the two democracies. As India's second-largest trading partner, trade is a glue between the two countries.

But with trade at US\$118 billion against a GDP of US\$4 trillion, it is nowhere close to where it should be. As a US\$10 trillion economy, trade should organically rise to US\$300 billion. The challenge, however, is to take it to US\$1 trillion. Managing tariffs, therefore, will be a crucial point of bilateral negotiations. Both countries need to take a grand strategy approach to trade and economics, merging security, technology, and strategy into the economic discourse.

The last leg of Trump's economic policy could see a legitimisation of cryptocurrencies. Much of that is easier said. Cryptocurrencies come with their own set of challenges. Even a country as technologically advanced as the US will not be able to make this transition without hurting its

people. Work on legitimising cryptocurrencies will continue with great fanfare, but it is unlikely that the country will shift.

The power of the dollar as the world's reserve currency lost its credibility when the West (the EU and the US) ejected Russia from SWIFT. On the contrary, it has forced the rest of the world to think about alternatives, such as the common currency creation by BRICS nations. Embracing cryptocurrencies alone will not deliver credibility; bringing Russia back into SWIFT could—the chances of which seem high in Trump's second term.

Finally, there are other issues, such as visas. Here, despite Trump's goal to "stop the immigration invasion," Indians have a better shot. It is not immigrants that Trump is likely to stop or deport; it is illegal immigrants. Most Indians enter the US through the front door. Minor changes in immigration policy notwithstanding, the US will remain open to talent and, hence, Indians.

Above all, the return of Trump shows how mainstream media, with all its biases, narratives and ideologies, has become irrelevant to voting outcomes. Too busy endorsing Democrats, too obsessed with a far-Left future and too deaf to voices on the ground (and on podcasts), the US mainstream media will continue to condemn voters who have shifted lock, stock, and conversations to X, which Elon Musk defined as "real-time source of truth". (Courtesy: ORF)

## NATO's Indo-Pacific expansion lacks legality and common sense

By: **Jan Oberg**

South Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand sent their defence ministers to a NATO meeting in October 2024. While their heads of state and others have attended before, this was the first time these countries' defence ministers joined.

This more military-operative attendance signals that NATO is serious about its expansion into this region. From a politico-psychological angle, it also shows that expansion for the sake of expansion has become the raison d'être of the once-defensive alliance.

NATO has been searching for such a reason to exist ever since the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact dissolved about 35 years ago, and, by all logic, it ought to have been closed down, too.

The expansion happens in violation of NATO's Treaty of 1949. That Treaty is a copy of the UN Charter, refers disputes to the UN and states (Art 5) that members of the alliance are obliged to support any member should it be attacked from the outside.

Today, NATO has 32 members, but—incrementally and virtually without international attention—it has added 38 partner countries worldwide, including the four above-mentioned.

The category "partner" does not exist in NATO's Treaty—neither, by the way, do things like nuclear weapons and first-use of them, interventions or bombings in non-member states like Yugoslavia at the time, Kosovo, Libya, Ukraine, etc. These activ-

ities have no legal basis in NATO's Treaty; they are out-of-area and out-of-treaty operations.

One common sense and legal question arises: How far can an organisation deviate from its legal foundation without being investigated for possible illegal conduct—and which institution has the authority to investigate?

Here is how NATO motivates its creeping expansion on its homepage: "To enhance (their) mutual situational awareness of security developments in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the People's Republic of China's (PRC) stated ambitions and coercive policies in various domains, the deepening strategic partnership between the PRC and Russia, and the security situation on the Korean Peninsula... Partnership network strengthens security outside NATO territory, which makes NATO itself safer."

Regrettably, NATO's homepage does not contain any rational, empirically solid, multi-dimensional analysis that substantiates that China is a threat or "challenge" to NATO's members. The alliance today runs on postulates and outdated offensive deterrence and defence thinking. China is a problem because it has different values and interests. It sounds increasingly like sermons to a church congregation. According to a June 2023 report by the US Congressional Research Service about US infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific, "the United States maintains and

uses at least 66 significant defence sites spread across the region." (China has one military base worldwide in Djibouti).

In addition, the costs of Western permanent—increasing—naval presence and the tremendous costs of AUKUS, the trilateral partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States have increased. AUKUS Pillar 1 is about Australia acquiring nuclear-powered attack submarines and hosting such submarines from the US and UK.

Pillar 2 is about intensified collaboration in these high-tech areas: undersea capabilities, quantum technologies, AI and autonomy, advanced cyber, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities and electronic warfare. But the costs of upholding a worldwide militarist empire are unimagably high and self-destructive:

US military expenditures are US \$ 916 bn (at least, lots of items are not in the Pentagon budget) = 3.4% of its GDP. It is roughly as large as the next 9 top-ranking countries combined: China US\$ 296 bn/1.7% of GDP, Russia 130/6.3%, India 84/2.4%, Saudi Arabia 76/7.1%, UK 75/2.3%, Germany 67/1.5%, Ukraine 65/37%, France 61/2.1% and Japan 50/1.2%—all according to SIPRI, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Given these facts and the fact that it is the US that builds up tension against China and not the other way around—nobody threatens the West!—it is impossible to find any empirically

solid reason for the US/NATO postulate that China is a threat or "challenge."

It seems, rather, to be pathological—a psycho-political paranoia growing out of a) the subconscious but denied sense of relative decline and b) the permanent need for enemies to legitimise the existence of the out-of-democratic control MIMAC—Military-Industrial-Media-Academic Complex that the US has or, rather, is.

Macro historical studies of empire decline point to causes such as over-militarisation, shrinking legitimacy in the eyes of others, decline on all other power dimensions but the military and - of special importance - over-extension: the empire grows beyond management/control with a declining economic carrying capacity.

Since the US/NATO has already lost in more than one way in Ukraine (and all wars since Vietnam), the US may leave it (to the Europeans) and engage in yet another futile war in the Middle East—and then try to "pivot" to Taiwan/China. But by then, the Empire and NATO will have dissolved—like its Western brother, the Soviet Union—due to self-destructive, delusional policies and emotionalism devoid of vision, rational foreign policies and diplomacy. That is—over-extension, militarism and hubris.

And that's when we can hope to create a much better, peaceful and cooperative world. Remember, over the rainbow, skies are still blue. So too in the Indo-Pacific. (Courtesy: The Citizen)

## How Supreme Court finally checked 'bulldozer justice' – and why it may not be enough

By: **Vineet Bhalla**

The Supreme Court passed an important judgement on Wednesday to try and stop so-called bulldozer justice or the arbitrary demolition of homes of people accused of a crime.

The judgment unequivocally rules these extra-judicial demolitions are illegal. It provides detailed guidelines for municipal authorities to follow when demolishing any property as well as fixes personal responsibility on officers carrying out demolitions.

The judgment is significant for being the first final order against a spate of illegal demolitions that have gripped many states. However, it leaves significant gaps for authorities to still arbitrarily demolish homes since it does not apply to alleged encroachments on public land.

**Background of the case**  
There are no provisions in Indian law that allow for demolishing property as a punitive measure. Nevertheless, the practice has become commonplace, mainly in states ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party. The authorities in four BJP-ruled states and one Aam Aadmi Party-governed state punitively bulldozed 128 structures, mostly belonging to Muslims, between April and June 2022, human rights group Amnesty International said in a report in February.

In 2022, three public interest litigation petitions were filed in the Supreme Court against this. On September 17, as part of an interim order, a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan temporarily stayed demolitions across the country. However, the order did not apply to unauthorised constructions on public roads, footpaths, railway lines or public places. Even after the order, though, extra-judicial demolitions took place in Assam and Gujarat in September. The Supreme Court eventually stayed the demolitions in Assam but refused to intervene in Gujarat.

The bench reserved its judgement in the matter on October 1. In its verdict, written by Gavai, the bench referred to a number of legal principles and constitutional protections to arrive at its conclusion: that the executive branch of the government cannot hold someone guilty of an offence and demolish their residential or commercial property as punishment. It further held that such actions cannot be taken against those convicted of an offence either without following the prescribed legal process.

Gavai referred to the principle of rule of law—the broad legal principle encompassing that no one is above the law of the land and that every-

body is equal before the law—to hold that state action must be governed by established legal principles rather than arbitrary discretion of municipal authorities.

Gavai also referred to the constitutional principle of separation of powers. The executive cannot take upon itself the judiciary's core adjudicatory function of determining guilt or handing out punishment.

He also relied on the doctrine of public trust—the view that the executive exercises its powers as a "trustee" of citizens—to hold that the principles of public accountability and transparency are applicable to the exercise of government power. For inaction or irresponsible actions, responsibility should be fixed on erring officers, the judgement said.

Gavai's judgement further relied on the rights of accused: their right to dignity, protection from cruel or inhumane treatment and to punishment in accordance with law. It referred to the presumption of innocence under criminal law, the principle that an accused cannot be declared guilty unless proven so beyond reasonable doubt before a court.

The judgement also included in its ambit the rights of the family members of the accused, whose homes have been demolished as well. It emphasised their right to shelter, protected by Article 21 of the Constitution. It also noted that demolishing a house because one resident is accused or convicted of a crime inflicts collective punishment on the entire family. This is not allowed under India's constitutional framework.

**Debunking excuses**  
In the course of the hearings, the Solicitor General of India, on behalf of the Union government and various state governments, had argued that the demolition actions were taken against those guilty of encroaching on public land or violating municipal laws. That some of those whose properties were demolished were also accused of offences was entirely co-incidental, he had submitted.

The court rejected this argument. Gavai's judgement held that if only one among several structures is singled out for demolition, it suggests mala fide or dishonest intent. This could lead to the presumption that the real motive was punishing an accused without trial. It is up to the authorities to prove that there was no intent to penalise the accused, the court said. The order also held that authorities must not resort to demolition if the unauthorised structures can be regularised or partially removed.

**Directions passed**  
The bench passed detailed directions on the procedure to

be followed by municipal authorities to conduct demolitions.

No demolition should occur without a show cause notice served at least 15 days in advance. A personal hearing must also be provided to the person whose property is proposed to be demolished. The final order should include the noticee's arguments, reasons for any disagreement, whether the construction could be legally regularised and justification for full demolition in case partial measures aren't feasible.

The order must not be executed for 15 days to allow for appeals. If any unauthorised construction is not removed by the owner within 15 days, the authorities may proceed with the demolition, provided there is no stay from a higher authority.

If the affected party does not challenge the order, it must be given sufficient time to vacate and manage their affairs. The demolition must also be video-recorded and a report listing officials involved should be submitted to the municipal commissioner and posted publicly. Videos must be preserved for records.

Finally, any officer conducting an unlawful demolition would bear personal responsibility for restoring the property and paying damages.

**Why the verdict may fall short**

While the order was thorough, the court created a conspicuous exception. It held that the directions do not apply to unauthorised structures on public places like roads, footpaths or near water bodies, or when a court has ordered demolition.

This is the same exception that the court had carved out in its interim stay order passed in September. In the wake of that order, many demolitions had continued under the guise of removing encroachments from public places.

Often, municipal authorities have carried out punitive demolitions on the pretext of removing structures built on footpaths. Scroll's reporting has shown that the Uttarakhhand government appears to have selectively targeted Muslim places of worship over the last two years on the pretext of removing encroachments from government land and public spaces. The judgement also does nothing to address the hundreds of demolitions that have taken place while the petitions were pending before the Supreme Court—either in terms of providing compensation to the victims of the demolitions or fixing accountability on errant officers. These demolitions have been acknowledged by the court to have been unconstitutional. (Courtesy: Scroll.in)

## Israel, Palestine and a divided Africa: Seeking a path forward

By: **Manish Karmwar**

The ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Palestine, which began on October 7, 2023, marks a significant military engagement in the region, being the largest confrontation since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. This conflict has global ramifications, with the African continent likely to feel its effects profoundly. Africa, with its 55 countries and diverse political landscape, is particularly vulnerable to such geopolitical divides.

Africa's Divided Stance on Israel-Palestine: African countries vary widely in their stance on the Israel-Palestine issue, often shaped by historical, ideological, and economic factors. Pro-Palestinian countries like Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Senegal, Mali, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Libya support Palestine, often viewing the Palestinian struggle through the lens of their anti-colonial histories. In contrast, several nations, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Morocco, and Chad, have established close relations with Israel, motivated by economic, technological, and security interests. Additionally, neutral

countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan maintain diplomatic ties with both Israel and Palestine, typically refraining from favoring one side over the other. At the continental level, the African Union (AU) has traditionally supported Palestine's statehood and criticised Israeli policies.

A Deeper Look at Africa's Reactions: African responses to the Gaza conflict highlight the continent's fractured stance on foreign policy issues. In South Africa, for instance, public protests have likened the Palestinian struggle to the country's anti-apartheid movement.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has voiced strong support for Palestine, and his government filed a lawsuit against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Algeria's Foreign Minister similarly condemned Israeli actions, citing international law, while Comoros President Azali Assoumani labeled Israeli actions as genocidal.

On the other hand, several sub-Saharan nations, including South Sudan, Cameroon, Togo, and Cape Verde, chose not to support the recent United Nations resolution

calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Even Muslim-majority countries like Morocco, Chad, and Sudan have limited their response to public condemnations without altering diplomatic ties. Malawi and Kenya recently agreed to send laborers to Israel following a halt in work permits for Palestinians, further signaling the complexities in Africa's stance.

Africa and Israel share a complex, long-standing relationship that dates back to before Israel's founding. Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, expressed support for African liberation, envisioning solidarity between Jews and Africans in their quest for self-determination. This vision gained traction in the 1960s, with Israel maintaining a strong presence in Africa, including 33 embassies across the continent. Israel's model of decolonisation and development attracted the admiration of African leaders who saw parallels in their own struggles for independence.

However, following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, pressure from Arab countries led many African states to sever ties with Israel. This led to a period of estrangement, with African leaders feeling frus-

trated by unmet promises from Arab allies, particularly in the realm of energy cooperation. Gradually, ties began to thaw, and by the early 21st century, Israel was once again seeking partnerships in Africa, with diplomatic and economic collaborations resuming.

In recent years, Israel's outreach has intensified. In 2016, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited East Africa, and a year later, he addressed the Economic Community of West African States. In 2022, Israel and several African nations agreed to expand cooperation in renewable energy, trade, and technology. Kenya's President William Ruto visited Israel in 2023, further strengthening ties in agriculture, climate change, security, and other sectors. These relationships are essential for African nations, many of which aim to modernise infrastructure and boost economic growth through partnerships with technologically advanced countries like Israel.

Given the historical context and current diplomatic landscape, it appears unlikely that the Gaza conflict will irreparably divide Africa. (Courtesy: The Pioneer)

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is warning that the "space for negotiation and diplomacy

## Head of UN's nuclear watchdog visits Iran as Mideast wars, Trump's return raise worries

**DUBAI, Nov 14:** The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned on Thursday that the "space for negotiation and diplomacy ... is getting smaller" over Iran's advancing atomic programme as wars in the Mideast rage and as President Donald Trump will return to the White House.

Rafael Mariano Grossi of the IAEA was visiting Tehran in an effort to restore his inspectors' access to Iran's program and answer still-outstanding questions over it as he has on previous trips with limited success since Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from the Islamic Republic's nuclear deal with world powers.

However, the remarks from both Grossi and his Iranian counterpart at a news conference suggested sizeable gaps still exist, even as some countries are pushing to take action against Iran at an upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting.

"We know that it is indispensable to get, at this point of time, to get some concrete, tangible and visible results that will indicate that this joint work is improving (the) situation, is bringing clarification to things and in a general sense it is moving us away from conflict and ultimately war," Grossi said.

Since the deal's collapse in 2018, Iran has abandoned all limits on its programme, and



enriches uranium to up to 60 per cent purity — near weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

Surveillance cameras installed by the IAEA have been disrupted, while Iran has barred some of the Vienna-based agency's most experienced inspectors.

Iranian officials also have increasingly threatened that they could pursue atomic weapons, something the West and the IAEA has been worried about for years since Tehran abandoned an organised weapons programme in 2003.

Speaking at a news conference with Mohammad Eslami of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, Grossi stressed that while the IAEA and Iran continued to negotiate, time was not necessarily on their side.

"The fact that international tensions and regional tensions do exist — this shows that the

space for negotiation and diplomacy is not getting bigger, it is getting smaller," Grossi said.

Before appearing with Eslami, Grossi met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who later wrote on the social platform X that "differences can be resolved through cooperation and dialogue".

However, he warned Tehran was "NOT ready to negotiate under pressure and intimidation."

Some politicians have even suggested Iran abandon the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, known as the NPT, and pursue the bomb.

Araghchi referred to Iran as "a committed member of NPT", though Eslami in his remarks warned Iran could retaliate if challenged at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting.

Grossi acknowledged some

nations were considering taking action against Iran.

"We have repeatedly said any resolution seeking to intervene in the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear affairs will be definitely followed by immediate reciprocal steps and we will not allow them to (exert) this kind of pressure," Eslami said.

Journalists at the news conference, as well as Eslami, criticised Israel for its longtime sabotage and assassination campaign targeting Iran's nuclear programme.

Some noted Israeli officials had threatened Iran's nuclear sites as targets for potential retaliation as Iran and Israel trade direct attacks amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's ground and air offensive in Lebanon.

"The answer is in what we do here, what we, the IAEA, and Iran can do in terms of solving the questions at hand," Grossi said, describing "a situation of tension" with Iran's nuclear programme at its core.

"I am here to work with Iran, (to) try to find adequate solutions to ease tensions, to move forward. This is my target. This is my concern. And I am confident that we are going to be able to do it," he said.

But as the two men ended the news conference to shouted questions from journalists, neither had offered any sign a breakthrough was imminent. (AP)

## Voting ends in SLanka's parliamentary election that's key for its new Marxist-leaning president

**COLOMBO, Nov 14:** Sri Lankans voted in a parliamentary election on Thursday that is key for the country's new, Marxist-leaning president to consolidate his party's power and follow through on promises of economic recovery.

Voting ended at 4 p.m. local time with more than 17 million people eligible to vote. Details on the voter turnout were not immediately available.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake won the presidential election on Sept. 21 in a victory that marked a rejection of the traditional political parties, which have governed the island nation since its independence from British rule in 1948.

However, Dissanayake's failure to secure more than 50% of the vote has fueled concerns over his party's outlook in Thursday's election.

His National People's Power party must increase its votes significantly — from the 42% it won in the presidential election — if it is to acquire a minimum of 113 seats to take control of the 225-member Parliament.

The biggest challenge for the NPP — which was founded in 2019 and is a relative newcomer on Sri Lanka's political scene — is that many of its candidates are new faces in politics running against well-established politicians from the traditional parties.

After casting his vote, Dissanayake called on voters to give his party a strong mandate to implement his programs.

Of the 225 parliament seats, 196 are up for grabs under Sri Lanka's proportional representative electoral system, which allocates seats in each district among the parties according to the proportion of the votes they get. The remaining 29 seats — called the national list seats — are allocated to parties and independent groups according to the proportion of the total votes they receive countrywide.

There are 8,821 candidates vying for the 196 seats for elected members of Parliament.

Sajith Premadasa, who came in second in the presidential election and his Samagi Jana Balawegaya, or United People's Power party, is NPP's main competition. Dissanayake, while campaigning for his party's candidates, has called on

voters to help elect them to Parliament so he won't need to rely on a coalition to enact the reforms he promised.

Election results are expected on Friday. The election comes at a decisive time for Sri Lankans, as the island nation is struggling to emerge from its worst economic crisis, having declared bankruptcy after defaulting on its external debt in 2022.

The country is now in the middle of a bailout program with the International Monetary Fund and debt restructuring with international creditors nearly complete. Dissanayake had said during the presidential campaign that he planned to propose significant changes to the targets set in the IMF deal, which his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe signed, saying it placed too much burden on the people. However, he has since changed his stance and says Sri Lanka will go along with the agreement.

Sri Lanka's crisis was largely the result of economic mismanagement combined with fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, which along with 2019 terrorist attacks devastated its important tourism industry. The pandemic also disrupted the flow of remittances from Sri Lankans working abroad.

The government also slashed taxes in 2019, depleting the treasury just as the virus hit. Foreign exchange reserves plummeted, leaving Sri Lanka unable to pay for imports or defend its currency, the rupee.

Sri Lanka's economic upheaval led to a political crisis that forced then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign in 2022. Parliament then elected Wickremesinghe to replace him.

The economy was stabilized, inflation dropped, the local currency strengthened and foreign reserves increased under Wickremesinghe. Nonetheless, he lost the election as public dissatisfaction grew over the government's effort to increase revenue by raising electricity bills and imposing heavy new income taxes on professionals and businesses, as part of the government's efforts to meet the IMF conditions.

Dissanayake's promise to punish members of previous governments accused of corruption and to recover allegedly stolen assets has also raised much hope among the people. (AP)



## China's president will unveil a megaport in Peru, but locals say they're being left out



**CHANCAY, Nov 14:** On the edge of Peru's coastal desert, a remote fishing town where a third of all residents have no running water is being transformed into a huge deep-water port to cash in on the inexorable rise of Chinese interest in resource-rich South America.

The megaport of Chancay, a \$1.3 billion project majority-owned by the Chinese shipping giant Cosco, is turning this outpost of bobbing fishing boats into an important node of the global economy. China's President Xi Jinping inaugurates the port Thursday during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Peru.

The development — expected to encompass 15 quays and a large industrial park drawing more than \$3.5 billion in investment over a decade — has met a skeptical response from impoverished villagers, who say it is depriving them of fishing waters and bringing no economic benefit to locals.

"Our fishing spots no longer exist here. They destroyed them," said 78-year-old fisherman Julius Caesar — "like the emperor of Rome" — gesturing toward the dockside cranes. "I don't blame the Chinese for trying to mine this place for all its worth. I blame our government for not protecting us."

The Peruvian government hopes the port 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of Lima will become a strategic transshipment hub for the region, opening a new line connecting South America to Asia and speeding trade across the Pacific for Peru's blueberries, Brazil's soybeans and Chile's copper, among other exports. Officials cite the port's potential to generate millions of dollars in revenues and turn coastal cities into so-called special economic zones with tax breaks to lure investment.

"We Peruvians are focused primarily on the well-being of Peruvians." Foreign Minister Elmer Schialer told The Associated Press.

But many of Chancay's 60,000 residents are un-

convinced. Fishermen returning to port with smaller catches complain that they have already lost out.

The dredging of the port — which sucked sediment from the seabed to create a shipping channel 17 meters (56 feet) deep — has ruined fish breeding grounds, locals said.

"I've been out in the water all day and I'm always needing to venture farther," said Rafael Avila, a 28-year-old fisherman with sand in his hair, returning to shore empty-handed and exhausted.

"This used to be enough," he said, pointing at his painted dinghy. "Now I need a larger, more expensive boat to reach the fish."

To make extra cash, Avila started offering occasional joyrides to selfie-taking visitors wanting to get a glimpse at the hulking Chinese ships.

With some of the world's largest container ships to berth at Chancay Port in January 2025, residents also fear the arrival of pollution and oil spills. In 2022, a botched tanker delivery at La Pampilla refinery nearby sent thousands of barrels of crude oil spilling into Peru's famously biodiverse waters, killing countless fish and putting legions of fishermen out of work.

Today a glance at the moribund town center, featuring mostly empty seafood restaurants, tells the story of diminished fishing stocks and decimated tourism even without the port being operational.

The port's breakwater changed the currents and destroyed good surfing conditions, locals said, affecting everyone from ice vendors to truckers to restaurant owners.

"No to the megaport" is spray-painted on a wall overlooking the waterfront.

"This port is a monster that's come here to screw us," said 40-year-old Rosa Collantes, cleaning and gutting slimy drum fish on the shore. "People come to the port and they say 'Wow, tremendous!' but they don't see the reality."

Port authorities say they're aware of the stark contrast between the sleek modern port and the surrounding village of Chancay, where many live on unpaved roads lined with ragged shacks and littered with trash.

"You cannot build a state-of-the-art port and have a city next to it that has no drinking water, no sewage, a collapsing hospital and no educational centers," said Mario de las Casas, a manager for Cosco in Chancay, adding that the company had already launched studies to determine how the port could help reduce inequality and spur local growth.

"The port should not be a blemish," De las Casas said. (AP)

## Bilateral relations between India, UAE at new heights: Jaishankar

**DUBAI, Nov 14:** The ties between India and the UAE have reached new heights, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday, highlighting collaborations in sectors such as fintech, renewable energy, infrastructure, and defence. Speaking at the inauguration of the Symbiosis International (Deemed University) campus here, Jaishankar emphasised how Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to the UAE in 2015, which was the first visit by an In-

dian prime minister in over a century to the emirate state, marked the new beginning of bilateral ties between the two countries.

"India-UAE ties are today truly in an era of new milestones. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit in 2015 was the first in the century, and so are our Comprehensive Economic Partnerships for negotiating on record time," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said the launch of the Symbiosis campus in Dubai was part

of a broader trend that reflected the growing educational and cultural exchanges between India and the UAE.

"India today needs to prepare for the global workplace. Equally, it has to be ready for the era of chips, electric mobility, clean and green technologies, renewable energy, space and roads. It also has to manage the growth of these possibilities by making them environment-friendly and market-viable. By doing

so, it has to continuously communicate amongst ourselves the benefits of contemporary education structure as education can reclaim all these tasks," the minister said.

The minister said the exposure to quality education would give us a special ability to deal with the world and advance national prospects, exuding confidence that Symbiosis would replicate its outstanding quality of teaching to prepare students for 21st-century skills. (PTI)

## Thousands of police officers but few visiting fans for France-Israel soccer match after attacks

**PARIS, Nov 14:** A heavy police presence but few visiting fans are expected when France hosts Israel in Nations League soccer on Thursday, a week after violence erupted in Amsterdam in connection with an Israeli club team's visit.

French police chief Laurent Nuñez said 4,000 police officers and security staff will be deployed around the Stade de France, with another 1,500 police on public transport. Paris authorities are on high alert following the violence in Amsterdam before and after a Europa League match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv. Dutch authorities say fans from both sides were involved in the unrest. The assaults on Maccabi fans sparked outrage and were widely condemned as antisemitic.

"What we learned from Amsterdam is that we need to be present in the public space including far away from the stadium," and in public transports before and after the match, Nuñez said Thursday on French news broadcaster France Info.

Three months after hosting the Olympic closing ceremony, the at-



mosphere has gone from festive to fearful and the national stadium was expected to be three-quarters empty for the match. French President Emmanuel Macron and French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau will be present. Former presidents Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy are also to attend.

Only 20,000 of 80,000 tickets have been sold with around 150 Israeli supporters reportedly attending, escorted by police.

"We've tried to prepare for this match as normally as possible. But obviously none of us within the team can be insensitive to such a heavy context," France coach Didier Deschamps said Wednesday. "It impacts the amount of supporters present tomorrow and everything that goes with it."

The away match against Israel on Oct. 10 — which France won 4-1 — was played in Budapest, Hungary.

"These are situations the players are not accustomed to," Deschamps said. "But we have to adapt."

The low number of visiting fans comes after Israel's National Security Council warned citizens abroad to avoid sports and cultural events, specifically the match in Paris.

Retailleau told French news channel TF1 on Tuesday that no specific threats were identified but "zero risk does not exist." Therefore, he said, exceptional measures are in place "before the match, during the match and after the match." The elite tactical unit of the French National Police, known as RAID, will be in the stadium and some police will be in plain clothes mingling with fans. There will also be heavy surveillance within Paris, including at Jewish places of worship and schools.

"It is out of the question that we take the risk of seeing a repeat of the dramatic events, of the manhunt, that we saw in Amsterdam," Retailleau said, adding that postponing or moving the game elsewhere was ruled out. (AP)

## An explosion in a house kills 2 children in a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban

**PESHAWAR, Nov 14:** A powerful explosion ripped through a house in a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban on Thursday, killing at least two children and wounding some others, police said.

Police were still investigating what caused the blast including whether someone was handling explosives to make bomb, local police chief Irfan Khan said.

The blast happened in Mir Ali, a city in the northwest province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which borders Afghanistan and where Pakistani Taliban and other insurgents often target security forces with suicide bombings and other violence.

Elsewhere in the province on Thursday, a suicide bomber riding a motorcycle set off an explosive device prematurely on a deserted road in Charsadda district, killing himself but harming no one else, police said.

Local police official Masood Khan said the intended target was unclear and bomb disposal experts and police were still investigating whether the man was wearing the explosives or they were attached to his motorcycle.

The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, are separate from the Afghan Taliban but have been emboldened by the group's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. (AP)



## SA govt says won't help 4,000 illegal miners inside closed mine

**JOHANNESBURG, Nov 14:** South Africa's government says it will not help 4,000 illegal miners inside a closed mine in the country's North West province who have been denied access to basic supplies as part of an official strategy against illegal mining.

The miners in the mineshaft in Stilfontein are believed to be suffering from a lack of food, water and other basic necessities after police closed off the entrances used to transport their supplies underground.

It is part of the police's Vala Umgodi, or Close the Hole, operation, which includes cutting off miners' supplies to force them to return to the surface and be arrested.

North West police spokesperson Sabata Mokgwabone said information received from those who recently helped bring three miners to the surface indicated an estimated 4,000 miners may be underground. In the past



few weeks, over 1,000 miners have surfaced at various mines in North West province, with many reported to be weak, hungry and sickly after going for weeks without basic supplies. Police continue on Thursday to guard areas around the mine to catch all those appearing from underground.

Cabinet Minister Khumudzo Ntshavheni told reporters on Wednesday that the government would not send any help to the illegal miners because they are involved in a criminal

act. "We are not sending help to criminals. We are going to smoke them out. They will come out. Criminals are not to be helped. We didn't send them there," Ntshavheni said.

Illegal mining remains common in South Africa's old gold-mining areas, with miners going into closed shafts to dig for any possible remaining deposits.

The illegal miners are often from neighbouring countries, and police say the illegal operations involve larger syndicates that employ the miners.

Their presence in closed mines have also created problems with nearby communities, which complain that the illegal miners commit crimes ranging from robberies to rape. Illegal mining groups are known to be heavily armed and disputes between rival groups sometimes result in fatal confrontations. (AP)

## Pak court rejects Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi's acquittal request in Toshakhana II case

**ISLAMABAD, Nov 14:** A court in Pakistan on Thursday rejected former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi's acquittal requests in the Toshakhana-II case.

Special Judge of Central Islamabad, Shahrukh Arjumand, during the hearing at the Adiala Jail, rejecting the acquittal requests, announced that charges would be formally framed against them on Monday.

Bushra Bibi was not present in court during the hearing. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) confirming the trial court's order said: "This case doesn't merit

proceedings as the prosecution admitted that Imran Khan did not gain any personal benefit from the case, neither do the proceedings meet the law."

It said the case was originally filed by the National Accountability Bureau and unlawfully referred to the Federal Investigation Agency after amendments in the law.

Khan, 72, has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence motion in 2022.

He has been kept in custody for well over a year. (PTI)

# Party calls for safe return of six abducted in Jiribam Manipur BJP demands family's release

**IMPHAL, Nov 14:** Manipur BJP president Sharda Devi on Thursday called for the immediate release of the three women and three children allegedly abducted by militants in Jiribam district.

She termed the alleged abduction of six members of a family from Borobekra and Jakuradhor in Jiribam as "unfortunate" and demanded their release on humanitarian grounds. "We demand the immediate release of the abducted six members of a family without any harm on humanitarian grounds. We from BJP appeal to them (armed miscreants) for their release", Sharda Devi told reporters at the BJP office here.

"We strongly condemn the violence on common people by armed miscreants. The violence which had renewed once again recently has left us devastated. The abduction of six members of a family is unfortunate. We met Governor (Lak-



shman Prasad Acharyya) in Assam who in front of us instructed officials to take actions against miscreants who are responsible for violence", she added.

Normal life was affected in Manipur's Imphal Valley on Wednesday due to a total shutdown called by 13 civil rights organisations to protest the alleged abduction of three women and three children by militants in Jiribam district.

Police said purported photographs of the six missing persons in captivity of militants doing the rounds on social media could not be confirmed and the rescue operations were on to trace them.

More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year. Ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes in Imphal Valley and the adjoining hills, witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year. (PTI)

# Present BJP government fails to safeguard children: Tripura Cong

**AGARTALA, Nov 14:** Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Ashish Kumar Saha criticized the state government on Thursday for its lack of commitment to child protection, urging immediate action to safeguard children's welfare.

During an event commemorating the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, Saha highlighted Nehru's legacy and contributions towards children's welfare. "We are celebrating the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a leader who had a profound love for children," Saha said, speaking at the gathering. "In his memory, the state committee of Congress organized painting and dance competitions for children, marking this day as Children's Day—a day dedicated to securing the future and well-being of children across the country."

Saha emphasized that Pandit Nehru envisioned a nation that safeguarded its children and promoted peace and progress. However, he expressed concern over the current state of child safety, noting a surge in cases of abuse, including rape and assault, both nationally and within Tripura. "The Pradesh Congress Committee has consistently raised these issues with the state government, but to date, no effective action has been taken," he said.

He further urged the government to take concrete steps to address critical issues like child labor, crime prevention, healthcare, and educational support for children. "The administration has the power to bring about change, yet the current government appears indifferent towards the safety and welfare of children," Saha added, calling for stronger measures to protect young lives across the state.



## Security forces seize arms, ammunition from Manipur's Jiribam, Churachandpur districts

**IMPHAL, Nov 14:** Security forces seized a cache of arms and ammunition from Manipur's Jiribam and Churachandpur districts, police said on Thursday. The security forces during cordon and search operations in Champanagar, Narayanpur and Thangboinjre areas of Jiribam district on Wednesday district seized one 2-inch mortar, thirty-six live barrel cartridges and five empty barrel cartridges, a police statement said. From H Kotliyan village in Churachandpur district the security forces seized one .303 rifle, one 9mm pistol, two short-range locally made cannon, two long-range locally made cannon, five AK 47 live rounds, two 9mm live rounds, four 12 bore cart cases, and eighteen .303 rifle modified live rounds, the statement said. (PTI)

## Tripura gov't plans district meetings to curb price hikes

**AGARTALA, Nov 14:** Tripura's Food and Civil Supplies Minister, Sushanta Chowdhury, announced on Thursday that the government is considering organizing district-wise meetings with market associations to help stabilize the prices of essential goods and improve coordination across the state.

The minister, who also oversees the tourism department, shared this update during a state-level review meeting of the Food and Civil Supplies Department. He noted that the initiative aims to establish a calendar for these district meetings, where key issues such as pricing, supply, and coordination will be addressed.

"Today, we are holding a review meeting with officials from all regions of the state to evaluate the performance of the department and the Public Distribution System (PDS). Recently, a train derailment in Badarpur affected fuel supplies, but fuel is expected to be fully restored by tonight. From December, we will start procuring paddy from the Rabi season harvest. These topics, along with other departmental matters, are on the agenda for discussion," Chowdhury said.

Addressing the issue of price rises, he noted

that staple items like onions and potatoes fall outside the purview of the Food Department and the PDS. However, the local administration is monitoring prices closely and conducting raids to curb any price inflation. "Although potatoes and onions are agricultural products, our department assists in monitoring prices. Department officials have been active in the raids, not just in Agartala but across Tripura, to prevent black marketing and penalize traders engaged in such practices. Floods have disrupted production in some regions, leading us to import vegetables from Meghalaya, Assam, and West Bengal. Consequently, prices in Tripura are higher due to added transportation costs, but we aim to control these prices as much as possible," he added.

Chowdhury further announced plans to roll out a district-wise calendar for meetings with market officials, association leaders, and ration shop dealers. The initiative seeks to improve coordination, foster better market practices, and address rising commodity prices through concerted efforts.

"To effectively manage the prices of essential goods, it's essential to hold accountable those involved in black marketing," he concluded.

## Guv Ganesan lauds Nagaland police officers for their commitment to excellence

**DIMAPUR, Nov 14:** Nagaland Governor La Ganesan on Thursday lauded Nagaland police officers for their commitment to excellence in both their professional responsibilities and athletic pursuits. Ganesan was addressing the inaugural programme of the 40th Nagaland police duty-cum-sports meet 2024 at Chumukedima police complex. He said that the event is seen as an opportunity to highlight values crucial to law enforcement, including integrity, teamwork, and resilience. He also adds that the event is seen as an opportunity to highlight values crucial to law enforcement, including integrity, teamwork, and resilience.

Ganesan said the Nagaland police meet not only tests physical abilities but also aims to strengthen camaraderie, unity, and share the joy of police personnel beyond the daily demands of duty. He acknowledged the essential balance between duty and recreation, emphasising how these sporting events contribute to the holistic development of the officers.

The governor also paid tributes to the families and loved ones of the police personnel, whose support is vital to the officers' strength and dedication. "Saying that the sacrifices made by families are recognised as the foundation of a strong and humane police force, he said the event is expected to foster lasting bonds among police units, creating memories and experiences that transcend the competitive arena."

## Sumi Naga celebrates Ahuna festival Zunheboto hosts vibrant Ahuna festival of unity and heritage

**DIMAPUR, Nov 14:** Ahuna, a post-harvest festival of the Sumi Naga tribe, was celebrated with a spirit of oneness, exuberant exhibition of rich cultural heritage and fusion of modern entities at Zunheboto District Sports Council ground on Thursday.

Across the vast Sumi Naga-inhabited areas in the core of Nagaland and beyond, traditional festivals hold a special place in the hearts and lives of its people. These vibrant celebrations are more than just moments of joy and festivity. They are a profound expression of cultural heritage, deep-rooted traditions, and communal values.

Organised by the Sumi Hoho, the apex body of the Sumi tribe, adviser to food and civil supplies and legal metrology K Tokugha Sukhalu graced the occasion as 'Ahuna Papu', a title given to a person who presides over the Ahuna festival.

In his address, Sukhalu underscored the importance of valuing one's traditions, customs, and cultural practices handed down by the forefathers.

He reminded that Zunheboto, located at the centre of Nagaland, is one of the oldest districts in the state, blessed with a rich history that should be honoured and maintained with respect and dignity by the present generation and carried on to the future generations as well.

Further, Sukhalu stressed the evolving nature of traditions and cultural practices, acknowledging that while some customs may change with time, the core values such as honesty, hard work, generosity, courage and community must remain primary to the Sumi identity.

He pointed out that traditions do not necessarily conflict with economic progress. He urged the community to be cautious of misleading information in today's digital age, emphasising the importance of unity and shared goals for the survival and growth of the Sumi people. Reflecting on how Nagaland has changed over the years, Sukhalu highlighted the growing competition for jobs, the need for higher qualifications, and the necessity for hard work and dedication in today's world.

He cautioned that relying on shortcuts, like backdoor opportunities, would only leave the community lagging behind in a rapidly evolving society. He exhorted the younger generation to focus on education, as it remains the key to the community's future progress.

Sukhalu urged the Sumi community to reflect on the true meaning of the festivals, especially Ahuna and Tuluni, which are celebrations of agricultural labour, reiterating that these festivals are not just about the harvest, but about honouring the dignity of labour and coming together as a community to celebrate prosperity with unity.

Historical and ritualistic significance of the Ahuna festival was highlighted by former Sumi Hoho president Dr HS Rotokha.

A series of enthralling performances, including special presentations, Sumi war dance and Tishole by students were the highlights of the day.

The cultural festivities were complemented by a series of traditional competitions, including spear kicking and rhythmic jumping, showcasing the physical prowess and agility of the participants.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Mantu Bordoloi, S/O - Prafulla Bordoloi, R/O- Vill-Dighabori part, P.O.- Dighabori, P.S.- Morigaon, Dist- Morigaon (Assam) have corrected my father's name from Fafalu Bordoloi to Prafulla Bordoloi through Morigaon District Magistrate on 4/11/2024. Prafulla Bordoloi and Fafalu Bordoloi is the same and one person.

**ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT TINSUKIA**  
**E-Tender Notice No. M-TSK-2024-18 Dated: 12-11-2024.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. M-TSK-2024-18.** **Name of work:** Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Quick Watering System at Mariani Railway Station for a period of 02 (two) years. **Tender Value:** ₹41,08,703/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹82,200/-. **Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender:** 13.00 hrs. of 04-12-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). **DRM (M), Tinsukia Division NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** Serving Customers With A Smile

**BG TRR (S) WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION**  
**Tender Notice No. : LMG/Engg/155 of 2024. Dated: 11-11-2024.** E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Brief Description of Item :** BG TRR(S) of existing 52Kg rail by 52Kg(S/H) (90 UTS) rail at Panikhati(L-1 & 4), Thakurkuchi (L-1 & 4), Pambari (L-1 & 4), Digaru (L-1), Tetelia (L-1), Kamrup Khethri (L-4), Barahu (L-4 & 5), Jagiroad (L-5), Aujuri (L-4), Thekeraguri (L-1 & 4), Chaparmukh Jn. (L-4), Kamrup (L-4), Lamsakhang Yard (L-1), Lumding Yard (L-1.5.6, Saloon Siding & Goods Siding), Bar Langfer Yard (L-1 & 3), Habaipur Yard (L-1), Dhaipukhuri Yard (L-1) & Jamunamukh Yard (L-4) (Total=24.901 Km) in the section Guwahati-Lumding and Chaparmukh Jn.-Senchoa Jn. (SL) & Senchoa Jn.-Haibargaon (SL)-TFR (25.80 Km) under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/ILumding. **Tender Value:** ₹2,01,97,589/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹2,51,000/-, **Date & time of closing of above tender at 15:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. **DRM (W), Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** Serving Customers With A Smile

**No.EE(Agri.)/Koj/BTC/RKYV/2024-25 Dated:-13/11/2024**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
Sealed tender affixing non-refundable court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only are invited in plain papers from Govt. registered contractors of Agriculture Department of Class-I, II & III category, according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the work stated below. The tender will be accepted up to 3.00P.M. on 21-11-2024 and will be opened on the same late and place at 3.30 P.M. vide A/A No. BTC/AGRI/CSS/74/2024-AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE DEPT-BTC/58, DTD. 12/11/2024

Sl. No.	Name of works	Value of works (Approx.) (Rs.)	Time of completion of works	Earnest money	Remarks
1	Construction of Poly House in BTAD area under RKVY-RAFTAAR for the year 2024-25	9,99,784.00	30 days	2% (1% in case of ST/SC/MOBC/OBC)	

Detailed estimates and schedule of rates can be seen in the office during office hours.  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (Agriculture),  
Kokrajhar Division, BTC, Kokrajhar

**IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/871**

**ENGAGEMENT UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, ASSAM**  
No. SSA-15015/49/2024-EssH/V745080/2024

The Samagra Shiksha, Axom invites online applications from Indian Citizens (as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India) for the under mentioned positions under Samagra Shiksha Axom on contractual basis. The online applications will be received from **15.11.2024 to 29.11.2024**. The posts are temporary in nature and the selected candidates will be initially engaged for a period of 11 (eleven) months only. The contractual engagement will neither be regularized under Samagra Shiksha Axom nor will be absorbed under any job/programme of Government of Assam in future and no person (s) so engaged shall have any right (s) to claim for permanent absorption in any post (s) in the government or in the Samagra Shiksha, Assam. The nos. of posts may be increased or decreased.

**Age for categories of post :** The candidate should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 62 years of age as on 01-01-2024.

The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Matriculation/HSLC Admit Card or Pass Certificate issued by a recognized Board/ Council and no other document shall be accepted in lieu of the mentioned documents.

Sl No	Name of the Post	Essential Qualification and Experience	Pay in Pay Band in Rs.	Grade Pay in Rs.	No. of Post at District Mission Offices
1	District Programme Officer (Teachers Training & Pedagogy)	Post Graduation in Arts or Science with at least 60% marks, having B.Ed and minimum Five Years of experience as Teacher/Teacher Education/Educational Administrator State Government/ Central under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization and having Computer Literacy. <b>Desirable Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> • DIET/BTC/Normal School Faculty • Lecturer in B.Ed. Colleges • Candidates having M.Ed.	22000/- 87000/-	11500/-	08
2	District Programme Officer (Inclusive Education)	<b>Essential Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> • Post graduate with minimum one year experience of working with an organization dealing with education of children with disabilities under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization • Computer Literacy <b>Desirable Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> • Registered Member of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) • Degree/Diploma in Special Education • M.A in Psychology	22000/- 87000/-	11500/-	03
3	District Programme Officer (Community Participation)	<b>Essential Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> Post Graduate Degree with minimum four years of programme management experience in relevant field/area e.g. • Non-formal Education • Elementary Education • Community Participation • Social Sector, NGO Projects in Education, Health etc. under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization • Computer Literacy <b>Desirable Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> • Experience in Educational Planning & Management	22000/- 87000/-	11500/-	06
4	District Programme Officer (Alternative Schooling)	<b>Essential Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> Post Graduate Degree with minimum four years of programme management experience in relevant field/area e.g. • Non-formal Education • Elementary Education • Community Participation • Social Sector, NGO Projects in Education, Health etc. under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization • Computer Literacy <b>Desirable Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> • Experience in Educational Planning & Management	22000/- 87000/-	11500/-	03
5	District Programme Officer (Special Training)	<b>Essential Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> Post Graduate Degree with minimum four years of programme management experience in relevant field/area e.g. • Non-formal Education • Elementary Education • Community Participation • Social Sector, NGO Projects in Education, Health etc. under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization • Computer Literacy <b>Desirable Qualification &amp; Experiences</b> Experience in Educational Planning & Management	22000/- 87000/-	11500/-	03
6	District Programmer (MIS)	1 <sup>st</sup> Class BE/B Tech in Computer Science/ Electronics/T or MCA with minimum one year of experience in database management and in house software development under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization.	22000/- 87000/-	11500/-	05

**N.B.-**

- The link of the recruitment portal will be available in the Samagra Shiksha website <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>
- Read the User Guidelines carefully which is available on the recruitment portal on how to submit the online application form.
- Claims for any correction will not be entertained after submitting the online registration and online application.
- Before filling the on-line application, applicant has to go through the User Guidelines for online registration and online application.
- Candidate must upload the supporting document of educational qualification, experience and others through portal.
- Only eligible candidates will have to appear in test/interview, the exact date of which will be communicated separately.
- A candidate must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient discharge of his/ her duties as an Officer of the service.
- The exact date & time of the Test/ Interview will be communicated to the shortlisted candidates separately.
- Marking pattern will be on General Awareness, Personality & Aptitude, Subject matter in relevant field, Relevant Experience, etc. for the post. The applicant has to obtain minimum 50% of the total marks on the above in the interview and only then the candidates will be short-listed.
- The office will not be responsible for any non submission of online application due to any error or other problem.
- The decision of the Selection Committee in all aspects and all respects pertaining to the application and its acceptance or rejection as the case may be, conduct of test and at all subsequent stages concluding in the selection or otherwise of any candidate shall be final in all respects and binding on all concerned. The Mission also reserves its right to alter and modify time and conditions laid down in the notification for conducting the various stages up to selection or withdraw the Notification at any time, duly intimating details thereof to all concerned, as warranted by any unforeseen circumstances arising during the course of this process, or as deemed necessary by the Mission at any stage.

Janasanyog /DF/1402/24/15-Nov-24

Sd/- Mission Director,  
Samagra Shiksha Axom  
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

# Cong, allies hatching scheme for separate Constitution in Kashmir: PM Modi

**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Nov 14:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Congress and its allies are hatching a scheme to have a separate Constitution for Kashmir, and making all efforts for restoration of Article 370.

"Will the people of Maharashtra support the Congress and its allies who speak the language of Pakistan," Modi said, addressing a rally in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar for the November 20 state assembly elections.

"Congress and its colleagues have passed a resolution to restore Article 370," he said.

"When we made Kashmir free from Article 370, Congress opposed this in Parliament and court. Now they are again hatching a scheme to restore Article 370 and have a separate Constitution in Kashmir," Modi said.

"Kashmir is an integral part of India. Every Indian wants that there should be only Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution in Kashmir," Modi said.

"The Congress used to say that reservations were against the country. It considered reservations were



against merit. The mentality and agenda of the Congress remains unchanged. Therefore, they can't come to terms with the fact that someone from OBC has been the PM of the country for the last 10 years," he said.

"The Prince of Congress, while he is abroad, openly claims that his party will scrap reservations. To further their agenda, Congress and

Maha Vikas Aghadi are conspiring to divide SCs, STs and OBCs into small castes," he said.

Modi also said the BJP-led Mahayuti government renamed Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and fulfilled the wish of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

"The whole Maharashtra knows that the demand to rename this city

as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar was raised by Balasaheb Thackeray," he said. The Congress party went to the court to overturn this decision, he added. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government was in power for two-and-a-half years but did not have the courage to rename the city under pressure from the Congress, he said.

"This election in Maharashtra is not just an election to elect a new government. In this election, on one side there are patriots who believe in Sambhaji Maharaj and on the other side there are people who praise Aurangzeb," Modi said. "BJP-Mahayuti ahe, tar gati ahe, Maharashtrachi pragati ahe (If there is Mahayuti there is progress in Maharashtra)," Modi said.

The people of Maharashtra and Marathwada had been demanding for decades to give classical language status to Marathi, Modi said. This work related to Marathi pride was completed by the BJP, he added.

"Maharashtra has attracted the maximum FDI after the formation of the Mahayuti government. The people have benefited due to the investment," he said. (PTI)

### J-K Congress to launch campaign to educate children on Nehru's legacy



**JAMMU, Nov 14:** Observing the 135th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on Thursday, the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) announced plans to hold programmes across the Union Territory to educate children about the legacy of India's first prime minister.

The Congress also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre of "systematically erasing" the contributions of those who played key roles in India's Independence movement.

Senior Congress leaders gathered at various locations across Jammu to pay their respects to Nehru, acknowledging his lasting contributions and visions for the nation.

The events included paying floral tributes to Nehru's portrait and the singing of the national anthem, highlighting his values of unity, democracy, and secularism. Celebrated nationwide as Children's Day, Nehru's birth anniversary honours his deep affection for children and his commitment to their education and welfare.

Speaking to reporters here, JKPC President Tariq Hamid Karra said, "Those who made significant contributions to India's struggle for Independence are systematically being erased from history."

Accusing the BJP of removing such history from the academic curriculum, Karra said, "The government may be moving in a different direction, but our effort will be to ensure that the sacrifices and contributions made by our leaders who gave their all for India's unity are presented before the schoolchildren and the younger generation."

"We will make every effort to counter the divisive politics being propagated across the country. So we have decided to organise programmes throughout J-K to combat this trend," Karra added. (PTI)

# BJP rigged Vijaypur bypoll in MP by roping in goons to attack citizens, claims Congress; seeks repolling

**BHOPAL, Nov 14:** The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Thursday accused the BJP of rigging the by-election to Vijaypur assembly seat in the state by roping in goons to intimidate and attack some local citizens, and demanded repolling in 37 polling booths.

The opposition party also claimed that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers desecrated the statue of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in Vijaypur constituency in Sheopur district on the night of polling.

In a press conference held here, MP Congress president Jitu Patwari claimed that the state machinery was blatantly misused to benefit the BJP during the bypolls to Vijaypur and Budhni constituencies on Wednesday.

But the Congress will win the by-election in Vijaypur even after the violence orchestrated by the BJP, he said.

"A reign of terror was unleashed on Jatavs (a Dalit community) and tribal people in Vijaypur before and after the by-elections on Wednesday. The BJP went on a rampage. Many tribal-dominated areas came under their attack. The properties of Dalits were torched. BJP workers also desecrated a statue of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at night," he alleged.

"It was for the first time that even dacoits were roped in to influence elections. Dacoit Bunt Rawat from Rajasthan, who faces 40 criminal cases, created terror in Vijaypur as he brought eight other dacoits to influence the elections. He was caught by people, who finally handed him over to the police," he said.

The state machinery was blatantly misused to benefit the BJP during the by-polls to both the constituencies in the saffron party-ruled state, according to Patwari.

"We have sought repolling in 37 polling booths in Vijaypur," he said.

"Even after the BJP's nefarious design of rigging the by-elections, we are going to win. We were expecting to win the Vijaypur seat by a margin of more



than 50,000 votes. But after the BJP orchestrated violence, our victory margin has been halved. We will now win the seat by more than 25,000 votes," he said.

Patwari announced that the party will stage a protest across Madhya Pradesh on Monday against the alleged desecration of Dr Ambedkar's statue," he said.

"We will stage state-wide protests on November 18 against the desecration of Dr Ambedkar's statue," he said.

Asked whether Jatavs and tribals were targeted for their perceived inclination towards the Congress, Patwari said other communities also voted in favour of his party in Vijaypur.

Voter turnouts of 77.85 per cent and 77.32 per cent were recorded in by-elections in Vijaypur and Budhni assembly constituencies, as per the data provided by the officials.

The bypoll to Vijaypur constituency was necessitated after sitting Congress MLA Ramiwas Rawat joined the BJP and was inducted into the Mohan Yadav-led cabinet. Rawat was pitted against tribal leader Mukesh Malhotra of the Congress.

The Budhni seat in Sehore district fell vacant after sitting MLA and former chief minister Chouhan was elected to the Lok Sabha from Vidisha. Ramakant Bhargava, a close aide of Chouhan, was pitted as BJP candidate against Congress' Rajkumar Patel, a former minister, in Budhni. (PTI)

# Teargas, torched vehicles as R'than MLA candidate arrested, PTI staffers assaulted by mob



**TONK (RAJASTHAN), Nov 14:** Independent MLA candidate Naresh Meena was arrested on Thursday following high drama and escalating violence in which a mob assaulted a PTI reporter and video cameraperson and burnt their camera.

The attack, a day after the Congress rebel contesting as an Independent in the bypolls slapped SDM Malpura Amit Chaudhary outside a polling booth in front of hundreds of people, came while the PTI crew was covering a protest following the arrest.

PTI reporter Ajeet Shekhawat and cameraperson Dharmendra Kumar were badly injured and rushed to hospital.

In a selfie video sent to the PTI head office in Delhi, Shekhawat can be seen bleeding from under his left eye. He said his colleague Dharmendra suffered a gash on the head and his arm may be broken.

The two came under attack when they were about to interview Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena, who had gone to the trouble spot to assess the situation in Tonk district's Samravta village, about 100 km from the state capital Jaipur.

The violence has been going on since Wednesday evening when police tried to stop Naresh Meena's supporters from sitting on dharna.

The slap, videos of which were circulated widely on social media platforms, set in motion differing protests from both his supporters and Rajasthan Administrative Service officials. The tension that started outside the polling booth snowballing into outright violence through the night and into Thursday.

Work across government offices in the state was hit in the morning

with officials of the RAS Association and allied services going on a pen-down strike demanding that Meena be arrested. They said they would continue till a meeting with Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

Ranged against them were Meena's alleged supporters. About 60 two-wheelers and 18 four-wheelers, including police vehicles, were torched in the violence that erupted outside the polling booth in Samravta village in the Deoli-Uniara assembly constituency when police tried to prevent the dharna.

About 60 people were arrested in the early hours of Thursday following the violence that also saw crowds pelting stones at police personnel.

As the morning progressed, tension spiralled. "I will not surrender," a defiant Meena told jostling camera crews in Samravta after he was taken into custody.

As restless crowds could be seen roaming the village, police mounted vigil to ensure that nothing more goes wrong.

The arrest was planned with care.

Police administration, which included senior officers in full riot gear, were deployed in full strength and held a flag march. Tonk Superintendent of Police Vikas Sangwan gave the final direction to the police team to enter the village and take Meena in its custody.

Police fired teargas shells to disperse the agitated mob after Meena's arrest. Some also pelted stones at the police but no injuries were reported. Alleged supporters of Meena blocked the roads, which were removed.

"It could be anyone... the government is strict with those who

commit crime. We are getting the entire incident investigated and asked for a report and soon action will be taken against those who are guilty," said Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham.

According to Inspector General of Police (Ajmer) Om Prakash, four cases, including for disrupting public work and damaging public property, were registered against Meena.

It all started when Chaudhary, who was on election duty, was trying to get people to vote in the village, which had boycotted polling over a demand that Samravta be included in Uniara sub-division instead of Deoli. Meena was supporting the villagers.

Hundreds of people were present outside the polling station when it happened. Meena later sat on a dharna outside a polling booth and asked his supporters to gather with sticks.

After polling was over, police asked Meena and his supporters to disperse so the polling party could leave the station with EVM machines. However, police said, they turned violent and pelted stones at police.

Before his arrest, Meena blamed Tonk District Collector Saumya Jha and SP Sangwan for what had happened.

"All 60 people who have been arrested are innocent. If anyone should be punished, it should be me," he said, alleging that the SDM on election duty had been working on the directions of the BJP.

"He got 30 people to vote by threatening them to take action against them. I could not stop myself. I slapped him. It is correct. Seeing his nature, he should have been slapped more."

RAS Association General Secretary Neetu Rajeshwar told PTI that what had happened was intolerable.

"Such an incident is not tolerable. SDM Amit Chaudhary was slapped when he was doing his election duty fairly. The association is on a pen-down strike on Thursday. We will call off the strike after a representation with the chief minister on other demands. All our demands are constitutional. We don't want to let the public work suffer," Rajeshwar said. (PTI)

# E P Jayarajan in Palakkad to campaign for LDF's Sarin amidst autobiography controversy

**PALAKKAD (KERALA), Nov 14:** Former LDF convener E P Jayarajan on Thursday arrived here to campaign for P Sarin, LDF's independent candidate in the Palakkad bypoll, in the wake of news reports that his candidacy was criticised by the CPI(M) veteran in his purported autobiography.

After reaching Palakkad, Jayarajan, at a press conference, accused the Congress of playing "dirty politics" by "conspiring to create the controversy to harm the chances of the LDF" in the Palakkad and Chelakkara assembly by-elections, where the Left has a good chance of winning.

While Jayarajan and Sarin, the former digital media convener of the Congress, said that his arrival had nothing to do with the controversial book, the opposition UDF contended that the Left veteran was directed to join the Palakkad bypoll campaign due to the contents of his purported autobiography.

"Otherwise, why did he (Jayarajan) not campaign for Sarin till now?" Leader of Opposition in the state assembly V D Satheesan asked while speaking to a TV channel here.

He said that Jayarajan's arrival in Palakkad to campaign for Sarin would not change what the CPI(M) leader has said about the LDF candidate in his book.

Refuting the opposition allegations, Jayarajan said that he was still writing his autobiography and has not authorised anyone to publish it.

However, he will be speeding up its publication in the prevailing circumstances, the Left veteran said.

He also said none of the things mentioned in the purported book, as per news reports, were there in his autobiography.

Jayarajan also lavished praise on Sarin by saying that he was a medical professional who gave up a high paying job to work for the masses as he was someone with a Leftist mindset even though he

was part of the Congress. The CPI(M) veteran said that Sarin left Congress as he could no longer accept the grand old party's alleged actions of siding with communal forces, corrupt practices and lack of concern for the development of the state and the country.

Sarin was removed from the Congress following his public expression of discontent over the party's decision to select Youth Congress state president Rahul Mamkootathil as the UDF candidate in the Palakkad assembly bypoll.

The LDF candidate in the Palakkad bypoll too hit back at the Congress by calling it "desperate". He said that though Congress brought Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to Wayanad as its best candidate and sought votes for her, it only resulted in the voter turnout falling by 10 per cent.

"Congress is disconnected from the people," he claimed.

Sarin further alleged that the Congress, specifically Satheesan, was behind the book controversy.

Regarding Jayarajan's arrival in Palakkad to campaign for him, Sarin said it was not a last minute decision as the veteran CPI(M) leader was scheduled to reach there on November 15-16.

"He just came a day early. That is all," he contended.

Earlier in the day, Satheesan said that Jayarajan has termed Sarin as "opportunist" in the book which was "a reality" that everyone knows.

"It was not added there by the publisher. Everyone with common sense knows it was written by Jayarajan. It is unfortunate for him that he has to come here and campaign for such a person. But, that is politics," he said.

Satheesan further said that when someone who had gone in search of a BJP ticket to contest in the bypoll was made an independent candidate of the CPI(M), there was serious discontent within the Left party. (PTI)

# Today's welfare measures aim to empower: Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



**DHARMASTHALA (KARNATAKA), Nov 14:** Welfare measures were always there, but what changed now is that these measures are not patronising the beneficiaries, instead they understand that people are capable of producing products that make profit, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday.

Sitharaman inaugurated the dividend distribution programme for Self-Help Group (SHG) members under the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP), an organisation with over four decades of dedicated service in social and economic development.

"Today, welfare happens, but women are given self-respect by saying 'I am earning my profit.' It is not just kindness but an understanding that they are capable of adding value, creating something, and doing something that has market potential," said Sitharaman.

She further stated that empowerment is the key to eradicating poverty and praised organisations like SKDRDP for their role in women-led development.

According to her, rural women are at the forefront of village development, identifying projects suited to them and determining how they wish to contribute.

"Since independence, Dharmasthala has been a pioneer in rural development activities, ensuring that women in villages have been empowered," she added. (PTI)

# Thoughts, not clothes, make one a 'yogi': Akhilesh in veiled dig at UP CM Adityanath

**PRAYAGRAJ (UP), Nov 14:** Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday took a veiled jibe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying without taking his name that one became a "yogi" by their thoughts and words and not clothes.

Yadav, who was addressing an election rally in Phulpur where the Samajwadi Party is backing Mustafa Siddiqui, also claimed that the chief minister was on his way out.

"People know this government is on its way out," he said and added that Adityanath's chair would not be spared regardless of the outcome of the Maharashtra elections.

Yadav had earlier hinted at tensions between Adityanath and the BJP's central leadership. He had also claimed during the Lok Sabha election campaign that Adityanath would be removed if the BJP was elected to power again.

Commenting on Adityanath's rhetoric, Yadav said, "Our chief minister is very knowledgeable but he speaks too much where less is needed. That's why we have the tradition of 'mauni baba' -- to speak less. Whenever he speaks, it's bitter. His negative mindset is reflected in his negative language." Without naming Adityanath, the Kannauj MP said, "No one becomes a 'yogi' by their clothes. One becomes a 'yogi' by their thoughts and words."

Yadav also attacked the ruling party for getting the bypolls to nine assembly seats in the state, originally scheduled for November 13, postponed to November 20.

"The BJP will face defeat in these bypolls," he asserted.

Taking a jibe at BJP leaders, the Samajwadi Party supremo called them "negative people" and mockingly claimed, "Even NDA (National Democratic Alliance) starts with an 'N' for 'Negative.'" (PTI)

# Closely monitoring Delhi pollution situation, strict measures to be taken: Gopal Rai

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** A day after Delhi's air quality plunged to the 'severe' category, Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said strict pollution control measures would be enforced if the conditions worsened.

Rai also attributed the worsening air quality to a combination of calm winds and a drop in temperature that caused the pollutants to remain trapped in the air.

The national capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) at 9 am remained in the 'severe' category, with a reading of 428.

On Wednesday, Delhi reported the worst AQI in the country, with the air quality turning 'severe' for the first time this season.

Rai said at a press conference that there had been a change in the weather pattern during the past two days.

Wind speeds are expected to

pick up between Friday and Saturday, reaching six to 12 kilometres per hour and that should help reduce pollution levels, he said.

Regarding the implementation of pollution mitigation measures under GRAP III, the minister said it would not be imposed yet as the situation was expected to improve from Friday.

Rai said the Delhi government would strictly implement GRAP II measures to prevent further any deterioration of air quality.

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for the National Capital Region (NCR) is classified under four different stages of adverse air quality in Delhi: Stage I -- 'poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II -- 'very poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III -- 'severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV -- 'severe plus' (AQI >450).

Rai said, "We will strengthen all



ongoing campaigns and actions to mitigate pollution."

The government will review all current action plans and campaigns and enhance enforcement

efforts to prevent pollution levels from reaching emergency levels, he added.

If temperatures dip and the air quality worsens, the government

will take all necessary steps to protect the health of Delhi residents, the minister further said.

Referring to data from the Centre for Environment and Science, he said Delhi's pollution levels were influenced by both local sources and regional contributions from October 12 to November 3.

The data attributed 30.34 per cent of pollution in the national capital to Delhi's local sources while 34.97 per cent was contributed by surrounding NCR and areas beyond NCR.

"If the conditions worsen, strict measures will be implemented, like last year, as the safety of children and residents is paramount," Rai said on likely school closures due to 'severe' air quality.

"For us, the air that Delhi residents breathe is very important," he added. (PTI)



# Prayagraj police detain 'miscreants' who infiltrated students' protest over PCS, RO, ARO exams

**PRAYAGRAJ (UP), Nov 14:** On Thursday, the fourth day of the agitation against the decision of the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) to conduct the Provincial Civil Services (PCS), review officer (RO) and assistant review officer (ARO) preliminary examinations in two days, the police detained the alleged miscreants who infiltrated the students' protest.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Abhishek Bharti told reporters, "Peaceful agitation of the students is going on in front of the Public Service Commission here. Some miscreants with criminal tendencies entered among 50-60 students and tried to stop the students who were communicating with the administration."

He said these "miscreants" were also trying to provoke the agitating students. The police have detained them, he said.

"No other student preparing for the exam has been detained. Women police force is present here and peaceful talks are being held with everyone," Bharti said.

"We are taking legal action as per rules against miscreants who are infiltrating among the students and misleading them. Also, the students who



are protesting by blocking the road in front of the commission are being requested to go to the designated protest site and protest peacefully," he said.

On the other hand, agitating student Himanshu Kushwaha said even though the protesters do not know each other personally, there is no political person there and everyone is agitating with the same demand.

Asked if he knows the people who were taken into custody, a student named Rajiv Pandey said, "All of us are competitive students here and the police administration is picking up

students to weaken this movement."

The agitating students again started protesting from Thursday morning and raised slogans against Commission chairman Sanjay Srinet. On Wednesday evening, these students had protested by taking out a candle march.

An agitating student, Gyanendra Kumar, said until their demands are not met, they will continue the protest, whether it lasts a week or several weeks.

"We are taking out a candle march against the adamant attitude of the

commission," he said.

UPPSC Secretary Ashok Kumar had earlier said, "The commission's guideline is that only government educational institutions should be made examination centres and the centre should be within 10 kilometers of the headquarters. Earlier, when the paper leaked, these students raised the demand that private institutions should not be made examination centres."

"These students are protesting when the government made guidelines after considering the demands of the students. For the PCS exam, 5,76,000 candidates are registered while centres are being found only for 4,35,000 candidates in all 75 districts. In such a situation, conducting the examination for two days is a compulsion," he said.

The students sitting on the dharna in front of the gate of the Public Service Commission had placards with different slogans written in their hands. One of them read "Batenge Nahi, Hatenge Nahi, Nyay Milne Tak Ek Rahenge", while another one read "Ek Din, Ek Pariksha".

The commission has declared the dates of December 7 and 8 for the PCS preliminary exam, while December 22 and 23 have been declared for the RO and ARO preliminary exam. (PTI)

# Joint operations, integration in areas like electronic warfare discussed in key defence meeting

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Senior officers from the three Services, the DRDO and the industry discussed on subjects such as joint operations and integration in areas like electronic warfare and emerging technologies during a key meeting, the defence ministry said on Thursday.

The annual meeting of the Joint Electromagnetic Board (JEMB), a subcommittee of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), was held on November 13 under the chairmanship of Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations), it said.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the three Services, DRDO, Department of Defence Production (DDP), and the industry.

It covered multiple agenda items on joint operations and integration in areas such as electronic warfare, signature management, emerging technologies, spectrum management and human resource management, the ministry said in a statement.

The event featured the launch of the AI-enabled e-Tarang System, which will enable automated, efficient planning and management of defence spectrum, and support development of newer technologies in higher frequency bands, it said.

This unique software, developed in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), will improve planning for interference-free operation of defence equipment during both wartime and peacetime.

"The Technical News Letter (TNL) 2024, published by JCES (Joint Communications and



Electronics Staff/HQ IDS, was also released during the event. This important document outlines future technologies with the potential to revolutionise modern warfare. All three Services made significant professional contributions to the development of this document," the ministry added.

The annual meeting was conducted with a singular aim, "to achieve synergy in joint electronic warfare (EW) operations among the three Services and to establish a roadmap for enhancing capabilities in spectrum warfare".

The gathering also sought to identify technology development and training priorities for the future.

Air Marshal Mishra delivered a special address, emphasising the need for integrating EW assets across the Services for effective operations.

He also lauded the successful conduct of the first joint EW exercise, held in September, which underscored the principle of 'Victory through Jointness', the statement said. (PTI)

# Farmers group donates ₹ 5 lakh for Palestinian people

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** The Kirti Kisan Union, a farmers organisation, Thursday donated ₹ 5 lakh for the Palestinians through its mission here as a humanitarian aid and expressing solidarity with the people there facing difficult times due to the ongoing conflict.

A delegation of the union met Palestine ambassador to India Abed Elrazeg Abu Jazer at the Palestinian embassy here and donated the money, a release from the organisation said.

The union has raised its voice in favour of a permanent truce in West Asia and also demanded that the United Nations find a sustainable solution to the Palestine issue.

The Kirti Kisan Union delegation included President Nirbhay Singh Dhudike, General Secretary Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala, Press Secretary Raminder Singh Patiala, Vice President Jatinder Singh Chhina and Treasurer Jaswinder Singh Jhabelwali.

Addressing a press conference later, they alleged that the most "terrible genocide" in the history of human civilisation was being carried out by Israel under the "incitement" of major powers like the US in which thousands of people have lost their lives so far. The images of children, the elderly and women and the ruins tell a tale of heart-wrenching atrocities, they said, adding that people have been deprived of basic necessities like food, water, electricity and medicine. (PTI)

# HC refuses to stay release of movie on Malegaon blast, calls it work of fiction

**MUMBAI, Nov 14:** The Bombay High Court on Thursday refused to stay the release of the movie 'Match Fixing - The Nation at Stake', based on the 2008 Malegaon blast, noting that it was a work of fiction.

A division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Somasekhara Sunderesan dismissed a petition filed by Lt Col Prasad Purohit, an accused in the case, seeking a stay on the film claiming that it would impact and influence the trial. Purohit's lawyer said the movie projects "saffron terror".

Purohit claimed that the movie, scheduled for release on November 15, tarnished his reputation. The movie's producer told the court it was a work of fiction based on a book already available in the market.

The producer also submitted the disclaimer that would be exhibited at the beginning of the movie which states that the film is a work of fiction and bears no resemblance to any person dead or alive.

After briefly hearing the arguments, the bench suggested certain minor changes to the disclaimer which the producer accepted.

"We do not think that the apprehension of the petitioner is well founded. The movie is based on fiction and hence there can be no apprehension that the trial, which is at the stage of final arguments, would get affected," the court said.

"Entire apprehension of petitioner is wholly misconceived. Petition is dismissed," it added. The court also asked Purohit if he thinks judges in India get influenced by such movies.

"Are you really saying that a judge of the Indian judiciary is going to watch a movie and get influenced and forget evidence? When the book is not banned why should the film be banned? So the judge won't get influenced by the book," HC said.



Advocate Harish Pandya, appearing for Purohit, then sought the court to stay the release of the movie at least till after the Maharashtra assembly elections, scheduled to be held on November 20.

"Saffron terror is projected in the movie," Pandya said.

The court, however, questioned what the movie had to do with the elections.

"No chance. We are not going to hold film producers at ransom only because of elections. What have elections got to do with this? The book is out since years," HC said.

Meanwhile, another petition filed by one Nadim Khan, also against the movie on the grounds that it hurts the sentiments of Muslims, was withdrawn on Thursday.

Six people were killed and over 100 injured when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon, a town in north Maharashtra about 200 km from Mumbai, on September 29, 2008.

Purohit, former BJP MP Pragma Singh Thakur and five others are on trial under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code (IPC) for their alleged involvement in the blast conspiracy.

The case was initially probed by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) before being transferred to the National Investigation Agency in 2011. (PTI)

# Delhi riots: HC seeks police stand on accused's plea to preserve case diary

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the stand of the city police on a plea by a student activist seeking to preserve the case diary of a probe related to the communal riots that had erupted in parts of the city in February 2020.

Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice to the Delhi Police on the plea by Devangana Kalita, an accused in the case, and asked the

agency to file its status report.

Kalita's counsel alleged that the police have added "antedated" statements to the case diary, which is impracticable in law, and, therefore, urged the court to pass a direction to "reconstruct" and "preserve" the document.

"I can't pass an ex parte order. I need to have their response," said Justice Singh,

while listing the matter for further consideration on November 25.

The lawyer claimed that at the stage of framing of charge in the case, which pertains to an FIR registered at Jafraabad police station, the police have introduced "antedated" statements in the case diary to allege that the accused was instrumental in causing "dhakka-mukki" with the police. (PTI)

**অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ**  
**ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

No. 141PSC/CON/Exam-26/2023-2024

### NOTIFICATION

The Assam Public Service Commission has shortlisted the following candidates for document verification in connection with the recruitment to the post of Junior Engineer (Civil/Mechanical/Electrical/Chemical) under Public Health Engineering Department (Adv. No. 29/2023 Dtd. 31/10/2023, Corrigendum No. 72PSC/DR-4/2/2023-24 Dtd. 01/12/2023), Screening Test of which was conducted by the Commission on 08/09/2024.

The date(s) of document verification will be notified shortly. Roll Number of candidates called for document verification are stated below (horizontally):

#### (A) Junior Engineer (Civil):

10001	10003	10034	10040	10046	10054	10077	10089	10109	10146	10159	10169
10193	10194	10210	10214	10232	10260	10284	10302	10303	10320	10329	10354
10357	10361	10378	10382	10390	10413	10422	10426	10427	10428	10430	10440
10461	10488	10493	10495	10508	10512	10515	10529	10531	10533	10568	10571
10572	10591	10594	10601	10621	10622	10632	10638	10642	10652	10655	10668
10678	10718	10719	10724	10729	10734	10740	10748	10775	10776	10779	10783
10791	10793	10804	10816	10824	10842	10847	10850	10857	10858	10887	10889
10913	10918	10920	10934	10938	10944	10953	10956	10966	10975	10998	11003
11018	11026	11032	11056	11068	11079	11090	11092	11101	11108	11111	11127
11128	11138	11140	11145	11153	11155	11162	11178	11182	11183	11189	11198
11200	11201	11207	11242	11247	11273	11299	11307	11308	11346	11361	11371
11378	11379	11383	11391	11392	11395	11400	11404	11405	11418	11427	11429
11435	11437	11440	11455	11481	11488	11496	11497	11508	11515	11519	11530
11539	11543	11550	11551	11554	11555	11558	11571	11572	11581	11587	11590
11593	11602	11606	11607	11608	11622	11637	11639	11645	11646	11677	11685
11688	11713	11742	11749	11754	11768	11772	11775	11795	11828	11871	11877
11891	11902	11918	11930	11941	11944	11953	11962	11970	11973	11975	11978
11979	11982	11987	11988	11994	12003	12006	12025	12034	12036	12097	12105
12107	12122	12148	12154	12164	12169	12171	12176	12183	12195	12196	12199
12206	12226	12229	12232	12233	12234	12236	12255	12257	12264	12282	12285
12290	12294	12312	12317	12319	12338	12340	12343	12354	12366	12368	12375
12380	12391	12405	12410	12428	12430	12433	12437	12476	12496	12498	12499
12501	12503	12512	12519	12524	12529	12548	12560	12561	12577	12585	12637
12641	12646	12651	12657	12677	12680	12688	12691	12696	12705	12710	12711
12785	12789	12796	12810	12836	12873	12878	12891	12894	12896	12914	12939
12955	12969	12972	12973	12982	12993	12999	13010	13017	13018	13052	13058
13059	13075	13076	13083	13093	13094	13101	13108	13114	13115	13118	13128
13142	13151	13152	13154	13166	13194	13207	13213	13222	13223	13256	13267
13270	13287	13289	13298	13327	13333	13347	13373	13387	13411	13415	13419
13421	13439	13453	13456	13463	13471	13482	13491	13495	13498	13517	13531
13534	13542	13571	13580	13595	13596	13597	13602	13609	13623	13629	13637
13645	13646	13657	13698	13707	13709	13718	13721	13741	13750	13753	13755
13757	13759	13760	13761	13772	13773	13774	13775	13785	13792	13805	13809
13811	13815	13817	13821	13826	13835	13852	13866	13867	13885	13906	13920
13922	13936	13938	13940	13966	13971	13980	13981	13982	13988	13992	13996
14002	14005	14006	14015	14018	14019	14020	14027	14033	14038	14048	14051
14063	14071	14078	14099	14100	14101	14109	14112	14115	14116	14118	14123
14134	14146	14156	14184	14186	14188	14190	14192	14197	14211	14212	14215
14221	14222	14234	14235	14249	14250	14252	14254	14263	14307	14308	14319
14327	14356	14358	14360	14384	14386	14395	14396	14405	14427	14448	14454
14456	14461	14470	14483	14498	14509	14519	14521	14526	14528	14549	14563
14583	14593	14596	14597	14602	14605	14609	14620	14627	14632	14637	14645
14652	14655	14656	14664	14665	14670	14683	14685	14702	14705	14707	14708
14741	14742	14748	14749	14751	14756	14757	14780	14809	14812	14816	14829
14836	14867	14873	14881	14887	14893	14913	14923	14939	14976	14990	14992
14995	15002	15007	15009	15025	15032	15049	15058	15063	15073	15114	15115
15120	15128	15150	15156	15164	15168	15181	15186	15190	15192	15197	15202
15206	15232	15233	15241	15265	15266	15267	15271	15273	15277	15281	15287
15317	15331	15334	15348	15349	15360	15369	15384	15411	15412	15432	15445
15446	15456	15459	15460	15461	15462	15507	15522	15525	15546	15558	15559
15562	15567	15570	15585	15589	15619	15622	15627	15644	15656	15671	15684
15685	15688	15689	15693	15697	15703	15739	15741	15743	15745	15746	15748
15749	15753	15754	15755	15757	15759	15760	15762	15764	15767	15768	15769
15771	15772	15773	15780	15781	15782	15783	15785	15788	15789	15792	

#### (B) Junior Engineer (Mechanical):

20005	20088	20124	20147	20175	20179	20181	20273	20308	20366	20374	20386
20458	20463	20470	20494	20501	20507	20508	20572	20604	20729	20747	20758
20810	20872	20902	20922	20968	20970	20980</					

# Malayalam film 'The Goat Life' secures two nominations at Hollywood Music in Media Awards

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Malayalam movie *The Goat Life* has received two nominations at the 2024 Hollywood Music in Media Awards (HMMA).

Oscar-winning composer A R Rahman is nominated in the 'Song-Feature Film' category for the track "Periyone". The song, performed by Jithin Raj, was written by Rahman and Rafiq Ahamed.

Rahman is also nominated in the 'Score-Independent Film (Foreign Language)' category for the background score of the movie, titled "Aadujeevitham" in Malayalam. The film, starring Prithviraj Sukumaran, was released in March this year.

Organised by the Hollywood Music In Media Academy, the HMMAs honor original music (both song and score) across all visual media globally, including film, TV, video games, trailers, commercials, documentaries, and special programs.

The 2024 HMMA nominees showcase a diverse range of talent, featuring over a hundred songwriters, composers, performers, and films.

The list includes pop icons such as Elton John, Brandi Carlile, Miley Cyrus, Lainey Wilson, and Pharrell Williams, alongside acclaimed composers like Hans Zimmer, Harry Gregson-Williams, Kris Bowers, and the duo Trent Reznor & Atticus Ross.

The award ceremony will be held on November 20 at the Avalon Theatre in Los Angeles. The official Instagram page of *The Goat Life* celebrated the film's two nominations at the HMMA.

"We are incredibly proud of this achievement and grateful for the incredible talent involved in bringing this powerful piece to life. Big congratulations to the entire *The Goat Life* team and all the other nominees! Let's celebrate music, story-

telling, and the magic that happens when both come together," the post read.

Singer Jithin Raj also shared a post about the nomination for the song "Periyone," thanking the movie's director Blessy and Rahman for the "opportunity and constant support."

"Congratulations to all the nominees! Here's to celebrating the magic of music and cinema," he posted on Instagram.

Based on the 2008 bestselling novel "Aadujeevitham" by Benjamin, "The Goat Life" follows the true story of a young man named Najeeb, who, in the early '90s, migrated from the lush green shores of Kerala in search of fortune in a foreign land. Produced by Visual Romance, the film also features Amala Paul and KR Gokul, along with Hollywood actor Jimmy Jean-Louis and Arab actors Talib al Balushi and Rik Aby in pivotal roles. (PTI)



## Working on 'I Want To Talk' a life-changing experience: Abhishek Bachchan

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Actor Abhishek Bachchan says Shoojit Sircar's films are like "a breath of fresh air" from what is often made in the Hindi film industry and working with the director on the upcoming movie "I Want To Talk" was a transformative experience.

Produced by Rising Sun Films and Kino Works, the slice-of-life drama is set to hit the screens worldwide on November 22.

Bachchan has all praise for Sircar, known for films such as "Vicky Donor", "Piku", "October", and "Sardar Udham".

"Shoojit da represents a cinema that is so very different from what we make in the Hindi film industry and that's a breath of fresh air. It's nice once in a while to pause, take a breath and just feel something instead of just being dictated to all the time..." The experience of making a film with him is very transformative, not just physically... It's been a learning experience, life changing," the actor told reporters at the movie's music launch on Wednesday in Mumbai. In the film, Bachchan plays Arjun, who is on the cusp of a life-altering surgery as he navigates a complex relationship with his daughter. Sircar said "I Want To Talk" is based on his friend's life story. "This is a slice-of-life film where relationships matter. Sometimes we regret we didn't communicate, we didn't talk our heart out. This film speaks about all those moments and the journey of the characters. It's all moments stitched together of your entire life and documented in 'I Want To Talk'," the director added. Bachchan said all movies should be an emotional challenge for an actor regardless of the subject matter.

"It should push you, challenge you, give you sleepless nights. As artists, you need to push your boundaries. You need to try something that you haven't done before. It (this film) has been a challenge, but a challenge that I enjoyed doing." (PTI)



## Eddie Redmayne on career after Oscar win: It gave me the luxurious notion of choice

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** From headlining "Fantastic Beasts" movies to playing an assassin in his new series "The Day of the Jackal", British star Eddie Redmayne says his best actor Oscar win for "The Theory of Everything" has given him the "luxurious notion of choice".

Redmayne, who won the trophy in 2015 for his portrayal of renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking in the movie, said like any other upcoming actor, he started out by dreaming about making a living through his chosen profession.

"The odds are against you because so many people want to work in this world and there are so few parts. For many years, I would just audition and try and get jobs," Redmayne told PTI in an interview.

"The massive change that

the Oscar did is that rather than just auditioning for jobs and then taking them if you got them, it suddenly gave you the incredibly luxurious notion of choice," he added.

The actor began his journey on London's West End theatre and then starred in critically-acclaimed movies "My Week with Marilyn" and "Les Misérables".

The last decade has been nothing short of extraordinary for Redmayne, who followed up "The Theory of Everything" with another captivating performance in "The Danish Girl", Tom Hooper's film on 20th century transgender artist Lili Elbe.

He was also cast as Newt Scamander, the lead character of "Harry Potter" spin-off movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" and its two sequels. (PTI)

## I'm older and I just know more: Connie Nielsen on coming back for 'Gladiator II'

**NEW DELHI, Nov 14:** Danish star Connie Nielsen remembers throwing her all to play Lucilla in Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" as it was her career's first big movie but when she got a chance to step into the role again after two decades, the actor felt she could slip into the many layers of the character with more comfort.

The 59-year-old actor said when Scott and his team first told her about the idea of the sequel, they promised that "Connie will be happy".

"I knew it was going to be good. I love the whole setup of the story. It's an incredible setup. And for an actor, the way they wrote Lucilla and put her into situations that are unimaginable and crazy, and at the same time, grand, it was a great setup for her," Nielsen told PTI in a virtual interview.

Nielsen has fond memories of her early years in Hollywood where she debuted with the 1997 movie "The Devil's Advocate", starring Al Pacino and Keanu Reeves. She was cast in "Gladiator" just two years later. "It was my first big movie and I threw everything that I could. And I think this time I have reached a place as an actor and as a human where I feel very comfortable inside of many layers at the same time. I felt like I was able to play at more levels in this film than perhaps in the first one because I'm older and I just know more," she added.

In "Gladiator", Lucilla was introduced as the daughter of Emperor Marcus Aurelius and the sister of Commodus, who becomes the king of Rome after committing patricide. She and Russell Crowe's Maximus, a Roman general-turned-gladiator, are seeking to overthrow Commodus. And in the second part, set two decades later, it is revealed that Lucilla's son Lucius, played by Paul Mescal, was fathered by Maximus. She sends Lucius away to protect him from palace intrigue but is once again caught between her maternal instincts and her duty towards Rome.

Nielsen said this time around, she could trust herself more with the role. The movie will be released in India by Paramount Pictures India on Friday in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu in 4DX and IMAX. (PTI)

## 'Laapataa Ladies' talks about women's freedoms, agency: producers Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao

**NEW YORK, Nov 14:** India's official entry to the Oscars 'Laapataa Ladies', now rechristened 'Lost Ladies', is a "very important" film that talks about women's freedoms and agency, financial independence, "ability to imagine your own futures" and male allyship, its producers Kiran Rao and Aamir Khan said.

"When I heard the story, it really felt very personal to me because I've seen so many women who have not had the agency, the choice that I've had in my life to do as I please," Rao said at a special screening of 'Lost Ladies' here.

"It felt like an amazing story to be able to talk about women's freedoms, financial independence, ability to imagine your own futures," which is a luxury for most women in very traditional societies, she added.

Rao, the film's director, said the movie gave her the chance to use a "comedy of errors" to actually examine deeply entrenched patriarchy. Rao, Khan and Jio Studios President - Chairman's Office, Media and Entertainment Jyoti Deshpande are currently travelling across the US, headlining special screenings and interacting with audiences here about their movie which is India's official entry to Oscars 2025. The film has been produced by Aamir Khan Productions, Kindling Pictures and Jio Studios.

After screenings and discussions in New York, the team is now in Los Angeles as the Oscars Shortlists will be announced on December 17 and the nominations announcement coming on January 17. The 97th Oscars will take place on March 2, 2025.

Speaking at the special screening hosted by fashion designer Prabal Gurung in downtown

Manhattan, Khan recalled that he "just loved the script" when he first read it at a script competition where he was part of the jury. The script "touched me. It made me laugh. It made me cry. It was very entertaining. It was also saying such important things." Khan underlined that while the film is about women's agency, "it's also high time that men also kind of contribute to that. It also does that in a sense. I feel it's a very important film." Khan added that as the team began working on the script, "I realised there are so many different aspects to it, and male allyship is one very important aspect,



which I think is important in life in any case." "I think women should help men and the other way around. Men should help women... I just see it as human being. It's so odd that if someone is

getting such an unfair deal, how can you just stand by and watch it? It feels strange. So, I'm so glad that the film really showcases that as well as such an important part of moving on, moving ahead," he said.

Responding to a question on how 'Lost Ladies' reflects her vision both for Indian cinema and global storytelling, Deshpande said it's a "shining beacon" of the company's vision and mission of

'Make in India and Show the world'. "Of all the stories that we've told, Lost Ladies is a shining example of what we want to do, take quintessentially Indian stories and celebrate India, Indian culture and Indian voice with the world," Deshpande said at the screening organised by Product of Culture, a women of colour founded agency, media platform and community dedicated to amplifying South Asians.

Khan, whose movie 'Lagaan' was nominated for the Oscars in the Best Foreign Language Film category in 2002, expressed hope that 'Lost Ladies' connects with the audience in a "deep way, in a way that really makes you feel fulfilled, nice and warm inside and affects you. And so far, I think people have liked it, and they have connected rather deeply with the film." Voicing appreciation for the way Rao has made the film, Khan said, "Each film has its own journey and each film has its own voice. Ultimately, as filmmakers, it's our film till the day it's released and then it belongs to the audience." Rao said the film was made to "spark conversations. I hope it continues to do that. I hope it makes people be kind to one another, to go out and give all the women in their lives a big hug, to hold each other up, to support each other." On what the audiences should take away from the film, Deshpande replied, "It's a big-hearted film with a very big, profound message without being preachy. I just hope that they love the film enough to tell other people that they love the film and to go watch it." A new poster of the film has been unveiled with its English title "Lost Ladies" as the movie begins its campaign for the upcoming awards ceremony in Los Angeles. The movie follows the story of two brides named Phool and Jaya who accidentally get swapped during a train journey. It stars Nitanshi Goel and Pratibha Ranta in the lead. It also stars Sparsh Shrivastava, Ravi Kishan, Chhaya Kadam and Geeta Aggarwal Sharma. (PTI)

# Lomror puts IPL franchises on alert with blazing triple ton ahead of mega auction

DEHRADUN, Nov 14: Rajasthan's Mahipal Lomror put the IPL franchises on alert ahead of the mega auction with a sensational triple hundred comprising a staggering 13 sixes and 25 fours in their Ranji Trophy Group B match against Uttarakhand here on Thursday.

The 24-year-old all-rounder, who has in the past represented Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Rajasthan Royals, reached his triple ton in just 357 balls while maintaining an excellent strike rate of 83.33 through his innings, something that will certainly encourage the IPL franchises gearing up for the November 24-25 auction in Jeddah.

Resuming the day on 141, Lomror, who can also bowl left-arm spin, raced to his double century in just 253 balls while smashing 18 fours and eight sixes.

Thanks to his big knock, Rajasthan posted an imposing first-innings total of 660 for seven declared before reducing Uttarakhand to 109 for two at stumps on the second day of the elite group game.

The visitors declared their first innings immediately after Lomror got to his triple hundred.

During the course of his monumental effort, Lomror shared a partnership of 177 runs for the fifth wicket with Kartik Sharma (113) who got out in the day's first over without adding anything to his overnight total.

Then, Lomror was associated in a sixth-wicket stand of 116 runs with keeper Bharat Sharma, who contributed 54 in



75 balls. After Bharat's departure, Lomror found another ally in Deepak Chahar, who

chipped in with a brisk 38-ball 35. Uttarakhand's agony did not end there as Lomror then stitched another unbeaten partnership of 118 runs for the eighth wicket with Kukna Ajay Singh, who made 40 in 97 balls while helping his colleague get to the coveted landmark.

The former RCB player has been in good form this domestic season as he struck a century in his team's previous match against Hyderabad.

Arriving at the wicket at the

fall of first wicket, Lomror was associated in multiple partnerships on the first two days of this game to help the team post a commanding total.

Lomror has so far scored 527 runs in 40 IPL games, including 125 runs in the last edition for RCB, who released him ahead of the mega auction.

Prior to this match, Lomror had seven centuries and 16 fifties in first-class cricket.

Uttarakhand skipper Ravikumar Samarth and Swapnil Singh were batting on 50 and 17, respectively, when the stumps were drawn for the day as the

home team trailed Rajasthan by 551 runs.

**Brief scores:**  
In Dehradun: Rajasthan 1st innings 660/7 declared in 145.4 overs (Mahipal Lomror not out 300, Kartik Sharma 113, Bharat Sharma 54) vs Uttarakhand 1st innings 109/2 in 20.3 overs (Ravikumar Samarth batting 50).

In Nagpur: Gujarat 1st innings 343 all out in 105.3 overs (Vishal Jayswal 112, Priyank Panchal 88, Chintan Gaja 86; Praful Hinge 3/74, Aditya Thakare 3/63, Nachiket Bhute 3/66) vs Vidarbha 1st innings

202/2 in 65 overs (Karun Nair batting 81, Danish Malewar batting 76).

In Dharamsala: Puducherry 85 and 59/1 in 11 overs vs Himachal Pradesh 1st innings 436/9 declared in 112 overs (Ankit Kalsi 105, Rishi Dhawan 70, Shubham Arora 58; Gaurav Yadav 5/133).

In Hyderabad: Hyderabad 1st innings 301 all out in 105.4 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 159; Tripurana Vijay 5/118) vs Andhra 1st innings 168/2 in 58 overs (Shaik Rasheed batting 79, Karan Shinde batting 41). (PTI)

*Yuvraj Singh Centres of Excellence & Merlin Group bring cricket talent hunt to East India*

**HT Bureau**

GUWAHATI, Nov 14: The Yuvraj Singh Centre of Excellence (YSCE), in partnership with Club Pavilion, the sports vertical by Merlin Group, is proud to announce the launch of an exclusive cricket talent hunt in North Eastern India including North Bengal, Sikkim and the North East. The multi city talent hunt will kick off in Siliguri on November 17.

The search will also extend to major cities across Patna, Siliguri and Kolkata offering aspiring players a life changing opportunity to hone their skills through world class training.

The first trial was held in Bhubaneswar on November 9. The talent search for North Bengal and Northeast India will take place in Siliguri on 17th November at Delhi Public School ground, Siliguri.

A one-day trial will be held on this date and will be conducted by Vishal Bhatia (BCCI Level 1 Certified Coach & Head Coach - Yuvraj Singh Centres of Excellence) and Satyendra Singh (BCCI Level 2 Certified Coach & Head Coach YSCE ATP, Kolkata).

Aspiring cricketers from Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland will also attend to have a chance to be selected on the spot by YSCE coaches.

Selected participants will receive full scholarships to YSCE's Advanced Training Program, to be held at Merlin Rise, Club Pavilion, at the Yuvraj Singh Centre of Excellence in Kolkata. Registrations are open for young cricketers between the ages of 10 and 19 from East India.

Players can register for the talent search at <http://ysce.clubpavillion.com> or by contacting 03368090998. Yuvraj Singh, on his statement said "Cricket has always been a deeply cherished sport across all parts of India, including East India, which has produced several talented players. Our goal with this talent hunt is to give aspiring cricketers from this region the platform to showcase their skills and fulfil their dreams. At YSCE, we aim to provide young players with the tools and training they need to take their game to the next level. I am personally looking forward to seeing the incredible talent that emerges from East India."

## Ranji Trophy: Stumper Kushagra's brisk ton takes Jharkhand to 356/9 vs Delhi

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: Promising wicketkeeper-batter Kumar Kushagra struck a breezy unbeaten 133 to steer Jharkhand to 356 for 9 on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Group D match against Delhi here on Thursday.

The 20-year-old Kushagra, who was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 7.2 crores but released early this month after playing just four matches in 2024 IPL, hit 14 boundaries and five sixes during his strokeful 166-ball unbeaten innings.

Courtesy Kushagra's aggressive ton, Jharkhand added 220 runs for the loss of six wickets from 70 overs played on Day 2 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The visitors had begun the day at 136 for 3.

Sharandeep Singh added just two runs to his overnight 64 to be the first Jharkhand batter to get out. Coming out to bat at the fall of Sharandeep, Kushagra stitched 93 runs for the fifth wicket with captain Virat Singh (56 off 125 balls) to swell the visiting side's total. He then shared another 59 runs

with Manishi (14) for the eighth wicket to eventually take Jharkhand past the 350-run mark.

With just two days left in the match, Jharkhand have placed themselves in a strong position in the match.

For Delhi, Simarjeet Singh, Money Grewal and Sumit Mather have so far taken two wickets apiece, while Siddhant Sharma and Ayush Badoni got



a wicket each.

On Day 1 on Wednesday, Sharandeep scored a dogged half-century as Jharkhand batters were painstakingly slow in their approach.

They improved their run rate a bit on Thursday -- above three per over.

Having lost to Chattisgarh in the last game, Delhi, in their final home game of the season, made wholesale changes under

new skipper Ayush Badoni.

**Brief Scores:**  
In Delhi: Jharkhand 1st Innings 356 for 9 in 125 overs (Sharandeep Singh 64, Kumar Kushagra 133 not out; Simarjeet Singh 2/43, Money Grewal 2/65, Sumit Mather 2/52) vs Delhi.

In Ahmedabad: Railways 229 vs Tamil Nadu 324 for 6 in 93 overs (M Shahrulkh Khan 86, Narayan Jagadeesan 56, C Andre Siddarth 78; Shivam Chaudhary 2/51, Kunal Yadav 2/92).

In Chandigarh: Saurashtra 531 for 9 declared in 138 overs (Harvik Desai 99, Chirag Jani 198, Sheldon Jackson 69, Arpit Vasavada 58, Prerak Mankad 53; Nishank Birla 4/160, Vishu Kashyap 3/117) vs Chandigarh 78 for 5 in 23 overs (Arslan Khan 42; Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 2/17).

In Raipur: Assam 289 all out in 95.2 overs (Denish Das 104, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 61; Ravi Kiran 5/59, Ashish Chouhan 3/71) vs Chattisgarh 214 for 4 in 72 overs (Ayush Pandey 108 not out, Rahul Singh 2/46). (PTI)

## Shami could be flown to Australia after taking 4 in 19 overs on Ranji comeback

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: The beleaguered Indian team could get the Mohammed Shami boost during the challenging Australia tour after the pace-bowling stalwart made an impressive comeback from injury by grabbing four wickets in a Ranji Trophy match on Thursday.

Playing his first red-ball game in more than a year, Shami, who represents Bengal, bowled four spells across 57 overs in Madhya Pradesh's first innings and returned with figures of 19-4-54-4.

His victims included MP skipper Shubham Sharma, all-rounder Saransh Jain and two tail-enders, with three of the four batters being bowled while one edged to keeper Wriddhiman Saha.

While this is great news for the Indian team, it is understood that the national selection committee will look at how his body holds up in the second innings as well and whether there is any swelling or pain at the end of the contest, being played at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

If he ticks all the boxes, it is



almost assured that he will join forces with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah before the second Test, which will be a day/night affair.

The Ranji Trophy match ends on November 16 and he could join the squad before the first Test, beginning in Perth on November 22, but that could be cutting it too fine.

In case Shami goes, he will get to play a two-day day/night practice game against Prime Minister's XI.

More than the wickets he took on Thursday, the team management and national selection committee along with the BCCI's Sports Science & Medical Team want to check how his body holds up.

Shami, who has not played a competitive game after the ODI World Cup final on November 19 last year, had undergone an ankle surgery. Just when he was about to return for the three-Test series against New Zealand, the senior fast bowler developed a swelling in his knee delaying his comeback.

It is understood that despite naming an 18-member squad for Australia, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee and the team management would include Shami the moment the BCCI's head of Medical and Sports Science team, Dr Nitin Patel, declares him fit.

A Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) source told PTI that national selection committee

member Ajay Ratra had specifically come along with NCA medical team head Patel to watch Shami bowl. Their feedback will be sent to chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir before a final call is taken.

A BCCI source said, "Obviously, Shami was asked to play the game keeping in mind that the next round of Ranji Trophy will only start on January 23 after the Test season is over."

"So, the selectors had only one match to check his fitness. He has bowled 19 overs in multiple spells and fielded for most part of the 57 overs. He bowled 90 dot balls. But he will again have to bowl and field (in the second innings). Suppose he bowls another 15 to 18 overs in the second innings, that's a very decent amount of overs bowled."

"But the biggest test would be whether he again feels any pain after four days. If the NCA medical team green-lights his fitness, obviously he will join before the second Test," the BCCI source added. (PTI)

*For big-hitting Ashutosh Sharma, winning matches more important than batting positions*



MUMBAI, Nov 14: Having made a strong dent with bat in the Indian Premier League, the hard-hitting Ashutosh Sharma on Thursday expressed confidence in his skills to excel in the top order with a new team ahead of the mega auction.

The 26-year-old Sharma's heroics with the bat were among a few bright spots for Punjab Kings who endured another forgettable campaign last season as their specialist batters failed to impress. The right-handed Sharma, who dazzled in the lower order by striking at 167.25, says he is ready to shine at the top of the order too.

"My thinking is that wherever team needs me, I can bat. I have batted at all numbers in domestic cricket. I have never made a mindset that I have to bat down the order only," Sharma told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"I can bat anywhere. It's just that I have to do my job well and I have to make the team win."

Sharma said he learned the art of finishing games, irrespective of batting first or second, in the IPL. "I used to bat at those numbers in batting order in domestic cricket as well, but I understood how to finish games only in the IPL," he said.

"I was encountering different situations. I learned how to play when I was in early or how to adjust when not many overs were left. The experience helped me understand the job of finishing."

"I also learned about keeping a positive mindset and self-belief in those situations and also remaining calm," Sharma added.

Sharma credited former India opener and Punjab Kings' skipper Shikhar Dhawan for his rise.

"I met Shikhar bhai during my first IPL camp. He told me a lot of things about the importance of mindset, self-belief and after that

I spoke regularly with him and learned a lot," Sharma said.

"He told me that IPL was no different, that it was the same game of cricket which we play in the Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Ranji Trophy."

"There is no change in it. It's the same cricket. He told me to only think about good things, that I am making the team win and finish the match," he added. Sharma, who is now in the large auction pool, is excited as to what the future holds.

"I am excited because the last year went well. I don't know what will happen. But whatever happens, it will be good," he said. Sharma's moment under the sun arrived when he struck a 28-ball 61 with seven sixes and two fours to reignite PBKS' hopes against Mumbai Indians, with his side struggling at 77 for six at one stage at Mullanpur.

The highlight of his knock was a six over deep square leg off Jasprit Bumrah, anticipating a yorker early to get into the right position for perfect execution.

"Before the IPL, I used to practice with my coach (and former India player) Amay Khurasiya. My practice with him would get as hard as it can get, which is why I was so confident about my ability," Sharma said.

"He had prepared me well for the IPL. Even now, he makes me practice. I have increased my skill and I am bowling (regularly) in the Ranji Trophy as a third or the fourth medium pacer. My coach tells me to prepare hard so that it doesn't get hard for me in the match," he said.

Sharma had moved out of his hometown Ratlam to hone his skills in Indore and eventually he got into the Madhya Pradesh team. But he credits his current team Railways for giving him opportunities to play. (PTI)

*McSweeney doesn't need to copy Warner, he has his own game: Khawaja defends rookie opener*

PERTH, Nov 14: Veteran Australian opener Usman Khawaja backed his new opening partner Nathan McSweeney, urging him to play his own game against India in Perth rather than trying to ape David Warner, who was a "special player" in his own right.

Approaching his 38th birthday, Khawaja, a veteran of 73 Tests with nearly five and half thousand runs and 15 tons, also believed that needing to score runs at a quick clip is nothing but an urban myth, and advised McSweeney to just "repeat the process" which has worked for him till date.

"I don't know where this myth started that you needed someone to score really fast. As an opener you're trying to score runs and you've got five days to do it. We didn't have one Test match go for five days, last year. Opening is as much about scoring runs and just being able to absorb that time," Khawaja was quoted as saying by news.com.au.

Talking about Warner, Khawaja said that not everyone is as gifted as his former opening partner, who could switch gears at ease in the traditional format.

"Davey (Warner) was special. He could score runs while absorbing. He could sometimes score 100 of 100 balls but he didn't do it every time. Sometimes it took him 170, 180 balls to get that 100.

"He was consistent, he was out there, he was setting a platform for guys later to come in and score runs. Those two are both very important things," Khawaja said.

Khawaja is confident that besides scoring runs at a fair clip, McSweeney also has the ability to bat time.

"I think Nathan does that really well. He can score runs, but he can also bat time. They're really important facets to have in Test cricket if you want to set games up." Khawaja warned McSweeney that there were "no guarantees in cricket" but said that the 25-year-old batter didn't "have to do anything different" in the Test arena.

"You just try to repeat the process. The only thing that really changes is that you have a few more people watching. Not many people watch Shield cricket." Khawaja seems confident that McSweeney can handle the demands of an extremely high-skilled format like Tests.

"You always go through ups and downs in cricket, but when you look at Nathan, you look at his demeanour, you look at the way he plays, you feel that over a longer period of time that, yes, this guy will be able to handle the scrutiny of Test cricket and the pressure of Test cricket." "Even though there are no guarantees, I'm sure the selectors have made a calculated decision with him," Khawaja concluded. (PTI)

# Focus on Rinku's form and batting position as India aim series win

**JOHANNESBURG, Nov 14:** Rinku Singh's batting slot and circumspect approach must be a cause of concern for the India team going into the deciding fourth T20I against South Africa as the side aims for another bilateral series victory here Friday.

Centuries by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma on either side of an inept batting performance has kept India's nose ahead in the series and team would want a more collective batting effort to clinch it 3-1.

The Wanderers 'Bull Ring' has always been a happy hunting ground for India, where they won the 2007 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan.

Even during the previous T20I series a year back, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's last international hundred till date came at this very stadium and that too in a winning cause.

The Indian captain, who enjoys a staggering victory percentage of 81.25, having come up trumps in 13 out of the 16 matches, would like to do one better compared to the last series in the Rainbow Nation which had ended in a 1-1 draw with one game being washed out.

Rinku, one of the finest exponents of T20 cricket has suddenly gone off the boil in the past few months, reasons of which aren't exactly clear and it wouldn't be lost on the skipper and interim head coach VVS Laxman.

On the face of it, it seems that his batting position and use as a floater at number six and seven isn't helping the Aligarh man's cause.

The next T20 World Cup in India is still some distance away in 2026 and Surya, as



a skipper, has enough time to dissect and put things back on track for the man, who is too precious to be lost due to lack of clarity.

In the current series, Rinku came in at number six in two games and number seven in another and has managed just 28 runs.

The scores 11, 9 and 8 shouldn't be taken in isolation looking at where he is coming in to bat but when the number of balls (34)

he has taken to the score runs is taken into consideration, it becomes worrisome.

Even during the last IPL Rinku got to play a total of 113 balls in 15 games for KKR: roughly 7.5 deliveries per game.

Being seen strictly as a specialist "finisher" Rinku, on an average, would get to face 10 balls in an innings. The strategy would have been devised to help the India team but of late it has eroded some of southpaw's confidence as he seems to be

caught between attacking and playing second fiddle.

Most of Rinku's better efforts have come when he has batted at number five but in a line-up where Sanju Samson is settling as an opener and Tilak Varma has staked claim as a No. 3, it might be difficult for Rinku to be promoted ahead of Hardik Pandya. It is an issue that team think-tank would do better to solve at earliest.

India have used 12 out of their 15 players in the first three games and it would be interesting to see if one among the two uncapped pacers Yash Dayal or Vysakh Vijaykumar gets a debut cap in case the pitch warrants an extra specialist speedster. For Samson, he would like to forget that he is turning into Marco Jansen's 'bunny' after back-to-back failures.

In the final game, it wouldn't be a bad option for skipper Surya to check on Raman-deep Singh's steady medium pace as he can be an asset with multiple skills, including ability to field at all positions save keeping.

**Squads:**  
**India:** Suryakumar Yadav (c), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Raman-deep Singh, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal.

**South Africa:** Aiden Markram (c), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mhlabi Mpongwana, Ngaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Andile Simelane, Lutho Sipamla, Tristan Stubbs.  
Match Starts: 8:30 pm. (PTI)

## Mendis and Fernando tons earn Sri Lanka comfortable win over New Zealand in 1st ODI



**DAMBULLA (SRI LANKA), Nov 14:** Kusal Mendis and Avishka Fernando smashed centuries against a new-look New Zealand as Sri Lanka cruised to a 45-run win under the DLS method in a rain-hit first ODI.

Mendis smashed a career-best 143 off 128 balls and Fernando made 100 off 115 in Sri Lanka's imposing total of 324-5 in 49.2 overs before rain came and reduced New Zealand's target to 221 off 27 overs.

Will Young and Tim Robinson, one of the three New Zealand debutants, combined in an 88-run opening stand but Sri Lanka defied the Black Caps' chase through its spinners and restricted the reply to a total of 175-9.

Slow bowlers Maheesh Theekshana (2-32), captain Charith Asalanka (2-15), and Jeffrey Vandersay (1-40), in place of injured Wanindu Hasaranga, all left their mark before left-arm fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka grabbed 3-39 to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Earlier, Mendis and Fernando combined in a 206-run second-wicket stand after debutant Nathan Smith took a well-judged running catch at third man to dismiss Pathum Nissanka (12) in Jacob Duffy's second over after Asalanka won the toss and elected to bat.

Duffy could not hold onto a sharp low return catch from Mendis when the batter was on 11 in the only chance the pair gave before raising Sri Lanka's highest second-wicket stand in a one-day international against New Zealand.

The double-century stand bettered the previous Sri Lanka record of 170 between Sanath Jayasuriya and Hashan Tillakaratne during the 2003 World Cup.

Both batters were solid against

pace and spin as New Zealand's slow bowlers couldn't extract much turn from the wicket. Mitchell Santner returned 0-53 in his 10 overs while Ish Sodhi (1-62) and Michael Bracewell (1-73) were also expensive as both batters swept the spinners with ease.

Mendis raised his fourth ODI hundred in the 37th over off 102 balls and Fernando struck his first ODI century after three years in the next over. Fernando, who hit nine fours and two sixes, got dismissed soon after completing his fourth ODI hundred when he couldn't get enough elevation against Sodhi and was caught at mid-on.

Mendis, who smashed Bracewell for two sixes and a boundary in his last over, tried to accelerate further in the death overs but sliced a regulation catch to extra cover in Duffy's return spell. Mendis struck 17 fours and two sixes in a dominant display of strokeplay after struggling in the drawn T20 series against the Black Caps last week at the same venue.

New Zealand's top-order slipped against the spinners despite Young (48) and Robinson (35) combining in a decent start of 88 off 80 balls. The visitors lost five wickets for 22 runs — going from 88-0 to 110-5 — after Maheesh Theekshana removed both openers in one over.

Theekshana had Robinson stumped by Mendis at the second attempt and then went through the defenses of Young with a straight delivery. Asalanka picked up two wickets in successive overs with Theekshana grabbing a stunning catch at short mid-wicket to dismiss Mark Chapman as Sri Lanka deflated Black Caps' run-chase.

Pallekele will host the remaining two matches of the series on Sunday and Tuesday. (AP)

## Gujarat Giants return to winning ways with big win over Bengal Warriorz in PKL



**NOIDA, Nov 14:** Gujarat Giants ended their seven-match losing streak after an impeccable performance by Guman Singh helped them secure 47-28 win over the Bengal Warriorz here on Wednesday.

Guman's 17 points, coupled with High 5s from Himanshu and Jitender Yadav, ensured a massive win.

In the second match of the night, Haryana Steelers moved to the top of the table and extended their winning run to four games after defeating the Patna Pirates 37-32.

Earlier, it was a very impressive start for the Giants, led by their star raider Guman. He bagged a quick four raid points and this set the stage as the Giants inflicted the first all out on the Warriorz.

Guman looked unstoppable, getting Nitesh Kumar and Mayur Kadam in a do-or-die raid.

This move effectively reduced the Bengal Warriorz to just one player as Giants took an 11-point lead at the end of the first 20 minutes with the score reading 24-13.

It was a similar show in the second half, with Himanshu joining the party for the Gujarat Giants.

He completed his High 5 after getting Arjun Rathii off the mat, while Pardeep Dahiya inflicted a third all out on the Bengal Warriorz, with a raid that dismissed Vishwas S and Nitesh Kumar.

Jitender Yadav's High 5 came after an unsuccessful raid by Vishwas S, giving the Giants a comfortable 20-point lead heading into the final phase.

For every point the Warriorz scored, the Giants had an answer.

Nitin Kumar completed his Super 10, but he was the only player who performed for the Warriorz. (PTI)

## Sindhu exits in pre-quarters of Japan Masters, India's campaign ends

**KUMAMOTO (JAPAN), Nov 12:** India's campaign came to a premature end as double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

World no. 20 Sindhu was the lone Indian in contention after the exits of Lakshya Sen and women's doubles pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand.

Sindhu squandered a game lead to lose 21-17 16-21 17-21 against Canada's Michelle Li, ranked 23rd in the world, in a women's singles match that lasted one hour and 15 minutes. (PTI)

## Senior players tell youngsters: After an Australia series you go back a better cricketer

**PERTH, Nov 14:** A Test series against Australia is a transformative experience after which an individual "goes back a better cricketer" is what head coach Gautam Gambhir and some of the senior players have shared with the younger members of the team on their first tour 'Down Under'.

It will be a baptism by fire for several young Indian players, with the visitors naming as many as eight members in the squad who have never played a Test match on Australian soil.

The likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sarfaraz Khan, Nitish Reddy, Harshit Rana, Akash Deep and Prasad Krishna, all of them on their maiden tours will have plenty to prove during the marquee series, starting here from November 22.

And who better than the troika of Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah to share their invaluable learnings from the past series.

While Kohli and Ashwin are on their fifth Test tour (2011-12, 14-15, 18-19, 20-21) Down Under, Bumrah will play his third red ball series (2018-19, 20-21) in Australia.

"Gauti bhai (Gambhir) had a chat with the boys just before we started, we had some of the senior boys as well," India batting coach Abhishek Nayyar said in video posted by bcci.tv on Thursday.

"Booms (Bumrah), Virat, Ash (Ashwin) having a chat with the guys how first they came here as youngsters with a lot of seniors around and how they sort of felt that



once you finish an Australia series you go back a better cricketer."

"I think the young boys are very keen, raring to go and hopefully make a name for themselves by the end of this tour.

"It's one of the toughest challenges for an Indian cricketer coming here and overcoming it," Nayyar added.

Bowling coach Mome Morkel described the series as "a showpiece on the international calendar" and predicted that both teams would go hard at each other in every session.

"I think it's a showpiece on the international calendar since it's going to be teams that not going to give anybody an inch or a sniff and it is going to be hard-fought sessions," Morkel said.

"I'm hopeful for the five Test matches is hard. Five days of cricket when you sit after the day's play and you take your shoes off and say 'Listen, I have given it all,' he added.

Since 2014-15, Australia have not been able to lay their hands on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive se-

ries including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

India remain the only Asian nation to beat the Australia at their backyard in a Test series.

They are the only team Australia have failed to defeat in their last 16 Test series.

"It's become a big part of Indian cricket to come here and do well. It's obviously a very proud moment that India won here twice in the last two times as well as winning it in India," assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said. (PTI)

## Surya gave me chance to bat at No 3 after I asked, had to repay faith: Tilak Varma

**CENTURION, Nov 14:** Tilak Varma did not want to become a source of chagrin for his skipper Suryakumar Yadav after requesting him for the number three slot in the batting order in the third T20I against South Africa. And he didn't.

Varma had batted at number four in Durban and Gqeberha, scoring 33 and 20. Surya, who himself batted at number three, after giving it a thought, obliged his young teammate.

"In Gqeberha, he (Tilak) came to my room and said, 'Give me the opportunity to bat at No. 3. Let me express myself'," said Surya. Now it was for Varma to make the most of the opportunity and responded with a match-winning century.

After reaching his 51-ball-century, second fifty coming in just 19 balls, Varma pointed towards the dug-out and blew a flying kiss to acknowledge his captain.

"It was for 'SKY', our skipper because he gave me a chance to bat at number three," Varma told reporters after India's 11-run win on Wednesday night.

"I love batting at number three, but in last two matches, I played at number four. Last night he came to my room and said that 'You will bat No. 3' and he said it's a good opportunity. Go and express yourself.



"I told him, 'You have given me an opportunity, I will show you on the ground',"

said the second youngest Indian centurion in T20 Internationals.

His innings of 107 off 56 balls had seven sixes apart from eight fours including a

straight and a flicked six off opposition's fastest bowler and his former Mumbai Indians teammate Gerald Coetzee.

Varma added 107 runs with another youngster Abhishek Sharma, who scored a half-century after a string of failures.

"The team backed us even when we flopped. They told us to play the brand of cricket Indian team is known for and the skipper and the management (interim head coach VVS Laxman) said, 'Bindaas khelna Agar wicket gire tab bhi (Play freely even if you lose a wicket).'"

The stylish Hyderabad batter spoke about missing out on international tours of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka due to finger injury but said he always knew that he would score when his time comes.

"During the last IPL game, I had a finger dislocation and was ruled out for two months. Then during nets post recovery, I sustained another fracture. So I missed two back-to-back series -- Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

"I was feeling bad that I missed out on two series and good opportunities. But I had to remain patient, focus on the process and keep working hard. I knew my time would come and when right time comes, I will score runs." (PTI)