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Government of Assam
Department of School Education (Secondary)

Ceremonial Event of
**WAIVING of
Admission Fee**
for BPL students
Under
Chief Minister's Special Scheme



Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

Providing free education to BPL students of
Class XI and XII
in Government and Provincialised Secondary Schools of Assam

Chief Guest

Dr Ranoj Pegu

Minister, Education, Assam



Total number
of beneficiaries
for the year 2024

2,50,899

Stream-wise number of beneficiaries

Arts:	2,29,669
Science:	13,977
Commerce:	4,408
Vocational:	2,845

Rate per student per annum

₹900
₹1300
₹900
₹1300

Total Budget
Provision

**₹1800
Lakh**



27 November, 2024



11:00 AM



Conference Hall, Block-I
Ground Floor, Janata Bhawan
Dispur

Previous year's data (2023)



Total number of beneficiaries: **2,42,590**



Total amount released: **₹22,47,03,500**



SENSEX, Nifty snap 2-day rally on weak global trends, tariff concerns

MUMBAI, Nov 26: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped the two-day rally and closed lower on Tuesday in line with weak global market trends amid concerns over tariff threats by US President-elect Donald Trump. In a volatile trade, the 30-share Sensex declined 105.79 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,004.06. During the day, it lost 311.18 points or 0.38 per cent to 79,798.67. The broader NSE Nifty declined by 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50.



(0.80 per cent) and metal (0.58 per cent) were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled lower while Hong Kong ended higher.

European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.71 per cent to USD 73.58 a barrel.

Benchmark equity indices surged on Monday, helped by the BJP pulling off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory.

The BSE benchmark jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85 on Monday. The Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday after unabated selling for the past many days. They bought equities worth ₹ 9,947.55 crore, according to exchange data. (PTI)

Adani Ports & SEZ was the biggest loser among Sensex stocks, dropping by 3.23 per cent. UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the laggards.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries were among the biggest gainers.

Global stock markets declined

following concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's comment that he plans to impose new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office on January 20.

"The domestic market took a pause after the recent strong rally. However, the broader market remained agile. FIIs have turned net buyers, breaking a long streak of selling, with MSCI rebalancing," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

All Adani group stocks ended lower, with Adani Green Energy tumbling 7.05 per cent.

Broader markets defied trend with the BSE smallcap gauge climbing 0.62 per cent and midcap index by 0.10 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, utilities dropped 1.77 per cent, power declined 1.55 per cent, auto (1.26 per cent), oil & gas (0.93 per cent) and services (0.64 per cent).

IT jumped 1.11 per cent, tech (0.89 per cent), telecommunication

Shiv Nadar Univ invites applications for 2025-26

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, a leading multidisciplinary and research-focused institution, has opened admissions for the 2025-26 academic year. Applications are invited for programs across its four schools—Engineering, Natural Sciences, Management and Entrepreneurship, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Prospective candidates can apply through the university's official website (<http://www.snu.edu.in/home>).

For 2025-26, the university continues to offer a range of scholarships to support and reward academic excellence. A new addition to its offerings is the dual degree undergraduate programs in Computer Science and Business Data Analytics, launched in collaboration with Arizona State University, USA. These programs are designed to address the evolving demands of education and industry. Details about the scholarships are available at this website link: <https://snuadmissions.com/>.

"As admissions open for the new academic year, we at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, warmly welcome passionate individuals eager to achieve excellence in their chosen fields," remarked professor Ananya Mukherjee, vice-chancellor, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR.

The university boasts a highly successful Career Development Centre (CDC), which facilitates placements and internships with leading organizations worldwide. Graduates from Shiv Nadar University are recruited by top companies across sectors, while many students secure admissions to prestigious institutions globally for higher education, including direct entry to Ph.D. programs after their undergraduate studies. Last year, graduates from this university were recruited by leading organizations from India and Abroad.

Established in 2011, the university is spread across a 286-acre residential campus with approximately 4000+ students and 250+ faculty. It was awarded the 'Institution of Eminence' status in 2022.

Adani group stocks settle lower; AGEL tumbles 7 pc



NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Shares of all Adani group firms ended lower on Tuesday, with Adani Green Energy tumbling 7 per cent, in line with weak trend in equities.

The stock of Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) slumped 7.05 per cent to ₹ 899.40 on the BSE.

Shares of Adani Enterprises tumbled 4.78 per cent to ₹ 2,149.80 and Adani Energy Solutions dropped 3.79 per cent to ₹ 601.15.

The stock of Adani Total Gas Ltd tanked 3.50 per cent, Adani Ports declined 3.23 per cent, Adani Wilmar went lower by 2.44 per cent, Ambuja Cements dropped 2.30 per cent, Adani Power (2.04 per cent), Sanghi Industries (1.91 per cent), ACC (1.37 per cent) and NDTV (0.09 per cent). The 30-share Sensex declined 105.79 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,004.06 and the NSE Nifty dipped 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50.

French energy giant TotalEnergies SE on Monday said it was not aware of the corruption investigation its partner Adani group's founder chairman was facing in the US and that it is pausing fresh investments in the conglomerate pending the outcome of the charges.

Separately, GQG Partners, which made huge bets on Adani group post hammering it saw in the aftermath of the Hindenburg report last year, said the indictment is against individuals only and the bet it made on the group holds good.

TotalEnergies is one of the biggest foreign investors in billionaire Gautam Adani's business empire and had previously taken stakes in the group's renewable energy venture Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and city gas unit Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL).

In a statement, the French firm said it has learnt of US authorities indicting Gautam Adani and two other executives for allegedly paying USD 265 million bribes to Indian officials to secure solar power supply contracts for AGEL.

"This indictment does not target AGEL itself, nor any AGEL-related companies," TotalEnergies said. "Until such time when the accusations against the Adani group individuals and their consequences have been clarified, TotalEnergies will not make any new financial contribution as part of its investments in the Adani group of companies."

Adani group has dismissed the allegations brought in the US court as baseless and has said it would seek all possible legal recourse.

TotalEnergies holds a 19.75 per cent stake in AGEL. It also has a 50 per cent stake in three joint ventures that produce electricity from sunlight and wind with AGEL.

The French firm also holds a 37.4 per cent stake in ATGL, which retails CNG to automobiles and pipes natural gas to households for cooking.

Embattled billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Tuesday said TotalEnergies' decision to pause new investments in the group will not have any material impact on operations and growth plans as no new funding was under discussion.

Moody's has cut the outlook on the ratings of seven Adani entities to 'negative' from 'stable', citing the US indictment of Gautam Adani and others on alleged bribery charges, while Fitch Ratings put some bonds of the conglomerate on negative watch. (PTI)

First generation entrepreneur and Essar group co-founder Shashi Ruia dies

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Shashikant Ruia, a first-generation entrepreneur who turned a small construction business into an infrastructure conglomerate, died after a prolonged illness. He was 80. Shashi Ruia, as he was fondly called, co-founded the metals-to-technology conglomerate Essar with his brother Ravi.

Ruia, who would have turned 81 next month, died in Mumbai around midnight. He had returned from the US, where he was undergoing treatment, about a month back.

"It is with profound grief that we inform of the passing of Shri Shashikant Ruia, Patriarch of the Ruia and Essar Family," the Ruia family said in a statement. He is survived by his wife Manju and two sons Prashant and Anshuman.

Starting his career in 1965 under the guidance of his father Nand Kishore Ruia, Shashi and his brother Ravi laid the foundation of Essar in 1969

when they bagged a ₹ 2.5 crore order from the Madras Port Trust for the construction of an outer breakwater in the port.

In the early years, Essar focused on construction and engineering projects and built a number of bridges, dams and power plants. In the 1980s, Essar diversified into the energy sector with the acquisition of oil and gas assets.

A decade later, it became a significant player in steel and telecommunications, setting up a large steel plant in Gujarat, and rising to become India's second-largest telecom operator in a joint venture with Hutchison. It also went on to build an oil refinery in Gujarat despite funds being stopped because of business rivals.

Later, it exited the telecom business, sold the oil refinery to a consortium led by Russia's Rosneft and had to let go of steel plants to Arcelor-Mittal when insolvency proceedings were

initiated to recover unpaid loans.

Today, Essar Global Fund Ltd, which oversees the businesses co-founded by the Ruia brothers, manages assets across sectors such as infrastructure, energy, metals and mining, technology, and services. According to the Essar Group's website, these portfolio companies generate combined revenues of USD 14 billion.

"With an unwavering commitment to community upliftment and philanthropy, he touched millions of lives leaving an enduring impact. His humility, warmth, and ability to connect with everyone he met, made him a truly exceptional leader," the Ruia family statement said.

"An iconic industrialist, Shri Shashikant Ruia, Chairman, Essar Group, played a significant role in redefining India's corporate landscape. He laid the foundation of the Essar Group and made it a global conglomerate." (PTI)

'Real estate' and 'offshore betting ads' dominate ASCI's half-yearly complaints report 2024-25

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) released its Half-Yearly Complaints Report 2024-25, revealing a significant presence of misleading and illegal advertisements in the real estate and offshore betting sectors.

Between April and September 2024, ASCI reviewed 4016 complaints and investigated 3031 ads; 98% of these ads reviewed needed some modification.

ASCI's continued vigil on digital platforms saw a total of 2830 ads being processed, representing 93% of the total ads taken up.

Of the ads investigated, 2087 ads were in violation of the law.

Of these, 1027 were reported to the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA) under an MoU between ASCI and MahaRERA.

Further 890 ads promoting illegal



betting were reported to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), and 156 were escalated to the Ministry of Ayush in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (DMR) Act; 10 ads directly promoting liquor and four other ads regarding deepfakes were reported to MIB.

Of the remaining cases 944 that were formally investigated, 53% of the ads were not contested by the advertiser on receipt of intimation of the complaint from ASCI. Realty (34%), illegal betting (29%), healthcare (8%), personal care (7%), and food & beverage (6%) featured as the top five cate-

gories with the highest code violations.

Manisha Kapoor, CEO of ASCI, remarked, "Our work in partnership with government regulators in sectors such as betting and realty is creating an impact. While there is a long way to go, such partnerships are able to create an impetus for better oversight. Greenwashing is another area where we released guidelines easier in 2024, as this will remain an area of focus for us. With constant progress in reducing our turn-around time for complaint management, ASCI's deep experience and tech-supported efforts are evolving to provide better protection to the consumers of India."

For advertisers, the findings serve as a call to action to prioritise compliance and transparency.

For consumers, this report underlines ASCI's role in providing a trusted mechanism to fight objectionable advertising.

ICRA Analytics enters \$3-5bn Indian cyber security market with Bitsight

KOLKATA, Nov 26: ICRA Analytics Limited (ICRA Analytics), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICRA Ltd, has announced its foray into the USD 3-5 billion Indian cyber security market through a collaboration with Bitsight, a leading global cyber risk management firm and a Moody's partner. This partnership will enable ICRA Analytics to offer cutting-edge cyber risk management solutions to clients across India, the company said.

It is estimated to be valued at approximately USD 3-5 billion and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 13-15 per cent over the next five years.

ICRA Analytics expects this foray to support its business growth in the future," ICRA Analytics MD & CEO Jayanta Chatterjee told PTI.

"Our collaboration with Bitsight will enable us to deliver next-generation cyber risk solutions across India. This strengthens our bouquet of offerings under the risk management platform and ensures access to superior

quality cyber risk management frameworks for our clients," he said without providing any business projections.

Jason Rivard, Global Channels, Bitsight, said, "We are proud to partner with ICRA Analytics to bring Bitsight's proven cyber risk management solutions to businesses across India.

Our combined expertise will empower Indian enterprises to better identify, communicate, and prioritize cyber risks in today's complex digital landscape." (PTI)

"The Indian cyber security market

Contd. from Page 3...

11 contractors onboarded to

Jorhat-Dibrugarh highway, Kaziranga Elevated Corridor, and the retendering process for the Majuli-Jorhat bridge across the Brahmaputra. During the meeting, Gadkari had diligently evaluated the progress of ongoing and upcoming national highway projects in Assam, stressing the importance of their timely completion. The CM highlighted the shared goal of completing 57 essential national highway projects across various implementing agencies on schedule and specifically requested the Union minister to prioritise the swift conclusion of the Jorhat-Dibrugarh highway. (PTI)

Constitution not merely

government, the relationship between the central and state authorities, and the rights of the citizens. He noted, "Following extensive debate and discussion, the Constituent Assembly formally adopted the final draft of the Constitution on November 26, 1949. India's Constitution reflects the dreams and aspirations of its people. As the world's largest democracy, India places the welfare of its citizens at the heart of its governance."

He noted that the Constitution ensures that people from all sections of society enjoy freedom, equality, and justice. He reiterated, "While the Constitution grants various rights and protections to citizens, it is also the responsibility and duty of each citizen to preserve the core values and principles of the Constitution."

Sarma further remarked that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but the culmination of over 5,000 years of Indian civilization and culture. "During a period of divisiveness and communal tension, the Constitution emerged as a beacon of unity and justice," he stated.

Meanwhile, the CM praised the foresight of the Constituent Assembly in crafting a Constitution that embodies the essence of Indian civilization, ensuring the creation of a just society. He underscored India's uniqueness, stating that despite 90% of the population being of one religion, the Constitution was framed as secular.

During the event, the minister of parliamentary affairs, Pijush Hazarika, also delivered a speech. The event was attended by the minister of environment & forests, Chandra Mohan Patowary, the minister of revenue & disaster management, Jogen Mohan, the minister of labour welfare, Sanjoy Kishan, additional chief secretary B.R. Samal, and other officials and dignitaries from the Assam government.

Gauhati HC grants bail

Central Bureau of Investigation, with the central agency taking over the probe the next month. Several firms, promoted mostly by men and women in their twenties, allegedly raised hundreds of crores of rupees from people across the state on the promise that they would get huge returns by investing in the stock markets. However, these firms started to fail to repay investors over the last few months.

Over 65 people have been arrested in connection with the scam so far and 14 Special Investigation Teams set up to investigate the cases registered across districts under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019, besides the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Assamese actor, choreographer and social media influencer Sumi Borah and her photographer husband Tarkik Borah were among those arrested, with Sumi still in judicial custody. Deepankar Barman was arrested by a team of Assam Police from Goa last month. (PTI)

Citizens shouldn't only

contribute to keeping the state's beaches clean. "We should make sure that all the plastic that is generated and thrown away into the sea every day is collected and deposited with the authorities," Justice Mridul said. CM Sawant said Goa was the first state to follow a uniform civil code (UCC).

"Goa is a model state for the country, and we are ahead in achieving betterment. Everyone is fighting for their rights, I request everyone to follow duties, which are given by our Constitution, which will give real justice to the Constitution of India," he said. (PTI)

Tension in fringe areas

mob blocked the road with rocks, they said. "The road to Leimakhong has been barricaded to prevent civilian movement without authorisation," a police officer said. As the day progressed, the gathering at the spot increased with hundreds of people accompanied by Meira Paibi activists camping at the spot. They claimed it was likely that Singh was kidnapped by militants, and urged the state government to send additional forces for his rescue.

"We will wait here till he is found and handed to us. We want immediate attention of the government into this issue and send additional forces to look for the missing person," said Khaidem Ibeton, a Meira Paibi activist. (PTI)

Shinde steps down

its chief ministerial candidate until the distribution of portfolios in the new state government is finalised. The indications that the Mahayuti coalition's decision on who would become the next CM would be delayed emerged as the Governor on Tuesday morning asked Eknath Shinde to act as a caretaker chief minister after he tendered his resignation. "The central leadership is in no hurry to name a candidate for the chief minister's post. We have secured a decisive mandate, and the priority now is to work out a comprehensive plan for government formation. That includes finalising ministerial portfolios and distribution of key posts such as district guardian ministers," a state BJP leader told PTI while requesting anonymity. The careful approach stems from the desire to avoid friction among the coalition partners, he said.

"With the ongoing parliamentary session, the central leadership is stretched thin, holding meetings with both Maharashtra BJP leaders and allies while also handling floor management in Parliament," a party leader noted.

As for the announcement of the chief minister candidate, the source said, "The BJP central body will appoint an observer or a team of observers who will visit Mumbai. They will meet the MLAs and senior party functionaries to finalise the cabinet formula. Once that is done, they will announce the party's choice for the leader of the legislative wing." While Fadnavis, who was virtually the BJP's face during the campaign, is the frontrunner for the top post following his party's spectacular electoral performance, Shiv Sena leaders have said they would like Eknath Shinde to continue, indicating that the Sena has not ceded its claim.

Ajit Pawar's NCP is yet to open its cards, though Chhagan Bhujbal, a senior leader of the party, recently said that Fadnavis was acceptable to them. (PTI)

Himanta congratulates Mising

and protects the identity of the Mising tribe's handloom products, paving the way for enhanced market access and global recognition, officials said. (PTI)

CEM Ronghang warns against

Council plans to distribute 1 lakh free land pattas across all legislative constituencies- Amri, Rongkhang, Howraghat, Diphu, and Bokajan. For all those who missed the V-form submission, a second phase of 'Phurthimi Akemang' will be initiated, aiming to provide pattas to all indigenous people within three years."

CEM Ronghang recently announced that indigenous people living along the Assam-Nagaland border will receive free land pattas. He emphasised that this decision is final and cannot be overturned, as the land belongs to the KAAC. Notably, the Council anticipates a revenue loss of ₹ 6 crores due to this initiative. However, CEM Ronghang emphasised that this loss will ultimately benefit the masses.

Regarding development initiatives, CEM Ronghang announced that construction work on the Borjung-Tarapur road has commenced, along with the Dokmoka to Rongmongve (Kaziranga) road project. The road will be completed within a year. Additionally, a 100-bedded hospital in Bokajan is nearing completion. The Council plans to focus on school buildings, road infrastructure, and job creation to drive development in the district.

CEM Ronghang said the prevalent bandh culture in Karbi Anglong had hindered development in the past. However, the Council is committed to making progress and will demonstrate its commitment through actions rather than words. The event was attended by Bokajan MLA and Assam Legislative Assembly deputy speaker, Dr Numal Momin; MLAs, Darsing Ronghang and Bidyasing Engleng; former MP Horensing Bey and others.

London, Delhi can share

co-leading the Maritime Security Pillar of India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. And our naval interactions, following visits by Royal Navy ships and INS Tabar have established a firm basis for joint work in the region. There is significant potential for much closer defence collaboration over the coming years," she said.

The conference explored the geostrategic and economic imperatives of engaging with the Indo-Pacific, the evolving military and defence dynamics critical to ensuring collective security interests, and the pressing challenges of climate change and environmental security.

"Our inaugural Indo-Pacific Conference last year underscored the growing resonance in the UK of this vital region's significance to global security and growth. Developments since then have only further underlined the interdependence of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions. Therefore, this year's conference is, in our view, a timely opportunity to explore these linkages and consider our collective strengths and challenges," said Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami.

"The conference gives us a further opportunity to emphasise that we share a vision of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, with mutually beneficial cooperation underpinned by international law and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. We see this dynamic region not as a theatre of rivalry but as a potential super-connector for global cooperation," he said.

Rahul Roy-Chaudhury, IISS Senior Fellow for South and Central Asian Defence, Strategy and Diplomacy, pointed out that the Indo-Pacific Conference has now been elevated to a ministerial-led "Track 1.5" policy-relevant event in London. "Strong UK ministerial and official participation indicates the commitment of the new Sir Keir Starmer government to deepen partnerships with key countries of the Indo-Pacific region," he said. (PTI)

11 contractors onboarded to expedite Jorhat-Dibrugarh highway project

Proactively tackle challenges of Assam Highways, Gadkari tells NHIDCL

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has informed him that following the state government's concern over the slow pace of work on the Jorhat-Dibrugarh highway, 11 contractors have been onboarded to expedite the project.

In a letter to Sarma, Gadkari said in the wake of the report received from his office regarding restoration and maintenance of the 127 km stretch, the matter was examined.

Gadkari directed the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) to proactively tackle all challenges and issues on the National Highways (NHs) of Assam and undertake comprehensive maintenance and restoration of all NHs to make them traffic worthy.

The work on the Jorhat to Dibrugarh section, unfortunately, is running behind schedule due to several factors, including initial delays re-



lated to land acquisition, an acute shortage of raw materials, especially silt and sand, and the non-performance of certain contractors, Gadkari, the Union minister of road transport and highways, pointed out.

The stretch from Numaligarh to Jorhat has been completed.

"In our recent meeting, it was decided to facilitate efficient execution, the section from Jorhat to Dibrugarh, has been divided into smaller fragments and work is ongoing with 11 contractors onboarded," said Gadkari.

The project includes the construction of nine vehicular underpasses, six pedestrian underpasses and one flyover, requiring substantial quantities of sand, earth and boulders.

"I have strictly directed NHIDCL to proactively tackle all such challenges and issues on national highways in Assam, and undertake comprehensive maintenance and restoration of all national highways," he said.

He also assured Sarma that his ministry would effectively implement all requisite measures for the timely completion of the projects.

It may be mentioned that Sarma last month engaged in a comprehensive review meeting with Gadkari, urging him to expedite crucial projects such as the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

75TH CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Constitution not merely legal document: Himanta

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday took part in the 75th Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Assam Government's Parliamentary Affairs Department at Lok Seva Bhawan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarma reflected on the significance of this event, noting that it was officially recognised on October 11, 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that November 26 would be observed annually as Constitution Day.

The CM also extended a heartfelt tribute to the distinguished members of the drafting committee, particularly the eminent freedom fighter and jurist who chaired the Committee, B.R. Ambedkar. Sarma recounted, "The formal



process of drafting the Constitution commenced during the third meeting of the Constituent Assembly on December 13, 1946. Following extensive deliberations and reports from various committees, constitutional expert B. N. Rao prepared the draft of the Constitution by October 1947."

"After it was submitted to the Drafting Committee, the draft underwent rigorous scrutiny, ultimately taking a definitive form in 1948," he added.

The CM stated that the draft addressed all vital aspects of governance, including the structure of the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Citizens shouldn't only assert rights and neglect duties: Ex-CJ

PANAJI, Nov 26: Former Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, Justice Siddharth Mridul, on Tuesday said no democracy can achieve success if citizens only assert their rights but neglect their duties.

Addressing an event organised by Goa's Directorate of Higher Education near here on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, he said citizens should come forward to give their best to the country.

"No democracy can achieve success where citizens assert their rights alone but neglect to actively discharge citizenship duties by assuming responsibilities and coming forward to give their best to the country," Justice Mridul (ret'd) said.

Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant, state's minister for law and judiciary Alexio Sequeira, leader of opposition Yuri Alemao and others were present on the occasion.

The fundamental duty of the citizen is incorporated into the Indian Constitution by the enactment of the 42nd constitutional amendment in 1976, he said.

"The original Indian Constitution, the world's longest and biggest written Constitution, saw a holistic approach towards civic life in a democratic and egalitarian politics that was not considered imperative to include fundamental duties," he said.

The 42nd amendment was aimed at removing the difficulties felt in achieving the objective of social economic revolution to end poverty, ignorance, disease, and air quality to them encapsulate the fundamental duties and the correlation with fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy briefly, he added. Speaking further, Justice Mridul lamented the decreasing percentage of voting in some parts of the country.

Voter apathy should be considered very seriously because, in a large number of states, it has been noticed that the percentage of voting has been dropping alarmingly and there is an apathy towards exercising their right, he said.

He appealed to the citizens of Goa to (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Gauhati HC grants bail to 5 accused in online trading scam

CBI failure to file chargesheet on time comes to light

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: The Gauhati High Court on Tuesday granted bail to five accused in different cases related to the multi-crore online trading scam in the state. While one was given interim bail on health grounds, the four others were granted bail as the investigating agency CBI failed to file the chargesheet within the stipulated period.

The court granted default bail to Sapanil Das, Abhijit Chanda, Bishal Phukan and Tapan Bora alias Tarkik Bora, while Jiten Deka was allowed bail on medical grounds.

Senior advocate Bijon Mahajan, who appeared for Das, told PTI that default bail was granted due to the failure of the prosecution to submit the chargesheet.

"Bail was given not on merit. But default bail was granted as the prosecution could not file the chargesheet within the stipulated period of 60 days. In all the cases registered against my client, 60 days is the maximum period for filing of chargesheet, but he has been in custody



for over 80 days now," Mahajan said.

Sources said the other three accused were also given default bail on similar grounds of the CBI not submitting the chargesheet on time.

The online trading scam in the state came to light during the last week of August when investors, who had put in huge

amounts of money in 29-year-old Deepankar Barman's company, complained that he had not paid them the due returns and his office has been closed since August 21. The Assam cabinet in September decided to transfer 32 cases registered till then in connection with the online trading scam to the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Manipur launches massive operation against wrongdoers

IMPHAL, Nov 26: In response to the horrific incident in Jiribam where six innocent civilians (three children and three women) were kidnapped and "brutally killed by Kuki militants in the same region", the government of Manipur, in collaboration with central security forces, has launched a massive operation to bring the perpetrators to justice, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The government strongly condemned this "barbaric act", which highlights the escalating violence aimed at disturbing communal harmony, the statement said.

Recognising the gravity of the situation, the government has reinforced the security presence in Jiribam by deploying additional central forces to strengthen ongoing operations and safeguard the residents of the district, the statement also said. Sufficient forces have been positioned to prevent any further escalation, it added.

The government of Manipur condemned these acts of violence in the strongest terms and extended its deepest condolences to the families of the victims, the statement expressed. In response to these "gruesome incidents", a coordinated effort involving state police and central paramilitary forces has been initiated to hunt down the "terrorists" and bring them to justice, it also said.

The people in the region are also requested to remain calm and cooperate with the authorities during this critical operation. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to restoring peace and ensuring the safety of all citizens. (ANN)

Cabinet renames Hojai district headquarters

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: The Assam cabinet on Tuesday decided to rename the Hojai district headquarters as Srimanta Shankardeva Nagar, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The town's earlier name was Shankardeva Nagar.

"The state cabinet has decided to rename the district headquarters of Hojai district from 'Shankardeva Nagar' to 'Srimanta Shankardeva Nagar'," Sarma posted on 'X'.

Hojai was carved out of Nagaon as a separate district on August 15, 2015.

The state cabinet in its last meeting on November 19 had decided to change the name of Karimganj district in Barak valley to Sribhumi. (PTI)

Himanta congratulates Missing community on GI recognition

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday congratulated the Missing community and people of the state for the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the tribe's handloom products.

The GI recognition certificate for its handloom products, along with Assam's industrial and traditional items, registered in March, was formally presented to the applicant agency, the Institute of Handicraft Development, at a ceremony in New Delhi on Monday.

The award was received by Union minister of state for textiles and external affairs Pabitra Margherita, who is a Rajya Sabha MP from Assam.

"The chief minister congratulated the Missing community and the people of Assam on this distinguished achievement," the CMO posted on X. The GI tag ensures authenticity (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Shinde steps down; no clarity yet on who will be next CM

MUMBAI, Nov 26: Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde on Tuesday stepped down as Maharashtra Chief Minister, even as the suspense over who will succeed him as the new CM continued, three days after state assembly election results were announced.

In Delhi, Union minister Ramdas Athawale said the BJP leadership has decided to make Devendra Fadnavis the CM for the third time, but there was no confirmation on this from the BJP.

Shinde and Fadnavis were together early Tuesday morning at an event in the Mumbai police commissioner's office to pay tributes to martyrs of the 26/11 terror attack but hardly exchanged a word.

Shinde's resignation came amid a growing chorus from within his

Shiv Sena party that he continued in the post as the assembly elections were fought and won under his leadership.

Accompanied by deputy chief ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, Shinde met Governor C P Radhakrishnan at Raj Bhavan earlier in the day to submit his resignation as the chief minister.

The Governor then requested Shinde to continue in a caretaker role until the new chief minister is sworn in, a Raj Bhavan official said. The outgoing assembly's term concluded on Tuesday, adding urgency to the transition process.

The ruling Mahayuti coalition showed an impressive performance in the recent assembly elections, where it secured a commanding 230 out of 288 seats. The BJP got 132

seats followed by the Shinde-led Shiv Sena with 57 and Ajit Pawar led-NCP with 41 seats.

Deepak Kesarkar, a minister in the Shinde cabinet, told reporters that a new government will be sworn in at the earliest.

Despite the landslide victory, the Mahayuti alliance, which comprises the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, is grappling with disagreements on who will be the next CM, sources said.

Kesarkar said while the Shiv Sena cadre wants the next CM to be from their party, the ultimate decision will rest with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home minister Amit Shah, which they will accept.

Meanwhile, BJP sources told PTI that the party would not rush into announcing (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Tension in fringe areas of Imphal Valley after man goes missing

IMPHAL, Nov 26: Tension was palpable on Tuesday in parts of the Imphal West district that borders Kangpokpi after a 55-year-old man belonging to the Meitei community remained missing for more than 24 hours, officials said.

Laishram Kamalbabu Singh, a resident of Loitang Khunou village in Imphal West, left home on Monday afternoon to report for work at the Leimakhong Army Camp in Kangpokpi. He has been missing since then, they said.

His mobile phone has been switched off, they added. "A joint search operation by the police and the Army is underway for him," a police officer said.

According to his family, Singh did menial jobs at the Leimakhong Army Camp of 57 Mountain Divi-



sion, located 16 km away from the state capital and surrounded by Kuki-dominated areas.

Meiteis who lived near Leimakhong have fled the area since the onset of the ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives since May last year.

Meanwhile, a large number of people from Singh's village on the way to Leimakhong to know his whereabouts were stopped by security forces near Kanto Sabal to prevent an escalation of the situation, police said. After being stopped, the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

CEM Ronghang warns against misleading tactics



HT Correspondent

BOKAJAN, Nov 26: The Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the KAAC, Tuliram Ronghang cautioned the locals against individuals who misled people by claiming that the "Purthimi Akemang" initiative is a tactic to deny land pattas to the indigenous people.

Attending the land pattas distribution under the Purthimi Akemang initiative by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) in a function at Japralangso Cultural Complex, Karbi Anglong, Rong-

hang urged the people to avoid repeating the chaos of the 1986 autonomous state movement during which there were killings, boycotts, and social disorder. He said that a group of individuals staged a sit-in protest demonstration in front of the Land and Revenue Phuloni Circle Office claiming that the land documents being distributed by the Council were fakes and misleading the public.

The Chief Executive Member (CEM) of KAAC, Tuliram Ronghang also mentioned, "Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council will provide free land documents to indigenous people. To achieve this, the Council will absorb the costs, ensuring that no fees are incurred during the official process. The (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

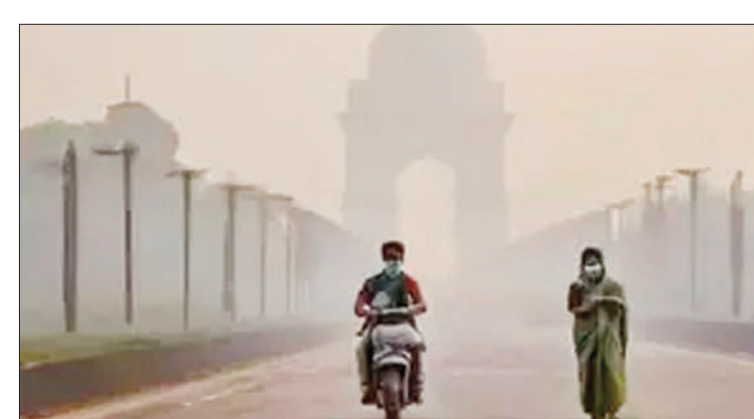
India has 'unique opportunity' to lead progress on sustainable development

London, Delhi can share best practices towards a cleaner climate: British minister

LONDON, Nov 26: Britain's Minister for the Indo-Pacific Catherine West, who just visited New Delhi, which has been struggling with poor air quality in recent weeks, has highlighted the scope of sharing best practices between the two countries to move towards a cleaner climate.

West, who was in India last week for a visit covering aspects such as climate, technology, health, education and development, welcomed the announcement by Prime Ministers Keir Starmer and Narendra Modi of the relaunch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in the new year.

"We have consistently said that we see an FTA as the floor and not the ceiling of our ambitions," West said in her keynote address at the second annual Indo-Pacific Conference in London on Monday.



The minister noted that as the world's most populous country, India has a "unique opportunity" to help shift the dial and lead progress on climate and sustainable development.

"When I visited India last week, everyone shared this enthusiasm for mutual collaboration and tackling global problems together. From exciting higher education opportunities to

cooperation on clean power and climate change," she said.

"My visit also coincided, of course, as people will have read in the papers, with the season where Delhi's air quality is somewhat difficult to see others in front of you. But having come from a city in London where we have also had similar problems, there are lots of things we can do together to share best practices and move towards a cleaner climate," she noted.

With reference to the theme of the conference, organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) think-tank and co-hosted by the High Commissions of India, Australia and Singapore, West highlighted that both India and the UK share a "deep and enduring commitment" to a free and open Indo-Pacific. "The UK is pleased to be (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The ocean moans over dead men's bones
- Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Decline of Left in India

The Left in India is at present passing through a crisis which is unprecedented since independence. In contrast to the steady concentration of power in the hands of the Right, the rapid decline of the Left over the years is extremely alarming. While all major parties of the INDIA alliance have gained politically (Samajwadi Party, DMK, Congress, TMC, RJD etc), the Left's performance has been dismal. The biggest gain has been made by the Congress but its intolerant attitude towards the communist parties on the question of seat allocation definitely weakened the Left's position. This, however, does not mean that in electoral politics the Left should shun its relation with the Congress. Against the BJP, electoral alliance with the Congress is necessary and efforts should be made to involve them in the struggle on different issues but not at the cost of the Left. What will be the core of the anti-Right coalition? It has to be admitted that the non-Left parties cannot really fight the RSS and BJP, because of their poor ideological orientation. All of them have a weakness for soft Hindutva and are ultimately not at all reliable forces who can fight the Right consistently. Here the role of the Left becomes crucial, because the Left alone can fight the Right organizationally as well as ideologically. Therefore, it is the Left which has to emerge as the core of the anti-Right coalition.

But if the Left has to emerge as the core then the most important condition is the consolidation of the Left under a Common Minimum Programme (CMP). But this is not an easy task. So what is necessary is Left consolidation through a coordinating mechanism on the basis of a CMP. In the Soviet era, when international communist movement, with all its pitfalls, was a global force, the Left could project before the masses an alternative of capitalism. Today since this is not possible, it is the Right which is setting up the agenda and projecting the idea of an alternative India which has caught the imagination of a large section of the masses, and it is this strategy which has given them political dividends. In a country like India, if the communist parties have to make themselves acceptable to the masses, then issues like religion and morality need to be addressed in proper perspective. The hallmark of a good communist is modesty and in personal life, they need to be guided by norms and standards of communist morality. Only then the communist Left can win over the masses intellectually and morally.

The communist parties have paid very little attention to the question of tradition. The way BJP and RSS are hijacking and distorting some of the leading figures of the Indian tradition, namely, Gandhi, Vivekananda, Aurobindo, Subhas Chandra, Tagore and many others and presenting them as symbols of Hindutva, is a major challenge for the Left. In India Marxism cannot appeal to the working masses unless it integrates its teachings with the positive elements in our tradition, while critiquing the conservative elements. RSS is doing just the opposite, and thereby confusing and misleading the masses. The Left has to come out with an alternative narrative on the understanding of religion and traditions to take back the common Hindu masses from the stranglehold of RSS type Hindutva.

Lower middle class and poor students are suffering badly due to steep rise in education costs

By: Tirthankar Mitra

Even as India aspires for inclusive growth and development, the rising cost of higher education in the country threatens to undermine this wish. Once considered a key to upward mobility, higher education is increasingly becoming out of reach to many middle class and lower middle class youth.

The cost of tuition and associated matters have escalated substantially over the past decade. The fee for an under graduate course at top private institutions ranged between Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh annually last year. This is indeed a steep rise from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh for the same period a few years ago. The situation is not much different in government-run universities.

Though the fees are relatively low, hostel accommodation, study materials and other incidentals add to the cost of education. This hike in cost of education comes at a time when average annual household income is far less making the parents seriously mull over the option of not opting for higher education for their wards.

Indeed sending a youth for higher education is an unenviable option for many a household. For they have to face a struggle to meet the financial demand of their children's education.

The situation has not improved owing to the non-availability of government-funded scholarships or financial aid programme. The presence of these scholarships is critical to making higher education accessible.

The presence of funding avenues like Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme cannot be denied. But they cover only a fraction of costs while covering only a limited number of

students leaving the rest who make up the majority to opt for private loans.

Such loans burden the students and their parents taking years to repay. Last year, the National Sample Survey Office reported that nearly 27 per cent of students enrolled in higher education were forced to take loans to fund their studies.

The fallout being graduates entering the workforce with debt burdens which take years to repay. It hampers their financial freedom in the years to come. To make matters clearer, the average interest on education loans in the country ranges between 9 to 12 per cent. Borrowers from low and middle income families find it difficult to repay unless they can secure a job that is high paying.

The careers of students are shaped by the high cost of education. Every individual student has a subject he/she is passionate about. But they choose courses with higher income potential one such as medicine, law and engineering. For burden of a heavy student loan lurks at the back of their mind.

In their own way, the high interest student loans narrow down career options. It leads to lack of intellectual diversity which is detrimental to personal growth and societal progress. Time the government at the Centre acted swiftly to address rising education costs. Universities should be asked to maintain a transparent fee structure.

It should be accompanied by a slew of measures. These include capping tuition fee hike, expanding scholarship programmes and offering interest free loans to students from lower income background. Higher education in India needs to be made more affordable. The sooner it is done, the better. (IPA Service)

Us indictment of Adanis for bribing Indian officials will have little impact on the group

If bribery is a common practice in business, and often viewed as the normal way of doing business in many countries, including India, there is little too sensational about the US Department of Justice indictment, last week, against India's US\$37-billion infrastructure conglomerate Adani group head Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, Adani Green Energy CEO Vneet S Jaain and others for bribing officials in India, raising money from US investors and misleading them. The US prosecutors indicted Gautam S Adani, Sagar Adani and six others for allegedly offering ₹ 2,029 crore bribes to Indian government officials for securing "lucrative solar energy supply contracts" with state electricity distribution companies.

Last year, the US-based Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of engaging in extensive accounting fraud, stock price manipulation, and exploiting tax havens. The report accused the group of extensive stock manipulation and accounting fraud, claiming that these practices had persisted over decades. However, the Indian authorities didn't seem to be quite puzzled or concerned.

Business malpractices, including bribery, are not uncommon in India. To many, the Adani group's breathtaking expansion, especially during the present government in India, may look reminiscent to the Ambani group's phenomenal rise during the government under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

It is hardly surprising to note that there is no official reaction as yet

to the US Justice Department indictment. Over 22 months have passed since the publication of the Hindenburg Research report on the Adani group. India's securities watchdog, SEBI, investigating some of the allegations, is yet to give a report.

India's Securities and Exchange Board is now said to have launched an inquiry into US allegations against Adani Group, concerning false statements made to Indian stock exchanges, specifically with regard to information about US investigations. This may end up to be another eyewash. The Adani group is most unlikely to be worried. The group has grown through controversies.

Seemingly inflated share prices of Adani companies were believed to have helped the group raise large funds, mostly from government banks such as SBI, PNB, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Union Bank and institutions such as the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electricity Corporation (REC), to expand at a breakneck speed in recent years. The massive borrowing helped the group achieve a meteoric growth in the last 10 years and became one of India's leading global infrastructure and power enterprises.

In fact, if the group is in financial trouble, its lenders would be in much greater trouble. The group's gross debt is rising with its expansion. It increased 52 percent to ₹ 63,855 crore for the last September quarter from the end-March level.

According to the latest estimate, the Adani Group's total debt is ₹ 2.4 lakh crore, with a cash balance of ₹ 59,791 crore. Domestic banks including SBI, PNB, and other institutions reportedly hold around ₹ 88,100 crore or 36 per cent of the Adani Group's total debt. The US indictment of Gautam Adani and others may have both immediate and long-term implications on PSU banks with significant exposure to the group.

Indian lenders account for more than ₹ 88,000 crore of the Adani Group's total debt of ₹ 2.41 lakh crore as of March 31, 2024.

Following the Hindenburg report in January 2023, several Indian banks and financial institutions had disclosed their exposure to the Adani Group. Quant Mutual Fund was the biggest investor in Adani Enterprises' Rs 4,200 crore qualified institutional placement (QIP) last month.

Quant mutual fund (MF) would possibly face the most significant impact among mutual fund houses due to the recent decline in Adani group shares. The public sector Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has 7.86 percent stake in Adani Ports and 1.36 per cent stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd.

The LIC held 16,97,11,417 shares as on September 30, 2024 as per the latest shareholding data available with the BSE. Its stake value in Adani Green Energy fell by ₹ 570 crore over the last Tuesday closing. With the global rating

agencies raising concerns over the likely impairing of Adani group's funding access and increase in funding costs, and the group scrapping its \$600 million bond offering following the bribery charges in the US, all eyes are back on the Gautam Adani-led group's debt levels.

Boutique investment firm GQG (Global Quality Growth) Partners, led by NRI investor Rajiv Jain, has issued a statement to the Australian Stock Exchanges regarding recent developments involving the US District Court and the SEC's actions against the Adani Group regarding an alleged bribery scheme. GQG Partners, which was among the initial investors to acquire a stake in the Adani Group following the Hindenburg scandal in 2023, stated that it is closely monitoring the charges brought by the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the US Securities and Exchange Commission against Gautam Adani and other executives and companies within the Adani Group.

The GQG had initially invested ₹ 15,446 crore (\$1.87 billion) in four Adani companies in March 2023, and since then, its investments appreciated to \$5 billion through market gains and further investments. GQG specializes in long-only equities. The firm manages over US\$150 billion in client assets in Global, Emerging Markets, International, and US strategies. GQG Partners LLC ("GQG") is registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Adani group thrived on government contracts. Many suspect that they could not have been achieved without top level government contacts and bribes. The US prosecutors have exposed the alleged role of the specified Adani satraps in a \$265 million bribery case to secure solar power contracts in India. They mostly involve government agencies generally believed to be prone to bribery.

In India, as in many other countries, some industries and sectors are more prone to bribery than others. They include construction, mining, transportation, defence and military, natural resources and energy, and infrastructure projects.

Paradoxically, the Adani group is involved in all those sectors. The group has secured at least three National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) projects, including Bilaspur-Pathralpi in Chhattisgarh and Mancharial-Repallewada in Telangana, a 50-year lease of six airports - Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram - through a concession agreement with the Airports Authority of India and several large-scale construction projects, including Dharavi slum redevelopment, Ganga Expressway and a mega convention centre in Mumbai. It is unlikely that highly-connected Adanis are worried about the US Department of Justice indictment, except possibly for arrest warrants, for now. The Adani group has denied the allegations, calling them baseless, and said it will seek all possible legal courses. (IPA Service)

Strengths and struggles of government education

By: Satyabrata Borah

The present education system in government schools is an important topic as it directly impacts millions of children across the country. Government schools are institutions that provide education to students at minimal or no cost. These schools play a significant role in making education accessible to children from various economic backgrounds, particularly those who cannot afford private schools. Over the years, the government has introduced several measures to improve the quality of education in these schools, focusing on inclusivity, infrastructure, and better teaching methods.

Government schools aim to provide free and quality education to children, ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to learn and grow. This is done through policies such as the Right to Education Act, which mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years. These schools often serve as the backbone of the education system in rural and economically weaker areas, where private schools may not exist or may be unaffordable for the local population.

One of the major advantages of the government school system is its affordability. Education is either free or requires a nominal fee, which ensures that even the poorest families can send their children to school. This has helped in increasing enrollment rates over the years. The government also provides other incentives, such as free textbooks, uniforms, and mid-day meals, to encourage attendance and reduce the financial burden on families. The mid-day meal scheme, in particular, has been a great success in improving nutrition levels among children while also increasing school attendance.

Another advantage is the widespread presence of government schools. These schools are present in almost every village and town, making education accessible to children in remote areas. The government has made significant efforts to bridge the gap between rural and urban education, ensuring that students in rural areas have access to basic education facilities.

In addition, government schools often follow a standardized curriculum set by

the education boards, which ensures uniformity in the content being taught across the country.

The government school system also plays a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and diversity. Students from different socio-economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds come together to learn under one roof, fostering a sense of unity and tolerance. These schools often conduct activities and programs that emphasize the importance of equality, helping students develop respect for each other's differences.

Despite these advantages, the government school system faces several challenges. One major issue is the quality of education. Many government schools lack adequate infrastructure, such as proper classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. In some areas, schools do not even have basic facilities like clean drinking water and functional toilets. These shortcomings make it difficult for students to focus on their studies and hinder the overall learning experience.

The shortage of qualified and motivated teachers is another significant challenge. Many government schools struggle with teacher vacancies or rely on underqualified staff. Even when teachers are present, they may not always be adequately trained to handle modern teaching methods or use technology effectively in the classroom. This affects the quality of teaching and, in turn, the academic performance of students.

Another issue is the lack of emphasis on extracurricular activities and skill development. While private schools often offer a wide range of activities, such as sports, music, and art, government schools tend to focus primarily on academics.

This limits students' overall development and their ability to explore their interests and talents beyond the classroom. Additionally, career guidance and counseling services are rarely available in government schools, leaving students with little support in planning their future.

Parental involvement in government schools is often minimal. Many parents of students in government schools are uneducated or work long hours, leaving them with little time to engage in their children's education. This can lead to a lack of motivation among

students and a higher dropout rate, particularly in rural areas where families may prioritize work over education.

Language barriers also pose a challenge in government schools, especially in states with diverse linguistic populations. While most government schools teach in the regional language, students from different linguistic backgrounds may find it difficult to grasp concepts, leading to learning gaps. The lack of emphasis on English proficiency further hampers students' ability to compete in higher education and the job market.

Another challenge is the perception of government schools. Many people view these schools as inferior to private schools, associating them with poor-quality education and low academic standards. This perception often discourages parents from enrolling their children in government schools, even when they cannot afford private education. Changing this mindset requires consistent efforts to improve the quality of education and create success stories from government schools.

To address these challenges, the government has initiated several programs and policies. Efforts are being made to improve infrastructure, recruit qualified teachers, and provide training to existing staff.

Digital learning initiatives, such as smart classrooms and e-learning platforms, are being introduced in some government schools to make education more interactive and engaging. The government is also working on promoting vocational education and skill development to prepare students for future job opportunities.

The present education system in government schools has both advantages and disadvantages. While these schools play a crucial role in providing affordable and accessible education, they face significant challenges in terms of infrastructure, quality of teaching, and overall development opportunities for students.

Addressing these issues requires a collective effort from the government, teachers, parents, and society as a whole. With the right policies and implementation, government schools have the potential to become centers of excellence, nurturing the talents and dreams of millions of children across the country.

COP29 came out with new draft finance deal disheartening stake holders



By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

COP29 came out with a new draft finance deal on the last day of the summit on November 22, but it frustrated the stakeholders so much that they dubbed it a "slap on the face". It had proposed \$250 billion yearly, but left out specifics on how these funds will be raised, such as grants, loans, government sector, public sector, or private sector. Such a level of criticism triggered a closed door talks that overran the scheduled time throughout the night, and the sources say that the COP29 summit has raised the finance target to \$300 billion per year by 2035.

The wealthy participants in the closed-door negotiations included the European Union, the United States, Australia, and Britain. Delegates of developing and least developed countries at the UN climate talks in Baku Azerbaijan are still waiting for the final outcome yet to be communicated to them officially. There is also no official word yet from the Developed wealthy countries, and the matter seems requiring political call, as an observer has rightly said "the matter is now in the capitals of developed countries. They have to see how the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) quantum can be raised. We are running a risk of the agenda of necessary level of funding to successfully deal with the climate crisis may spill over to COP30 in November 2025, which the host country Brazil's president Lula has said "will be our last chance to avoid an irreversible rupture in the climate system."

COP29 is formally the 29th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dubbed by it as 'climate finance COP', since the parties were expected to establish a new global climate finance target called NCQG. It was the chief objective of COP29, since it was to replace \$100 billion yearly target made in 2009 COP15, which expires at the end of the current year. It was another matter that the \$100 billion target was met for the first time only in 2022.

Based on modelled projection using the United Nations Global Policy model, developing countries would need about \$1.1 trillion in climate finance from 2025 and some 1.8 trillion by 2030. Climate experts have pegged the new annual funding goal at between \$1 trillion and \$1.3 trillion, which would assist vulnerable nations to deal with loss and damage from climate change and to adapt to that change, including building out their own clean-energy systems. The new draft outcome released on the last day of negotiations on November 22 had called for the overall climate financing goal to reach "at least \$1.3 trillion by 2035 while leaving out specifics - how?"

The text calling for \$250 billion per year

by 2035 was considered by delegates from developing and island countries too low and not consistent with delivery of the Paris Agreement.

Brazil's environment minister Marianne Silva has said, "We are proposing \$300 billion at least from developed countries by 2030 an \$390 billion by 2035 ... as a form of kickstarting the process of achieving 1.3 trillion per year by 2030. The USA may leave the Paris Agreement. It increases our responsibility for COP30 also because a text like this will only result in further damage for humanity and the planet."

The delegates at Baku were expecting - specifics about the role of developed countries in providing the new level of finance required to deal with the climate crisis, a global goal on a just transition, and a clear way forward on both adaptation and mitigation. The summit plenary is expected to reconvene also on November 23, 2024, i.e. the spillover of the conference for one day.

The new draft finance deal was severely criticized and Jacobo Ocharan of Climate Action Network International said the deal "terrible" while members from the civil society and environment advocates assembled in Baku expressed their anger and disappointment at the draft by taping pieces of paper on their faces or foreheads with "Pay up!" written on them. "It is a slap. It is an insult. ... Rich countries are basically gambling with the lives of the people in developing nations and small islands," Namrata Chowdhary from an international environmental organization 350.org said.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) commitments presently are far less than required to reduce the emission target set. UN Adaptation Gap Report 2024 released in October said that global emission would need to drop rapidly by 42 per cent by 2030 from 2019 levels. New NDCs are due in early 2025 by February in which countries will detail their intended climate actions through 2035. To achieve the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius, some 60 per cent of the world's electricity would need to come from renewable sources by 2030. The world is not on track to this level of reducing emission and transition to renewable energy.

Many countries on the other hand have made a target of increasing fossil fuel use for so called energy security for their people which will increase emission level. However, the fund to reduce emission, though increased, it would be a drop in the ocean, which activists said, "Not just a joke, but an insult".

Nevertheless, the achievement of the COP29 will be increased climate finance and renewable energy commitments. It is frustrating that the summit declaration does not explicitly address the "phase out of fossil fuels", climate funding, and implementation gaps. Issues are to spill over to COP30. (IPA Service)

Challenging patriarchy in the bedroom



By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

Sexual intimacy is often hailed as the cornerstone of human connection, yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and imbalanced aspects of relationships.

While conversations around male desire and gratification dominate cultural narratives, women's sexual needs and satisfaction are frequently overlooked, dismissed, or treated as secondary.

This glaring inequity is not merely a personal failing but a societal one, rooted in centuries of patriarchal conditioning and cultural taboos. The time has come to challenge these outdated norms and ask the pressing question: when will men truly learn to value women's sexual agency and prioritize their satisfaction?

The question of when men will truly learn to value women's sexual needs and satisfaction is not only pertinent but also a reflection of deeply entrenched societal imbalances. For centuries, the discourse around sexuality has largely revolved around male pleasure, leaving women's experiences marginalized, misunderstood, or outright dismissed. This disparity stems from a mix of cultural conditioning, patriarchal norms, and a lack of comprehensive sexual education, which together perpetuate ignorance and insensitivity toward women's sexual agency.

In many societies, women's sexuality is either shrouded in shame or bound by restrictive ideals that prioritize chastity and reproduction over personal pleasure. Men are often socialized to view sex as a conquest or a performance to assert dominance, rather than as an intimate, mutual act of connection and satisfaction.

Making a woman pregnant and giving her five or six children is not enough to fulfill her sexual or emotional needs; intimacy requires more than biological outcomes. It demands an understanding and recognition of a woman's pleasure, satisfaction, and emotional connection within the act itself. When male gratification is treated as the sole measure of success in sexual relationships, women are left unfulfilled, with their desires ignored or trivialized.

The lack of open communication between partners further compounds this issue. Many women hesitate to express their needs due to fear of judgment or rejection, while men, conditioned by societal expectations, may lack the emotional intelligence to engage in such conversations. This communication gap often results in unfulfilling sexual experiences, leaving women to navigate feelings of frustration, inadequacy, or even resentment.

Women may internalize these experiences, questioning their worth or desirability, which can erode their self-esteem over time. Moreover, the absence of dialogue perpetuates ignorance among men, preventing them from understanding the nuances of female sexuality, which is as diverse and layered as the women who embody it.

Another significant factor contributing to this imbalance is the glaring inadequacy of sexual education across the globe. In most educational systems, discussions about sex are limited to biolog-

ical functions or warnings about its consequences, with little to no emphasis on mutual pleasure, consent, and emotional connection.

The failure to address women's sexual needs and satisfaction in such programs not only perpetuates ignorance but also reinforces the societal narrative that women's pleasure is secondary or irrelevant. This lack of education also leaves men unequipped to approach intimacy with sensitivity, reducing relationships to mechanical interactions devoid of emotional depth.

Religion and cultural traditions often play a role in suppressing women's sexual autonomy. Many doctrines emphasize male authority within relationships, framing women's roles as submissive and dutiful, further discouraging them from asserting their sexual needs. These ideologies, when internalized, create barriers that make it challenging for women to embrace and articulate their desires without guilt or shame.

Consequently, the cycle of male-centric sexual dynamics remains unbroken, with women relegated to the periphery of their own experiences. Even when women do assert their desires, they often face criticism or are dismissed as being "too demanding," further silencing their voices.

Addressing this issue requires a collective and multi-faceted effort. Men must unlearn patriarchal conditioning and adopt a more empathetic approach to intimacy, viewing their partners as equals with their own unique desires and boundaries. This necessitates a willingness to engage in meaningful conversations, educate themselves about female anatomy and psychology, and prioritize their partner's pleasure as much as their own.

Women, on the other hand, must be encouraged to embrace their sexuality without fear or shame, reclaiming their right to pleasure as an integral aspect of their identity. Both partners must learn to view intimacy as a collaborative and evolving journey, not a one-sided endeavor.

The onus also lies on institutions—educational, religious, and societal—to promote comprehensive sexual education and challenge outdated gender norms. By fostering environments where mutual respect, consent, and open communication are valued, these institutions can play a crucial role in dismantling the structures that perpetuate ignorance and inequality in sexual relationships.

Moreover, cultural narratives in the media must evolve to celebrate women's desires, encouraging healthier models of intimacy and rejecting stereotypes that glorify one-sided satisfaction.

Ultimately, valuing women's sexual needs and satisfaction is not merely a matter of fairness but a cornerstone of genuine intimacy and equality. When men begin to see their partners as whole individuals, deserving of pleasure and fulfillment, the dynamics of sexual relationships will shift toward a more harmonious and equitable future.

Until then, the question of "when" remains a haunting reminder of the progress yet to be made. *(The author is a faculty in the Dept. Of Political Science, Tetsuo College, Nagaland)*

Empowering women entrepreneurs: Assam's blueprint for inclusive growth

By: Dipak Kurmi

India's evolving entrepreneurial landscape reflects the aspirations of a dynamic and inclusive economy. At the forefront of this transformation is the growing contribution of women, whose increasing participation in entrepreneurial ventures signals both a societal and economic shift. During the Start-Up Mahakumbh held in New Delhi earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's position as the third-largest startup ecosystem, boasting 1.25 lakh startups and engaging 12 lakh youth directly. Of particular note was the revelation that 45% of these startups are led by women, spanning diverse sectors such as education, agriculture, and health.

Further reinforcing this narrative, PM Modi, at the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, emphasized that 15% of India's unicorn startups have at least one woman founder, with their combined valuation exceeding \$40 billion. These figures underscore the critical role of women in driving India's entrepreneurial success and highlight the need to remove systemic barriers restricting their access to opportunities and resources.

Entrepreneurship in India has gained unparalleled significance in recent years. However, amplifying the entrepreneurial drive among women necessitates focused interventions, particularly in terms of enhancing financial literacy, business acumen, and access to capital. Assam, under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, has emerged as a beacon of women's empowerment, implementing a host of initiatives aimed at nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem that actively includes women.

Through targeted policies such as relieving women from the bur-

den of microfinance loans, introducing the Orunodoi scheme, and launching transformative programs like 'Lakhpati Baideu' and 'Swa-Nirbhar Nari,' the Assam government has taken significant strides in promoting women's economic independence. These measures, combined with efforts to eradicate practices like child marriage and safeguard the rights of girl children, have laid the groundwork for an equitable and progressive society.

The Role of Self-Help Groups: The contribution of women's self-help groups (SHGs) to Assam's economy has been remarkable, driving socio-economic empowerment and fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship in rural communities.

With more than 3.62 lakh SHGs involving over 40 lakh women, these collectives engage in activities ranging from small-scale industries to agriculture and handicrafts. The state government's provision of Revolving Funds (RF) and Community Investment Funds (CIF) has further strengthened these groups, enabling them to scale their operations and improve their livelihoods.

Revolving Funds serve as a crucial corpus for SHGs, helping members meet production needs and instilling a culture of savings and credit management. Under the flagship Kankalta Mahila Sabalakarana Yojana, the Assam government increased the RF allocation from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per SHG in the 2023-24 financial year.

Meanwhile, CIF allocations, which support cluster-level organizations in providing loans to SHGs, have been raised to ₹1.5 lakh per SHG from 2022-23. These funds are instrumental in creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and addressing the social and economic needs of SHG members.

The impact of these financial interventions is evident in the



Livelihood Tracking System, which reveals a significant increase in the annual income of SHG members—from ₹57,960 to ₹70,503 over three years. Additionally, the number of 'Lakhpati Baideu,' or women with an annual household income exceeding ₹1 lakh, has surged from 241,983 to 872,559 during the same period.

This initiative, which aims to catalyze economic empowerment in rural areas, has transformed countless lives. Districts like Nagaon, Cachar, and Tinsukia have witnessed a remarkable rise in 'Lakhpati Baideu,' inspiring communities with stories of resilience and success rooted in sustainable livelihood practices.

Assam's Microfinance Relief Initiative: The Assam government's innovative Assam Microfinance Incentive and Relief Scheme has also played a pivotal role in women's financial empowerment. Designed to alleviate the burden of stressed microfinance loans, the scheme categorizes borrowers into three groups based on their repayment status and extends targeted assistance accordingly.

Regular borrowers have received a one-time incentive of ₹25,000 or the outstanding balance, whichever is lower, while borrowers with overdue loans and non-performing accounts have been provided with tailored relief measures, including debt-

free certifications. The scheme has benefitted over 12 lakh borrowers, with financial assistance exceeding ₹2,000 crore.

This initiative not only provides immediate relief but also encourages borrowers to maintain credit discipline, paving the way for sustainable financial practices. Women entrepreneurs, in particular, stand to benefit from the scheme, as it enables them to access fresh capital for business ventures while fostering a culture of timely repayment and productive use of funds.

Preserving Heritage Through Entrepreneurship: Weaving, a cherished tradition in Assam, exemplifies the fusion of cultural heritage and economic empowerment. The state's flagship 'Swa-Nirbhar Nari' initiative has revitalized the traditional textile industry by enabling direct procurement of handwoven garments like gamosas and aronai from indigenous weavers through a dedicated portal.

This digital platform eliminates intermediaries, ensuring fair remuneration and timely payments to artisans. Benefiting over 18,000 weavers across two phases, the initiative has disbursed more than ₹19 crore, preserving the state's rich textile legacy while empowering women artisans.

Tackling Societal Challenges: Economic empowerment initiatives in Assam are complemented

by robust efforts to address societal challenges.

The state has made notable progress in reducing crimes against women, with reported cases dropping from 29,046 in 2021 to 12,034 in 2022. Additionally, a determined campaign against child marriage has led to the registration of 5,413 cases by mid-2023, addressing a longstanding issue that has impeded women's empowerment.

These measures are vital for creating an environment where women can thrive as entrepreneurs and community leaders. The government's focus on education, awareness, and enforcement has fostered a sense of security and opportunity for women across the state.

A Shared Responsibility: While the Assam government's initiatives have laid a strong foundation for women's empowerment, the success of these programs ultimately depends on the active participation and commitment of SHG members and women entrepreneurs. By adopting sound financial practices, acquiring business skills, and leveraging government grants effectively, women can ensure the sustainability of their ventures and contribute meaningfully to the state's economy.

As India charts its course toward becoming a global economic powerhouse, the stories emerging from Assam offer a blueprint for inclusive growth and empowerment. The transformative journey of women entrepreneurs in the state underscores the potential of targeted policies, community engagement, and cultural preservation in driving sustainable development. With continued efforts to remove barriers and amplify opportunities, Assam is poised to lead the way in shaping a more equitable and prosperous future for women across India. *(The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)*

Change your skin care routine when the temperature drops



By: Shahnaz Husain

Winter is around the corner. It's the season when the eager wait for cold weather comes to an end. Winter season marks the reigning period of mild sun and chilly breeze.

As temperatures range between 15-20 degree celsius in most parts of the country, the residents are beginning to feel the chill of the approaching winter.

Winter conditions have just 'set in' which is likely to bring a significant drop in temperature and heightened rainfall in the next few days.

Changing seasons brings with it changes in our lifestyle. The fall in atmospheric temperature results in less moisture in the air and the combination of cold and wind dries skin face so much that it turns red and sore. The change in weather wreaks havoc on skin, scalp, and nails.

The harsh winter conditions play havoc with skin, leading to dry, flaky skin and chapped lips. It is very important to hydrate the skin with the right type of cream, moisturizers, intake of adequate liquids, fruits and nutrients as skin feels much tighter in cold weather.

Humidity levels tend to drop off during winter months. The drier the air, the more moisture it sucks from your skin, so you're more likely to experience dryness and flakiness during the colder months of the year, especially if you're prone to eczema or other dry skin conditions.

Fortunately, there are ways to keep your skin healthy and moisturised right from pre-winter season by few tips and tricks which will give all type of skin a boost to look fresh and healthy with ingredients from your kitchen.

For winters, go for ingredients that offer lots of hydration like hyaluronic acid, ceramides, shea butter, and amino acid. Avoid retinoids, which could be harsh

on the skin in winters.

Choose a product that helps with your particular skin condition. Use acne treatment if you get breakouts in the summer. Use an extra-hydrating and emollient cream if you get eczema during winters.

If the skin is a normal to dry type, cleanse morning and night with a cleansing cream or gel. At night, cleansing is even more important, in order to remove makeup and other pollutants. Make-up cosmetics also cause dryness.

Massage the cleanser lightly into the skin and remove it with moist cotton wool. Using moist cotton wool helps to prevent further dryness, as it does not absorb any more moisture from the skin. After cleansing in the morning, tone the skin, using a rose-based skin tonic or even rose water. Using cotton wool, wipe the skin and then pat it briskly. Toning removes the last stages of the cleanser and also stimulates circulation.

During the day, use a sunscreen, before going out in the sun. Sun exposure can also cause loss of moisture. Most sunscreens have built-in moisturizers. Moisturisers are available in cream and liquid form.

For extreme dryness, use a cream. A liquid moisturiser should be used before applying foundation. Whenever the skin feels dry, apply a liquid moisturiser.

The skin should also be nourished with a good night cream. Nourishing helps to lubricate the skin and keep it soft. It also helps the skin to hold moisture better. After cleansing, apply the nourishing cream and massage it on the skin, with upward an outward movements, for 3 to 4 minutes. Then wipe off all cream with moist cotton wool. Apply an outer-eye cream around the eyes and wipe it off after 10 minutes, with moist cotton wool.

Oilly skins face the problem of superficial dryness. The skin feels

dry after washing, but becomes oily, or gets eruptions, if creams and moisturizers are applied. Use cleansing milk or face wash. A light moisturizing lotion can be used if there is dryness. Add a drop or two of water before application, to give a lighter coverage. Or, use an oil-free day cream. Honey applied on the face daily for ten minutes and then washed off with water, would help to relieve superficial dryness.

The skin on the lips is also very thin and lacks sebaceous (oil producing) glands. That is why it can become dry and chapped easily. After cleansing, apply almond cream or almond oil on the lips and leave it on overnight. This would help to soften the skin. Lip balms are also helpful.

Here are some home remedies: Honey applied on the face daily for ten minutes and then washed off with water helps to relieve dryness and keep the skin soft. For dry skin, add egg yolk or one teaspoon pure almond oil. For oily skin, add egg white and a little lemon juice.

Take one peeled and cored apple and puree it in a blender. Add one tablespoon honey. Apply this on the face like a mask and keep it on for 15 minutes. Then, rinse off with cool water. This is a powerful skin toner for all skin types.

Aloe vera is one of the richest natural moisturizers. Apply aloe vera gel daily on the face and wash off with plain water after 20 minutes. If you have aloe vera plants growing at home, apply the gel or juice directly on the skin. The gel obtained from the plant itself is the leaf pulp, found in the inner portion of the leaves.

The aloe juice is found just beneath the outer skin of the leaves. However, while using it directly on the skin at home, one should wash the plant well.

Mix half a teaspoon honey, one teaspoon rose water and one teaspoon dried milk powder. Mix into a paste and apply on the face. Remove after 20 minutes with water.

This winter season; make a conscious effort to follow basic skincare requirements like drinking sufficient water, eating seasonal produce, avoiding junk food and excess sugar. Avoid exposure to extreme climates, whether it's heavy rain or snowfall. If you notice any skin condition that seems abnormal, don't hesitate to visit a doctor. *(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called beauty queen of India)*

The unseen hurdles: Women's fight for equality in the White House

By: Gajendra Singh

It's 2024, and one thing is clear: Americans are all in for equality, as long as it's a little bit less... presidential. While women have been climbing the corporate ladder, breaking records in sports, heading major news outlets, and even, dare I say, becoming vice presidents (cue dramatic gasp), the top job is still guarded like the last slice of Thanksgiving pie.

Now, let's get into the numbers. In 248 years, there have been two (count 'em, two) major-party nominations of women for President. That's right. One Hillary Clinton, who braved it in 2016, and one Kamala Harris, who has been on standby to perhaps fill the Oval Office—but let's be honest, America loves a backup plan.

Unfortunately for both, their opponent was none other than Trump, who, let's just say, was more comfortable smashing records than glass ceilings.

While Americans champion the "Land of the Free," when it comes to presidential possibilities, they prefer a well-trodden path.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world seems to be saying, "What's the holdup?" India? Had Indra Gandhi decades ago. Pakistan? Benazir Bhutto. Bangladesh? Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina. Even Sri Lanka got in on the trend with Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Yes, each of them had a family name to leverage, but hey, at least they got in the door! In America, we're still haggling over whether the door should even be unlocked.

Let's be honest: if Eleanor Roosevelt or even Abigail Adams came back from the beyond and threw their hats in the ring, people would still say, "Let's not rush things. A female VP will do just fine." And we know it's not about experience.

Experience doesn't always make the cut, does it? America's list of Presidents includes actors, war heroes, TV personalities, and even one guy known for his

significant peanut farming contributions. Women just haven't quite reached peanut farmer level yet.

Sure, in Hollywood, America has flirted with the idea of a woman in the Oval Office. "Madam Secretary," "Commander in Chief," "Veep" - the list of fictional female presidents and VPs goes on. Maybe it's America's way of saying, "See? We can imagine it!" But imagining is the easy part. If only casting votes was as fun as casting in Hollywood.

The truth is, it's one thing to watch Julia Louis-Dreyfus as Selina Meyer on HBO's "Veep" and quite another to accept it at the ballot box. Voters want female leaders they can relate to—competent but not too competent.

Assertive but not too assertive. And preferably with experience... just not too much. It's a tightrope act that not even an acrobat could master.

Kamala Harris did manage to secure the office of Vice President, making history and breaking the Mold. But it seems like Americans are still adjusting to the idea of a female Vice President, let alone a President. People see her as "one heartbeat away" from the presidency and feel they've taken enough risks, thank you very much. As a country, America is saying, "Let's dip our toes in the water before we dive into that lady leader thing."

So, here's to America, champion of equality, a nation boldly going... almost all the way! Perhaps one day, the country will make history, stop taking half-measures, and let women not just shatter but bulldoze that glass ceiling.

Until then, Americans can sleep easy with the assurance that they're "almost" progressive, and for now, that's apparently progressive enough. *(The author is a Social Investment Experts based in Bikaner (Rajasthan) can be reached at shekhawatgajendra@live.com)*

Preamble readings and discussions highlight the Constitution's legacy

State marks Constitution Day with ceremonial events

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: The Cachar District Administration observed Indian Constitution Day with a dignified ceremony at the premises of the District Commissioner's office complex on Tuesday.

The event, led by the district commissioner, Mridul Yadav, highlighted the importance of the Constitution in shaping India's democracy and governance.

In a solemn display of unity and commitment to constitutional values, Mridul Yadav read aloud the "Preamble to the Constitution", which was echoed by the additional district commissioners, assistant commissioners and other administrative staff present at the ceremony.

The collective recitation served as a reaffirmation of their dedication to uphold the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution.

Speaking on the occasion, DC, Mridul Yadav emphasised the need to reflect on the fundamental rights and duties as citizens, urging everyone to contribute towards building a progressive and inclusive nation. The event also included discussions on the historical significance of the Constitution, adopted on November

26, 1949, and its relevance in contemporary India.

The observance was marked by a spirit of reverence and pride as the district administration pledged to work tirelessly in the service of the people, guided by the principles of the Constitution.

This annual event underscores the significance of Constitution Day as an opportunity for citizens and officials alike to honor the visionary framework that continues to uphold the nation's democratic ethos.

This is stated in a press release issued from Regional office of Information & Public Relations Barak valley Zone Silchar Assam post

Our Dibrugarh correspondent adds: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Dr Rohini Kanta Baruah Law College, Dibrugarh, in collaboration with the department of political science, D H S K College, organised a 'Constitution Day' celebration under the MoU initiative between the two institutions on Tuesday.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Saikat Patra, Mayor of Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation, who commended the organisers for celebrating this significant day, marking 75 years since the adoption



of the Indian Constitution.

A pledge-taking ceremony of the Preamble of the Constitution of India was conducted as part of the event.

Dr Gautami Dutta Borah, principal of Dr R K B Law College, welcomed the gathering.

"Centre-State Relations and Emergency Provisions: The Manipur Crisis in Focus", delivered by Dr Lamkholal Doungel, head of the department of political science, D H S K College. The thought-provoking session provided valuable insights into contemporary issues of constitutional governance.

Adding to the event's significance, a book titled "District Administration in Assam: A Comprehensive Study of Dibrugarh District", authored by Dr Lamkholal Doungel, was formally released by the chief guest, Dr Saikat Patra. During the release, Dr Doungel ex-

pressed his gratitude, stating, "Dibrugarh has been a great blessing to me, and this book is a small gift to Dibrugarh in return."

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members of both institutions. An engaging interactive session followed the lecture, allowing participants to delve deeper into the discussed themes.

The programme concluded with an official photo session and a vote of thanks delivered by R K Agarwalla, vice principal of Dr R K B Law College.

Our Tezpur correspondent adds: As the nation marks 75 years of adopting the Constitution on Tuesday, the Sonitpur District Administration observed the occasion with a ceremonial reading of the Preamble to the Constitution at the premises of the District Commissioner's Office.

Leading the celebrations, district commissioner Ankur Bharali extended his greetings to all present on the momentous occasion.

In his address, the district commissioner highlighted the significance of the day, stating how on November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution, which came

into effect on January 26, 1950, ushering in a new era in the history of India. This day is celebrated as 'Constitution Day' or 'Samvidhan Divas', holds immense significance as it marks the enactment of the world's longest written Constitution, symbolising the triumph of democracy.

District commissioner Bharali emphasised that the Constitution serves as a guiding force for all citizens and urged everyone to uphold its principles and perform their duties sincerely as responsible citizens of the nation.

Later on, the DC started reading the Preamble, with participation from district development commissioner Lakhinandan Saharia, additional district commissioners Garga Mohan Das, Kabita Kakati Konwar, and Tahir Alam, along with assistant commissioners, key officials, and staff of the District Administration.

Following the Constitution Day celebration, the gathering paid tribute to the late Bhupen Mahanta, a Land Record Assistant in the Land Acquisition Branch, who passed away due to medical reasons on November 23, 2024. A one-minute silence was observed in his memory, praying for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

CEM Pramod Boro inspects malaria affected areas in Kokrajhar

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 26: Stepping to eradicate the sparking rate of the malaria in Kokrajhar district on Tuesday, Pramod Boro, the Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Region visited at the Lungsum area, and took stock about the prevailing situation of malaria outbreak that creating chaos amongst the citizens for past few months.

CEM Boro was accompanied by the BTR executive member, Wilson Hasda, MLA Lawrence Islay and officials from malaria department of Health services, Kokrajhar.

During the visit, a malaria test of the residents along the Lungsum area was conducted by the medical team, and organised an awareness meeting of the increasing rate of the severe malaria disease in the area.

Notably, two persons were reportedly dead due to malaria in last few days ago in the district. The visit followed reports of five child deaths due to malaria in the area.

Kokrajhar district has recorded over 2,000 malaria cases this year—a sharp increase compared to the 256 cases reported in 2023. Tragically, two deaths occurred in the past 10 days, including a 4-year-old girl, Shivani Monger, who passed away at Sarfang Hospital in



Bhutan, and 27-year-old Jwngsar Wary from Aitugaon village, who died on November 21.

CEM Boro has asked health services department officials to implement rigorous testing, launch immediate preventive measures, and organise multiple health camps across the district. He emphasised the urgency of providing medical assistance and raising awareness to curb the rising cases.

The alarming situation highlights the need for strengthened healthcare infrastructure and proactive intervention to combat the spread of malaria in the region.

He also instructed the concern authority officials to initiate multiple health camps in several places

across the entire district besides creating awareness on the outbreak of the malaria disease. He stated that the health department is committed to step stern measures to eradicate the outbreak of the malaria.

"We are dedicated to providing timely healthcare and ensuring health security for the people of Bodoland Territorial Region", Boro said.

"I today, visited malaria-affected areas to assess the situation firsthand and engage with residents. Assured prompt measures, including the establishment of 7 health camps across 6 FRC villages, to address the outbreak effectively," he added.

Father and son sentenced to life for murder

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Nov 26: The District and Sessions Court of Jorhat has sentenced Mukul Saikia and his son Pranjal Dutta to life imprisonment after convicting them of the murder of Manoj Dutta, a villager from Dihingiaakuri Potia Gaon, on May 25, 2019.

District and Sessions Judge P Das delivered the verdict on Monday, sentencing the duo under Sections 302 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code for the murder.

Additionally, both convicts were fined ₹ 500 each, with a one-month rigorous imprisonment in case of default. The court had examined 16 witnesses during the trial.

Manoj Dutta was found with fatal injuries in front of the village namghar late at night, and later succumbed to his wounds at JMCH. The victim's uncle, Ranjit Dutta, identified Mukul and Pranjal as the culprits, having seen them fleeing the scene. The court also directed the District Legal Services Authority to provide victim compensation to the deceased's family.

Margherita hosts peace rally for Buddhist rights

HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, Nov 26: In a peaceful yet impactful demonstration, the All Assam Buddhist Association, Tinsukia District Committee, organised a large-scale rally in Margherita on Tuesday, calling for amendments to the Buddha Gaya Temple Management Committee Act of 1949.

The rally was supported by the All India Buddhist Forum, demanded that the management of the sacred Mahabodhi Mahavihara in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar, be entrusted solely to the Buddhist community.

The rally commenced at Hill View in Margherita and concluded at North Margherita Rangamancha, with over 3,000 Buddhist devotees participating. Attendees included representatives from prominent Buddhist organisations such as the Purvanchal Bhikkhu Sangha, Purvanchal Buddha Samity, Federation of Barua Buddhist Welfare Association of Assam, Purvanchal Tamang Buddha Vihar committees from Tinsukia, Makum, Digboi, and neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh.

The core demand of the protest is a restructuring of the Mahabodhi Temple Management Committee. Under the current Act, five out of nine seats in the management committee are allocated to non-Buddhists, leaving the Buddhist community underrepresented. Sib



Talukdar, secretary general of the federation of Barua Buddhist Welfare Association of Assam, and president of the Tinsukia District Buddhist Association, expressed disappointment over this imbalance.

"It is unfortunate that while shrines of other religions, such as Hindu, Islam, Sikh, and Christian, are managed by their respective communities, the Mahabodhi Temple has a majority of non-Buddhists in its management. This deprives Buddhists of their rights to oversee one of their holiest sites. Even as the Prime Minister often refers to India as the 'Land of Gautam Buddha,' the Buddhist community remains marginalised at Bodhi Gaya," Talukdar stated.

The rally concluded with a memorandum being submitted to the President of India, the Prime Minister, and the Chief Minister of Bihar through the Margherita co-district commissioner. The memorandum urged swift amendments to the 1949 Act to ensure fair representation and management rights for Buddhists at the Mahabodhi Temple.

This peaceful demonstration reflects a growing nationwide movement among Buddhists for rightful control over their sacred heritage. The protestors hope their demands will prompt immediate action from the government to protect the sanctity of the Mahabodhi Mahavihara and uphold the rights of the Buddhist community.

Karbi Anglong officials visit Rong Barim after house demolition

HT correspondent

BOKAJAN, Nov 26: Following the demolition of houses in Rong Barim, Khatkhati by miscreants on November 19, the district commissioner of Karbi Anglong, Nirola Phangcho, along with Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Kumar Saika and Revenue Department officials, visited the site on Tuesday. The incident, which involved the use of an excavator to destroy homes, has left 350 residents, who established the village in 2021, in distress. The DC and SP urged the affected community to maintain peace as investigations continue.

Child protection awareness rally held in Maibang

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: A "Rally Cum Awareness Programme on Child Protection Issues" was organised on Tuesday by District Child Protection Unit, Dima Hasao in collaboration with All Dimasa Student Union, Maibang Zonal Committee supported by State Child Protection Society, Assam and Ministry of Women & Child Development, Assam at J B Hagier Club, Maibang. Awareness programme on child right and child protection issues like child marriage, child labour, substance abuse and POCSO Act was disseminated through this programme.

In the programme DCPU, Dima Hasao highlighted the provision of Juvenile Justice Act. Followed by Child Welfare Police Officer, Maibang said about the role of CWPO in dealing with child in conflict with Law & child in need of care & protection.

The programme was attended by protection officer (NIC) & protection Officer (IC), District Project Coordinator Child Help Line, District Programme Officer-Tribal Health Collaborative (Pimal Foundation), President-Dimasa Women Association, Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Maibang Block and General Secretary- All Dimasa Student Union, Central Committee.

VC Borkataky visits handloom facility in Manas

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Vice chairman Narayan Chandra Borkataky of the State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA) visited the Common Facility Centre (CFC) for handloom at Lakhibazar on Tuesday, near the eastern range of Manas National Park, to review its progress and support local weavers.

During the visit, he handed over completion certificates to the first batch of weavers who had undergone a 45-day advanced training course.

Borkataky commended the weavers' efforts and the initiatives taken by the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) in collaboration with Baksa District Administration and the

Manas Maozigendri Ecotourism Society (MMES).

He assured further support to enhance the CFC and improve facilities for local artisans. The programme, part of a climate-resilient initiative, aims to strengthen livelihoods through sustainable practices linked to the Manas landscape.

The event also included the inauguration of a second batch of training for local weavers, with products such as eri silk shawls and Bihuwan displayed by the trainees.

The importance of community participation in biodiversity conservation was highlighted by Bhuyapara Range, Ranger Bibakananda Pathak, who also spoke on the scope for value addition in handloom products.

Cachar DC chairs health review, felicitates officials for excellence

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: In a significant move to bolster the district's healthcare framework, Cachar district commissioner Mridul Yadav, chaired an extensive review meeting of the District Health Society.

The meeting, held on Tuesday in the New Conference Hall of the DC's office, was convened in presence of senior officials including ADC (H) Dr Khaleda Sultana Ahmed; branch officer (H), JDHS, Addl CM&HO (FW), superintendent of SM Dev Civil Hospital, and other prominent health authorities.

The deliberations, aimed at assessing and enhancing healthcare delivery, encompassed a wide range of topics crucial for improving public health outcomes. Discussions began with a review of Swasthya Sewa Utsav scores and preparedness, followed by an in-depth analysis of child and maternal mortality rates. Action plans were proposed to address gaps in services and ensure better outcomes in future.

Among the major initiatives discussed were plans for a special Antenatal Care (ANC) drive, aimed at identifying and mitigating risks for expectant mothers, and strategies to uplift health standards in Tea Garden communities.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the wage compensation scheme, immunisation drives, and fund utilisation for ongoing health projects. Key focus areas

included timely JSY payments, incentives for ASHA workers, and strategies to combat vector-borne diseases.

Discussions on facility upgrades were equally robust, with progress reports on the construction of the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) and the functioning of the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC) at SM Dev Civil Hospital being presented. Furthermore, the status of accreditation programs such as NQAS and Musqan was evaluated to ensure quality healthcare services across the district.

Later, DC Yadav felicitated three dedicated Health Department officials for their exemplary contributions: the medical officer of Jirigat MPHC, and the Community Health Officers (CHOs) of Lathimara-II SC AAM and Dwarbond MSC-AAM. Their commitment to healthcare excellence was lauded as an inspiration for others in the field.

The meeting concluded with a focus on strengthening institutional delivery services at Urban PHC, Digar Fulertol SHC, and Digar Kashipur MPHC, underscoring the administration's commitment to maternal and child health.

This comprehensive review marks a pivotal step in reinforcing Cachar's healthcare system, aligning with the district's vision of delivering accessible, efficient, and high-quality health services to all.

Rotary Club distributes wheelchairs in Karbi Anglong

HT Correspondent

HOWRAGHAT, Nov 26: Rotary Club of Guwahati Luit distributed 10 wheelchairs to the elderly and physically disabled youths at Harmon Club in Phuloni, Karbi Anglong district.

The event, led by Rantu Tokbi, president of Phuloni Youth Development Association, aimed to support the mobility of individuals in the Narlong Ati, Centre, Dokmoka, and Phuloni areas. The distribution ceremony was attended by members of the Rotary Club and local dignitaries, including Phuloni Youth Development Association's vice president, Sarchingri Terang, and advisor, Fenching Teron.

Driving green energy revolution

NFR expands solar power capacity to 7399 kWp

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: The North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) is setting new benchmarks in renewable energy adoption by enhancing its solar energy capacity to an impressive 7399 kWp as of October 2024, an official statement on Tuesday.

This significant achievement reflects NFR's unwavering commitment to sustainable development, energy efficiency, and environmental conservation.

Between April and October 2024, NFR commissioned an additional 1277 kWp of solar power across its divisions. The Rangiya Division took the lead with 672 kWp of new installations, followed by the Lumding Division with 545 kWp and the Alipurduar Division contributing 60 kWp.

The cumulative solar capacity is now spread across key divisions and facilities, with the Lumding Division leading at 2882 kWp,



Rangiya Division at 1146 kWp, Katihar Division at 610 kWp, Alipurduar Division at 441 kWp, and Tinsukia Division at 190 kWp.

Workshops at New Bongaigaon and Dibrugarh have also made significant contributions, each housing 1000 kWp solar plants. Additionally, the NFR headquarters has a solar power generation capacity of

130 kWp. This expansion is part of NFR's broader efforts to reduce its dependence on conventional energy sources, curbing its carbon footprint while advancing towards renewable energy solutions. These initiatives are aligned with India's national goals of sustainable development and clean energy adoption. Looking ahead, NFR is making

substantial progress in further boosting its solar energy infrastructure. Currently, projects are underway to install an additional 3935 kWp of solar capacity across its network. Moreover, tenders have been floated for a massive 40,411 kWp of solar projects, aiming to position NFR as a leader in green energy within the Indian Railways network.

The NFR's ambitious solar energy initiatives are part of its "Go Green" campaign, a testament to its dedication to environmental stewardship and energy conservation. By integrating renewable energy into its operations, NFR is reducing carbon emissions and setting a benchmark for eco-friendly railway services.

These efforts underline NFR's mission to deliver sustainable and efficient transportation solutions while contributing to a cleaner, greener future for the nation.

'Yuva Utsav India @2047' celebrated with enthusiasm at Darrang College

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Nov 26: The Tezpur chapter of Nehru Yuva Kendra, in collaboration with Naba Prabha Janakalyan Samiti and Darrang College, hosted a district-level event titled "Yuva Utsav India @2047" on Tuesday at Darrang College.

The day-long programme featured a series of competitions, including painting, poetry, mobile photography, debate, cultural performances, and science exhibitions.

The event was graced by MLA Tezpur, Prithvi Raj Rabha, as the chief guest, along with other distinguished guests, including Pranjali Dihingia (DSO Sonitpur), Dr Manabendra Mandal (DEAN OF STUDENTS' WELFARE, Darrang College), and Vikash Pradhan (District Youth Officer, Nehru Yuva Kendra). Prize winners of the competitions were felicitated during the programme.

Speaking at the event, MLA Rabha lauded Nehru Yuva Kendra's efforts in fostering youth development through such initiatives. He encouraged the young participants to stay engaged in constructive activities and maintain their mental and physical well-being, which he highlighted as vital for the nation's progress.

The event, marked by vibrant participation and insightful addresses, celebrated youth talent while emphasising the importance of holistic growth and development.



'Appeal to all to unite against anti-nationals to build strong India and a strong Manipur'

Manipur CM urges all to unite against anti-national elements

IMPHAL, Nov 26: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday urged everyone to unite against anti-social and anti-national elements to build a strong India and a strong Manipur.

Speaking on the occasion of Constitution Day, Singh said that Indians worship BR Ambedkar, the chairman of the drafting committee of the Indian Constitution, for his far-sightedness.

"As we reflect on this historic day, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values enshrined in the Constitution. May we work collectively to strengthen the democratic fabric of our nation and contribute towards building a peaceful, inclusive, and progressive Bharat," he said.

The Constitution is "our mother," under which everything in the country functions, the chief minister said in a programme here.

"I appeal to all to unite against anti-so-



cial and anti-nationals to build a strong India and a strong Manipur," he said.

Singh also released the diglot edition of the three major criminal Acts.

"The release of the Diglot Edition of the Three New Criminal Major Acts in Manipuri language is a proud moment for us, reflecting our commitment to making

justice accessible to all," Singh said.

He said that the present generation cannot read Bengali script, which was earlier used in Manipur, and thanked all those who endeavoured to produce the bilingual edition in Manipuri and English script.

The CM said that Constitution Day came to be celebrated with the coming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The Prime Minister told that during the meeting of the chief ministers that this observation (of the Constitution Day) should be taken to the grassroots level to make the people aware of the Constitution," Singh said.

Only when the provisions of the Constitution are followed to the letter, a strong and united India can be achieved, he said.

The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution at the Central Hall of Parliament on November 26, 1949. It came into force on January 26, 1950. (PTI)

10 arrested in Itanagar during students' union elections clashes



ITANAGAR, Nov 26: Ten people were arrested in Itanagar following clashes during the counting of votes for the All Nyishi Students' Union (ANSU) elections, police said on Tuesday.

The clashes broke between supporters of two candidates at Siddhartha Hall here during the counting of votes around 9 pm on Monday, Superintendent of Police (Capital) Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

Sharp weapons and lathis were used in the clashes that left five people injured, he said.

The situation worsened when gunfire was reported from both sides, he added.

Responding swiftly, Singh said the police fired tear gas shells and stun grenades, and lathi-charged the mob to bring the situation under control.

The crowd was brought under control but sporadic gunfire continued from nearby hilltops, he said.

Singh said several police personnel sustained injuries in the violence.

The clashes between the rival groups resumed at hospitals, forcing injured people to flee, the SP said.

He said two live rounds and one spent shell (KF 7.65) were recovered from where the crowd was fired upon.

An FIR was registered at the Itanagar police station under relevant sections of the BNS and Arms Act, he said.

The situation at Siddhartha Hall is under control and counting of votes is going on, he added.

Efforts were underway to identify those who were involved in firings, the SP said.

Formed in 1982, the Itanagar-headquartered ANSU is one of the largest students' organisations in the Northeast.

The apex students' body of the Nyishi community is active in Papum Pare, East Kameng, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, Pakke Kessang, Keyi Panyor, Kamle and parts of Upper Subansiri districts. (PTI)

Seminars in Arunachal schools to make students aware of Constitutional rights

ITANAGAR, Nov 26: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday advised the state Assembly Speaker to organise seminars in various schools, in collaboration with the education department, to make the students aware of their rights and duties as enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Addressing a function organised at the assembly secretariat here to celebrate the National Constitution Day, he said efforts should be made so that awareness could be created among the youth on the rights and duties provided by the Constitution to make Arunachal 'Vikshit' by 2047 in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Vikshit Bharat.

"PM Modi has set 2047 as the target for Vikshit Bharat for which we all should know about the provisions of the Constitution to work in that direction," Khandu said and added that the people of the state including the new generation should contribute towards the vision of Modi for a 'Vikshit Bharat' and 'Vikshit Arunachal'.

The National Constitution Day was first celebrated in 2015 when the NDA government decided to mark the day as a tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar and the members of the drafting committee, who played an important role in its framing as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, the chief minister said and recalled the contribution of the state leaders in the transformation of Arunachal from North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) to the present status.

"In 1975 our Pradesh Council transformed into a provisional Legislative Assembly which later became a full-fledged assembly after Arunachal Pradesh attained Statehood on February 20, 1987 from erstwhile NEFA," the chief minister said, adding many leaders have

contributed in the journey.

Terming the Constitution as the driving force for India, the world's largest democracy, Khandu said that the Constitution has continued to evolve, addressing the changing needs of our society while remaining true to its core values.

Referring to the dismal education scenario of the state, he added that the quality of education has been degrading because of the large number of schools in the state which was a result of lack of planning.

"The state government is committed to bring remarkable reforms in the education sector within a period of three years and accordingly the government is working in that direction," the chief minister said, adding that by the next academic session, the government would roll out a few reforms in the department.

On the occasion, Khandu hoisted a towering 131-feet tricolour in the assembly premises, symbolising the country's unity and democratic spirit and also paid floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, whose timeless vision and sacrifices continue to guide the country.

Speaking on the occasion deputy chief minister Chowna Mein said that the day reminds people of the enduring vision of Dr Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, whose relentless pursuit of justice, equality and fraternity laid the foundation for modern India.

State parliamentary affairs minister Pasang Dorjee Sona speaking on the occasion, said that the people should know what is the true essence of the Constitution which not only provides rights to the people but fixed responsibilities for the country. (PTI)

Sabroom land port in Tripura ready for operation: LPAI

AGARTALA, Nov 26: Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) chairman Aditya Mishra on Tuesday said that the land port in Tripura's Sabroom is ready for operation.

He said it is hoped that the land port in Gomati district adjoining Bangladesh will be made operational by early next year.

"The land port at Sabroom adjacent to Bangladesh is ready for operation. We wanted to make it operational on August 14 but could not because of the political situation in the neighbouring country.

"The land port is important for both the countries. We hope it would be made operational by early next year," Mishra told reporters on the sidelines of a programme 'Building Bridge: Trade and Connectivity through Land Port Sabroom'.

"We held a meeting with all the stakeholders at Sabroom land port on Tuesday and briefed them about its impact. It will not only increase trade with Bangladesh but also boost tourism on both sides of the border," he said.

The land port has been built adjacent to Maitri Setu at an approximate cost of ₹ 250 crore to facilitate bilateral trade between both the countries, he added.

BSF Eastern Command additional director general Ravi Gandhi, chief commissioner of customs and indirect taxes, Sailendra Kumar Sinha, and director of industries and commerce department of Tripura government, Vishwasree B, also attended the programme. (PTI)

Accused charged for outraging modesty of woman convicted

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: The Court of the Judicial Magistrate First Class, North Garo Hills, Resubelpara has passed a judgement recently ordering conviction of the accused Tapon R Marak for his alleged involvement in the act of assault and outraging the modesty of a woman. The accused was convicted U/S 354/354B/323 IPC for disrobing, assault and outraging the modesty of a woman for which he was convicted to undergo five (5) years of simple imprisonment.

The matter was reported at Resubelpara Police Station on February 20, 2019 for his alleged involvement in the above mentioned case and registered vide Resubelpara PS C/No. 06(02)2019.

The efforts of the Police officers and staff during the course of investigation have made the case a success, for which the court has made a favourable judgement against the accused person for his criminal acts.

Central team in Meghalaya to resolve NEHU crisis

SHILLONG, Nov 26: A two-member committee of the Union Ministry of education was visiting the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in Meghalaya to probe the allegations of mismanagement and administrative failure amid protests by students that have been continuing for over two weeks, officials said on Tuesday.

The members of the committee, former UGC chairman DP Singh and ex-vice chancellor of Assam University Dilip Chandra Nath, held a meeting with leaders of the students' union of the varsity, faculty members and non-teaching staff on Monday, they said.

NEHU Teachers' Association president Lakhon Kma said, "Faculty members, students and non-teaching staff met the committee members and are satisfied.

Both the committee members gave a patient hearing to the issues they raised, including the demand to permanently remove Vice-Chancellor PS Shukla."

"We said what we had to say, there was nothing to hide. Whatever issues that have been raised so far by the NEHUTA, the students and non-teaching staff have been put before the committee," he stated.

Among the issues raised at the meeting with the committee were allegations of wrongdoing by the VC in the recruitment process and giving promotions to the staff, he added.

Amid the ongoing protests, which forced a total lockdown at the central varsity, the VC was sent on leave till November 29.

"Irrespective of the outcome of the in-

quiry, professor Shukla's return to the campus is unacceptable," Kma said.

Students' leader Sandy Sohtun said they have submitted to the committee copies of all memorandums sent to the VC since 2022.

"We had a discussion for more than an hour with the committee and we submitted what the VC has done in the last three years," he said.

Members of the committee carried out an inspection of the varsity's infrastructure, including the health centre, library, hostels and roads.

The Centre formed the committee after chief minister Conrad K Sangma raised the issue with Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Sangma had also met the protesting students on the campus earlier. (PTI)

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL, OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER:: KARBI ANGLONG EAST DIVISION D I P H U

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender / Quotation affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Challan amounting Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only are invited from registered Govt. Contractors for the following works and will be received by the office of the undersigned up to **3:00 P.M.** on /..... /2024 and will be opened on the same day. If the office remain closed due to any reason on that day the tender will be received and opened on the next day upto 3:00 P.M. (I.S.T.) The Tenderer or their authorized agents / representative may be present at the time of opening tender.

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes/Works	Tender Amount (Rs. In Lakhs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time for completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of Check dam for providing water facility for animals at Thijok Abi.	4,00,000/-	8000/- Genl. 2% 4000/- ST/SC 1%	60 days
2	Construction of Forester quarter at Arnam Langso	15,00,000/-	30000/- Genl. 2% 15000/- ST/SC 1%	90 days
3	Construction of Forest Guard Quarter (double unit) with Sanitary Latrine and Bathroom at Garmapani Beat Office.	10,00,000/-	20000/- Genl. 2% 10000/- ST/SC 1%	90 days
4	Construction of RCC culvert on Fatasil Forest Road.	3,00,000/-	6000/- Genl. 2% 3000/- ST/SC 1%	30 days
5	Construction of well equipped modernize toilet near Garampani Hot Spring	6,00,000/-	12000/- Genl. 2% 6000/- ST/SC 1%	30 days
6	Construction of Anti-poaching Camp at Borprung	5,00,000/-	10000/- Genl. 2% 5000/- ST/SC 1%	60 days
7	Construction of Forester quarter at Silonijan	15,00,000/-	30000/- Genl. 2% 15000/- ST/SC 1%	90 days

The following documents required to be submitted along with tender papers.

- 2% Earnest Money in case of General and 1% in case of ST/SC over the value of works in the form of call deposit from any recognized bank in favour of DFO, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.
- Up to Date GST documents/clearance certificate from competent authority.
- Up to Date Income Tax clearance from competent authority.
- Up to Date Professional Tax Clearance from the Authority of KAAC, Diphu.
- Up to Date Trading License if Non —Tribal.
- Up to Date Registration Certificate from Contractor of PWD or others Department.
- Work Experience/ Financial capacity from Departmental Authority concerned.
- Xerox copy of PAN card.
- Xerox copy record page of Bank pass book where Account No. Bank Name, IFSC Code No. & Address is recorded.
- The Tenderer must furnished financial soundness certificate equivalent to the offered amount issued by any Nationalized Bank in India.

TERMS AND CONDITION.

- Rate of bid should be quoted clearly and distinctly both in figure and words against each Scheme of work in flat percentage basis above/below as per CPWD Schedule rate 2019-20.
- No construction materials will be supplied by the department.
- Successful bidder will have to sign a Deed of agreement under APWD form-2.
- The undersigned is right to accept or reject any or all tenders without reasons thereof.
- Earnest Money will be return to successful tendered after completion of works and in respect of unsuccessful tender Earnest Money will be returned after allotment of works.
- Tender paper will be provided on payment of Rs. 100/- (Rupees one hundred) only
- The Department will not bound to accept the lowest tender rate and reserved right to reject all tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- Each work tender should be submitted in separate form and envelop where in the name of work and group No. written clearly.
- Payment will be made after received of "CSS-Development of Wildlife Habitat" fund from the Govt.

N.B.:- No tender will be accepted failing to furnish the above documents

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.

Male bird named 'Chiluan 2' and the female 'Guangram', after two important roosting villages in Tamenglong

Amur falcon bird radio tagged in Manipur reaches Kenya

IMPHAL, Nov 26: An Amur falcon bird radio tagged by scientists of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Manipur's Tamenglong district has entered Kenya and is heading towards Tsavo East National Park, a scientist said.

Dr Suresh Kumar scientist of Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India told PTI on Tuesday that the Amur falcon bird named 'Chiluan 2' has crossed Somalia and entered Kenya.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Tamenglong, Kharibam Hitler Singh told PTI that two Amur falcons which arrived in Manipur from Siberian region on October 12 were captured by a team of Tamenglong forest division and local volunteers under the supervision of Suresh Kumar from Chiluan



roosting site.

The two birds were radio-tagged by scientists of the Wildlife Institute of India in Tamenglong district. The male bird was named 'Chiluan 2' and the female 'Guangram', after two important roosting villages in Tamenglong district.

'Chiluan 2' was released on November 8 after tagging it with satellite transmitters. It

reached the coastal areas of Orissa on November 15 after a non-stop flight. From there it went to Maharashtra and eventually crossed the Arabian Sea to reach the Somalia-Kenya borders", Singh said.

The female bird 'Guangram' is, however, yet to leave Manipur, he added.

The Amur falcon is a small raptor of the falcon family. It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China. To escape from the harsh winter of Siberia and Northern China the birds travel a distance of around 14,500 km to head for the wintering grounds in Southern and East African coasts. In April-May they start their return journey, said the DFO.

The birds make a stop-over in Nagaland Manipur and a

few other areas of North East region while on their way to Africa. The Amur falcons locally known as 'Akhuaipuna' roosts for an average of 45 days where they engage in feeding for the arduous journey ahead, Singh said.

The radio tagging programme of Amur falcons started in 2018 in Manipur. Earlier an Amur Falcon named 'Tamenglong' had reached Somalia but further data could not be retrieved at that time, the DFO said.

The objective of the research is to study the migratory route of one of the world's longest-travelling birds, Singh said.

The research programme was taken up under the aegis of the Union Ministry of environment, forest and climate change. (PTI)

Constitution powerful tool to protect poorest section of society: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The Congress on Tuesday urged citizens to protect the ethos of the Constitution and said the struggle to defend India's inherent philosophy must be reinvigorated and reignited in the 75th year of its adoption. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the Constitution is a powerful tool to protect the poorest and weakest sections of society, and the stronger it is, the stronger the country will be.

In a swipe at the BJP, the opposition party also asserted that at a time when those out to destroy the Constitution are showing insincere commitment towards it, "our duty to protect it and fight for its true values becomes all the more relevant".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the people of India should come together to protect each and every thought expressed in the Constitution.

"The 75th year of the adoption of the Constitution has begun today. I extend my warmest wishes to all Indians on this historic occasion," the Congress president said in a post on X.

"The Constitution of India, painstakingly and carefully drafted by our forefathers and forefathers is the lifeblood of our nation. It guarantees us social, economic and political rights. It constitutes India into a sovereign socialist democratic republic," he said.



Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity are not just ideals or ideas, they are the way of life for 140 crore Indians, Kharge asserted.

"Today, we recall the tremendous contribution of the Constituent Assembly and its prolific members. We are forever indebted to their vision and wisdom," he said.

Kharge said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr Rajendra Prasad, KM Munshi, Sarojini Naidu, Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and several eminent personalities were not just revered national icons but inspiring personalities

who became the torchbearers of hope for generations together.

No mention of the Constituent Assembly should be complete without recalling the contribution of the 15 women members who provided equally important inputs for an inclusive India, the Congress president said.

"We must also not forget that the Constituent Assembly received uncountable suggestions from ordinary citizens which are a matter of record," he said. The Objectives Resolution moved by Nehru and Ambedkar's momentous last speech to the Constituent Assembly form the Magna Carta in protecting the tenets of the Constitution, he said.

"We, the patriotic citizens of India, now have the onerous task of protecting the ethos of the Constitution," Kharge said.

"We, the people of India, should, therefore, come together to protect each and every thought expressed in the Constitution," he said.

In the 75th year of the Constitution's adoption, the struggle to defend India's inherent philosophy must be reinvigorated and reignited, just like the era of the national movement, the Congress president said.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said, "Heartiest greetings to all of you on Constitution Day. The basic spirit of our Constitution is that justice and rights should be equal for all. Everyone should get an opportunity to live with self-respect."

"The Constitution is a powerful tool to protect the poorest and weakest sections of society. The stronger it is, the stronger our country will be," he said.

"On this day, I salute the fighters, martyrs and every member of the Constituent Assembly who protected the idea of the Constitution and reiterate my resolve to protect it," Gandhi said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that freedom fighters and great people together created a Constitution that ensured freedom, equality, fraternity and justice for crores of Indians. (PTI)

Adityanath hits out at Congress for 'strangling' Constitution

LUCKNOW, Nov 26: Leaders of various parties in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday traded barbs on Constitution Day, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accusing the Congress of tampering with the Preamble and "strangling" the Constitution while SP chief Akhilesh Yadav hit out at the BJP for undermining constitutional values.

Adityanath also argued that the original Constitution, drafted by the B R Ambedkar-led panel on November 26, 1949, did not include the words "secular" or "socialist".

Alleging that the Congress added these terms during the Emergency period, he said, "The people have delivered a fitting lesson to those who betrayed the Constitution."

The chief minister made these remarks during a ceremony at Lok Bhawan to commemorate Constitution Day. He also led the reading of the Preamble, paying tribute to the architects of the Indian Constitution.

Highlighting the strength and comprehensiveness of the Constitution, Adityanath

described it as the most robust in the world. Adityanath hailed Ambedkar as a "true son of India", highlighting how the drafting committee under his leadership incorporated core values like justice, equality, and fraternity into the document, ensuring a strong future for the nation.

The CM also shared historical insights, stating that the Constituent Assembly, formed in 1946 on the demand of freedom fighters, held its first meeting on December 9, 1946. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as its President, and the Constitution was drafted by 13 committees, with the drafting committee chaired by Ambedkar.

He further explained that the debates of these committees were instrumental in shaping the Constitution and called them its essence. CM Yogi urged the legislature, executive, and judiciary to draw inspiration and guidance from these historic debates, which reflect the spirit and principles of the Constitution. (PTI)

Centre not willing to restore full statehood to JK: PCC chief Karra

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Nov 26: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday claimed that the central government is not willing to restore full statehood to the Union Territory (UT) as it is planning to retain some vital departments considered as the backbone of any state. He said the Congress will not accept any amendment and will continue to press for restoration of full statehood to JK as early as possible. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a public rally organised in the Rajouri district to celebrate 75th Constitution Day, Karra said they have information that some powerful persons in the central government are not willing to restore statehood in its original form to JK.

"They (government) want to retain some vital departments which are the backbone and fountain head of any state and seek some amendments to keep these departments under their direct control. Such statehood is not acceptable to the Congress," the PCC chief said.

Asked about the stand of the Congress on Article 370 that was abrogated by the BJP-led government in August 2019, Karra said the party has already taken a principled stand on the subject by terming the government action as "unilateral and undemocratic". "The Congress Working Committee (CWC) met on August 6, 2019 and passed a resolution which is self-explanatory. The resolution condemned the government action in the strongest words, calling it undemocratic and unilateral. (PTI)

Opposition demands debate on Constitution in both Houses

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Opposition leaders on Tuesday demanded a debate on the Constitution in both Houses of Parliament, stressing it was needed in the light of the recent developments in the country.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said he and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi have written to the Chair in the two Houses requesting that a discussion should be held on the Constitution for two days in both Houses. "Time should be allotted for that so that the good things about the Constitution can be discussed, and the wrong things that are happening today can also be discussed. Rahul Gandhi ji and I have written letters, we are waiting for the government's response," Kharge told PTI as the country celebrated the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. (PTI)

Fight to save democracy, Constitution will continue: Kejriwal on AAP foundation day

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The AAP has emerged stronger due to its "honesty and love of the people", party supremo Arvind Kejriwal said on the foundation day of the party on Tuesday, asserting the fight to save the Constitution and democracy will continue.

Addressing an event at the party headquarters here, Kejriwal, who is the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), highlighted that the party's foundation day coincides with the Constitution Day. "It cannot be a coincidence that our party was born on Constitution Day. God knew the Constitution was going to be in danger," Kejriwal said, lauding the AAP's governance model, which he said was rooted in honesty and focused on the common man.

"The biggest achievement of the AAP is that we gave an honest model of governance. We provided basic facilities like education and health to the people

while enhancing Delhi's infrastructure," he said.

Criticising opposition parties, Kejriwal warned against "Jhuggi tourism" being done by their leaders.

"Some leaders come to slums for show but later send bulldozers to destroy the homes there. People must be cautious of such hypocrisy," he said. Delhi Chief Minister Atishi also addressed the gathering, highlighting AAP's emphasis on "development-oriented" politics.

"Our party showed in 2020 that elections can be won based on development work and honest governance," she said. She pointed to the transformation of Delhi's government schools as a benchmark for progress.

"Before 2015, there was talk of shutting down government schools. Today, our work has inspired states across India to improve their education systems. This is the Delhi model," she said.

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal in a post on X, said the common man found its strength with the founding of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) 12 years ago.

He said the journey so far was filled with the stories of struggle, sacrifice and victory.

"In the last year lakhs of attempts were made to finish us but our honesty, love of the people and morale of the workers made us stronger. We stand stronger than before against injustice and dictatorship", Kejriwal said in a post on Hindi.

The fight of the AAP to save the Constitution and democracy will go on, he said. He called upon the party leaders and workers to resolve to work for the betterment of the country.

AAP leaders have emphasised their commitment to grassroots development intending to secure a third consecutive term in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections. (PTI)

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveils 'TheTeacherApp' 'Teachers are the real Karmayogis building the future generation'

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled 'TheTeacherApp', at a launch event on Tuesday, held at the India Habitat Centre, Delhi.

This user-centric, free app developed with direct inputs from teachers is accessible across Web, iOS, and Android, ensuring seamless access for educators nationwide.

The platform promises to offer 260+ hrs of high quality resources, both created and curated including courses, learning bytes, short videos, podcasts, and interactive webinars formats such as thematic fests, webinars, competitions, and quizzes, all designed to foster future readiness, elevate pedagogical practices, and enhance student engagement in classrooms.

Additionally, the app will also feature live expert sessions that provide practical classroom strategies and aims to build a community of teachers by highlighting their exceptional impact stories.

A unique section called Teaching Kits comprising content of 900+ hrs.

The feature is designed to support teachers with tools including teaching videos, project-based learning activities, worksheets, lesson plans, and question bank, among others for class-



room delivery.

With a mission to transform schools into safe and happy learning spaces, 'TheTeacherApp' not only supports teachers' growth but also empowers schools' leaders and administrators.

Aligned with the National Education Policy, the app aims to build future-ready educators equipped to meet the evolving needs of education.

"Teachers are the real Karmayogis building the future generation", said Pradhan addressing the gathering on the theme of "Elevating Teachers, Elevating India".

"We are leveraging innovation and technology for continuous capacity

building of teachers in spirit of NEP 2020", he further stated.

The minister said that this app will go a long way in empowering teachers through continuous capacity building using innovative course content, technology and community building features.

He further said that enlightened teachers make enlightened students.

"As India marches ahead in the knowledge-driven 21st century, teachers will play a pivotal role in mapping the future opportunities and ensuring our youth lead the growth story", he added.

Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philan-

thropic arm of Bharti Enterprises launched the innovative digital platform.

Based on the on-ground experience and deep understanding of the challenges educators face, the foundation conceptualised 'TheTeacherApp', a platform designed to equip them with both time-tested and future-ready skills through innovative digital resources.

Reflecting on the unique advantages of 'TheTeacherApp', Rakesh Bharti Mittal, vice chairman of Bharti Enterprises, said, "For India to thrive as a global economic leader, it is imperative that our education system equips the educators to foster creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. TheTeacherApp is a decisive step in this direction, offering teachers access to world-class resources and best practices that empower them to deliver exceptional learning experiences. We dedicate this platform to the untiring teachers of India who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation."

Besides Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Rakesh Bharti Mittal, vice chairman of Bharti Enterprises and Mamta Saikia, CEO of Bharti Airtel Foundation, along with dignitaries from the education sector, school principals, teachers and B.Ed. students were also present on the occasion.

Maha Kumbh 2025 to set new benchmarks in cleanliness: Adityanath



LUCKNOW, Nov 26: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday emphasised that the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj will not only set new benchmarks in cleanliness but will also embrace technology to present a "Digital Kumbh".

While attending a media group's 'Samvad' programme, Adityanath extended greetings on Constitution Day, emphasising that the three foundational pillars of the Indian Constitution are rooted in 'samvad' (dialogue and communication).

Giving insights into the government's preparations for the upcoming Maha Kumbh, Adityanath also elaborated on the transformative changes UP has witnessed over the past seven-and-a-half years. He said this Maha Kumbh will not only be a clean and grand event but will also showcase a "Digital Kumbh", marking a blend of tradition and technology.

"There was a time when Kumbh was synonymous with dirt, stampedes and chaos. The management of the Kumbh was often entrusted to individuals with little respect for faith, tradition, culture or heritage.

"However, with a sense of reverence for this heritage and the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the arrangements for Prayagraj Kumbh in 2019 earned UNESCO recognition as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity," he said.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 will take place from January 13 to February 26, spanning 45 days.

The key bathing dates include Paush Purnima (January 13), Makar Sankranti Shahi Snan (January 14), Mauni Amavasya (January 29), Basant Panchami (February 3), Magh Purnima (February 12) and Mahashivratri (February 26).

Described as one of the world's largest religious, spiritual and cultural gatherings, the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh promises to be a magnificent celebration of tradition and faith.

Highlighting the government's extensive preparations for the event, he emphasised the collaborative efforts of the central and state governments. He recalled that the 2019 Kumbh witnessed the participation of 23-24 crore devotees

and stated that this time, 35-40 crore devotees are expected to visit in the course of 45 days.

He said preparations are being carried out on a war footing to enhance Prayagraj's connectivity via air, rail and road, including the development of four- and six-lane highways.

The Maha Kumbh area has been significantly expanded from 3,200 hectares in 2019 to 4,000 hectares for 2025, divided into 25 well-organised sectors.

"The government is ensuring that devotees do not have to walk more than 1.5-2 km to reach the Sangam. Over 1,850 hectares have been earmarked for parking on various routes, within a radius of 2-5 km from the Sangam.

"From these parking sites, around 7,000 state transport corporation buses will provide electronic transport services to the Kumbh area," he added.

"In 2019, nine road flyovers and six underpasses were constructed. This time, 14 road overbridges are being built.

"While there were four concrete bathing ghats last time, nine concrete ghats are being constructed for Maha Kumbh 2025. All these works are progressing on a war footing and will be completed by November 30," he said.

The chief minister also mentioned the ongoing construction of a riverfront and the extension of temporary ghats. "In 2019, the temporary ghats spanned 8 km; this year, they will extend to 12 km," he said. Highlighting transportation arrangements, CM Yogi announced that 550 shuttle buses will be deployed for the convenience of devotees, and seven bus stands have been constructed. To improve connectivity, road widening projects are being expedited, converting single-lane roads to double lanes, two-lane roads to four lanes, and four-lane roads to six lanes.

These enhancements aim to ensure smooth and efficient movement during the grand event. Adityanath highlighted the remarkable progress in restoring the purity of the Ganga River, stating, "Before 2014, the Gangetic dolphin, once symbolic of the Ganga's identity, had disappeared. (PTI)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

In pursuance of the Govt. communication vide eCF No.523353/9 dated 21st November, 2024, this is for information of all concerned that the verification of the original documents in respect of the candidates shortlisted by Assam Public Service Commission vide Notification No. No.231PSC/Con/Exam-30/2018-2019 dated 13th November, 2024 for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor (Technical) in the State Engineering Colleges under Higher Education Department is scheduled as per details given below:

Date & Time: 28th November, 2024 10:30 AM onwards

Venue: Office of the Director of Technical Education, Assam, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19.

Note: Candidates must bring all the original documents and a self-attested photo copy set of the following:

- All relevant original documents as per the eligibility criteria
- Caste Certificate (If applicable)
- Aadhar Card/PAN/EPIC/Passport etc.
- One Passport Size Photograph.

Sd/-
Director of Technical Education, Assam, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19.

Janasanyog /D/ 9264 / 24/ 27-Nov-24

No. SSUHS/201/2010/PT-IV/r/964

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE FOR PH.D. COURSE WORK EXAMINATION (Academic No. 29/2024)

In continuation to earlier notification No. SSUHS/201/2010/PT-IV/6234 dated: 22-10-2024, this is for information to all concerned that Ph.D. Course work examination will be held on **30th November, 2024 (Saturday), 9:30 AM onwards**, in the premises of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, Narakaur Hilltop, Bhangagarh, Guwahati.

The time-table for the Examination is as follows:

Paper	Time	Marks	Pass Percentage (%)
Paper - I (Research Methodology)	9:30 AM to 12:30 PM	100	55
Paper - II (Subject specific to faculty of Master's Degree standard)	1:30 PM to 4:30 PM	100	55

Admit cards for the Ph.D. Course Work Examination shall have to be collected from the University on **29th November, 2024 (from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM)**.

Sd/-
Registrar (Academic)
Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences

Janasanyog /D/ 9292 / 24/ 27-Nov-24

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board
1st Floor, World Trade Centre, Bahar Road, New Delhi -110001
Tel No: 23457700, Fax No: 23709151
PNGRB/Auth/1-CGD(03)/2024 23rd October, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

In terms of provisions under Section 20 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 and Regulation 6 (2) of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Guiding Principles for Declaring City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks as Common Carrier or Contract Carrier) Regulations, 2024, PNGRB is inviting objections/suggestions on declaration of CGD network of Upper Assam as common carrier or contract carrier. The details of the subject CGD network are as below:

State/Union Territories	Authorized Entity	Date of Acceptance of Central Authorization	Date of expiry of exclusivity from the purview of common carrier or contract carrier
Assam	Assam Gas Company Limited	06-02-2015	No exclusivity was granted.

The objections/suggestions on the above proposal may be communicated to the Secretary, PNGRB either through e-mail at tanveerakhtar@pngrb.gov.in or through post at aforesaid address within one month from the date of issue of this public notice.

Sd/-
Director (Authorization)

CBC - 3312/2/0017/2424

'EVM tampered when you lose, it's not when you win': SC junks plea for reverting to paper ballots

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea seeking to revert to paper ballot voting in elections in the country, saying allegations of tampering with electronic voting machine (EVM) raked up only when people lose polls.

"What happens is, when you win the election, EVMs are not tampered with. When you lose the election, EVMs are tampered (with)," remarked a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and P B Varale.

Apart from ballot paper voting, the plea sought several directions including a directive to the Election Commission to disqualify candidates for a minimum of five years if found guilty of distributing money, liquor or other material inducement to the voters during polls.

When petitioner-in-person K A Paul said he filed the PIL, the bench said, "You have interesting PILs. How do you get these brilliant ideas?"

The petitioner said he is the president of an organisation which has rescued over three lakh or-



phans and 40 lakh widows.

"Why are you getting into this political arena? Your area of work is very different," the bench retorted.

After Paul revealed he had been to over 150 countries, the bench asked him whether each of the nations had ballot paper voting or used electronic voting.

The petitioner said foreign countries had adopted ballot paper voting and India should follow suit.

"Why you don't want to be different from the rest of the world?" asked the bench.

There was corruption and in June 2024, the Election Commission announced they had seized Rs 9,000 crore, Paul responded.

"But how does that make your relief which you are claiming here relevant?" asked the bench, adding "if you shift back to physical ballot, will there be no corruption?"

Paul claimed CEO and co-

founder of Tesla, Elon Musk, stated that EVMs could be tampered with and added TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, the current chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, and former state chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had claimed EVMs could be tampered with.

"When Chandrababu Naidu lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with. Now this time, Jagan Mohan Reddy lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with," noted the bench.

When the petitioner said everybody knew money was distributed in elections, the bench remarked, "We never received any money for any elections."

The petitioner said another prayer in his plea was the formulation of a comprehensive framework to regulate the use of money and liquor during election campaigns and ensuring such practices were prohibited and punishable under the law.

The plea further sought a direction to mandate an extensive voter education campaign to raise awareness and importance of informed decision making. (PTI)

Independence will be jeopardised if parties place creed above country, says Dhankhar

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday invoked Dr BR Ambedkar to say that "our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time" if parties placed creed above country.

Addressing an event to kick-start yearlong celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, he also cautioned that disturbance as a strategy threatened democratic institutions.

It is time to restore the "sanctity of our democratic temples through constructive dialogue, debate and meaningful discussion to serve our people effectively", Dhankhar said.

The Constitution's opening words, "We the People of India", carry deep meaning, establishing citizens as the ultimate authority, with Parliament serving as their voice, the vice president asserted. "In contemporary times, with decorum and discipline cliff hanging in parliamentary discourse", Dhankhar said there was a need to resolve by reiterating the pristine glory of the Constituent Assembly's embellished functioning. Noting that the Constitution ingeniously established democracy's three pillars -- Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, each with a defined role, the vice president said, "Democracy is best nurtured with its constitutional institutions being in



sync, tandem and togetherness, adhering to their jurisdictional areas."

In functioning of these organs of the state, domain exclusivity is quintessence to making optimal contributions in steering Bharat toward unprecedented heights of prosperity and equity, he asserted. "Evolution of a structured interactive mechanism amongst those at the helm of these institutions would bring greater convergence in serving the nation," Dhankhar said.

"Our Constitution assures fundamental rights and ordains fundamental duties. These define informed citizenship, reflecting Dr Ambedkar's caution that internal conflicts, more than external threats, endanger democracy," the vice president

noted. Dhankhar said it was time to fully commit to "our fundamental duties -- protecting national sovereignty, fostering unity, prioritising national interests, and safeguarding our environment". "We must always put our nation first. We need to be on guard as never before," he said and added that these commitments were crucial for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat (@2047 -- a nation exemplifying progress and inclusion.

Citing Ambedkar's last address in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, Dhankhar said, "What perturbs me greatly is the fact that not only India has once before lost her independence but she lost it by the infidelity and treachery of some of her own people. (PTI)

Constitution helped country's transformation: CJI

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said India has emerged as a vibrant democracy and a geopolitical leader, and the Constitution of the country has helped this transformation.

India has had a transformative journey from a nation, which under the aftermath and horrors of partition saw widespread illiteracy, poverty, lack of a robust democratic system of checks and balances, to one which has now become a self-assured country, the CJI underlined.

"But at the back of it, it is the Constitution of India, which has helped this transformation. It is today a way of life that has to be lived up to," he said. The CJI was speaking at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at the apex court.

Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Con-

stituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, SCBA president and senior advocate Kapil Sibal also addressed the gathering.

In his address, Justice Khanna said the Constitution bestowed on the court a unique position for the judiciary. "Mr Kapil Sibal read out the charter of the Constitution Day. It captures the entire ethos of what Constitution Day means to all of us being a part of the judiciary," he said. The CJI highlighted the importance and contribution of the Bar, noting, "We often refer to the judiciary as persons in robes, that is, the judges, but judiciary equally represents the Bar."

He underscored, "I cannot visualise the judiciary where the members of the Bar are not a part and parcel of it. You are as much part of the judiciary as the judges."

Justice Khanna revealed he was a member of the Bar from 1983 to 2005, when he got elevated as a

judge, and his tenure as a member of the Bar was longer than his tenure as a judge.

"Judges come from the Bar and go back to the Bar. We belong to the Bar. The better the Bar, the better the judges," he said.

The Supreme Court has had a very strong and good legacy and there were decisions right from environmental law, privacy laws, fundamental rights to the basic structure doctrine, added the CJI.

"Many of these decisions, I do not think would have been possible without the contribution and efforts of the member of the Bar," he said.

Since his taking over as the CJI, Justice Khanna said he made various attempts to look into the issues and problems faced by the members of the Bar.

He referred to the measures, including setting up notice boards outside courtrooms where physical causers are shown besides improving the Wi-Fi services in the top court. (PTI)

Students take out march on AMU campus demanding quota for Dalits, tribals

ALIGARH, Nov 26: The Aarakshan Sangharsh Morcha on Tuesday held a march demanding reservation for Dalits and backward and Other Backward Classes in admission at Aligarh Muslim University.

The march was taken out by the newly-formed students' body amid tight security on the university campus. Barricades were raised at roads leading to the campus by the authorities.

The protesters gathered at Raja Mahendra Pratap chowk in the Civil Lines locality and then marched to the University Circle at the entry point of the campus, raising anti-AMU and religious slogans.

At the end of the march, some protesters tried to get past the barricades but met with force.

Protesters handed a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Additional City Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Mishra, who received it on behalf of the District Magistrate.

Mishra later told reporters that the procession was carried out peacefully.

The students in their memorandum demanded reservation for Hindu Dalits, backwards, and tribal in AMU till the Supreme Court passes a judgement on the issue.

A varsity official said protesters raised "provocative slogans" near the AMU Circle.

"The issue of reservation to any community now rests totally with the Supreme Court of India which is examining the entire matter in the light of the Constitution of the country and the legal status of the University," AMU spokesman and Member In-charge, Public Relations, Prof Mohammad Asim Siddiqui said.

He said a false impression was being created and that there was no reservation for Muslims in any course at the varsity.

"The only reservation which exists is reservation for internal students which include members of all communities. So the question of providing religion- or caste-based reservation does not arise till the apex court decides on this matter," Siddiqui said. (PTI)

Law should be brought in where Muslims don't have voting power, says seer during Waqf protest

BENGALURU, Nov 26: Urging everyone to unite to protect farmers and their land, Vishva Vokkaliga Mahasamastana Math seer Kumar Chandrashekaranth Swamiji in the wake of Waqf properties row, on Tuesday said a law should be brought in where Muslims community don't have the voting power.

Stating that it should be ensured there is no Waqf board, he said someone taking away someone else's land is not "Dharma".

"...everyone should fight against injustice being caused to farmers...it is said that the Waqf board can claim anyone's land. It is a big injustice...someone taking away someone else's land is not Dharma... So, everyone should fight to ensure that farmers' land remains with them," the seer said.

Addressing the protest meeting by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh here, he said, farmers are the "Annadatas" -

- they are ones who produce food. "So they should be saved and nurtured, and it should be ensured that no one takes away their land and assets."

"Everyone should think and see to it that the Waqf board itself is not there...as politicians do things for the sake of votes. A law should be brought in where Muslims community don't have the voting power...it should certainly be done. In Pakistan, they have done it, others don't have power to vote there," he claimed.

"Similarly, even in India, if we ensure that they (Muslims) don't have a right to vote, then they will stay to themselves, and everyone can remain peacefully," he added.

Following allegations by a section of farmers and others in certain parts of Karnataka that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, there have been protests by various farmers groups, organisations, and opposition BJP.

Asking everyone to unite to fight for farmers, the seer said, "Everyone should stay together on this issue (Waqf), no issue even if the government falls. We have to save and nurture our farmers, it should be our main goal..."

"We should be determined to be victorious in our cause, farmers' land should remain with farmers," he added.

Initially, there were allegations by a section of farmers from Vijayapura district that their lands were marked as Waqf properties. Similar charges have surfaced from a few other places subsequently, and also by some organisations and religious institutions like Mutts.

With the row escalating, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had recently directed officials that all notices issued to farmers that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, and any unauthorised amendments in land records without due notice must also be nullified. (PTI)

Delhi LG launches month long anti-drug campaign

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has announced the launching of a month long anti-drug campaign and asked agencies to intensify their efforts to curb drug trafficking and consumption, a statement said on Tuesday. The campaign, which will start from December 1, is part of a larger plan to make Delhi drug-free within the next three years, much ahead of the target set for making the country drug-free, it said.

He directed the Delhi Police and other agencies concerned to intensify their efforts to curb drug trafficking and consumption. The campaign will involve a multi-pronged approach, the statement said. Directions have been given to the city police and other stakeholder agencies to thoroughly check and sanitise at least 200 hostels, 50 colleges, 200 schools, 200 pharmaceutical stores, 500 pan shops, all shelter homes, 200 bars and restaurants, all railway stations, all ISBTs and other

public spaces, it said. To ensure a drug-free campus environment, nodal officers will be designated and wardens will be made accountable for ensuring drug-free hostels in educational institutions, the statement said.

He directed that advisories should also be sent to teachers and parents by engaging social welfare department which will actively engage with schools and parents to educate them about the dangers of drug abuse and encourage them to monitor their children's activities, it stated.

Saxena asked the Delhi Police to widely advertise and announce attractive awards for informants while keeping their identity confidential.

He also directed that slogans, posters and banners should be prominently displayed all over the city and also in the DTC buses, auto-rickshaws and taxis against the harmful effects of the use of drugs and psychotropic substances, it said. (PTI)

Air India urination: SC asks Centre for more comprehensive guidelines on unruly flyers

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Centre and aviation regulator DGCA to frame more comprehensive guidelines to control unruly air passengers and observed "something creative" had to be done.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan was hearing a plea filed by a 73-year-old woman, on whom a male co-passenger allegedly urinated in an inebriated condition on board an Air India flight in November, 2022.

The septuagenarian sought directions to the Centre, the DGCA and all the air carriers to frame a standard operating procedure (SOP) to deal with similar incidents.

The bench, hearing the plea, asked Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to instruct the authorities concerned to examine and suitably modify the existing guidelines on unruly passengers, in line with the international norms.

Interestingly, Justice Viswanathan shared his own experience while travelling with Justice Surya Kant when they encountered a similar incident.

"We had a recent experience. Two passengers were fully drunk. One went to the washroom and slept off. The other one who was outside had a bag to vomit. The crew



was all women and for about 30 to 35 minutes no one could open the door. The crew then requested my co-passenger to open the door and take him out to the seat. It was a 2.40 hour-long flight," Justice Viswanathan said.

The judge remarked something creative needed to be done.

The top court in May, 2023, issued notices to the Centre, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and all airlines, including Air India, on the woman's plea.

During the hearing, the woman's counsel submitted the DGCA filed a reply stating everything was in place but the petitioner had suggestions that could be incorporated.

Bhati, representing the Centre, informed the bench that an affidavit was filed and

guidelines and circulars were notified for controlling unruly passengers.

The woman filed a PIL in March, 2023, saying she was constrained to moved the top court as Air India and the DGCA failed to treat her with care and responsibility after the unpleasant experience.

The woman referred to seven instances of passenger misconduct on board between 2014 and 2023, alleging they were not dealt with properly by the airline concerned.

The PIL sought a direction to the Centre and the DGCA to ensure that civil aviation requirements norms adhered to the highest standards laid down internationally.

The absence of clear guidelines for media outlets on what requires reporting, whether they ought to make

conjectures when matters are sub-judice, and the impact of media coverage based on unverified statements end up impacting the victim as well as the accused, it added.

The petitioner said her intentions were inspired and motivated in the interest of the general public and were a sincere attempt to set up a framework within the airline industry for the prevention of similar incidents and dealing with it in a manner which did not cause additional trauma to the passengers.

The woman sought directions to the DGCA and the airline companies to comply with the legal requirements of the SOPs, operation manuals and reporting protocols to be followed by airline crew and staff.

On January 31, 2023, a Delhi court granted bail to Shankar Mishra, the accused in the case, on a personal bond and a surety.

He was saddled with various conditions, which included not tampering with evidence, influencing witnesses or communicating with them in any manner.

Mishra was also asked not to leave the country without the court's permission and join the investigation and trial whenever summoned by the investigating officer or the court concerned. (PTI)

No.CHD/UDD-8/15th FC/Untied/1st Inst./2023-24/2782, Dated.19/11/2024
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 The Council Head of Department, Urban Development Department, BTC, Kokrajhar invites bid for the work "Supply and Installation of 50 watt LED Solar Street Light at Kokrajhar Town" under 15th FC (Untied Grant) 1st Installment for the year 2023-24 during 2024-25 for amounting Rs.67,98,800.00 (Rupees Sixty seven Lakhs ninety eight thousand and eight hundred) only.
 Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.
 Sd/-CHD
 Urban Development Department,
 BTC, Kokrajhar
 IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/942

No. CHD/UDD/2/15th FC/Untied/1st Inst./2024/NIT-CS/2771, Dated Kokrajhar the 18th November/2024
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 The Council Head of Department, Urban Development Department, BTC, Kokrajhar invites bid for the following scheme under 15th FC Untied Grant (1st Installment) for the year 2023-24 during 2024-25.

Group No.	Name of Schemes	Bid cost (Rs.)	Tender Value (Rs.)
Group-1	Supply of 220 GSM Tarpaulin for BPL/EWS beneficiary in Urban area of Gossigaon Town.	150.00	3,73,152.00
Group-2	Supply of 220 GSM Tarpaulin for BPL/EWS beneficiary in Urban area of Kokrajhar Town.	350.00	11,00,021.00
Group-3	Supply of 220 GSM Tarpaulin for BPL/EWS beneficiary in Urban area of Goreswar Town.	200.00	6,29,694.00
Group-4	Supply of 220 GSM Tarpaulin for BPL/EWS beneficiary in Urban area of Udalguri Town.	350.00	10,88,360.00

Last date of submission of completed tender is 09.12.2024 (up to 2:00 PM) and will be open on the same day. The detail tender documents may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours till 07.12.2024.
 N.B.: The bill of contractor will be paid only after receiving the fund from BTC.
 Sd/-CHD
 Urban Development Department,
 BTC, Kokrajhar
 IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/944

No.DV/BTC/VETY/D-15(K)/2024-25/956 Dated Kokrajhar the 25 November/2024
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
 Sealed Tenders affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paise) only in plain paper which will subsequently be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 Form are hereby invited from the Class-II and Class-I (A, B and C) category of all the Registered Contractors of this Deptt. under BTR Council according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the works stated below:

Group	Name of the works & location	Tender Amount	Time of completion
A	Repairing of Boundary wall & Good earth filling at Kamalsing State Vety. Dispensary campus, Thurbari in Kokrajhar district under SOPD fund for the financial year 2024-25	Rs. 10,00,000.00	30 Days
B	Repairing of 1 No. Doctor quarter & 1 No. VFA quarter at Kachugaon State Vety. Dispensary in Kokrajhar district under SOPD fund for the financial year 202425	Rs. 20,00,000.00	30 Days

THE BIDDER SHOULD ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH THEIR BID
 (a) Bid Cost (Non-Refundable) of Rs.1,000/- for each Group in the form of Demand Draft duly pledged in favour of "The Principal Secretary, Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar" with quotation/tender.
 (b) Bid Earnest Money (Refundable) @ 1% in case of ST/SC/OBC and 2% for General/Firm of Tender amount in the form of Call Deposit/NSC/Demand Draft duly pledged in favour of "The Director, A. H. & Vety. Deptt., BTC, Kokrajhar".
 The Tender/quotation will be received at the Office of the undersigned up to 1.00 P.M. of 4th December/2024 and will be opened at 1.30 P.M. of the same day. In case, last date of receipt is happened to be a non-working day for any reason, the next working day will be considered as the date for submission of Quotations/Tenders and opening thereof. The bidders or their representatives may remain present at the time of opening of the quotations/tenders.
 The detailed Plan & Estimate may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hour up-to 12.00 noon on 4th December/2024.
 Sd/-
 Director,
 A.H. & Vety. Deptt., BTC, Kokrajhar
 IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/940



PANAJI, Nov 26: Actor Shahana Goswami, who stars in the UK's official entry to Oscars 2025 "Santosh", is excited about the film's chances at the upcoming awards ceremony and hopes all the attention it is receiving globally boosts independent cinema at large.

"Santosh" marks the feature directorial debut of British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri. Goswami, known for her work in films such as "Rock On!!", "Firaq", "Tu Hai Mera Sunday", and "Zwigato", said she has her

fingers crossed for "Santosh" but one still has to wait and see.

"We're not going to the Oscars just yet. There is still due process left. But I'm just excited and happy that the film got the kind of a platform that it did, selected for something like this that is getting that opportunity to be viewed by so many people and be in the news. Every good independent film that comes out has to become a stepping stone for the next one.

"Essentially my excitement is for films like

Every good indie film has to become stepping stone for next one: Shahana Goswami on 'Santosh'

'Santosh' being able to garner that value in the film industry and the film world globally, and then give hope for the fact that there are such films that could also have similar trajectories," the actor told PTI in an interview at Film Bazaar, which was held on the sidelines of the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here.

She is also excited for Kiran Rao's "Laapataa Ladies", which is India's official entry in the best international film category at the upcoming Academy Awards.

"Santosh", which includes Hindi dialogues, revolves around a newly widowed housewife (Goswami) as she inherits her late husband's job as a police constable and becomes embroiled in the investigation of a young girl's murder.

It is a film that makes the viewer question themselves after they finish watching it, added Goswami.

"I think that's what really



resonates with people. That's what is hard-hitting. More than the plotline and story, the fact that it's a reflection on society that makes you just mirror yourself and the role you play in the reality that we are living in," she said.

The actor was recently at IFFI to attend the gala premiere of her upcoming movie "Despatch". The film revolves around Joy Bag (Manoj Bajpayee), an investigative journalist working round the clock to uncover a big financial scam.

Goswami -- who plays Joy's wife Shweta in the film -- said "Despatch" is a special project because she got an opportunity to work with Bajpayee and director Kanu Behl.

"It was a really interesting journey. Kanu is a special director. To play a small part in this very amazing film was something that I really appreciated," she said.

The film sees Joy and Shweta navigate their marriage which is already on the rocks.

"They are going through a rough patch. It's a marriage that's falling apart and is broken. It's a journey of just the remains and the ends of a relationship. It was a very delicate and fine balance," she added.

Up next for Goswami is "Four Years Later", an eight-part Australian-Indian romance drama series.

Commissioned by Australian TV channel SBS and produced by Easy Tiger Productions, the English-language show follows a newly-married couple (Goswami and Akshay Ajit Singh) in a long-distance relationship.

Australia is the country of focus at the 55th edition of IFFI, which will come to a close on November 28. (PTI)

Int'l Emmys 2024: 'The Night Manager' loses best drama series award to 'Les Gouttes de Dieu'

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The Indian version of "The Night Manager", fronted by Aditya Roy Kapur, couldn't register a win at the 2024 International Emmy Awards where it was bested by French show "Les Gouttes de Dieu" (Drops of God) in the drama series category.

Also starring Anil Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala, "The Night Manager" was the only entry from India across 14 categories at the nominations that were announced on September 19 by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

The series, directed by Sandeep Modi and Priyanka Ghose, is adapted from John le Carre's novel and the British show starring Tom Hiddleston, Hugh Laurie and Olivia Colman.

The award ceremony, held on Monday night in New York, was hosted by Indian comedian Vir Das, who won an International Emmy last year for his stand-up special "Landing".

The International Emmy

Awards shared the name of the winner in the best drama category on its official X page.

"The International Emmy for Drama Series goes to 'Les Gouttes de Dieu [Drops of God]' Produced by Legendary Entertainment / Les Productions Dynamic / 22H22 / Adline Entertainment / France Televisions / Hulu Japan #iemmyWIN," the post read.

Other nominees in the category were "The Newsreader - Season 2" from Australia and "Iosi, El Espia Arrepentido" (season two) from Argentina. (PTI)



It went well: Vir Das on becoming first Indian to host International Emmy Awards

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Stand-up comic and actor Vir Das says his maiden hosting stint at the 52nd edition of the International Emmy Awards "went well".

Das, who won an International Emmy last year for his stand-up special "Landing", shared his picture from the red carpet event ahead of the ceremony in New York in an Instagram Story on Monday night.

"It went well @iemmys," he wrote.

After the awards, Das shared a clip on social media from his hosting monologue, in which he referenced the infamous incident from the 2022 Academy Awards ceremony where Hollywood star Will Smith slapped colleague Chris Rock for cracking a joke on his wife Jada Pinkett Smith.

"All the major platforms are here tonight and humbly I think next

year one of you should really broadcast this show. What do you think?"

"Who does Will Smith have to slap tonight for us to get some eyeballs? I'm kidding. We're foreigners, you can't slap foreigners with anything (else) but with sanctions. Sorry, tariffs," the comic can be heard saying in the video. For the International Emmy Awards, Das wore a monochrome ensemble by Shubhangi Bajpai, a budding designer from Delhi. In September, the actor invited aspiring designers, labels and students to design an outfit for him for the ceremony.

In an Instagram post, Das said he kept his promise and was set to wear a garment by "a brand new designer" for the Emmys.

"As promised, I know nothing about fashion. But she does and she worked super hard. Her name is Shubhangi Bajpai and she is from Delhi. Happy to show you her work soon. Do keep in mind, she doesn't have much to work with here," he wrote.

Bajpai, an NIFT-Delhi graduate of the 2008 batch, was selected out of 4,000 entrants, added Das.

She expressed gratitude to the comic on Instagram, writing: "Got to stitch my favourite and can only say I am grateful to bits for this opportunity @viridas @zazu.production @shreejarajgopal." (PTI)



LG ELECTRONICS INDIA AND KOREAN CULTURAL CENTRE INDIA DAZZLE FANS AT THE GRAND FINALE OF THE ALL-INDIA K-POP CONTEST 2024

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Nov 26: LG Electronics India Private Limited ("LG Electronics India"), in collaboration with the Korean Cultural Centre India (KCCI), concluded the third edition of the All-India K-POP Contest 2024 with an electrifying Grand Finale that celebrated exceptional talent and the thriving cultural connection between India and Korea. The evening's highlight was an unforgettable performance by the globally acclaimed K-POP band LUN8. Known for their dynamic choreography and infectious energy, LUN8 delivered chart-topping hits that had the audience cheering and dancing, making the event an immersive K-POP experience for fans.

In a thrilling finale, Abhipriya Chakraborty from Kolkata emerged victorious

in the singing category, while The Trend from Itanagar claimed the title in the Dancing category. These talented stars won the ultimate prize - an all-expenses-paid trip to Korea, where they will explore the heart of the K-POP industry and immerse themselves in its vibrant culture.

Congratulating the winners, Managing Director of LG Electronics India, Hong Ju Jeon said, "The Grand Finale of the All-India K-POP Contest 2024 has been an extraordinary showcase of talent, passion, and dedication. Every participant has brought something unique to this platform, and their performances have truly captured the spirit of K-POP. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to The Trend and Abhipriya Chakraborty for their remarkable achievements."

Director of the Korean Cul-

tural Centre in India, Hwang Il Yong expressed his gratitude, stating, "Thanks to the enthusiastic support from Indian fans, K-pop has gained tremendous love, leading us to this Grand Finale. We look forward to returning next year with an even more spectacular stage for our Indian fans."

The winners were selected by a distinguished panel of judges, including Kim Wook, CEO of W KOREA, content creative company, Park Bong-Young, choreographer from One Million Dance Studio, Goo Tae Kyung, KPOP Dance YouTuber, Kim Jin Soo, Head of Fantagio Entertainment Team, who commended the participants for their artistic brilliance and dedication.

Through initiatives like the All-India K-POP Contest, LG Electronics India is setting its position as a brand that resonates with Gen Z. By blend-

ing global cultural phenomena like K-POP with meaningful platforms for self-expression, LG Electronics India ensures constant engagement with the youth, fostering a sense of connection and relevance.

This year's contest reinforced the ever-growing popularity of K-POP in India, demonstrating the power of music and dance to bridge cultures. By offering a platform to aspiring talent, LG Electronics and KCCI have continued to inspire and uplift the youth while promoting cultural exchange between the two nations.

The resounding success of the All-India K-POP Contest 2024 has set the stage for even greater excitement in the years to come, leaving fans eagerly anticipating the next edition of this extraordinary celebration.



ISL: Mohammedan SC hunt for maiden home win against upbeat Bengaluru FC

KOLKATA, Nov 26: Mohammedan SC will be desperate to register their maiden home win of the season when they host Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday.

The 12th-placed MSC, competing in their debut ISL season, has suffered three defeats in their previous five matches, along with a success and a draw each.

On the other hand, BFC has been on a solid ride this season, winning five games and drawing twice. They have collected 17 points from eight contests and sit second in the standings.

Bengaluru is in a close battle with table leaders and defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant, who also possesses a similar tally — 17 points from eight fixtures.

While The Blues look like the favourite for this tie, the Black Panthers, coming off a goalless draw to city rival East Bengal FC, would want to ride that momentum and go a step further to eventually triumph in a home outing.

No side to date has failed to grab a win in its five home meetings, a record that Andrey Chernyshov and co will be desperate to avoid.

The only consolation they can attain is that Bengaluru's only loss this season came in an away match — versus FC Goa.

MSC tend to take some time to settle into the proceedings, having conceded four goals in the opening 15 minutes of the contests this ISL — the highest by any side this season.

The hosts will have to hold their ground early, especially since BFC has also scored on



four occasions in this phase of the ongoing campaign.

Meanwhile, success in this fixture will mark only the second time The Blues would bag 20-plus points after their opening nine engagements in an ISL season (23 points in 2018-19).

They have performed as a cohesive unit under Gerard Zaragoza this season, netting 13 goals and conceding just six, thus maintaining a sufficient stronghold over most clashes.

Also, Bengaluru has drawn and lost twice in its previous five outings while facing a side for the first time in the event.

With this being the maiden encounter between the two in the tournament, The Blues will be hoping to change that record with a victory here

Ahead of the meeting, MSC head coach Chernyshov heralded BFC and its dominant style of play this season.

"We will play against one of the best teams at the moment. They are very strong and have started the season perfectly. Their style of football makes them one of the best teams in the ISL," Chernyshov said.

Meanwhile, Zaragoza, highlighted his players' hard work on their technical and tactical movements, especially during the international break.

"The break was good. We prefer playing matches but breaks help us look at things technically

and tactically. The good thing is that we had the whole squad training with us this week," Zaragoza noted.

Bengaluru's Sunil Chhetri holds an impeccable record of netting against each of the 14 sides he has faced in the competition.

Scoring versus the Black Panthers will make him the first player in the ISL's history to do so against 15 different opponents.

Kick-off: 7.30 pm IST. (PTI)

RO Garg suspends 5 state golf assoc ahead of IGU polls for being 'virtually non-existent'

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Five state associations of the Indian Golf Union (IGU) have been suspended by Returning Officer O P Garg ahead of its upcoming elections for being "virtually non-existent" and violating the guidelines of the sport's governing body.

The Himachal Pradesh Proam Golf Association, Arunachal Pradesh Golf Association, Madhya Prant Golf Association, Nagaland Golf Association, and Sikkim State Golf Association are the five entities that have been barred from the December 15 election.

Garg, a retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court, issued the suspension order on Monday following a complaint from Shyam Sunder, Chairman of the IGU Technical Committee and a council member.

"In my quest to reach the truth I have waded through all the documents as made available to me by IGU and find that the above five SGAs are virtually non-existent and have blatantly failed and deliberately committed breach of the law, for the simple reason they do not fulfil the requirements of the bye laws of IGU," Garg said in his order.

"In view of the above facts my considered view is that the five SGAs named above are not entitled to take part in the ongoing election process. Their names shall not appear in the list of electoral college."

The Annual General Meeting of the IGU to elect the office-bearers and members of the governing council for the ensuing year (2024-26) is due on December 15.

The Returning Officer stated that an email with all the relevant facts was sent to the five associations on November 22, asking them to submit their views within two days.

"It was also pointed out that on 25th of this month at 11.30 am the matter will be heard and discussed through video conferencing," Garg said in the order.

"None of the above five SGAs have responded to the email message." Consequently, a video conference was held on Monday involving President Sh Brijinder Singh, complainant Shyam Sunder, and Maj Gen Bibhuti Bhushan (DG, IGU).

"Since the affected five SGAs did not respond and their telephone numbers are not available in the record of IGU, none of them could be contacted," he added.

In his complaint, Shyam Sunder highlighted that the five "SGAs have no golf courses as their members, but only include Army Environmental Park and Training Areas (AEPTA)".

"...the names of the Presidents, Secretaries, and office-bearers of these SGAs are not in public domain. (These) SGAs exist only on paper and against the letter and spirit of the national sports code."

The complaint also highlighted that the "five SGAs have not held their AGMs and failed to file their annual report/balance sheets as per record of IGU".

"...the SGAs have also not submitted the annual reports to the registrar of societies which is required under the law." (PTI)

US goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher is retiring from international soccer

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Nov 26: U.S. women's national team goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, known for her unflappable demeanor in the face of pressure, is retiring from international soccer.

Naeher was on the team's roster for a pair of upcoming matches in Europe but those games will be her last after a full 11 years playing for the United States.

Naeher was the starting goalkeeper for the U.S. team that won the Women's World Cup in 2019 and the gold medal at this year's Olympics in France. She's the only U.S. goalkeeper to earn a shutout in both a World Cup and an Olympic final.

She made a key one-handed save in stoppage time to preserve the Americans' 1-0 victory over Brazil in the Olympic final. Mallory Swanson, who scored the only goal, ran down the length of the field to embrace Naeher at the final whistle. Naeher announced her retirement on social media Monday. "Every tear shed in the challenging times and disap-

pointments made every smile and celebration in the moments of success that much more joyful. This has been a special team to be a part of and I am beyond proud of what we have achieved both on and off the field," she wrote. "The memories I have made over the years will last me a lifetime."

Naeher has been known throughout her career for her calm and steady leadership. She is one of just three goalkeepers to make more than 100 appearances for the United States.

Naeher made her debut with the national team in 2014 and was a backup to Hope Solo at the 2015 World Cup, which the United States won. She became the team's regular starter following the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and was on the squad that repeated as World Cup winners in 2019. For her career, Naeher has appeared 113 games with 110 starts, 88 wins and 68 shutouts. She had four shutouts over the course of the Olympic tournament in France. (AP)

Getting Venky was one of our main priorities: Dwayne Bravo

JEDDAH, Nov 26: Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is now the mentor of reigning champions Kolkata Knight Riders, has defended the team's strategy of "going all out" for Venkatesh Iyer to keep the "core" of the IPL championship-winning side intact.

Seen as a potential captaincy candidate for KKR, Venkatesh's acquisition has sparked some criticism over why he wasn't retained if leadership was part of the team thinktank's plan for him.

"Getting Venky (Venkatesh Iyer) was one of the main priorities for us, as you could see, we went all out for him," said Bravo, a four-time IPL winner at Chennai Super Kings.

"It's good that we have 90 per cent of the players from the championship-winning team. That in itself is a positive sign."

"It's important to keep your core because when you have to build from scratch, it becomes complicated to make combinations and all." "We started planning while I was in Trinidad. We had come with a proper plan, the players we wanted to target," added Bravo, who will be in charge of all the



franchises of the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues.

At a staggering ₹ 23.75 crore, the 29-year old Madhya Pradesh all-rounder, who has represented India in nine T20Is and two ODIs, emerged as the third most expensive player at the two-day IPL mega auction that concluded here on Monday.

Only Rishabh Pant (Lucknow, ₹ 27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer (Pun-

jab, ₹ 26.75 crore) were ahead of Venkatesh on the list of most expensive players as he even eclipsed experienced Indian batter KL Rahul, a former Lucknow Super Giants captain, who was picked up by Delhi Capitals for ₹ 14 crore.

Bravo was also excited that KKR roped in fiery pacer Umran Malik.

"The pace at which he operates,

I always admire him -- his work ethic, energy and all. Happy that we're able to nail him down."

KKR CEO and MD Venky Mysore added: "The way the retention rules are set up, the RTM rules, the salary caps, marquee players, and the two-day auction - this was definitely more demanding, for sure. Quite nerve-racking because of the nuances."

"The think tank's unanimous view was to maintain the structure, which we have done. In certain areas, we have also improved and upgraded. Hopefully, it will continue to work well." Mysore also highlighted the value Rovman Powell would bring to the Kolkata Knight Riders setup, emphasising his extensive experience and leadership qualities.

"Rovman Powell, over the years, we have seen what he has done in the CPL, other leagues, and, of course, the IPL as well. He's highly experienced, leads West Indies -- that leadership experience, captaincy, and what he has achieved -- all of it put together makes him really, really special. Great to have him in the side." (PTI)

Sad to see you go, hope we can reunite: Delhi Capitals' co-owner Jindal to Rishabh Pant

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Delhi Capitals' co-owner Parth Jindal on Tuesday lamented Rishabh Pant's departure from the franchise and hoped to reunite with him in the foreseeable future after the Indian wicketkeeper-batter was snapped up by Lucknow Super Giants at a record price in the IPL mega-auction.

Delhi Capitals had released their captain Pant ahead of the auction where he became the most expensive player ever with a ₹ 27 crore bid from LSG.

The Capitals did attempt to get the swashbuckling southpaw back in their fold on the first day of the auction, but backed out of Right To Match owing to LSG's mammoth bid.

"To Rishabh @RishabhPant17 you are and will always remain my younger brother - from the bottom of my heart I love you and I have tried everything to make sure you are happy and have treated you like my family," Jindal wrote in an emotional post on

X. Jindal continued, "I am very sad to see you go and I am very emotional about it. You will always be in DC and I hope one day we can reunite."

"Thank you for everything Rishabh and remember that we will always love you - go well champ, the world is at your feet. Best wishes from all of us at @DelhiCapitals - other than when you play DC I will be cheering and hoping for the best for you!" Jindal added.

Pant responded to the post by saying that he shares the same sentiment.

"Thanku bhैया the feeling is mutual. Means a lot," he said.

Pant had made himself available for the mega auction following differences with the franchise, co-owned by JSW Sports and GMR, and later claimed in a social media post that his move was not "about the money for sure".

In his farewell note for the franchise, Pant also acknowledged the fans for making his

Delhi Capitals had released their captain Pant ahead of the auction where he became the most expensive player ever with a ₹ 27 crore bid from LSG. The Capitals did attempt to get the swashbuckling southpaw back in their fold on the first day of the auction, but backed out of Right To Match owing to LSG's mammoth bid

"Journey worthwhile". "Goodbyes are never easy," he said.

"The journey with Delhi Capitals has been nothing short of amazing...I've grown in ways I never imagined. I came here as a teenager and we grew together over the last nine years." Pant posted on X tagging Delhi Capitals.

"As I move on, I carry your love and support in my heart. I'll look forward to entertain you whenever I take the field. Thank you for being my family and making this journey so special," he added.

Delhi Capitals bought 19 players in the auction after re-

taining four including Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Tristan Stubbs and Abhishek Porel.

They bought back Jake Fraser-McGurk for ₹ 9 crore and also added India batter KL Rahul to the squad for ₹ 14 crore as one of their major signings.

Commenting on how the auction panned out for the franchise, Jindal said, "The auction went completely to our plan. I would like to compliment the entire support staff, who worked tirelessly on devising the entire auction strategy. We have built a very balanced team, we are very happy." (PTI)



Englishman Davis scores late to rescue point for Udinese and Lecce steals win at Venezia



EMPOLI, ITALY, Nov 26: Englishman Keinan Davis scored with 14 minutes remaining for Udinese to draw at Empoli 1-1 in Serie A on Monday and snap the visitor's three-game losing streak.

The former Watford and Aston Villa striker rose to head home a near-post corner with 76 minutes gone.

Pietro Pellegrini put Empoli ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in three games.

The on-loan Torino striker has endured a lean season but a goal in the 1-0 win over Como was followed by another in the 1-1 draw with Lecce before the international break.

The result was the first point in four games for Udinese, after consecutive defeats to Atalanta, Juventus and Venezia, and meant that both sides retained their mid-table positions.

Udinese was ninth and Empoli 10th.

Later, Venezia missed a chance to move off the foot of the table when it went down at home to Lecce 1-0.

Venezia was dominant for most of the game, with Gaetano Oristano and Jay Idzes hitting the woodwork and Wladimiro Falcone outstanding in the Lecce goal.

But the home side paid for its profligacy after 70 minutes.

Antonino Gallo's sublime cross from the left was met by Patrick Dorgu at the far post and he steered the ball into the far corner to give Lecce all three points.

Lecce, which started the night only two places above bottom side Venezia, jumped into 15th place. (AP)

2nd Test: Will Rohit agree to bat in middle-order and let Rahul open?



NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Returning skipper Rohit Sharma will walk into the Indian playing XI for the second Test in Adelaide in place of young Devdutt Padikkal but in-form KL Rahul's batting slot in the pink ball warm-up game in Canberra will certainly keep everyone interested.

It will all depend on whether the injured Shubman Gill gets fit in time for the match, failing which Rahul might be slotted at number three in place of Padikkal. But there is a school of thought that believes the team might be served better if Rohit bats in the middle order, preferably at number five or six.

Rahul was seen more as a makeshift opener due to Rohit's absence going into the opening Test in Perth.

But he has been technically the most compact among all Indian batters across both innings at Optus Stadium, with scores of 26 and 77.

Having already played an India A game at the MCG and now a Test match, Rahul has settled nicely at the top of the order.

The Indian captain, who is also searching for runs, has been opening in Test matches for the past five years.

Rohit's numbers with the willow has been a

bit underwhelming during the five home Tests but those were played on difficult tracks. On Australian pitches, with true carry and bounce, he could get back to form with liberal usage of the horizontal bat shots.

Gill, who has suffered a hairline fracture during the intra-squad game at the WACA, missed the first Test, and is yet to start batting in the nets.

Unless Gill gets adequate net practice, the team management might not risk him, with only a couple of training sessions available with pink ball in Adelaide. If he is fit, then Dhruv Jurel will automatically get dropped.

The only possible tactical change in playing XI at the Adelaide Oval could be in spin bowling.

The two senior spinners -- Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja -- were benched in Perth at the expense of Washington Sundar.

If one goes back to the 2021 Pink Ball Test in Adelaide, Ashwin with figures of 4 for 45, including a beauty to dismiss Steven Smith, gave India the first innings lead before the 36-all out happened.

But, going by current form in the nets, there is not much to choose between Ashwin, Jadeja and Washington at the moment. There is also the fact that in Pink Ball Tests, the spinners don't come into equation a lot, and batting becomes key.

Jadeja's batting has been key to India's overseas Test success but the left-handed Washington has also been more than a decent batter in Tests. His 89-run partnership with Virat Kohli in Perth was instrumental in taking India past the 500-run lead.

At the Adelaide Oval, expect some rejigging in batting order if not in the playing XI. (PTI)

Jaiswal poised to inherit batting excellence of Tendulkar and Kohli : Greg Chappell

PERTH, Nov 26: Yashasvi Jaiswal looks well-placed to carry forward the glorious legacy of batting excellence established by the likes of Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli, said former India coach Greg Chappell, waxing eloquent on the country's cricketing infrastructure and planning.

Writing in his column for the 'Sydney Morning Herald', Chappell said he was highly impressed with Jaiswal, who smashed a 161-run knock in the opening Test against Australia in Perth to be one among the architects of the visitors' 295-run win on Sunday.

"The young opener is fearless and appears poised to inherit the mantle of Indian batting excellence, following the likes of Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar," Chappell wrote.

Chappell, who worked as India head coach between 2005-2007, also spoke about the wide gulf in planning between the Indian and Australian cricketing establishment when it came to grooming youngsters for traditional formats.

"Jaiswal's journey encapsulates why India's planning and infrastructure give them a clear edge in world cricket. The young left-hander moved to Mumbai at 10, seeking the best competition to realise his dream of representing India," Chappell wrote.

"Considering the staggering odds of breaking into the Indian XI, his determination is remarkable. There are so many players in India who are good enough to play Test cricket, but some can't even get a game for their state team," said the former skipper, who had a fair idea about India's domestic structure.

Chappell then presented numbers to compare Jaiswal with 25-year-old Australian debutant Nathan McSweeney, who hasn't



yet played much despite being older than Jaiswal.

"A comparison with Australia's Nathan McSweeney is illuminating. At 22, Jaiswal has played 14 Tests, 30 first-class matches, 32 List A games, and 53 IPL matches. By contrast, McSweeney, at 25, has just made his debut Test, with just 34 first-class, 22 List A, and 18 T20 matches under his belt."

Chappell, who shared a fantastic working relationship with the then captain Rahul Dravid during his days in India, lauded his junior cricket programme at the National Cricket Academy.

He believes that Indian cricket's junior red-ball programme is second to none with opportunities to play multiple matches. At times, he has felt that when India U-19 played other teams, it seemed "men were playing with boys" in terms of game awareness.

"India's system prioritised long-form cricket at the youth level under Rahul Dravid's leadership. This focus ensures that players are well-versed in the nuances of the game."

"In contrast, Australia's system limits opportunities for young

cricketers, prioritising school commitments over competition during much of the year," he noted.

Chappell also recalled his interaction with a young Sarfaraz Khan some years back.

"When I asked a young Sarfaraz Khan -- who has played six Tests for India but can't break into this team -- about the balance between cricket and school for him as a then 16-year-old, he said, 'Oh, I don't go to school, I can go to school later if I want to, but I only get one chance at cricket,'" he recalled.

Chappell, who has worked extensively in Cricket Australia's junior talent programme, warned the stakeholders that lack of competitive matches would hurt development of young players.

"The lack of competitive matches at a young age leaves Australian players less prepared to handle the demands of international cricket. No amount of net practice can replicate the experience gained from playing meaningful games."

"Without significant changes to our development pathways, we risk falling further behind." (PTI)

Gambhir heads home for 'personal emergency'



PERTH, Nov 26: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has flown back home with his family due to a "personal emergency" and is unlikely to rejoin the squad before the second Test against Australia beginning December 6 in Adelaide.

The Delhi-based Gambhir will skip India's two-day pink ball warm-up game against Prime Minister's in Canberra starting November 30.

"He left with his family on early Tuesday morning for India. It is an unavoidable personal emergency. He will be back in Adelaide before the start of the second Test match," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The Indian team will leave for Canberra on Wednesday, where it is expected to attend an official reception by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The two-day match will be crucial preparation for the side as the second Test is going to be a day-night game. The pink Kookaburra ball will be used during the clash.

Prime Minister's XI will be led by all-rounder Jack Edwards and it is a squad full of youngsters, along with a few Test-capped internationals like Scott Boland and Matthew Renshaw.

The rules of the game will be decided by the two teams and it is expected that everyone will bat and bowl as it does not have an official status. (PTI)

West Indies poised to win 1st test over Bangladesh after 17 wickets fall on Day 4

NORTH SOUND, Nov 26: Bangladesh trailed the West Indies by 224 runs with only three second-innings wickets in hand at stumps on the fourth day of the first cricket test.

Set 333 to win, Bangladesh faltered and was 109-7 at stumps on a day in which 17 wickets fell, 14 to fast bowlers.

Jaker Ali was 15 not out when bad light stopped play for the third day in a row. He shared a 43-run partnership with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (45) heading towards stumps, which briefly fanned Bangladesh hopes of taking the match well into the final day.

But Mehidy was out four overs from the end and, with his departure, the tourists' brave fightback on the fourth day finally was extinguished.

Kemar Roach led the way for the West Indies with 3-20 and Jayden Seales took 3-31. Roach dismissed Zakir Hasan (0), Shahadat Hossain (4) and Mominul Haque (11) to leave the Bangladesh innings in tatters at 23-4.

Mehidy revived the innings in partnerships of 36 with Litton Das (22) and 43 with Jaker. Seales struck to remove Mehidy and Taijul Islam close to stumps to leave the West Indies poised for victory.

Earlier, the West Indies had to stifle a determined comeback from Bangladesh, which surprisingly declared at its overnight total of 269-9, conceding a first-innings lead of 181 runs.

Taskin Ahmed then took his first five-wicket haul in tests as West Indies was bowled out for 152 in just over 46 overs.

The right-arter, playing in his 16th test, took a career-best 6-64 as Bangladesh kept the West Indies lead below 350.



Taskin showed the value of bowling line and length on a fourth-day pitch at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium as he ran through the West Indies lineup in the second session.

The West Indies went to lunch at 61-3, in a strong position to make its overall lead formidable.

Taskin dismissed Mikyle Louis (8) and Keacy Carty (3) in the first session, then came into his own by taking four more wickets as the West Indies was bowled out just on tea.

"It's very special to me, my first five-wicket haul in test cricket," Taskin said. "I've had a few opportunities but I didn't make that five before."

"In the first innings I thought I bowled OK but I learned from the first innings what lengths and lines are good here and I tried to bowl consistently."

Taskin's massive effort was

squandered when Bangladesh lost Zakir Hasan (0) to the fifth ball of its second innings and Mahmudul Hasan Joy (6) three overs later.

Roach also bowled exacting line and length to remove Shahadat and Mominul, leaving Bangladesh four down in only the 13th over.

"The communication was good. Once we started well with the ball and got a couple of wickets at the front, we knew we would be in the game for the rest of the day, so I think we all expressed ourselves well today," Roach said.

He said the West Indies had a game plan.

"Just make it as tough for them as possible, control the run rate, and hit the areas and challenge the batsmen, was a simple plan," Roach said. "And I think we did that exceptionally."

The 17 wickets that fell on Monday were a record for a single day in a test match at Antigua. (AP)

'MI focussed on getting bowling combination right in IPL mega auction'

MUMBAI, Nov 26: Mumbai Indians strived to get their bowling combination right during the IPL mega auction, said team owner Akash Ambani after the five-time champions brought in two left-arm pacers and two overseas spinners as part of their new signings.

Mumbai Indians got the veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult back into their fold and also added England's left-arm bowler Reece Topley, India's Deepak Chahar and Afghanistan rookie Allah Ghazanfar as well as Kiwi spin bowling all-rounder Mitchell Santner to the roster. "We had four of our top seven in place already, (we) just needed to fill a couple of slots with the right complementary players," Ambani told Jio Cinema.

"We focused a lot in this auction on getting our bowling combination right and I think we have achieved that at the end of two days of auction." With Jasprit Bumrah at the helm of their attack, MI's new band of pacers can exploit favourable conditions especially at their homeground in Wankhede Stadium where the new ball under

lights can cause a lot of trouble.

"Boult and Topley we wanted, because they both are left-arm seamers, there is a point of difference for us," the team owner said.

"Of course, we've seen Trent in Mumbai Indians before; he adds an invaluable skill by taking that new ball and swinging it. We've been hurt by him the last couple of years when he has not played for us." Ambani said the team now also has the option of playing two spinners if situations arise. "Every time I used to watch auction reviews, they used to say Mumbai Indians only lacks in the spin department," he said.

"We would have loved the Indian spinners but they were too expensive. In certain venues and against certain opposition, we are imagining playing both Santner and Allah."

"Your will to want the sixth trophy for Mumbai Indians has been driving us. We want it more than ever. If we are able to get the sixth trophy, it would almost be like the first trophy again. It's been a long time and we hope we can deliver you a sixth trophy in the coming season." (PTI)

My backstory always gives me confidence to tackle any situation: Yashasvi Jaiswal

PERTH, Nov 26: Brought up in penury, the sensational Yashasvi Jaiswal says he now uses the experience gained from those difficult days as ammunition to conquer the battles on and off the field.

Jaiswal stamped his class with a masterful hundred in the first Test against Australia, and is poised to take over the mantle of being India's batting mainstay from the great Virat Kohli, who also made a century after a long time.

Having moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadoli at age 11 to train at Azad Maidan, Jaiswal lived in tents with the groundsman and sold paani puri at night to earn money for food.

"It's something (his backstory) that always gives me confidence that I can come out of any situation. I always fight, I always look to fight, I want to be in the battle, I want to enjoy the battle and I want to win the battle," Jaiswal said during a chat with Australian television broadcaster Mark Howard.

The 22-year-old opener added, "So this is what it gives me and I am really blessed that I have this life, that can give me a lot of confidence, learnings about myself, how I can believe in me, and how I can go through with different emotions, different situation



in my life.

"So I think it's just incredible and I really want to thank god for where I am and what

I am doing, and I am doing what I love, so I am just happy at the moment. I want to enjoy this with every ball."

His journey to fame is a fascinating tale of a strong-willed man making his own destiny. His swashbuckling hundred more than made for the first-innings duck at Perth, where the five-match Test series began from November 22.

Asked about his unusual celebration after getting to the three-figure mark, Jaiswal said, "Yes, it was (an unusual) way to bring up the hundred. In my mind, I was like, I will do this or that, and then suddenly, something happened, and I was like, oh my god, what should I do."

"So, I was like, okay, I will just celebrate, and I will enjoy this moment. I was blessed. I was grateful, I enjoyed it, this feeling will stay with me for a long time."

"I give kisses to all my loved ones, all my fans who have supported me. I just wanted to give them my love with the kisses."

He spoke to his family after the fine achievement.

"I just called my family on whatsapp, getting everyone along and celebrate with them. My brother always talks to me about cricket."

India won the first Test by a huge margin of 297 runs and the second match will be played in Adelaide from December 6. (PTI)