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REGION



● Asam Sahitya Sabha to celebrate Bhupen Hazarika's centenary worldwide

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ARUNACHAL



● Arunachal CM pays tribute to 1962 war heroes at Helmet Post war memorial in Anjaw

● Arunachal's Shi Yomi district residents face 'poor' internet services



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Government of Assam



‘মোৰ সুৰ বিন্যাসত
মূৰ্ত হওক
অতীত বৰ্তমান
চিৰ ডেজ্জল ভৱিষ্যতেও যেন
জাহেই কৰে নিতে স্মান-

মোৰ গান হওক
বহু বাধাৰ প্ৰাচীৰৰ
বিপৰীতে
এক তীব্ৰ গতিৰেই গান॥’



Honoured with Bharat Ratna
Dr Bhupen Hazarika
is a Voice of Millions

On behalf of the people of Assam,
I pay my humble tributes to the Bard
on his **Birth Anniversary**

“

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

8 September 2025

DIPR /D/HLT/152/8-Sep-25



Possible shortfall in nominal GDP growth in FY26 due to benign inflation: CEA Nageswaran

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Given the expectation of benign inflation, there may be a shortfall in nominal GDP growth compared to the Budget estimate of 10.1 per cent for the current financial year, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said.

He expressed optimism about meeting the real GDP growth target of 6.3-6.8 per cent for the current fiscal year despite the US imposing a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian shipments.

Nominal GDP includes changes in prices caused by inflation, reflecting the impact of rising overall price levels, while real GDP is an inflation-adjusted measure that evaluates the value of all goods and services produced in a country during a specific year.

Inflation is expected to be low on account of an estimated good kharif harvest and a reduction in prices of around 400 items after landmark GST reforms were approved recently by the GST Council headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"Some shortfall in nominal GDP growth may be there. I think there is a higher chance of that happening. However, what is encouraging to me is that the nominal GDP growth number at 8.8 per cent for the first quarter was better than what many had feared that it would be, somewhere between 8 and 8.3 or 8.5 per cent," he told PTI.

"So, I think as the effects of the



GST relief and the higher disposable income coming from lower inflation, from the direct tax relief provided in the February Budget, as they all kick in and boost household and domestic consumption in general, some pricing power may return, but overall inflation will remain contained."

Nominal GDP growth may not fall too far short of the assumed number in the Budget of around 10.1 per cent for the full financial year FY26, he added.

About the impact of GST reforms on GDP, Nageswaran said, "While it will be difficult to quantify it at this point, ultimately much will depend on how the consumers respond and whether it will be offset by any uncertainty related to external trade, etc."

But given the fact that this is a

fairly radical overhaul of the GST structure itself, reducing four rates to two and also doing many other process simplifications, he said the impact on the economy will be fairly substantial, not just in terms of Business to Consumer (B2C), but also in terms of Business to Business (B2B) transactions.

Pinning hopes on the underlying resilience of the Indian economy, Nageswaran said the high growth momentum exhibited in the first quarter of the current fiscal is expected to continue in the coming quarter as well, with a downward bias emanating from high US tariffs. The Indian economy reported a stronger-than-expected 7.8 per cent growth in April-June, its fastest pace in five quarters.

"I think the first quarter numbers for the fiscal year were definitely

better than expected. A lot of people attributed the fact that the GDP deflator was much weaker this year compared to last year; in some sense, the GDP deflator being on the weaker side was a good thing and was not an unknown aspect. That was factored into the consensus expectations of Indian economists in the private sector.

"Yet the GDP growth number for the first quarter in the current fiscal year was much better than expected, it attests the underlying resilience of the Indian economy in general and the lagged effects of various initiatives that the government has been undertaking since its beginning in 2014 and more so in the last two Budgets continued its momentum in the second fiscal quarter as well," Nageswaran said.

Further elaborating, he said the trade impasse with the US is continuing for the moment, so there will be some impact in the second quarter, as increased tariffs on Indian shipments took effect in August.

A steep US tariff of 50 per cent on goods from India took effect on August 27. The tariffs, among the highest in the world, include a 25 per cent penalty for buying crude oil from Russia. On August 7, the Trump administration enforced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, citing India's persistent oil imports from Russia and long-standing trade barriers. (PTI)

Govt keeping 'good watch' on rupee, several currencies declined against USD: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the government is keeping a 'good watch' on exchange rates, stressing that besides rupee several other currencies have depreciated against the US dollar.

"The rupee slide is largely against the dollar, not against any other currencies. That's also because of the way globally, the dollar has strengthened," she said when asked if the slide of rupee against greenback is a concern.

"This is not the case only with rupee versus dollar, it's the case with many other currencies versus the dollar. So we are keeping a good watch on this," she told PTI in an interview.

The rupee plummeted to a record low and closed at 88.27 against dollar after touching an intra-day low of 88.38 on Friday. The fall came amid concerns over US tariffs, while intervention by the Reserve Bank of

India through state-run banks helped limit further losses. The steep tariff of 50 per cent imposed by the US on Indian goods took effect on August 27. The tariffs - among the highest in the world - include a 25 per cent penalty for buying crude oil from Russia.

On August 7, President Donald Trump administration enforced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, citing India's persistent oil imports from Russia and long-standing trade barriers.

The sectors which are impacted due to high import duties include textiles/ clothing, gems and jewellery, shrimp, leather and footwear, animal products, chemicals, and electrical and mechanical machinery.

Sectors such as pharma, energy products and electronic goods are out of the ambit of these sweeping duties. The US accounted for about 20 per cent of India's USD 437.42 billion worth of goods exports in 2024-25. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 3

#BhupenDaAt100 an

senior officials will join family members and dignitaries at the event. Tez Hazarika, Bhupen Hazarika's only son, along with his wife and son, have arrived from the USA to participate in the celebrations.

As part of the opening events, the Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust will organise musical performances and lighting lamps at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra.

A documentary titled Bhupen da Uncut, directed by Bobbeeta Sharma, was released on Sunday.

The 65-minute film offers an intimate glimpse into the maestro's life, including his childhood interactions with cultural figures like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, his educational journey in New York, marriage to Priyamvada Patel, and his philosophy of life.

In Nagaon, a musical event titled Shatabarshar Sandhya will be held at Hazarika's former residence in Kuthori near Kaziranga National Park, which the state recently purchased. The house, where he composed many of his evergreen songs, is slated to be converted into a cultural complex and museum.

On September 10, a mass singing event will be held at Nurul Amin Stadium where 15,000 students from across schools, colleges and universities will sing his iconic song Manuher Babe ("If humans do not care for humans"), with officials from the India Book of Records documenting the attempt.

Further reflecting the spirit of his compositions, the Kamrup Metro District Transport Department, in collaboration with the Guwahati Auto Rickshaw Coordination Committee, organised a programme on Sunday themed around his popular song Ami Dui Bhai Autorickshaw Cholau ("We two brothers drive an auto"), celebrating the dignity of labour. Born on September 8, 1926, in Sadiya, Tinsukia district, Bhupen Hazarika's works transcend regional boundaries. Known affectionately as "Sudhakanta" and "Bhupen Da," he remains a towering figure in Indian music and culture, celebrated for blending Assamese folk traditions with universal themes that continue to inspire generations. The centenary celebrations are expected to continue throughout the year with exhibitions, seminars and cultural programmes, ensuring that the maestro's legacy remains vibrant for years to come. (With inputs from PTI)

BTC Polls: 9 candidates

particularly the return of Nileswar Roy into the BJP fold, is being viewed as a strategic consolidation move by the ruling party to strengthen its official candidates' prospects in the BTC polls.

Brahmaputra Board drafts

Umngot and Simsang. Officials said the master plans are being designed to mitigate floods and erosion while promoting holistic water resources management. To this end, the Board has launched consultations with basin states, issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and invited stakeholder inputs at every stage.

A special committee with representatives from state governments, the Central Water Commission (CWC), North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), Survey of India, Geological Survey of India (GSI) and academic institutions is steering the process. Beyond these 15 sub-basins, future master plans have also been proposed for major rivers such as Sankosh-Raidak, Teesta, Ganoli, Jinjiram, Umtru, Kopili, Kollong, Dhanisiri (North), Tangani, Noanadi, Nanoi, Barnadi, Feni, Muhuri and Gumti. Draft RFPs for these have already been prepared. The High Powered Review Board (HPRB) has directed the Brahmaputra Board to prioritise advanced DPRs and closely monitor their implementation in collaboration with the states.

"The Board should strengthen its institutional and technical capabilities to provide high-quality support to states," the HPRB has advised, according to official documents. It has also encouraged the Board to undertake strategic pilot projects showcasing innovations in nature-based solutions, traditional water management practices, springshed and watershed development, drainage, irrigation, urban flood management and data systems.

"The Brahmaputra Board is working to evolve into a knowledge-based River Basin Organisation capable of delivering the best technical solutions to basin states," an official said.

He said the Board will continue scientific studies, capacity-building and stakeholder engagement in parallel. Officials stressed that state governments must keep implementing anti-erosion and flood protection works under the Jal Shakti Ministry's FMBAP, while seeking the Board's assistance for integrated DPRs wherever required. (PTI)

NPF urges Rio

solution to the long-standing Naga political issue. It further urged all Naga national workers to reconcile in the larger interest of the Naga people. Meanwhile, Rio's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) has called a meeting of its central executive board at the party headquarters in Kohima on September 12, amid talks of merger of the two regional parties.

Meghalaya taxi protest

been meeting from time to time, but I fail to understand how they cannot resolve the issue," he said.

Lyngdoh further noted that tourism is a lifeline for the region and disputes between drivers of the two states should not escalate into confrontation. "Ideally, disputes between Meghalaya and Assam drivers should be resolved through discussions between the respective associations. If they continue with protests, we clearly understand it may lead to retaliatory measures from Assam," he cautioned.

The Minister also underlined that while the Meghalaya government is committed to safeguarding the interests of local drivers, it must also ensure that the state remains open and accessible for visitors from across the Northeast and beyond. Tourism stakeholders have voiced concern that any restriction on inter-state movement of taxis would hamper visitor inflow at a time when the sector is recovering from the pandemic slump. Officials said efforts are being made to bring both associations to the table to prevent escalation.

Himanta discusses details

develop a high-quality digital representation of the Vrindavani Vastu, which will be exhibited in February 2026 at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra. This digital version will also be made available online, allowing people from all over the world to view it.

Vrindavani Vastu was created under the guidance of Srimanta Sankaradeva, depicting scenes from the life of Lord Krishna, at the request of Koch king Nara Narayan and also has a part of a poem written by him.

The exhibit, acquired in 1904 from Tibet by the British Museum, is nine-and-a-half metre long and is made up of several pieces of silk drapes and originally featured 15 separate pieces that were later assembled.

The textile serves as a testament to Assamese weaving, incorporating elements from various artistic traditions, and travelled from Assam to Tibet before being acquired by the British Museum. (PTI)

Two cyber fraudsters

had pan-India links. The arrested men were also wanted in several cases registered in Telangana, which indicates the wider reach of their criminal operations," a senior police official said. Cybercrime has emerged as a growing challenge for law enforcement agencies in Assam, with fraudsters frequently exploiting loopholes in banking and digital systems to dupe unsuspecting people. Police said further interrogation of the accused is underway to identify their associates and dismantle the larger network behind the scam.

New stops announced

Kanki and Azamnagar Road is expected to open new avenues for trade, education, and healthcare access for residents in these areas. The initiative also aligns with the government's focus on regional development and inclusive growth. By extending rail services to smaller stations, the railway is helping bridge gaps in infrastructure and support the mobility needs of underserved populations.

With these new stoppages, the Northeast Frontier Railway has once again demonstrated its commitment to customer-centric services and regional advancement.

Passengers are expected to benefit from reduced travel times, better accessibility, and improved comfort, strengthening inter-state connectivity across eastern India.

Cachar launches 10-day

empowering women cannot rest on one department. It requires coordination across education, health, livelihood and protection services," she said. A central theme of the meeting was the Mission Shakti scheme, a flagship initiative of the Central government focused on promoting women's safety, dignity and empowerment.

Participants included child development project officers (CDPOs), block coordinators, officials from the One Stop Centre, Shakti Sadan, Poshan Abhiyan, and representatives from the health, education and child protection departments. The campaign will cover all blocks of the district through interactive workshops, outreach sessions and awareness drives.

Its focus areas include maternal and child health, girls' education, livelihood opportunities via self-help groups, and strengthening women's safety mechanisms. By involving multiple departments, the initiative seeks to ensure that women and children experience government schemes as an interconnected support system rather than fragmented interventions, the statement said. (PTI)

Spurt in consumption to drive revenue buoyancy, to meet fiscal deficit target of 4.4 pc: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed confidence that revenue buoyancy driven by spurt in consumption will take care of the estimated GST shortfall of ₹ 48,000 crore following reduction in tax rates on a host of items, and hence there will be no impact on public finances but definitely bolster GDP growth.

She also emphasised that consumption boost to be provided by landmark GST reform and better-than-expected first quarter GDP growth number may help in exceeding the projected pace of 6.3-6.8 per cent for FY26.

Asked about impact of GST rate cuts on fiscal deficit, Sitharaman said, Rs 48,000 crore financial implication is a static number based on a base year, but when it gets implemented, base situation changes.

"So, I think the consumption spurt from September 22 will increase income buoyancy. To a large extent, this ₹ 48,000 crore amount we will be able to make it up this year itself. So I don't see an impact on my fiscal deficit or my financial management. I will stick to my numbers (of 4.4 per cent of GDP)". Sitharaman told PTI in an interview.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP, or ₹ 15.69 lakh crore.

Last week, the all-powerful GST Council headed by Sitharaman approved a two-tier structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent taxes, as well as a 40 per cent slab.

Nearly 400 products - from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners -

will cost less when the rejig of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri on September 22. Premiums paid on individual health and life insurance will be tax-free.

In the revamped GST structure, most daily food and grocery items will fall under the 5 per cent GST slab with bread, milk and paneer attracting no tax at all. EVs and small cars will be taxed at 5 per cent while other white goods at 18 per cent - slabs that are lower than current rates.

Calling the landmark GST overhaul a 'people's reform', Sitharaman said that rationalisation of rates for a wide swath of products will benefit every family.

"This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST," she said.

Asked if there can be upward revision in the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal helped by the consumption boost and better than expected GDP number of 7.8 per cent for the first quarter, the finance minister said, "possible, very much possible."

The Economic Survey tabled in parliament in January had projected real economic growth of 6.3-6.8 per cent for FY26.

The gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal year was mainly driven by good showing by the farm sector, and also helped by services like trade, hotel, financial and real estate. (PTI)

Red Sea cable outage: Internet disruptions, slower speeds in parts of Middle East, South Asia

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: A series of undersea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries including those in South Asia.

While NetBlocks, an entity that monitors global internet has named India as one of the countries impacted by the disruption, Indian telecom operators said they have not seen any impact yet on internet and data connectivity services, as their networks have redundancies and fall-backs supported by several undersea cables, across multiple routes.

The South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 cable is operated by a consortium of telecom companies including Tata Communications.

There is no official word yet on the issue, and an email sent to Tata Communications did not elicit a response.

Meanwhile, the cause of the outage at the vital nerve in global internet connectivity was not immediately known, though some reports did draw attention to concerns around Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthis rebels.

NetBlocks in a post on X said: "Confirmed: A series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries including #Pakistan and #India; the incident is attributed to failures affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia."

In a status update, Microsoft warned Azure users of increased network latency on traffic routes through the Middle East. (PTI)

'Ek baar aap GST dekh lo': PM's nudge ushered in biggest GST reform in 8 yrs

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: 'Ek baar aap GST dekh lo' - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gentle nudge to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in December last year sparked the beginning of a mammoth exercise to overhaul the tangled goods and services tax regime. And the final outcome is a significantly simplified system with lower tax rates and easier compliance for businesses.

Sitharaman, who, along with her team, began work to identify anomalies in the present four-tier structure and compliance issues faced by businesses, was once again reminded by the Prime Minister when she was preparing the Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. 'Aap GST ke upar kar rahi ho na kaam?' Modi had inquired.

Her discussion with the Prime Minister led Sitharaman to begin work on reviewing everything in GST - not just rates and tax slabs but how to make the regime more friendly for businesses, particularly small and medium businesses.

In an interview with PTI, Sitharaman recalled the parallel works that happened - from overhauling the indirect tax regime to ensuring the backend software is ready to implement the massive change in the offing.

"Even before the last GST council meeting, which happened in Jaipur in Rajasthan (in December 2024), the Prime Minister had called me and said, 'ek baar aap GST dekh lo. Business ke liye subvidhajanak banao and rates par itne sare confusion kyun hai' (please look at the GST regime once. Why is there so much confusion on rates? Make it easier for businesses)," he said.

Soon after, during the discussion on income tax relief measures outlined in the Budget, Modi again reminded her: "Aap GST ke upar kar rahi ho na kaam (You are working on GST, right?)".

What came handy was the work of a group of ministers on different GST issues during the last one and half years.

"What I decided after hearing from Prime Minister, was (that) it's time for us, now that eight years are over, to have a thorough review of everything in GST, not just the rates, not just the number of slabs, but also looking at it from the point of view of how will a business, small or medium business approach this," she said.

Classification issues - such as different tax rates on salted and caramel popcorn and cream buns being taxed at higher rates while buns and cream separately attracting much lower taxes - and the rates were reviewed.

"So since February 1, 2025, till about May 15 we kept doing this study, review and so on," she said.

"Sometime in mid-May, when I was through with the first cut, I went to the Prime Minister (and) told him we are somewhere near some formulation, which can be a proposal and asked him to give me time so that I can brief him. He gave me time. I briefed him."

The final decision on changes in the GST rested with the GST Council, which is headed by the Union Finance Minister and includes representatives of all states and Union Territories.

Sitharaman said once broad contours were agreed upon, it was decided that this should be the central government's proposal to the group of ministers from six different states that was tasked with looking at rate rationalisation before they come up at the full-body council.

"So we wanted to make it clear that we respect all that the GoMs have done, but here is a proposal coming exclusively from the Centre, which is a one-third partner in the Council," she said.

The GoM started examining the issue. A separate group of ministers that was looking at sunset clause for compensation cess, which is currently levied on sin and luxury goods to create a corpus for funding deficits of states arising from amalgamation of cen-

AFFIDAVIT

My actual name is Munu Mahato Rajak which is recorded in all official and non official documents. But in the birth certificate of my son vide Regd No 931 issued on 01-07 2015, my name is recorded as Munu Mahto Rajak instead of Munu Mahato Rajak. Hence, through an affidavit at Nagaon I declared that Munu Mahato Rajak and Munu Mahto Rajak is the one and a single person.

**Munu Mahato Rajak
W/O Mukul Rajak
Sankar Mandir Road,
Amolapatty, Nagaon,
(Assam)**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

THE HILLS TIMES 3

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NPF urges Rio to rejoin party

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Sept 7: The central executive council (CEC) of the Naga People's Front (NPF) resolved to make a formal and special appeal to Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio to rejoin the NPF and assume leadership of the party in the greater interest of the party and the Naga people.

Adopting a six-point resolution at the NPF central office in Kohima last evening, the CEC reaffirmed the earlier party central office bearers resolution dated February 12, inviting all former comrades of the NPF to return to the party.

The meeting said Rio, a strong regionalist and a senior member of the NPF, joined the party in 1974 as the youth president of Kohima division and later served as youth wing president, an NPF statement said.

It said the NPF continues to consider him an integral part of the party, and his return to the NPF, his original political platform, would send a positive message to the public.

The CEC also decided to appeal to all regional-minded sitting and former members of the legislative assembly and members of Parliament to consider rejoining or joining the NPF for the sake of the younger generations.

Further, it appealed to the functionaries of like-minded regional parties to come together under the NPF umbrella to build a united front for advancing the regional agenda and effectively safeguarding the rights and interests of the Naga people.

Appreciating the incumbent NPF president Apang Pongener's willingness to facilitate any new arrangement within the party's organisational structure in view of this clarification call to former comrades, the CEC resolved to constitute a central election board in case of any developments.

The CEC also reiterated the party's earlier resolution calling for an early, honourable, acceptable, and inclusive (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

#BhupenDaAt100 an unprecedented effort: CM

Year-long birth centenary celebrations of 'Bard of Brahmaputra' to begin today

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: The state is all set to commence year-long celebrations marking the birth centenary of legendary singer, lyricist, composer and cultural icon Dr Bhupen Hazarika from Monday.

The celebrations, described by chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma as an "unprecedented effort" to honour the maestro's legacy, will feature a series of cultural, academic and community events aimed at connecting new generations with his timeless contributions to music, humanity and Assamese culture.

Taking to social media on Sunday, CM Sarma highlighted the initiatives taken by both the state and central governments, including conferring the Bharat Ratna, renaming the Dibrugarh airport in his honour, and issuing a commemorative coin to celebrate his enduring legacy.

"From bestowing the Bharat Ratna to renaming the Dibrugarh Airport and issuing a commemorative coin, our Govt is honouring Bhupen Da like never before," Sarma posted.



The year-long observances, termed #BhupenDaAt100, aim to celebrate the 'Bard of Brahmaputra' whose compositions carried messages of love, humanity, brotherhood and justice.

"Just one day to go for the beginning of the birth centenary celebrations of our beloved Bhupen Da. His life and times are an example in itself. His love for Assam and Bharat is one to take inspiration from by all," the chief minister added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the celebra-

tions on September 13, the first day of his two-day visit to Assam.

His address at a public rally and the inauguration of the bio-refinery project at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Golaghat district are expected to include tributes to the cultural icon.

The inaugural ceremony will be held at the Dr Bhupen Hazarika Samannay Tirtha in Guwahati, where the maestro was cremated in November 2011. Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya, CM Sarma, Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora, and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

CM announces ₹ 5 cr contribution to flood-hit Himachal for relief work

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said his government would contribute ₹ 5 crore to support relief efforts in flood-affected Himachal Pradesh.

Sarma, in a post on X, also offered his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in

the disaster in the northern state.

"The devastating floods in Himachal Pradesh have caused immense loss of lives and property. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the affected," he said. "On behalf of the people of Assam, we are contributing ₹ 5

crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Himachal Pradesh to support relief and rehabilitation efforts," Sarma said.

A total of 133 major landslides, 95 flash floods and 45 cloudbursts have ravaged parts of Himachal Pradesh since the onset of monsoon on June 20. (PTI)

BTC Polls: 9 candidates withdraw nominations

Nileswar Roy steps back in presence of Ashok Singhal

HT Correspondent

GOSSAIGAON, Sept 7: In a significant political development ahead of the BTC Council elections scheduled for September 22, nine candidates withdrew their nomination papers on Sunday across five constituencies under Gossaigaon subdivision in Kokrajhar district.

According to official records, a total of 58 candidates had filed nominations in these constituencies.

With the close of the withdrawal deadline, nine candidates formally pulled out of the contest.

Among the notable withdrawals, Nileswar Roy, who had filed as an independent after being denied a

BJP ticket from the 2 No Guma constituency, withdrew his nomination in the presence of Cabinet Minister Ashok Singhal at the office of the Sub-Divisional Officer.

Addressing the media, Roy stated that he was withdrawing his candidature out of respect for the party's ideology, despite earlier disappointment when the BJP high command chose Sajal Singh as its official candidate from Guma.

Roy, a former president of the Guma BJP Mandal, had initially entered the fray in protest but finally stepped back in deference to party leadership.

In addition to Roy, two other independents—Gopin Hasda and Jeshu Mardi—also withdrew from

Guma constituency.

Meanwhile, in 3 No Srirampur constituency, independents Olchen Kumar Kisku, Saijul Islam, and Junas Marandi withdrew their papers.

Similarly, Biligraham Wary from Jamduar (4 No. constituency), Lalji Narzary from Sarabil (5 No.), and Bishwasingh Mushahary from Kachugaon (6 No.) also exited the race.

Confirming the developments, Gossaigaon District Returning Officer Mridul Kumar Shivhare announced that the nine candidates had officially withdrawn their nominations within the stipulated timeframe. This wave of withdrawals, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Brahmaputra Board drafts master plans to tackle floods, erosion in NE

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: The Brahmaputra Board is drawing up and updating master plans for 15 river sub-basins across the north-east using "state-of-the-art" technology to come up with long-term solutions for the region's chronic flood and erosion challenges, officials said.

In June this year, devastating floods and landslides battered northeast India, leaving lakhs affected across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Manipur.

Record-breaking rainfall breached embankments and triggered flash floods. Silchar in Assam received 415.8 mm of rainfall in a day and Mizoram alone witnessed more than 600 landslides, according to media reports.

"The Board has been actively engaged in preparing Master Plans, developing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for multipurpose projects, monitoring Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) schemes, and



executing anti-erosion, flood control and drainage development works," a senior official said.

The official underlined the need for "a comprehensive and integrated approach involving basin states and stakeholders" to find long-term solutions.

The sub-basins currently under focus include rivers such as Dikhow and Jhanji (Nagaland and Assam), Dikrong (Arunachal Pradesh and Assam), Kolodyne and Tuichang (Mizoram), and 10 rivers across Meghalaya, including Kynshi, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Two cyber fraudsters arrested for duping

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: In a major breakthrough against cybercrime, the Crime Branch of Assam Police arrested two alleged fraudsters accused of duping people through fake loan offers and siphoning off crores of rupees, officials said on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Dipankar Das of Nagabera and Ranjit Kashyap alias Ranjit Tayung. They were nabbed in the wee hours of Sunday night from the Garchuk area of Guwahati, police stated.

According to police, the duo had been operating a well-organised cyber fraud racket. They targeted victims with promises of hassle-free loans, opened multiple current accounts under forged identities and used these accounts to launder the money collected through scams. In one case alone, the accused allegedly defrauded a victim of ₹78 lakh.

A case had been registered in connection with the racket, following which the Crime Branch launched a sustained probe. During the operation, police seized a huge cache of incriminating materials from the duo's possession, underscoring the scale and sophistication of the racket.

The recoveries include 34 ATM cards, 25 bank passbooks, 27 cheque books, 23 identity cards, three scanners, eight SIM cards, two laptops, two notebooks, two purses and three seal pads.

Police further revealed that the accused had forged documents belonging to at least 79 individuals. These were allegedly used to open current accounts in the names of unsuspecting people. The duo then sold these accounts to cybercrime syndicates, enabling them to carry out large-scale frauds across states.

"Preliminary findings suggest the racket (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Meghalaya taxi protest may trigger retaliation from Assam, warns Tourism Minister

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Meghalaya Tourism Minister Paul Lyngdoh has expressed concern that the recent protest call by the All Khasi Meghalaya Tourist Taxi Association (AKMTA) could spark retaliatory action from neighbouring Assam, potentially affecting the tourism flow between the two states.

The AKMTA has been opposing the entry of tourist taxis from outside Meghalaya into the state's popular tourist spots. Lyngdoh, however, warned that such a move



could backfire, as associations in Assam have already hinted at imposing similar restrictions on Meghalaya's taxis operating in their state.

"We have seen the reaction from

the Assam associations. They have made it clear that if their vehicles are stopped from entering tourist spots in Meghalaya, they too will not allow Meghalaya vehicles to enter their areas," Lyngdoh told reporters on Sunday.

The Minister stressed the need for dialogue to resolve the matter. He pointed out that a committee headed by senior official Cyril Diengdoh has been engaging with the associations, yet the issue remains unsettled. "We have suggested that AKMTA meet the committee. They have (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held a detailed discussion with chairperson of the JSW Foundation, Sangita Jindal, regarding the construction of a state-of-the-art museum in Guwahati, where the 16th-century silk textile 'Vrindavani Vastra' will be displayed.

Created by Vaishnav saint Srimanta Sankardeva, the Vrindavani Vastra is currently housed at the British Museum in London, and will be loaned to Assam in 2027 for public display.

"A Historic Step for Assam's

Cultural Heritage. Today, I had a detailed discussion with the Smti Sangita Jindal, Chairperson of @JSWFoundation regarding the construction of a world-class museum in Guwahati to house the priceless 'Vrindavani Vastra,' Sarma said in a post on X on Saturday.

"This extraordinary 16th-century textile masterpiece -- woven during the time of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva -- will come to Assam on loan in 2027," he said. To honour its legacy, JSW will build a state-of-the-art mu-

seum in Guwahati, designed as per global standards, following specifications of the British Museum, the chief minister added.

Sarma had said on August 30 that the British Museum agreed to loan the Vrindavani Vastra and had set certain conditions, including a state-of-the-art facility, for its display in the state for 18 months.

The JSW group of companies will be setting up the museum as a part of its CSR initiative, he had added. In addition to the physical exhibit, the British Museum has agreed to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Himanta discusses details of new museum for 'Vrindavani Vastra' with JSW Foundation

New stops announced for express trains by NFR

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: The North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) has announced the introduction of new stoppages for three key express trains under the Katihar Division, aimed at enhancing passenger convenience, strengthening regional connectivity, and improving overall travel experience.

The decision, effective from 5th and 6th September 2025, reflects NFR's commitment to addressing local aspirations and facilitating smoother travel across Bihar and West Bengal.

According to an official statement released by NFR, Train No. 13141/13142 (Sealdah – New Alipurdwar – Sealdah) Teesta Torsa Express has been granted a new halt at Kanki Station, effective from 5th September 2025.

The inaugural stop was flagged off in the presence of Kartik Chandra Paul, Member of Parliament, along with senior railway officials and local dignitaries.

The ceremony marked the beginning of improved rail services for residents and travellers in the region.

Further enhancing accessibility, stoppages at Azamnagar Road Station have been provided for two additional trains from September 6, 2025.

These include Train No 13145/13146 (Kolkata – Radhikapur – Kolkata) Express and Train No 13053/13054 (Howrah – Radhikapur – Howrah) Kulik Express.

The inauguration event was attended by Tariq Anwar, Member

of Parliament, and Member of Legislative Assembly Nisha Singh, alongside senior railway officials and community leaders.

The official statement underlined that these new stoppages are expected to serve a significant number of passengers from Bihar and West Bengal.

The move is seen as an effort to meet local demands for better connectivity and facilitate easier travel for daily commuters, business travellers, and long-distance passengers alike.

Speaking at the event, officials reiterated that the stoppages are part of NFR's broader strategy to enhance transport infrastructure while ensuring passengers' needs are addressed. The addition of stops at (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Workshops, outreach and training set to impact women across district's blocks

Cachar launches 10-day campaign at women empowerment

SILCHAR, Sept 7: A 10-day awareness campaign aimed at women empowerment and ensuring that welfare initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries has been rolled out in Assam's Cachar district.

The drive has been jointly organised by the Department of Women and Child Development and the district administration, an official statement said on Saturday.

The campaign was set in motion with a review meeting held at the district commissioner's (DC) office under the banner of Sankalp, Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW).

The meeting brought together



officials from multiple departments, social welfare officers, grassroots coordinators and institutional representatives, reflecting

the administration's focus on convergence and inter-departmental cooperation. Assistant Commissioner and in-charge District Social

Welfare Officer Deepa Das underlined the administration's vision of empowering women not only as beneficiaries of government schemes but as active participants in shaping Cachar's growth story.

The District Mission Coordinator, Sankalp HEW, Bonani Bhat-tacharjee, gave a detailed presentation and outlined the 10-day action plan that includes awareness programmes, training sessions and direct access to institutional support.

Chairing the deliberations, Phyllis Hrangchal, ADC (WCD), stressed the importance of collective responsibility. "The responsibility of (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



Today, 8th September, is a very special day for all those who are passionate about Indian culture and music. It is particularly more special for my sisters and brothers of Assam. After all, it is the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, one of the most extraordinary voices India has ever known. As you are all aware, this year marks the beginning of his birth centenary celebrations. It is an occasion to revisit his monumental contributions to Indian artistic expression and public consciousness.

What Bhupen Da gave us extends far beyond music. His works embodied emotions that transcended melody. More than just a voice, he was the heartbeat of the people. Generations have grown up listening to his songs, each word resonating with themes of kindness, social justice, unity and deep-rooted belonging.

From Assam emerged a voice that flowed like a timeless river, crossing borders and cultures, carrying with it the spirit of humanity. Bhupen Da travelled the globe, rubbed shoulders with the who's who across all spectrums of society, but he remained deeply connected to his roots in Assam. The rich oral traditions, folk melodies and community storytelling practices of Assam deeply shaped his early childhood. These experiences formed the bedrock of his artistic vocabulary. He always carried the spirit of Assam's indigenous identity and the ethos of its people.

Brilliance came to Bhupen Da at a very young age. At the age of just five, he sang at a public event and quickly caught the attention of none other than Lakshminath Bezbaruah, the pioneering figure of Assamese literature. By the time he was a teenager, he had recorded his

A tribute to Bhupen Da

first song. But music was only one part of his personality. Bhupen Da was as much an intellectual at heart...curious, articulate and driven by an insatiable desire to understand the world. Cultural legends like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha left a deep impression on his mind and also deepened his spirit of enquiry. It was also this desire to learn that made him excel at Cotton College, Banaras Hindu University and took him to the United States, where he interacted with leading academics, thinkers and musicians of those times. He met Paul Robeson, the legendary artist and civil rights leader. Robeson's song "Ol' Man River" became the inspiration for Bhupen Da's iconic composition 'Bistirno Parore.' The much-admired former American First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, awarded him a Gold Medal for his performances of Indian folk music.

He met Paul Robeson, the legendary artist and civil rights leader. Robeson's song "Ol' Man River" became the inspiration for Bhupen Da's iconic composition 'Bistirno Parore.' The much-admired former American First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, awarded him a Gold Medal for his performances of Indian folk music.

people's dreams and move hearts across the world.

I remember the time Bhupen Da passed away in 2011. I had seen on television how lakhs of people attended his funeral. Every eye was moist that time. Even in death, like in his illustrious life, he brought people together. It was thus fitting that he was cremated at the Jalukbari hillock overlooking the Brahmaputra, the very river that had been the lifeline of his music, metaphors and memories. It is gladdening that the Assam Government has supported the work of the Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, which is working to popularise his life journey among youngsters.

Bhupen Hazarika's life teaches us the power of empathy, of listening to people and of staying rooted. His songs continue to be sung by young and old alike. His music teaches us to be compassionate and courageous. It asks us to remember our rivers, our labourers, our tea workers, our Nari Shakti and our Yuva Shakti. It encourages us to believe in unity in diversity.

Bharat is blessed to have Bhupen Hazarika. As we celebrate the beginning of his centenary year, let us reiterate our commitment to spreading his message far and wide. May it also inspire us to keep working to support music, art and culture, to encourage young talent and make India a nurturing ground for creativity and artistic excellence.

It is only fitting that one of India's most significant infrastructure projects, the bridge connecting Dhola and Sadiya, bears the name of Bhupen Hazarika. Just as his songs connected hearts across regions, this bridge connects lands and people.

DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Narendra Modi

The Philosophical Depth of Bhupen Hazarika's Songs

By: Lalit Nath

Dr Bhupen Hazarika is an unparalleled icon of Assamese music and culture, a multifaceted genius who was simultaneously an extraordinary singer, skilled lyricist, accomplished litterateur, master of words, proficient musician, social reformer and a humanist thinker. His songs are not merely melodious but are enriched with profound philosophical thought, social consciousness and humanistic ideals. Composed in Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, English, and various tribal languages, his music transcends boundaries, achieving a universal appeal.

The central theme of Bhupen Hazarika's songs is humanism. His lyrics reflect a deep belief in human dignity, equality and unity. This humanistic philosophy is vividly expressed in his famous lines:

"Manuhe manuhor babe / Yedihe okono nabhave / Okono sahanubhuti / Bhabib konono kowa..."

These lines emphasize the importance of empathy and cooperation among people, transcending barriers of caste, religion, race, or social status and illuminating the universal values of humanity. His humanistic philosophy resonates in every line of his songs.

Bhupen Hazarika's songs are a powerful symbol of social awareness and protest against societal inequalities. Through his music, he raises a strong voice against exploitation, oppression, injustice and tyranny. In his iconic song, he questions society's silence amidst the cries of the masses, using the Brahmaputra River as a metaphor,

"Bistirno parore / Assongkhya jonore / Hahakar suniyo / Nishobdo nirabe / Burha Luit tumi bowa kio..."

These lines reflect his sensitivity toward societal suffering and his call for change. By using the river as a symbol, he expresses the silent cries of the oppressed and marginalized, voicing a fierce rebellion against inequality. This philosophical aspect of his songs is influenced by socialist ideologies, emphasizing class struggle and equality.

Bhupen Hazarika's songs are imbued with deep patriotism and reverence for cultural heritage. His lyrics express profound respect for the motherland. In one of his songs, he glorifies Assam's cultural heritage and national pride: "Asomi ai rupohi gunoro nai shesh / Bharator purbo dishot surya utha desh."

This song celebrates Assam's natural beauty, culture and heritage, reinforcing Assamese nationalism. His reverence for great saints like Srimanta Sankardev and Madhavdev is evident in his early song,

"O mor guru ai / Kusumbar putra Srisankara guruv / Dhorisil namore tan..."

This song reflects the profound influence of Sankardev's devotional philosophy. Bhupen Hazarika's songs reveal a deep love for nature, often using it as a powerful symbol. Rivers, hills and rural landscapes frequently appear in his lyrics, with the Brahmaputra River serving as a central motif, earning him the title of a cultural stream of the Brahmaputra.

In his song, "Mahabahu Brahmaputra / Maha milanor tirtha..." he portrays the river as a symbol of life, unity and struggle. His love for nature is a significant aspect of his philosophy, emphasizing a harmonious relationship between humans and the environment. Nature in his songs is not merely a source of beauty but a reflection of life's philosophy, struggles and humanity.

Bhupen Hazarika's songs explore various forms of love—patriotism, humanism, love for nature and romantic love. In his song "Bimurto mor nishati" he portrays a subtle and poetic form of romantic love.

This song captures the beauty and depth of love, reflecting life's essence. His philosophy of love extends beyond romanticism, encompassing various facets of life. In his autobiography, he wrote, "I could never part with the love of my creative mind. This love has come to my life in different forms at different times."

In his song "Dola, he dola", Bhupen Hazarika vividly portrays the hardships and struggles of palanquin bearers. Each line evokes empathy in the listener, highlighting the physical toil, daily struggles and society's indifference toward the marginalized. The song subtly yet powerfully protests the exploitation of the underprivileged by the affluent, advocating for their upliftment. Philosophically, it conveys a message of perseverance and courage amidst life's uncertainties, resonating with existentialist ideas that emphasize creating meaning through one's actions. The song celebrates the struggles of the working class, reflecting Hazarika's class consciousness and humanistic philosophy.

The song "Ami Asomiya nohou dukhiya" is a powerful expression of Assamese nationalism and self-respect.

The philosophical foundation of this song lies in national pride and self-reliance. Through it, Hazarika inspires the Assamese community to strive for social, economic and cultural excellence. His emphasis on collective pride and unity reflects a vision of establishing Assamese identity on the global stage, blending patriotic ideology with reverence for local heritage.

Bhupen Hazarika's songs are a philosophy of an era, a reflection of society and a celebration of humanity. They beautifully blend humanism, social consciousness, patriotism, love for nature and reverence for heritage. Each line of his songs reflects profound philosophical depth and humanistic ideology. His creations have not only established Assamese culture on the global stage but also propagated a universal message of humanity. Through his songs, we find a philosophy that inspires unity, equality and a beautiful life. Bhupen Hazarika's songs are not merely music; they are a life philosophy that guides us in every sphere of existence.

Dr Bhupen Hazarika's melodies of Human compassion

By: Dipak Kurmi

The bard of the Brahmaputra, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, widely known as Bhupen dada, stood as the towering cultural icon of Assam. A multifaceted talent, he transcended the realms of singing to become a lyricist, composer, musical director, poet, filmmaker, and writer all in one. His songs, often self-written and composed, echoed with a highly emotive and melodious voice, impeccable diction, and poetic brilliance. Driven by a deep-rooted humanism, Hazarika's compositions covered diverse themes, with many advocating for universal brotherhood beyond national and cultural boundaries. His music resonated with love, optimism, and a profound humanistic message, fostering unity and brotherhood across ethnic, community, and linguistic diversities. A true humanist at heart, he used his songs to champion the cause of the downtrodden, oppressed, and deprived, expressing spontaneous human love. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's popularity extended far beyond Assam, encompassing the entire nation, as he sang not only in Assamese but also in various Indian languages, including Hindi and Bengali. His profound sense of societal belongingness earned him the title of "janatar xilpi" or the artist of the masses.

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, a true humanist at heart, weaves the soft sentiments of his compassionate soul into his songs. His musical creations resonate with the shared emotions of the masses, evoking a sense of camaraderie. Through his lyrical expressions, he advocates for the downtrodden, oppressed, and the less fortunate in society, imploring the world to extend humane sentiments towards them. The majority of his songs are spontaneous reflections of genuine human love. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika stands unparalleled in portraying the fair and representative depiction of human suffering, poverty, and trauma. His profound love for people and society, rooted in his ideas, creative thoughts, and the value he places on life, finds eloquent expression in his music, elevating him to the status of the greatest cultural icon of India. With heartfelt emotions, he imparts life's messages to the world, aligning himself closely with the common masses and their struggles, forging a deep connection with the people.

Bhupen Hazarika's broader humanistic approach was shaped and influenced by various notable personalities at different stages of his life. In his childhood, he came into contact with legendary icons of Assamese art, music, and literature, namely Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Rabha. These influential figures planted seeds of nationalism and class consciousness in him. Jyoti Prasad imparted aesthetic philosophy, which later became the stepping stone for Hazarika's poetic creations. Under the guidance of the communist Bishnu Rabha, Hazarika adopted a revolutionary and humanistic approach, intensifying his love for ordinary people and earning him the title of janatar xilpi (artist of the masses).

In the USA (Columbia University), Bhupen Hazarika developed intimate contact with the African-American revolutionary singer Paul Robeson, giving his humanism a new dimension. Glimpses of Robson are evident in Hazarika, both in his positivist humanistic approach and his works. Bhupen Hazarika expressed, "he was a social singer with the power to change... I too wanted to be a singer with the power to change society." Paul Robeson's "Ol' man river" resonates in Hazarika's immortal composition "Bistirno parore," with its Bangla and Hindi versions enjoying immense popularity alongside the Assamese rendition.

The Assamese nationalism witnessed his broader humanistic approach during the tumultuous periods of Assam in the sixties and the eighties, marked by ethnic conflicts between Assamese and Bengalis reaching their peak. Bhupen Hazarika played a pivotal role in these challenging times. He composed songs such as "Morome baxhar akhar naikia" (language of love doesn't have an alphabet). Additionally, he established a peace-seeking cultural troop and visited violence-affected areas, personally meeting the people affected by the strife.

The Bhupendrian kaleidoscope weaves together countless hues and shades of humanity. Bhupen Hazarika, a true humanist, dedicated his efforts to the pursuit and fight for a society free from prejudices and discrimination. Addressing issues such as casteism, the rich-poor divide, and the struggles of those facing economic depravity, Hazarika's concerns formed a diverse tapestry with a common motive—to empower common people to resist the hardships of life. Through his compositions, Hazarika shed light on aspects of everyday human life that demanded the attention and concern of society.

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's songs serve as powerful sermons on brotherhood and human bonding, carrying profound messages of protest, compassion, and peace. To him, music embodies the spirit of the people, acting as the common thread that connects individuals. Throughout his life, he lent his voice to the voiceless, using his melodies to empower millions to speak out against discrimination and inequality. Many of his timeless compositions resonate with a vocal stance against the hardships faced by the common masses and the destitute. In this paper, selected songs of Dr. Hazarika are taken up for discussion.

Bhupen Hazarika's Songs of human interest
Manuhe manuhar babe/Jadihe akano nebhabe/Akani xahanubhuti/Bhabiba konono kowa, samaniya?
(If a man doesn't think of man with little sympathy..... tell me o friend who will.....?)

The song is considered the most poignant one, encapsulating the liberal ideals of humanity that Bhupen Hazarika sought to impart. It unequivocally emphasizes the necessity for fellow-feelings and bonds between people in a humanistic manner. Throughout his life, Bhupen Hazarika endeavored to promote unity and brotherhood among people, transcending barriers of ethnicity, community, language, and more. This particular song stands as a testament to those cherished ideals, providing solace to our stressed and bereaved souls through its exquisite blend of love, optimism, and humanism.

In the same song,
Manuh jodihe nohoy maanuh./Daanob kahanu nohoy maanuh.../Jodi daanob kahaniba hoyei maanuh./Laaj paabo kunenu kuwa?...Xamaniya.

He asks if we human fail to act as a human being...a demon can never be a human being, if a demon acts as a human being, we will be ashamed.

In another song,
Xitore xemeka rati/Xemeka xitore rati/Bastra bihin kono khetiyakar.../Bhagi pora pojatir tuh jui/ekurat, umi umi joli thoka,/Raktim jen eti uttap hou...

On a withered winter night, may I become the warm red glow emanating from the slowly burning ember in the tattered hut of a cloth-less farmer. Bhupen Hazarika's words resonated with and inspire the working masses and oppressed classes whom he sought to embrace. He passionately lamented the plight of the oppressed, vehemently opposing all forms of hierarchy and domination. Through his songs, he became a strong advocate for the poor and marginalized sections of society, challenging those in positions of power to bring about change. In the poignant line, "Bastra bihin kono khetiyakar.../Bhagi pora pojatir tuh jui/ekurat, umi umi joli thoka, Raktim jen eti uttap hou... (may I be in a cloth-less peasant's broken hut, with the slowly burning ember from the hay, the red glowing warmth), he vividly depicts the struggles of the working masses. Dr. Hazarika's relentless pursuit was for brotherhood and emotional integration among the global human family.

The essence of universalism finds its most poignant expression in his song "Moi Eti Jajabor" (I am a vagabond).
Moi luitor pora mississippi hoi/volgar rup salu/ottawar pora austria hoi/peris haboti lolu/moi iltorar pora puroni rohon/chicagole koriyalu/moi Galibor sher dushanber/minarot huna palu/Mark Twainor hamadit bohi/Gorkyr kotha kotu/bare bare dekhur bator manuhu/apun hoise bor/heyie moi jajabor/heyie moi jajabor

(He travelled and traversed from the Luhit (the river Brahmaputra) via Mississippi to Volga, from Ottawa via Aus-

tria to embrace Paris, from Ilora to Chicago, heard Galib's Shayaris in the Minar of Dushanbe, spoke of Gorky sitting at Mark Twain's tomb and embraced the strangers as his own.) In this song, he identified himself with the common masses of the world. He is a vagabond and wonders with only one intention in mind, i.e. unification of human mind. He is without home & family but, embraces the whole world as his own family.

Bhupen Hazarika lamented the plight of the poor and their sufferings and was against all forms of hierarchy and exploitation. So, in the same song – Moi Dekhisu Onek Gogonsumbi Ottalikar Hari, Tar Sa Tei Dekhisu Kotona Grihohin Noronari...

(I've seen many skyscrapers, but also seen countless homeless by the side of those skyscrapers.)

In another song,
Aami ekekhon naore jatri/Xahayatri ekekhon naore jatri...

... (We are in the same boat brother, if you tip one end you will rock the other.....)

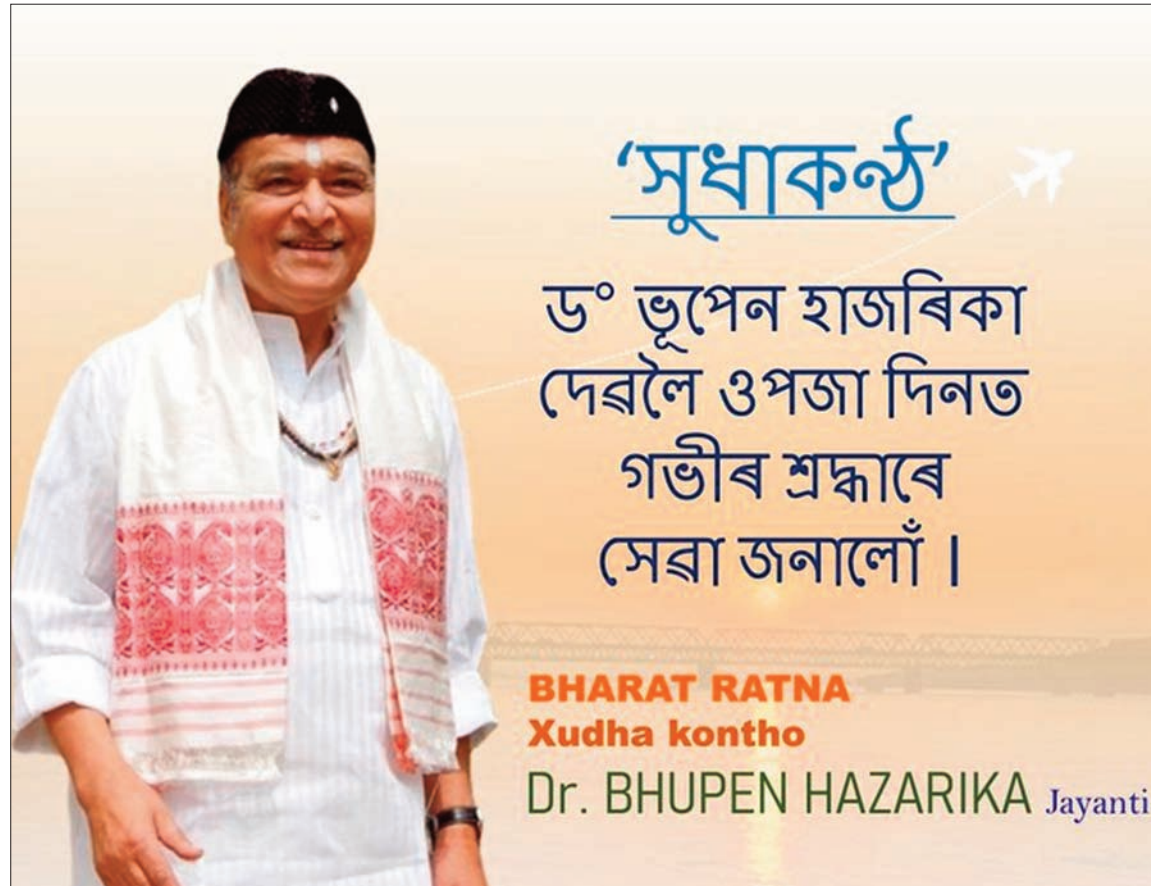
He cultivated a warm and universal glow of humanity, with his sense of humanism extending beyond the confines of his political boundaries. Despite recognizing the common thread of humanity, he retained his original roots, enriching them in the process.

Bhupen Hazarika's love extended to people, with their habitat, life, culture, and social security prominently shaping his philosophy of life. He forged a deep connection with the common masses and their struggles, drawing himself much closer to the people. Through his songs, he resonated with their feelings, sentiments, pains, sufferings, hopes, and aspirations, standing steadfastly by them. At times, his songs took on a bitter tone, serving as a poignant expression of protest and compassion.

In another song,
Prothom nohoi/Dwitiyo nohoi/Tritiyo shrenir yatri ami/Jiwan relor dabat ami/Prothom nohoi/Dwitiyo nohoi/Tritiyo shrenir yatri ami
(Neither first, nor second.....are we the passengers of the third class).

In celebrating the resilience of the working masses, Bhupen Hazarika identified himself as a fellow traveler journeying towards the same destination. This song encapsulates an optimistic expression of Bhupen Hazarika's human philosophy.

Bhupen Hazarika actively seeks, strives, and fights for the establishment of a society devoid of prejudices and discriminations. Delving into issues such as casteism, the rich-poor divide, and the challenges faced by those experiencing economic hardship, Hazarika's concerns form a diverse spectrum united by a common motive—to empower ordinary individuals to resist the hardships of life. As a humanist, Bhupen Hazarika utilizes his compositions to shed light on aspects of common human existence that demand the collective concern of society. (the writer can be reached at dipakkurmi@gmail.com)



Dr Bhupen Hazarika's Songs as Anthem of Human Dignity

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

Dr Bhupen Hazarika's music has long been more than the art of melody; it has been a moral compass, a lyrical mirror, and a profound reminder that the dignity of human life transcends every boundary of race, class, language, and geography. Known as the Bard of the Brahmaputra, his compositions did not confine themselves to the valleys of Assam or the hills of the North-east but flowed like the river he so often sang about, carrying within them the collective aspirations, sorrows, and resilience of humanity at large. His music was inseparably tied to the human condition, to the struggles of the marginalized, to the anguish of oppression, and to the indomitable hope that justice and empathy would eventually triumph. To speak of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's music is to speak of human dignity itself, for his songs continuously echoed the belief that the worth of a human being is inviolable and universal.

At the heart of Dr Hazarika's work lies an uncompromising faith in humanity. When he wrote and sang "Manuhe Manuhor Babe," he was not merely creating an Assamese song but penning an anthem for the world, reminding societies that man's noblest duty is to live for fellow human beings. This message, simple yet profound, drew from his lived reality in a land riddled with social divisions, economic disparity, and cultural marginalization. The song became a moral exhortation to rise above barriers of caste, creed, and religion. It embodied the essence of human dignity—an appeal to see every individual not through the lens of hierarchy or privilege but through the equality of existence itself. Few songs in modern Indian music have captured this universal humanitarian vision with such poetic clarity.

Dr Hazarika's ability to elevate local struggles into universal metaphors defined his genius. In "Bistirno Parore," inspired by Paul Robeson's "Ol' Man River" yet uniquely rooted in the Brahmaputra's timeless presence, he gave voice to the fatigues and hopes of ordinary peo-

ple battling life's relentless current. The river here was not just geographical; it was symbolic of human endurance, flowing past both suffering and resilience. The song, though distinctly Assamese in its imagery, touched the universal theme of survival against adversity and underscored the dignity inherent in such struggle. By merging local idioms with global resonance, Dr. Hazarika turned folk-inspired songs into anthems of collective human experience.

Music, for him, was never ornamental; it was purposeful. From his early years, influenced by cultural stalwarts like Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Dr Hazarika understood art as a vehicle of social transformation. His songs carried the voices of peasants, weavers, boatmen, and laborers—the marginalized whose worth was often ignored by the structures of power. "Ganga Amar Ma" celebrated the toil of farmers and river-dwellers, acknowledging their inseparable bond with nature while also asserting their dignity as the backbone of society. Through such songs, he ensured that dignity was not an abstract ideal but a recognition of the everyday lives of working people. This empathy for the ordinary made his art extraordinary.

Dr Bhupen Hazarika's humanism was cosmopolitan. Educated in Banaras and Columbia University, where he came under the influence of Paul Robeson, he saw firsthand how music could be harnessed to articulate political and social consciousness. He returned to India with this conviction and infused his art with a global vision. While his lyrics emerged from Assamese soil, they spoke to universal struggles: freedom from oppression, equality among people, the futility of hatred, and the triumph of love. His songs in Bengali and Hindi, such as "Dil Hoom Hoom Kare" and "O Ganga Behti Ho Kyon," brought his ethos to a larger national audience, demonstrating that the values of dignity and empathy are not confined by linguistic boundaries. By singing in multiple languages, he became not just an Assamese cultural icon but a voice for India and the world.

A striking aspect of Dr Hazarika's work



is the way it fused tradition with modernity. He drew from the folk traditions of Bihu, Borgeet, and Goalparia songs but infused them with orchestration and techniques that made them accessible beyond Assam. Yet, he never compromised the soul of folk culture. By carrying folk motifs into modern platforms, he preserved cultural roots while ensuring their relevance in contemporary times. This balancing act itself was an act of dignity—acknowledging the worth of indigenous traditions while granting them space in the global musical conversation. He showed that folk culture was not something archaic or provincial but a living reservoir of wisdom, emotion, and human values.

At a time when Indian society was marred by caste and communal prejudices, his songs became a moral bulwark. He spoke out against social evils, critiqued inequality, and championed inclusivity. Songs like "Manuhe Manuhor Babe" became sermons of secularism and social justice, appealing not to political ideologies but to the universal conscience. In doing so, Dr. Hazarika assumed the

role of a cultural reformer whose medium was song, not polemic. His melodies touched people emotionally, inspiring reflection and action without overt aggression. That is why his music carried a timeless quality: it appealed to the better angels of human nature, fostering dignity not through confrontation but through compassion.

Dr Hazarika's songs also highlighted the inseparable connection between nature and human life. The Brahmaputra was not just a backdrop but an active presence in his work, embodying the continuity of civilization, the persistence of struggle, and the shared heritage of all who lived by it. By personifying rivers as mothers, companions, and witnesses, he tied human dignity to ecological consciousness. His vision of dignity was therefore holistic, encompassing both human beings and their environment, critiquing that exploitation of nature was also a violation of human worth. This ecological sensitivity makes his songs strikingly relevant in today's context of environmental crises.

The universality of his message was

evident in how audiences across India and abroad embraced his music. At concerts in the Northeast, Kolkata, Mumbai, or even international venues, people who did not understand Assamese still felt the emotional gravity of his songs. The reason was simple: the dignity he sang about was communicated not merely through words but through his soulful voice, which carried a depth that transcended linguistic comprehension. His baritone could move listeners to tears, making them feel the truth of human suffering and the hope of solidarity. This rare ability to transcend linguistic and cultural barriers made him a true ambassador of human values.

Equally important is the fact that Dr Bhupen Hazarika lived the ideals he sang. He was not a detached artist observing suffering from a distance; he was a cultural activist, a political participant, and an advocate for social change. His involvement in various socio-political causes, his role as president of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, and his tenure as an MLA all reflected his commitment to transforming society. Yet he always re-

turned to music as his primary instrument of reform, understanding that a song could travel further and last longer than speeches or manifestos. His legacy lies not in positions held but in melodies sung, which continue to guide applause has faded. The relevance of Dr Bhupen Hazarika's songs is undiminished today. In a world increasingly fractured by polarization, inequality, and violence, his music calls us back to the basics of humanity: compassion, solidarity, and respect for each other's dignity. His songs remind us that dignity is not a luxury but a necessity; not a privilege but a birthright. They challenge us to see beyond the narrowness of identity politics and embrace a broader human identity rooted in love and mutual care. As societies grapple with refugees, displaced peoples, and marginalized communities, the wisdom of his music acquires urgent resonance. He had already envisioned a global community tied together not by borders but by shared human dignity.

Dr Bhupen Hazarika's centenary celebrations, marked not just in Assam but globally, are testaments to his enduring influence. Commemorations in cultural festivals, tributes across continents, and government recognition through the Bharat Ratna reaffirm his stature. Yet the truest tribute lies in continuing to live by the values he espoused. To honor him is not only to sing his songs but to practice the empathy they preach, to see in every stranger a fellow human, and to uphold the dignity of those whom society tries to marginalize.

The songs of Dr Bhupen Hazarika are, ultimately, a secular scripture of human dignity. They tell us that the worth of a person does not lie in wealth or power but in their humanity; that rivers, fields, and songs connect us more deeply than any wall or weapon; that to live for others is the highest form of existence. His music is both a chronicle of Assamese culture and a manifesto for a just world. Long after the specifics of history fade, his voice will continue to echo, reminding generations that dignity is the most sacred anthem of all.

A tribute to the legend Dr Bhupen Hazarika on his birth centenary

By: Diganta Barooah

Dr Bhupen Hazarika (born on 8th September, 1926 and died on 11th November, 2011) was a man-lyricist, poet, composer, singer, director, actor, singer, editor and a man of many multi dimensional talents. He is the creator of a good number of significant songs. His songs reflect the agony, pain, sufferings of the common masses. His songs had been a great contribution in the reformation of the Assamese society and are considered as the weapon of social reformation. Dr Bhupen Hazarika was a lyricist, composer, performing artist, music director, film director, poet, writer and all rolled in one. His songs which are written and sung chiefly in the Assamese language, are songs of humanity, unity and universal brotherhood. His songs are based on the themes of communal amity, universal brotherhood and sympathy. He is acknowledged to have introduced the culture and folk music of Assam as well as of north-east India at the national and at the international level. Dr Bhupen Hazarika was born in Sadiya, Assam, British India, to Nilakanta Hazarika and Shantipriya Hazarika on September 8, 1926. When he was a child, his family shifted several times before settling in Tezpur. In Tezpur his musical talent was spotted by Jyotiprasad Agarwala, a noted Assamese lyricist, and Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a renowned Assamese artist. In 1936, he traveled with his mentors to Kolkata where he recorded his very first song at the Aurora Studio for the Selona Company. He received his education from Sonaram High School in Guwahati, Dhubri Government High School in Dhubri, Tezpur High School and the Cotton College. He then attended Banaras Hindu University where he completed his graduation and post-graduation, obtaining his BA in Political Science in 1944 and MA in Political Science in 1946. He got enrolled at the Columbia University, New York, in 1949, on a scholarship and earned his doctoral degree in 1952 on his thesis "Proposals for Preparing India's Basic Education to use Audio-Visual Techniques in Adult Education". When he was at Columbia University, Bhupen Hazarika was influenced by Paul Robeson, a civil rights activist. He also served as the Secretary of the Reception Committee of the Third All Assam Conference of IPTA in 1955. He took the job of a teacher at the Gauhati University but left the job after few years and shifted to Kolkata.

The river Brahmaputra, also known as Luit, has always occupied an important place in the cultural mindscape of the people of Assam, a state in the northeast of India. A source of great pride because of its sheer size and the myths and lore associated with it, it has nevertheless brought untold misery to people over the years because of annual flooding. Authors and musicians of the land have found in the Luit an apt metaphor to tell stories of love, loss, belonging and pain. In the songs of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, the Brahmaputra becomes a character through which the poet expresses both his anguish at the sufferings of the masses and his joy at the all-embracing nature of the valley.

In songs like "Mahaabahu Brahmaputra", Hazarika tries to appeal to the people of Assam to maintain harmony and promote the land as one of plurality and hospitality. This song becomes significant when seen in the context of the Assam movement (a six-year long agitation to halt the illegal migration of people from neighbouring Bangladesh) and Hazarika's own conflicted attitude towards it.

The voice of Bhupen Hazarika is well known to each and every Assamese person. He composed songs throughout his life but he did not confine himself to the field of songs only. He also got into the field of literature and art. He was instrumental in the upliftment of social consciousness and social change in the Assamese society. He believed that a strong and energetic society could be formed only after removing all kinds of discrim-

inations, violence, malice, corruption, differences, colour-discriminations and binding the society with the string of unity. Such type of mentality was also the basis of his songs. His songs are full of varied ideas and subjects. Assamese life, public life, tribal life, national love, humanism, revolutionary sense, social, political references, love, sense of death etc all get reflected in Dr Bhupen Hazarika's songs. It is the duty and responsibility of his successors to preserve his songs.

He received the National Film Award in 1975 for composition of music in the film, 'Chameli Memsab'. He was also the recipient of Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1987, Padmashri in 1977, Padma Bhushan in 2001, Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 1992 and Sangeet Natak Academy Fellowship in 2008. He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2012 and the Bharat Ratna in 2019. Dr Bhupen Hazarika made sterling contributions through his songs which he composed and sang himself mostly. His thoughts, his mentality were expressed through his songs in a varied way. Dr Bhupen Hazarika also made remarkable contribution towards strengthening the unity between the Assamese people and other communities. He always asked the people of Assam to remember the manifold contributions made by different caste and communities to the social life and fabric of the Assamese people. He is acclaimed internationally for his evergreen songs. His songs are based on the themes of communal unity, universal justice and empathy. He had written innumerable songs and had used his songs for social change as well as the reformation of a classless society. Dr Bhupen Hazarika's songs are divided into different categories on the basis of the needs of the society. These are- songs of patriotism, songs of human interest, songs of revolutionary change, songs of nature, songs of love and romance, etc. Dr Bhupen Hazarika was a true patriot. Thereby, his songs reflect the sense of patriotism in its truest sense. His love for the country has inspired him to pen down numerous patriotic songs.

"Agni zugar firingati moi
Natun Asom garhim
Sarbaharaar sarbaswa
Punar firaaai ananim
Natun Bharat garhim"
(Of the fiery age, I'm a spark; I will build up a new Assam. To the have-nots I'll bring back whatever they've lost. I will build up a new India)

Being inspired by the patriots, during the freedom struggle, Dr Bhupen Hazarika wrote this song. The lyrics of his songs indicate a deep sense of love and respect for his nation. In another song 'Assam aamar rupahi gunaro naai sesh' (Our Assam is lovely so there is no end to her virtues and her gifts too...). Bhupen Hazarika depicts a unique picture of Assam, Where the sun rises first, where there is co-existence among various communities of hills and plains. In this song, the cultural harmony and social condition of Assam has been highlighted. Another popular and heart pounding song of Dr Bhupen Hazarika is-

"Buku ham ham kare o mor Aai
Kone nidra hore mor Aai,
Putra hoi mai kimote taro
Aai, tore hoi moi maro."
(My heart is pounding, o my mother! Who is stealing my sleep O my mother! How can you as your son, tide you over? I feel like dying for you)

This particular song was a part of the film 'Maniram Dewan' (made in 1963) who was a great Assamese revolted against British imperialism and was hanged by the British. With regard to the pathetic condition of Indo-China war of 1962, Bhupen Hazarika composed a song in memory of the sacrifice of the martyrs i.e.,
"Koto jowanor mrityu hol"



Kaar jeewane jouwban gol
Sei mrityu aparajeya
Tene mritak noholo moi kiya."
(So many soldiers met their ends/Lost their lives and youths/Their deaths are invincible/Among them had I been one...)
In Bhupen Hazarika's songs "Human being" or "Man" is the central entity. His songs reflect the humanistic feeling in its every aspect. His love for mankind can be depicted in his famous song:

"Manuhe manuhar babe
Jadihe akonu naavaabe
Akoni sahaanubhuti
Bhabibo kunenu kowa, Samaniyaa?"
(If humans do not care about fellow humans at all/with a bit of sympathy/who else will care? Say o my mate!)

This song has been considered as the most popular song in Assam and has been translated to almost all Indian languages. During the war of independence of Bangladesh in 1971 thousands of people lost their lives. These incidents emotionalized and saddened Bhupen Hazarika. As a result, he reflected his emotions by writing the beautiful song :

"Ganga aamaar maa
Padmaa aamaar maa
O aamaar dui chokhe
Dui jaler dhara Meghna Jamuna"
Another significant song of Bhupen Hazarika is:

"Xitore xemekaa raati
Bastra bihin kono khetiyokor
Bhagi poraa pojaatir
Tuh jui akuraa
Raktim jen eti uttap hau"
(Chilly is the winter night/In the small fire inside the worn-out cottage/Of a peasant without any warm clothes/Let me be its glowing warmth...)

Here, Bhupen Hazarika talks about the poor, suppressed and deprived masses of the society. He revolted against the rulers, their feudal mentality and their autocratic nature. He also explains the scenario of the intellectual society which remains silent in those contemporary issues. Bhupen Hazarika was always concerned with the different stratum of society irrespective of sex, caste, creed, religion etc. Therefore, he writes:

"Prothom nohoi
Ditiya nohoi
Tritiya shrenir jatri aami"
(Neither first/nor second/we are the passengers of the third class)

Celebrating the strength of the working masses, he identified himself as a co passenger travelling towards the same destination. In this song we find optimistic expression of human philosophy of Bhupen Hazarika. Bhupen Hazarika was always

concerned with the problems of the common masses. He was a true revolutionary and his revolutionary spirit was reflected in his various songs. One of his famous songs which depicts a revolutionary change is:

"Bistiriina paarare
Asangkhyaa janare
Haahaakaar sunio
Nihsabde nirabe
Burhaa luit tumi
Burhaa luit bowaa kiyo?"

In this song Bhupen Hazarika speaks about the cultural, political, economic and social reform of his native Assamese society. He uses some powerful words like 'Unmaadonaa', 'Veer', 'Pitritra' etc. for the change of the society. Another example of Dr Bhupen Hazarika's song with the revolutionary theme is:

"Aami Asomiya nahao dukhiyaa
Buli saantanaa lobhile nohobo"

This particular song of Bhupen Hazarika addresses the Assamese people as 'Thaluaa' and 'Natin Asomiya'. When the song was composed the entire state was confronting with the problem of identity conflict. In this song the message of 'unity in diversity' is highlighted. Dr Bhupen Hazarika was a true lover of nature. His most of the songs depicts the natural beauty of Assam as well as north-east.

"Shillongore godhuli
Xapun sohoror marami sarator
Bhagoroni xonaali
Shillongore godhuli"

This song narrates the beauty of Shillong along with Bhupen Hazarika's romantic moments. Bhupen Hazarika composed it when he was in Shillong. Shillong is one of the most beautiful cities of north-eastern region and is considered as one of the famous destination among all. Bhupen Hazarika was quite fascinated by the natural beauty of Shillong. Thereby, in order to promote this beauty worldwide he wrote the song first in Assamese and later, it was translated to English. Another popular song of Bhupen Hazarika which speaks about nature is:

"Aakaashi jaanere
Uroniaa monore
Duk mukolite
Pashimor poraa,
Bangar poraa maarilu eraa
Mur lokhyosthaan hol Tezpur."

In this song Bhupen Hazarika reminds the golden old days when people used to fly and write poems about it. Here, Dr Bhupen Hazarika depicts his aerial journey from Kolkata to Tezpur. He also describes about the Brahmaputra and how it looks like 'the gaamusa' from the blue infinite above the Gaoro Hills while travelling to his destination i.e., Tezpur. Bhupen Hazarika also wrote a number of love songs. One such song which speaks about love is:

"Xoixobote Dhemaalite
Tumaare umolaa monot aase
Bohaag maahor Luit Khon
Duii xaaturaa monot aase..."

In this song Bhupen Hazarika describes about the love story of a boy who had fallen in love with a girl in teen age period of his life. But, unfortunately the girl left him. In order to give the song a touch of eternal love Bhupen Hazarika uses some powerful words like 'gusi golaa', 'goraaki bulilaa' etc. Dr Bhupen Hazarika's another magnificent song which narrates about love is:
"Tumaar dekhua naam patralekhaa

Patra tumi nilikhaa holaa
Hoitu mur puronaa thikonaa
Tumaar monot naai"

(Your name as I know is Patralekhaa/yet you've stopped writing letters to me/May be, you do not remember/The old address of mine) Here, Dr Bhupen Hazarika expresses the feeling of lovers, love and affection. This song clearly expresses the feeling of love which is attached in a relationship. Bhupen Hazarika was an indomitable lover. He fell in the sea of love and in the vastness of the great sea of love he got lost and he got absorbed in it. This can be inferred from a number of songs written by him. He dreamt of a beloved Assamese girl who would understand him, whose love would inspire him to go on singing freely for people in general. This he says in his songs:

a) "Nisthur Jibonor Sangramat
Bichaaro Moromar Maat Ashaar"
b) "Hoo Hoo Dhumuhaa Aahileo
Aakaash Kolaa Meghe Shaanileo
Rim Jhim Barashun Parileo
Tumi Jen Thaakaa Mor Kaashote"

He wanted the close proximity of such a lady whose one word of love and warmth would delight, to some extent, his faded mind in the struggle of life. So he wrote:

"Aakaashi Gangaa Bichoraa Naai
Naai Bichoraa Swarna Alankaar
Nisthur Jibonor Sangraamot
Bichaaro Maramar Maat Eshaar"

It is unfortunate that Hazarika's conjugal life was not happy to some extent. Along the lonely path his love has gone in search of love:

"Mor Morome Morom Bichaari Jaay, Jaay
Baarishaar Kechaa Baane
Morei Kaarane Aane
Natunare Bore Naai
jugar Batora Loi"

Dr Bhupen Hazarika could not reach his spiritual goal by means of marriage. His unhappiness in conjugal love is rooted in all these. So his sensual attraction is also vividly expressed in his songs. Such as:

"Ki Je Tomaar Sanga priyaa
Ki Je Tomaar Sanga
Tomaar Ongor Jolonto Jui
Tomaar Ongor Jolonto Jui
Moi je Potongo."

Sexual attachment or sexual appeal is expressed in his songs, which indicate illegitimate love as well as shallow bodily love prevailing in the modern society. Such as:

a) "Gupute Gupute Kimaan Khelim
Aalingonor Ei Khelaa?"
Shotiyaao Aahaa Aakaashe Botaah
Duore Rongore Melaa"
b) "Bimurto Mur Nishaati Jen
Mounotaar Sutaare Bowaa
Ekhoi Nilaa Chador,
Taare Eiti Mithaa Bhaajot
Nishwaasore um Aaru
Jiyaa Jiyaa Aador"

Bhupen Hazarika's songs plays an important role in inculcating moral values in one's own life. His songs contain the feeling of love, friendship, oneness, peace, unity and harmony, which can be regarded as the weapon of social change and reformation. His songs does not have only theoretical importance, but practical importance too. Today, our society is deeply rooted with evils, conflicts, violence etc. In this context, Dr Bhupen Hazarika's immortal songs which are flooded with all such noble values helps in eradicating all the evils from our society and will further build a better society in the nearby future.

Asam Sahitya Sabha to celebrate Bhupen Hazarika's centenary worldwide

Year-long programmes across Assam, India, and the world to honour the legendary singer, poet, and cultural icon

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Sept 7: Asam Sahitya Sabha will celebrate the birth centenary of legendary Dr Bhupen Hazarika across the world with grand events beginning on September 8 and continuing throughout the year.

The celebrations will be carried out through its 33 district committees and nearly one thousand affiliated branches across the state.

Branches located in various parts of the world will also organize year-long events in honour of the maestro.

Addressing a press conference at the Radha Gobinda Baruah auditorium of the Bhagwati Prasad Barua Bhawan in Guwahati on Sunday, Principal Secretary of the Sabha Debajit Bora announced the centenary celebrations.

He said that in line with the Sabha's initiative, the North America branch will celebrate the centenary in August 2026, Russia's Moscow branch in July 2026, Great Britain in June 2026, Switzerland in March 2026, Germany in April 2026, Singapore in September 2026, South Africa's Ramdhenu branch in January 2026, and Kuwait's branch in March 2026.

The branches have already begun preparations. He further stated that branches across India will also observe the centenary with great enthusiasm.



"Ahmedabad's branch will organise events in October, Delhi's in November, Shillong's Mukul Sangha in December, Tripura in November, Arunachal's Kameng in December this year, Nagaland's Kohima branch in January, Mumbai's Swarna branch in January, Kolkata's in February, and Odisha's branch in March of 2026."

All 33 district committees within the state will hold year-round programmes.

Among them, the Sivasagar district will organise a programme on November 5 in association with the Dichangmukh Samannoy branch.

Similarly, district committees in Jorhat, Majuli, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Biswanath, Sonitpur, Golaghat, Nagaon, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Baksa, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Hailakandi, Sri Bhum, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Chirang, Darrang, Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, Dimahachao, Hojai, Tinsukia, Morigaon, Goalpara, and Kokrajhar are preparing major events, he added.

Mentioning the grand opening ceremony in Kalaigaon on September 8 and 9, Principal Sec-

retary Bora said that under the leadership of Asam Sahitya Sabha and with the support of the Shree Shree Govinda Mishra Shatadal branch in Udalguri district, a two-day opening ceremony will be held at the Pragatisheel Janamancha auditorium in Kalaigaon.

The event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 AM with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp by social worker Premeswar Nath. At 8:30 AM, the Sabha's flag will be hoisted by Tankeswar Deka, president of the branch.

A series of events will follow, including the unveiling of a memorial plaque by Upendra Chandra Deka, executive president of the reception committee; garlanding by Priyanka Bania, Circle Officer, Kalaigaon; and the tribute-paying programme led by Dibakar Bora, district secretary.

A tree plantation will be carried out by retired teacher Guneswari Deka and Dr Gunamani Deka.

A book fair will be held for the occasion and inaugurated by Md Tazar Ali Ahmed, president of Udalguri Zila Sahitya Sabha. Noted artist Dhiraj Kalita and dancer Kushal Deka will inaugurate the Bhupendra Sangeet and dance competition.

In the evening, the altar for lighting a hundred ceremonial lamps will be inaugurated by Sarat Chandra Bora, president of the senior citizen forum.

The lamp lighting ceremony will be led by Akhil Kalita, convener of the Asam Sahitya Sabha's Mangalchandi Brahma Language Learning and Research Center.

On September 9, Bhupen Hazarika's portrait drawing contest will be inaugurated by artist Putul Nath, and Diganta Barua, president of the reception committee, will inaugurate the cultural procession led by the Sabha's president Dr Basanta Kumar Goswami.

The open session chaired by Dr Goswami will be inaugurated by BTC chief Pramod Boro.

Distinguished writer and artist Loknath Goswami will attend as chief guest, while artist Kamal Katakai will be the keynote speaker.

MP Dilip Saikia and MLA Durgadas Boro will attend as guests of honour.

Meanwhile, President of Asam Sahitya Sabha Dr Basanta Kumar Goswami, Vice President Padum Rajkhowa, and Principal Secretary Debajit Bora have called upon all office bearers, members, families of members, and Assamese people across the world to light lamps at their homes at 6:30 PM on September 8 to mark the centenary celebrations.

People of Udalguri district are requested to light lamps in front of their homes and decorate various locations with continuous lamp lighting in front of the statue of Dr Bhupen Hazarika.

Adivasi Suraksha Samiti declares anti-BJP stand

HT Correspondent

GOSSAIGAON, Sept 7: In protest against the ruling BJP's policies of deprivation, betrayal, and negligence towards more than twenty-two lakh people of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), the Adivasi Suraksha Samiti, Assam, has announced its anti-BJP stand ahead of the BTC elections.

In a press statement issued by Lalit Hembram, President of the Adivasi Suraksha Samiti, it was declared that the organisation has resolved to support non-BJP candidates in the upcoming BTC polls and has urged all its members and office-bearers to ensure the victory of candidates endorsed by the Samiti.

The statement further mentioned that while several political and non-political organisations are fielding

candidates to secure victories, the Adivasi Suraksha Samiti has also finalised its decision to extend full support to both political and non-political parties contesting against the BJP in the BTC region.

It asserted that the BJP will be the main challenger and opposition for the Samiti in this election.

BTC POLLS

According to Hembram, the reasons for taking this stand include inhuman eviction drives by the BJP-led government, denial of Scheduled Tribe status to six ethnic groups, issuing caste certificates to Adivasi people as "tea tribe" instead of their rightful community identity, non-recognition of Adivasi villages, and deprivation from gov-

ernment jobs.

Giving priority to these grievances, the Samiti has declared its support for Congress candidate Abu Bakkar Ali in the 2 No Guma constituency and has appealed to its workers to ensure his victory.

Similarly, the Samiti has extended support to Omar Faruk in the 3 No Srirampur constituency, Dilip Kumar Barman in Fakiragram, and Dipen Barman in Mathanguri constituency.

The Samiti also informed that decisions regarding other constituencies will be announced soon.

Urging the people to secure the future of the Adivasi community, President Lalit Hembram appealed to all leaders, workers, supporters, and well-wishers to work wholeheartedly for the victory of the Samiti-supported candidates.

Two bike-borne miscreants snatch gold chain from woman

HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, Sept 7: Two motorcycle-borne miscreants snatched a gold chain from a woman while she was returning home with sacred offerings after participating in a community worship at Morigaon Sewa Ashram Bishnu Mandir on Saturday evening.

According to the First Information Report (FIR) lodged at Morigaon police station, the incident took place around 6:30 pm near the first turning point of Amulapatty area.

The miscreants took advantage of her being alone on the road and forcibly snatched the chain from her neck before fleeing from the spot.

The victim, Phunu Bezbarua Sarma, told reporters that she had gone to participate in a community worship on the occasion of the Assamese 'Bhado' month at the Sewa Ashram Bishnu Mandir.

Demow Girl shines at NE Students' Programme

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, Sept 7: Himadri Gogoi, a Class 10 student of Demow Girls' High School, participated in the North East Students Programme for awareness, reach, and knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS) organised by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on August 28 and 29, 2025, in Bengaluru.

According to information received, three students from Sivasagar district were selected for the exposure visit, including one each from Demow Girls' High School, Sivasagar Government Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School, and DC Gogoi Jakaichuk Higher Secondary School.

SSB launches electrician skill training for border youth



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Sept 7: The 15th Battalion of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Kajaigaon has launched a 15-day Electrician Skill Training Programme under the Civic Action Programme (North Eastern Region) for the financial year 2025-26. The training programme, which began on Saturday at the Kajaigaon headquarters, will provide training to 36 youths from the India-Bhutan border areas of Chirang district.

During the 15-day course, participants will receive hands-on training in electrical connections, maintenance, and safety practices.

The initiative is expected to enhance employment opportunities and promote self-reliance among the youth in the border region.

Local residents have expressed gratitude to the SSB authorities for carrying out this social initiative aimed at youth empowerment, noting that the training will benefit future generations.

Concerns arise over public relations in Darrang ahead of PM Modi's visit

HT Correspondent

MANGALDAL, Sept 7: As Darrang prepares for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on September 14, local media professionals have expressed concerns over the smooth functioning of public relations in the district.

The absence of a regular District Information and Public Relations

Officer (DIPRO) for over a year has raised questions about effective communication during the high-profile event.

Since August 2024, when the previous DIPRO, Samir Sandilya, was transferred without a replacement, the district's Information and Public Relations Department has faced challenges.

Assistant Commissioner Ihsanul Hussain was temporarily assigned as in-charge DIPRO.

In December 2024, Prasanta Kumar Borah was appointed as the regular DIPRO, but he has been unable to fully serve in the district, as his responsibilities remained tied to his prior role as PRO for State Cabinet Minister Ashok Singhal.

Kanki Belguri Cooperative Society holds annual general meeting



HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 7: The annual general meeting of Kanki Belguri Greater Multipurpose Cooperative Society for the year 2024-25 was held on Sunday at the permanent office of the cooperative society in Kanki Inti village under Howrahgah Assembly constituency of Karbi

Anglong district.

The meeting was attended by executive members, office bearers, and hundreds of shareholders from Belguri, South Dighlipar, Garkhia Pokhuri, Miribali Inti village, Terang village, Kanki Inti village, Durgapur, Chamguri, and other nearby villages.

43rd Manik Chandra Barooah national level debate competition held at Cotton University

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 7: The 43rd edition of the Manik Chandra Barooah national level debate competition was held at the Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha Auditorium at Cotton University on Sunday.

The competition saw 34 participants from 18 institutions across Delhi, Meghalaya, and Assam.

The topic for this year's competition was "India should prioritize regional cooperation with her South Asian neighbourhood and its diverse strengths, in view of shifting international alliances and an emerging multipolar global order."

Mintu Deka and Bhabasindhu Borthakur of Gauhati University bagged the Best Team award, while Avispa Kalita and Anjali Mardi of Cotton University won the second Best Team award.

Ritikshna Bora of Darrang College and Agastya Kashyap of JB Law College were adjudged the best debater and second best debater, respectively. Tamanna Dalal of Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, won the best inter-collegiate award. Noted intellectual, author, poet, translator, and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Prof Diganta Biswa Sarma presided over the house as the speaker.

The jury members included Gau-

tam Sharma, Executive Editor of Amar Asom; Dr Manabendra Sarma, Head of the Department of English, B Barooah College; and Kangan Goswami Bharadwaz, Faculty of Law, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. The debate competition was preceded by an inaugural event presided over by Vice Chancellor of Cotton University Prof Ramesh Chandra Deka.

In his address, Prof Deka highlighted the role of visionary Manik Chandra Barooah, stating, "This annual event is not only a platform for intellectual exchange, but also a solemn tribute to a visionary who played a decisive role in shaping modern education in Assam."

Registrar of Cotton University Dr. Arindam Garg delivered the welcome address, and a souvenir titled The Argumentative Legacy was released during the event. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Gitartha Bora, Secretary of the Debating and Symposia Section. The event witnessed the presence of a large number of students, faculty members, invited guests, and delegates from participating institutions.

Dr Akunthita Borthakur and Dr Deepjyoti Kalita served as faculty supervisors, while Dr Sangeeta Barthakur moderated the inaugural session.

The meeting was presided over by the President of the cooperative society, Samsing Teron.

Lionel Teron was present as the government observer.

Secretary Kamala Medhi read out the annual report and announced that one kg each of masoor dal, sugar, and salt will be distributed by the cooperative society at the October meeting. The annual accounts of the cooperative society were presented, and the budget for the coming year 2025-26 was prepared.

Pavithra Patar and Biren Inti were appointed as internal auditors for the cooperative society.

Among those who attended the meeting were Tiken Bora, Dhane Brahama, Hukuram Kathar, Khageshwor Basumatary, and others.

Shankha Dhvani Shilpi Samaj celebrates 6th foundation day

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Sept 7: The Shankha Dhvani Shilpi Samaj, a social and cultural organisation of Puranigudam, celebrated its 6th foundation day on September 6 at the Bapuji Bhavan and Library auditorium.

During the event, the annual Shankha Dhvani Shilpi Award was presented to Chittaranjan Borah, a noted artist and sculptor from Puranigudam, in recognition of his 25 years of contribution to the field of art. The award, instituted in memory of late Swarna Hazarika, consists of a certificate, a "Cheleng", a memento, and a citation.

While addressing the occasion, Chittaranjan Borah expressed gratitude to the Shankha Dhvani Shilpi Samaj and acknowledged the support of his father, who provided him with the space to pursue his artistic endeavours.

The event also featured cultural performances, including Borgeet and Sattriya dance, and the release of the second issue of the handwritten magazine Shankha Dhvani.

The programme was attended by several dignitaries, and the Shankha Dhvani Shilpi Samaj's Sattvik Kala Kendra showcased various art forms, including music, dance, and yoga.

Birth centenary of Bhupen Hazarika in Biswanath

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, Sept 7: To commemorate the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika, the Biswanath district administration will organise a series of competitions in Bhupendra Sangeet and dance on Monday.

The programme will be held at the conference hall of the Biswanath Zilla Parishad.

The competitions will take place in the morning among students studying in classes VIII to XII. Interested candidates may contact 6002906303 for further details.

United Organic Farmers to hold annual conference

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, Sept 7: The annual conference of the United Organic Small Farmer Producer Cooperative Society will be held on September 19 at Gogamukh in Lakhimpur district, informed Lochan Bora, Managing Director of the agri-society.

The cooperative society emphasises increasing production without using chemical fertilizers and other insecticides and imparts training and orientation programmes for farmers.

Artificial bird nest installation launched in Nagaon



HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Sept 7: To conserve and protect birds and maintain ecological balance, the Nagaon district administration, in collaboration with the voluntary organisation Anusandhan Unnayan Samiti, has launched an initiative to install artificial bird nests in the district.

The initiative, aligned with the birth centenary celebrations of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, aims to provide safe habitats for birds to nest, lay eggs, and raise their young.

The project is expected to contribute to the increase in bird population, control pests and insects in agricultural fields, and help maintain

ecological balance. As part of the drive, Nagaon District Commissioner Debashish Sarma inaugurated the initiative and personally installed several artificial bird nests in trees within the premises of his official residence.

The initiative serves as a model for the community to follow and highlights the importance of protecting birds and their habitats.

The district administration appealed to the public to join hands in this endeavour and work towards creating a harmonious relationship with nature.

By installing artificial bird nests, individuals can contribute to bird conservation and promote ecological balance.

The initiative is a commendable effort by the Nagaon district administration and Anusandhan Unnayan Samiti to raise awareness about bird conservation and promote sustainable development.

While addressing the occasion, DC Sarma underscored that every small step counts in the journey towards a more sustainable and environmentally conscious society.

"By working together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our feathered friends and the ecosystem as a whole," he added.

Book release and felicitation programme held in Kokrajhar

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Sept 7: A special literary and cultural programme was organised at Gossagaon Brahma Mandir on Sunday in Kokrajhar district.

The event was organised by the Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Trust (GKBT) in collaboration with Hainamuli and Gossagaon B.Ed. College.

The highlight of the event was the release of a translated edition of Gothosa Bisombi, a children's literature book authored by Dr Ajit Boro, which had won the prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2020. The book was released by Chahendra Nath Basumatary, secretary of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

Khampa Basumatary, vice president of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha, attended the event as the special guest. A ceremonial coconut tree plantation was carried out by Anu Rani Basumatary, retired headmistress of Gossagaon Girls' High



School, marking the occasion.

Among the distinguished attendees were Phatendra Basumatary, vice president of the All Brahma Dharma Committee; Jagat Chandra Brahma, secretary of the All Brahma Dharma Committee; and Khanin Das, president of the

Assam Sahitya Sabha, Gossagaon Branch.

The programme also featured the felicitation of Biswanath Narzary for his remarkable contribution to translation work, adding a special dimension to the literary gathering.

Arunachal CM pays tribute to 1962 war heroes at Helmet Post war memorial in Anjaw

Strengthening bonds with soldiers and communities who safeguard nation's honour



ITANAGAR, Sept 7: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday paid homage to Indian Army soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1962 India-China war, at the historic Helmet Post war memorial near Walong in Anjaw district of the state.

In a series of posts on X, Khandu said he was humbled to offer his heartfelt tribute to the fearless soldiers of the Indian Army who made the supreme sacrifice during the 1962 war at the historic Helmet post war memorial near Walong.

Recounting the history of the memorial, the chief minister noted that the site carries a poignant legacy.

"The name 'Helmet Post' carries a poignant story. In December 1962, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) unearthed the mortal

remains of a soldier along with 24 helmets mounted on pickets. This powerful discovery revealed the presence of fallen heroes and marked the site as a place of profound sacrifice. Hence, the location came to be known as Helmet Post, a lasting symbol of courage," he wrote on X. Khandu also paid special homage to Lt Bikram Singh of 6 Kumaon Regiment, describing him as "the unsung hero of the Battle of Walong".

He said the memorial is not just a structure but "a living testament to the courage, resilience, and ultimate sacrifice of our soldiers who safeguarded the nation's honour".

The chief minister's tribute once again brought focus on the Battle of Walong, one of the fiercest confrontations of the 1962

conflict.

The battle, fought from October 22 to November 16, 1962, remains etched in history for the extraordinary bravery displayed by Indian soldiers against overwhelming odds. Though heavily outnumbered, troops of the 11 Infantry Brigade, supported by units including 6 Kumaon and 4 Dogra, held their ground with unmatched determination.

Military historians often recall Walong as a rare theatre of the 1962 war where Indian troops not only resisted but also mounted spirited counter-attacks, showcasing unparalleled grit and gallantry.

The Helmet Post war memorial today stands as a symbol of this valour and sacrifice, drawing visitors, historians, and serving soldiers alike to honour the memory of those who fought in defence of

the nation, an Army officer said.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the Northeast and the spirit of its people, Khandu said, "The sacrifices made on this frontier remind us that Arunachal Pradesh has always stood as the first line of defence for the nation. The courage of our soldiers at Walong continues to inspire generations, and it is our duty to preserve their legacy with pride and patriotism."

The chief minister also interacted with the personnel of the Arunachal Scouts and the Indian Army at Walong advance landing ground (ALG).

"A warm meeting with the brave jawans of the Arunachal Scouts, Indian Army, at Walong ALG!" Khandu said in another social media post.

The Arunachal Scouts are not just soldiers, they are sons of the soil, deeply connected to the land, culture, and people of this region. Their presence at Walong ALG exemplifies the spirit of service, resilience, and patriotism that keep our nation safe and secure, he added. The chief minister also visited the historic Buddhist Gonpa at Walong, accompanied by state Women and Child Development Minister Dasanglu Pul, during the day.

"A visit to the historic Buddhist Gonpa at Walong, established in 1964, along with Hon'ble Minister Smt Dasanglu Pul Ji. I was warmly welcomed by the local Meyor Buddhist community," he said.

"Offered prayers at the serene Gonpa, strengthening our spiritual bonds. I also had the opportunity to interact with the Meyor community, listening to their aspirations and concerns, with a deep commitment to work towards their welfare and well-being," Khandu added. (PTI)

Arunachal's Shi Yomi district residents face 'poor' internet services



ITANAGAR, Sept 7: Despite the Centre's push for a 'Digital India', residents of Arunachal Pradesh's Shi Yomi district bordering China are facing the brunt of "poor" telecom and internet services, with the local administration having challenges in running e-governance initiatives and students raising concerns over the issue, officials said on Sunday.

Frequent service disruptions have become a norm in the border district, home to over 13,000 people, they said.

"The telecom services are indeed pathetic. Locals are unable to avail themselves of the benefits of digital and e-governance initiatives. Residents, especially students, in the border district have raised concerns and are threatening to launch agitation against the private service provider," Shi Yomi Deputy Commissioner Tungge Loya told PTI.

Due to poor internet services, uploading data is a huge problem, he said.

Minrik Pakam, who recently quit his job at the education department, claimed that it is extremely difficult to upload data of the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) and bank details of students, due to "poor internet services".

"Even when there is internet, the data to be uploaded is so huge that it becomes impossible to get the task done," he said.

Dege Ete, a government employee serving in Lungte in the Shi Yomi district, echoed Pakam.

"If we don't recharge, our outgoing data is disconnected. But when services fail for weeks, there's no penalty. Where is justice?" he asked.

Ete, who hails from West Siang district, claimed that many government employees serving in Shi Yomi work from other places. "They cannot contact their near and dear ones due to constant disruption in services," he said.

The deputy commissioner said even tourists, who come to the district, often fail to contact their family members.

However, internet services in other border districts such as Tawang, Anjaw and Dibang Valley are more or less stable, the officials said.

When contacted, an official of telecom giant Bharti Airtel, the main service provider in the district, blamed Border Roads Organisation for service disruptions, alleging that BRO workers frequently damage cables while constructing roads.

A BRO official dismissed the al-

legation, claiming that most of its works are underway on the mountainside, while the cables are laid in the valley.

"Our services suffer due to frequent damage to our cables. BRO labourers often damage cables during earth-cutting. It results in service disruptions and internet outages," Airtel cluster head in charge Rajnish Mishra claimed.

BRO's Project Brahmanik chief engineer S C Looniya rejected the charge.

"We (BRO) took permission from the district authorities, which, in turn, inform departments and agencies to shift their utilities along the right of way. The telecom service provider should have taken precautions instead of blaming others for their own failure," he told PTI.

BRO's 92 RCC Commandant Dheeresh Kumar said the organisation has not received any complaint.

"Internet disruption is also affecting BRO's huge labour force," Kumar claimed.

Mishra maintained that the telecom service provider has been addressing the concerns of its customers.

"We have engaged enough technicians in the entire district, including in Tato, Mechuka and Monigong. Earlier, technicians had to be deployed from West Siang's Aalo," he told PTI.

He also dismissed the claim that the telecom service provider was facing problems in procuring diesel for running generators in towers.

"There are around 37 towers in the entire district, and we stock 1,000 litres of diesel for the main towers for a month. The need is around 200 litres a month to keep the generator running. We are planning to install solar systems in locations where power supply is an issue," Mishra added. (PTI)

Arunachal environmental activist stopped at Delhi airport from travelling abroad

ITANAGAR, Sept 7: Noted environmental activist from Arunachal Pradesh, Bhanu Tatak, was stopped at the Delhi airport on Sunday when she was travelling to Ireland, officials said.

She was stopped by the immigration authorities from travelling abroad on the basis of a lookout circular issued by the Arunachal Pradesh Police, they said.

Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) Chukhu Apa acknowledged the circular but did not share details about it.

He, however, pointed out that Tatak faces "10 to 12 cases" linked to her alleged role in inciting violence during protests, including leading mobs and urging women demonstrators to confront a cabinet minister physically.

A lookout circular is a legal mechanism used by Indian authorities to alert immigration checkpoints at airports and seaports, ensuring that individuals facing investigation cannot leave the country to evade arrest or questioning.

Tatak, the legal advisor of the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum (SIFF), is leading protests against the proposed 11,500 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose

Project (SUMP). She was scheduled to begin a three-month academic programme at Dublin City University on September 9.

Criticising the government, the Youth Congress claimed that no advance notice was served to her, and she only came to know about the restriction on her travel at the airport.

"This is yet another fabricated case to silence those who oppose the government's dubious schemes," the Youth Congress alleged in a statement.

It noted that the SUMP, being one of the largest hydroelectric ventures in the state, could have far-reaching consequences for the local population and environment, and should therefore be pursued only with the informed consent of affected communities.

Describing the action against Tatak as "arbitrary and condemnable", the Youth Congress said, "We live in a democracy where individual rights must be respected. Mischievous attempts to silence dissents will not yield fruit."

"We stand firmly with Tatak and urge the authorities to restore her rights at the earliest," said Youth Congress state general secretary Tai David. (PTI)

Greater Subansiri Badminton Tournament to be held at Ziro from September 18 to 21



HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Sept 7: The Greater Badminton Association (GSBA) announced that it will organise the much-awaited Greater Subansiri Badminton Tournament at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district from September 18 to 21, 2025.

The announcement was made during a press interaction held at the Arunachal Press Club (APC), where officials outlined the objectives, arrangements, and scope of the tournament.

According to an official statement provided by the GSBA, the tournament is aimed at promoting badminton in the region and across the state.

GSBA Secretary Tai Mama highlighted that the tournament is being conducted in line with similar initiatives such as the Greater Kameng and Greater Siang badminton tournaments.

"Our association was constituted with the objective of promoting badminton in the region as well as the state at large. Following the success of previous tournaments, we have decided to organise the Greater Subansiri Badminton Tournament from September 18 to 21 at Ziro. The

town of Ziro has been chosen as the venue as it serves as a hub for several districts that have been bifurcated from the Greater Subansiri region," secretary Mama stated.

The tournament will feature participation from badminton players representing various clubs under the jurisdiction of Greater Subansiri.

The organisers have emphasised inclusivity, with players from across the region expected to take part. "The championship will offer an excellent opportunity for local clubs to showcase their talent and promote sportsmanship. With today's announcement, we have officially begun preparations for the tournament," said Mama.

A key feature of the tournament is its theme – "Go to Badminton and No to Drug" – aimed at encouraging youth participation in sports as a healthy alternative to substance abuse.

Secretary Mama elaborated that the focus will be on engaging the younger generation, providing them with a platform where they can compete and potentially represent the area, state, and even the country in future

competitions.

The tournament categories will be open to players aged between 11 and 55 years, allowing broad participation across age groups.

While the emphasis remains on nurturing young talent, players of all eligible ages are encouraged to take part.

Preparations for the event are already underway.

The official statement confirmed that arrangements for accommodation and the game venue have been finalised.

The GSBA has urged respective clubs to begin their preparations and training in anticipation of the tournament.

"We are fully committed to ensuring a smooth and successful event. Accommodation and venues have been identified, and we encourage all clubs to actively prepare for the championship," Secretary Mama remarked.

Additionally, the GSBA has received assurances of technical and logistical support from the Arunachal State Badminton Association (ASBA).

"We have already consulted with ASBA, and they have pledged to provide both technical and other forms of assistance during the tournament," said Mama.

The GSBA also encouraged participating players to embrace and celebrate their cultural heritage by wearing traditional attire during the event.

"We wish to highlight the rich cultural diversity of the region and believe that this adds a unique spirit to the tournament," the secretary added.

The announcement of the Greater Subansiri Badminton Tournament has been welcomed by sports enthusiasts, local clubs, and youth leaders alike, who see it as an important initiative to develop sporting talent and promote wellness through active participation in sports.

With preparations now in full swing, the GSBA looks forward to hosting a vibrant and competitive event that will strengthen the sporting ecosystem of the region while promoting healthy living and community engagement.

IMD forecast rainfall, thunderstorms across Arunachal

Authorities advise vigilance as scattered storms and heavy showers batter Arunachal

ITANAGAR, Sept 7: The India Meteorological Department has forecast a fresh spell of rainfall and thunderstorms across Arunachal Pradesh beginning Monday and continuing through the week, with varying intensity across regions.

According to a bulletin issued by the meteorological centre here, Monday is expected to bring fairly widespread rain across the state, with districts such as East Siang, Lower Dibang Valley, Changlang, Lohit and Namsai likely to experience significant showers accompanied by thunderstorms at isolated locations.

A 'watch' advisory has been issued for parts of Tawang, East Kameng, Lower Subansiri, Kra Daadi, Kamle, Lower Siang, Lepa Rada and Papum Pare, where thunder accompanied by heavy rain is possible.

On Tuesday, rainfall activity is likely to decrease slightly, with most districts receiving only isolated to scattered showers or thunderstorms, particularly in East Kameng, Lower Subansiri, West Kameng, Papum Pare, Kurung Kumey, Kamle and parts of the Siang belt.

The eastern districts of Changlang, Tirap and Longding have also been placed under a yellow alert, with the likelihood of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning. Residents in these areas have been advised to take precautions against localised flooding and waterlogging.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert for these districts, cautioning people of possible thunderstorms



with heavy rain.

The eastern and northern districts, such as Anjaw, Dibang Valley and Shi-Yomi, are likely to remain comparatively drier.

On Thursday, heavy rainfall activity is expected to intensify further, particularly in East Kameng, Lower Subansiri, West Kameng, Papum Pare, Kurung Kumey, Kamle and parts of the Siang belt.

The eastern districts of Changlang, Tirap and Longding have also been placed under a yellow alert, with the likelihood of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning. Residents in these areas have been advised to take precautions against localised flooding and waterlogging.

By Friday, showers are likely to

persist across most of the state, with scattered to fairly widespread rainfall predicted.

Widespread rain is expected in the western and central districts, with alerts continuing for Kamle, East Kameng, West Kameng, Papum Pare and adjoining regions where thunderstorms with heavy rain may occur.

Sunday marked the beginning of this wet spell, with widespread rainfall reported from several districts.

Papum Pare, East Kameng, West Kameng, Kamle, Lower Subansiri and Changlang received heavy to very heavy showers, while the IMD also warned of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning in multiple pockets in these districts. (PTI)

Transport department official arrested in luxury vehicle smuggling racket

ITANAGAR, Sept 7: A transport department official was arrested here in the multi-crore inter-state luxury vehicle smuggling racket that was busted in July this year, police said on Sunday.

Papum Pare District Transport Officer (DTO) Yajum Lombi Yumlam, presently posted at Yupia, was arrested from her residence in Itanagar on Saturday, for her role in facilitating illegal registration of stolen vehicles, Itanagar Capital Region Deputy Superintendent of Police Kengo Dirchi said.

Earlier, the police had arrested Charu Akey, a data entry operator at DTO, Palin in Kurung Kumey district, for his involvement in the case on August 27.

So far, 11 people including two government officials have been arrested and 75 high-end luxury vehicles have been seized by a special investigation team (SIT) led by Deputy Superintendent of Police



Kengo Dirchi, the official said.

Police said over 80 individuals have also been served notices under Section 36 (3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to join the investigation.

The racket, unearthed in July, involved at least 57 luxury vehicles valued at over ₹ 30.5 crore. These vehicles were allegedly stolen from Delhi-NCR and other parts of north

India and transported to Arunachal Pradesh using forged documents.

Following a suo motu FIR, police launched a state-wide crackdown on July 2, leading to the recovery of several vehicles from the Itanagar Capital Region.

All the recovered vehicles were found to be blacklisted and linked to FIRs registered in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and other

states. Preliminary probe suggests the gang employed brokers to tamper with engine and chassis numbers before generating forged registration papers. The vehicles were then sold at discounted prices in various parts of the state.

Investigators are also examining possible international financial links and digital money trails associated with the racket, police said. (PTI)

Aryna Sabalenka defeats Amanda Anisimova for her 2nd consecutive US Open title and 4th at a major

NEW YORK, Sept 7: Aryna Sabalenka was two points away from what eventually would be a second consecutive U.S. Open title when she had what should have been a routine — easy, even — overhead smash. Instead, while backpedaling, she dumped the ball into the net, giving her opponent, Amanda Anisimova, a break chance. After that excruciating miss Saturday, Sabalenka dropped her racket on the blue court and smiled a rueful smile.

She began to feel the sort of emotions that got the better of her during losses in the finals at the Australian Open in January and French Open in June bubble up. She tried to compose herself. "I just let the doubt get into my head," Sabalenka explained. "But then I turned around and I took a deep breath in, and I was like, OK. It happens. It's in the past. Let's focus on the next one." So everything was fine from there? Well, no. "She broke

me," Sabalenka said with a loud laugh. "I was like, 'OK. ... Reset.'" It took another 15 minutes to complete the job, but the No. 1-seeded Sabalenka did reset, unlike at those earlier title matches in 2025, and was able to kneel on Arthur Ashe Stadium's court while covering her face with her hands after beating Anisimova 6-3, 7-6 (3). That made Sabalenka the first woman to earn the trophy at Flushing Meadows in consecutive years

since Serena Williams in 2012-14. "I truly really admire her," said No. 8 seed Anisimova, a 24-year-old American who heard raucous support from the 24,000 or so spectators. "She puts in a lot of work, and that's why she's where she is."

Sabalenka, a 27-year-old from Belarus, earned her fourth Grand Slam trophy — all on hard courts — and avoided becoming the first woman to lose three major finals in a season since Justine

Henin in 2006.

Sabalenka was the runner-up to Madison Keys at Melbourne Park and to Coco Gauff at Roland-Garros.

Those defeats helped on Saturday. "After the Australian Open, I thought that the right way would be just to forget it and move on. But then the same thing happened at the French Open," said Sabalenka, who showed up at her postmatch news conference with a bottle of

Champagne and a pair of dark goggles atop her head. "So after French Open, I figured that, OK, maybe it's time for me to sit back and to look at those finals and to maybe learn something, because I didn't want it to happen again and again and again."

As Anisimova kept making things close again, and the crowd kept getting loud, Sabalenka reminded herself to focus on herself. It worked.

When Anisimova trailed Sa-

balenka 2-0, 30-love as Saturday's match began, some fans might have wondered: There's no way there's going to be a repeat of the Wimbledon, right? That's because Anisimova's first major final, in July at the All England Club, ended with a 6-0, 6-0 shutout against Iga Swiatek.

But Anisimova grabbed the next four points to break back, capping the game with a backhand winner and a forehand winner. (AP)

Cristiano Ronaldo scores a stunning goal as he targets a sixth World Cup



MANCHESTER, Sept 7: Cristiano Ronaldo's quest to play in a record sixth World Cup began in spectacular fashion with two goals as Portugal made a winning start to its qualifying campaign by routing Armenia 5-0.

Ronaldo's goals extended his record as the highest scorer in men's international football to 140 and underlined his enduring motivation to keep setting benchmarks before his storied career comes to an end.

The 40-year-old soccer great has recently signed a new contract with Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr and led Portugal to victory at the UEFA Nations League last summer. The World Cup is the one major trophy that eludes him — leaving him behind his great rival Lionel Messi, who lifted soccer's biggest prize with Argentina in 2022.

Next year would likely be Ronaldo's last chance to win it when the tournament is staged in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Like him, Messi would also be playing at a sixth World Cup — setting the pair apart from any other player, with a host of names having appeared in five.

Ronaldo — a five-time Champions League winner, who also lifted the European Championship trophy with his country — struck in each half at the Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium as Portugal made a flying start in Group F on Saturday.

His second saw him roll back the years with a thunderous shot from around 25 meters (yards). He wheeled away in celebration with his arms outstretched.

Joao Felix also scored twice and hit the opening goal after just 10 minutes. Joao Cancelo was also on target.

"It was a near-perfect performance," said Portugal midfielder Vitorinha.

England maintained its 100% record in qualifying with a 2-0 win against Andorra at Villa Park. Thomas Tuchel's team is top of Group K with four straight wins after an own goal from Christian Garcia and a Declan Rice header.

While Ronaldo further gilded his record, Harry Kane was left frustrated as England failed to convince again under Tuchel.

A 1-0 win against Andorra in June was described by one British newspaper as England's "worst ever." It was followed by

a 3-1 home loss against Senegal in a friendly before the end of the season.

Tuchel made 10 changes to his squad and while there was an improvement, England still had to toil against the 174-ranked Andorrans.

It took Garcia to open the scoring when inadvertently glancing Noni Madueke's in-swinging cross into his own net in the 25th.

England created more chances after the break, with Andorra goalkeeper Iker Alvarez making two fine saves from close range to deny Eberechi Eze and Elliott Anderson.

Rice headed in at the far post in the 67th from Reece James' cross. "The energy was right, quality was there. We should have scored more," Tuchel said. England's all-time leading scorer Kane could not extend his record, with his best chance coming when failing to connect with James's first half cross with an open net to aim at.

Also in Group K, Serbia beat Latvia 1-0 to move up to second in the table. England plays Serbia on Tuesday in what is likely to be its biggest test in the group. (AP)

Don't always get the training or coach that I truly need: Lovlina after early World C'ships exit

LIVERPOOL, Sept 7: Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain expressed frustration over inadequate training opportunities after crashing out in the first round of the World Boxing Championships, saying that she always doesn't get the training she "truly needs".

Returning to international competition after more than a year, the Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist looked out of rhythm in a 0-5 loss to Turkey's Busra Isildar in the 75kg round of 16 bout on Saturday.

"After 1 year away, I stepped into my first international competition. I lost in my very first fight. It hurts. I'm sorry, I couldn't do it this time. But everyone knows - I never fight for anything else, only for my training. I never demand luxury, I only ask for good training," Lovlina posted on X on Saturday.

The 27-year-old rued the lack of exposure in the build-up to Paris Olympics and beyond, contrasting it with the support system she had before the Tokyo Games.

"Before the Tokyo Olympics, we had proper international camps. I used to request international sparring partners for train-

ing. But before the Paris Olympics, I got very few competitions and very little international camp exposure.

"Without good sparring partners, how can I keep improving myself? Even in the Paris Olympics, I stood alone. Every time, I have to prove myself again and again. And everyone knows mental strength is just as important in sports as physical strength."

"Still, even after giving everything to my country, I don't always get the training or coach that I truly need. Every fight I enter, I cross difficulties alone. Tell me... is it right to always keep my head down, to keep training silently despite everything?"

Post Paris, Indian boxing slipped into a lull with the Boxing Federation of India skipping major international tournaments.

While the senior men's team still featured in two World Boxing Cups, women got just one international competition.

To make matters worse, the Assam state unit did not field a team at the delayed nationals due to infighting in the federation, leaving Lovlina out. She had to rely on a domestic meet to rejoin the national camp. (PTI)

Demow Handball Club felicitates handball player Rimpi Burhagohain

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, Sept 7: Rimpi Burhagohain, an athlete and a resident of Bokota near Demow, won 3 gold medals in the World Police and Fire Games 2025 held in the USA. The Demow Handball Club had organised a felicitation programme at the Demow Public Playground on Sunday to felicitate Rimpi Burhagohain. In the felicitation programme, Arup Kumar Dutta, President of Demow Handball Club, delivered the welcome speech and Manjur Ali, secretary and coach of the Demow Handball Club, anchored the programme. Jadab Changmai, working president of Demow Handball Club, spoke and congratulated Rimpi Burhagohain for her achievement. Rimpi Burhagohain said she was a student of Demow Handball Club before going to athlete sports and said she came from Bokota to take training in Demow Handball Club. The Demow Handball Club felicitated Rimpi Burhagohain with a phulam gamosa and a citation. In the felicitation programme, the certificates were presented to the teams who played handball at the Demow Public Playground on the 42nd Abhiruchi Sports Day. In the felicitation programme, sports lovers, former handball players, and students of Demow Handball Club were present.

South Zone advance to Duleep Trophy final after draw with North Zone

BENGALURU, Sept 7: N Jagadeesan struck an unbeaten 52 to extend South Zone's dominance as they advanced to the final of the Duleep Trophy after taking a 175-run first-innings lead against North Zone here on Sunday.

South Zone will take on Central Zone in the summit clash of the tournament here from September 11. South Zone reached 95 for one when the game was called off with Jagadeesan, who had struck a brilliant 197 in the first innings, reaching 52 not out off 69 balls with six fours to carry on with his red-hot form. At the other end was Devdutt Padikkal on 16 not out. North Zone, under pressure after their opponents piled up 536 in the first innings, had resumed the play on Sunday at 278 for five with 258 runs in arrears. Shubham Khajuria, who struck a gritty century on the third day of the contest to reach 128, failed to add to his overnight score as he was cleaned up by Vasuki Koushik for the first wicket on the final day's second over.

Khajuria's innings ended on 128 off 252 balls with 20 fours and a six. Sahil Lotra (19) and Mayank Dagar (31) tried to delay the inevitable but their partnership of 47 runs for the seventh wicket did not trouble the South Zone much. (PTI)

Assam girls register win in 30th National Women Football Championship

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 7: In the group - E league matches of the ongoing 30th National Women Football Championship for Rajmata Jijabai Trophy of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), played here at Karbi Anglong Sports Association (KASA) stadium on Saturday (September 6), Assam girls registered with a huge win against the visitors Tripura senior women team with 7-0.

The match witnessed a one-sided affair with the host team Assam women dominating the field. Apurna Narzary scored 4 goals, while Roni Devi and Maidangshri

Narzary scored one goal each for their team. Tripura girls converted their own goal to add Assam seven goals. While Tripura were lacking behind in the stipulated time of 90 minutes match and failed to convert any goal. At the end the match went in favour of Assam girls with a score of 7-0.

The Assam girls have already won two of the three matches in the group stage. In the inaugural match played on September 4, they dominated the Mizoram girls with 5-1 win. With yesterday's win the Assam girls have collected 6 points. Their last group match



will be on Monday (September 8) against the visitors Arunachal Pradesh. Assam girl's team is coached by Horen Engti and manager Melina Terangpi.

In another match played on the same day between Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, where the match ended scoreless. The two teams shared one point each.

AIFF forms 3-member panel headed by Justice Rao to oversee selection of new commercial partner

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has formed a three-member committee headed by former judge Justice L Nageswara Rao to oversee the entire tender process for selecting its new commercial partner as per a directive of the Supreme Court.

The September 2 order of the SC, before which a case relating to the constitution of the AIFF is pending, had also cleared the way for conducting the Indian Super League (ISL) which had been put on hold since July 11 by the event organisers FSDI, who are also the current commercial partners of the national federation.

"To oversee the selection process, the Executive Committee (of the AIFF) resolved to form a three-member Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC). The BEC will be chaired by Hon'ble Justice L Nageswara Rao, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India," the AIFF said in a statement on Sunday.

The other two officials of the committee are Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) Audit and Compliance Committee member Kesavaran Murugasu and AIFF President Kalyan Chaudhary.

The SC had said that Justice Rao can appoint one or two professionals to assist him in the process of finalising the AIFF's commercial partner.

The decision to form the three-member committee was taken by the AIFF Executive Committee after a virtual meeting on Saturday. The AIFF also decided to hold the Super Cup tournament -- a domestic tournament open to clubs across multiple tiers -- from October 25 to November 22 in a phased manner.

"(The executive committee) approved the Federation's Request for Quotation (RFQ) process for selecting an agency to manage and award the rights to monetise AIFF's commercial properties for a limited term," the AIFF said.

The duration of the commercial rights, it is learnt, will be a matter of internal discussion and likely to be multi-year and not too short. It is expected to be as per global best practices.

Additionally, the AIFF said its Task Force Committee on the Master Rights Agreement (MRA), which was constituted at the Executive Committee meeting on April 7 this year "will continue as the Tender Committee to evaluate the recommendations of the professional services firm".

Crisis surfaced in the country's domestic game after ISL organisers Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) put the 2025-26 season "on hold" on July 11 due to uncertainty over the renewal of the MRA with the national federation,

prompting at least three clubs to either pause first-team operations or suspend player and staff salaries.

The 15-year MRA, signed in 2010, expires in December.

During a hearing before the SC last month, the AIFF and FSDL submitted a consensual resolution to conduct an open, competitive and transparent tender (or equivalent process) for selection of a commercial partner to conduct the ISL in line with global best practices.

The AIFF and the FSDL agreed that the process will be concluded by October 15, 2025, thereby providing certainty to clubs, broadcasters, sponsors and other stakeholders. Subject to the consent of the AFC, the ISL season can thereafter commence in December, they had told the court.

The agreement between the two parties came a couple of days after the world football governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation threatened an international ban on India, issuing a stern ultimatum to the AIFF that it must adopt and ratify a new constitution by October 30 or risk suspension.

In the resolution submitted to the SC, FSDL has agreed to: "Waive its contractual Right of First Negotiation and Right to Match under the MRA dated 08 December 2010." (PTI)

Lakhimpur district win U-19 Girls' Inter-District Cricket Tournament



HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, Sept 7: Lakhimpur district won the Under-19 Girls' Inter-District Cricket Tournament 2025, which was played at Khirod Barua Stadium, Morigaon, today. Lakhimpur district defeated Dibrugarh district by a margin of 77 runs. The final match was organized by the Assam Cricket Association (ACA). Lakhimpur won the toss and elected to bat first, setting a strong target. In reply, the Dibrugarh team was bowled out for just 54 runs in 16.2 overs of their allotted 20 overs. As a result, Lakhimpur emerged victorious by 77 runs.

Volongkom Aji SC win inaugural match of 4th Langphor MAC Cup Football Tournament

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 7: The 4th Langphor MAC Cup Football Tournament, 2025 was kicked off at Bakaliaghat Higher Secondary School playground on Sunday. The tournament is dedicated in the memory of Chittaranjan Das, former Member of Autonomous Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. The inaugural match was played between Rajapathar Friends Club and Volongkom Aji Sports Club, where Volongkom Aji won by a margin of 1-0 win over their opponent. Sarwin Hanse scored the lone goal for Volongkom Aji SC to win the match. Executive Member (EM), KAAC, Madhuram Lekhe inaugurated the tournament by kicking the football on the ground.

During the inaugural ceremony, the NCC cadets of Bakulia Higher

Secondary School (BHSS) marched past in front of large spectators. The BHSS cultural team also performed Karbi traditional dance and Bihu dance.

Mansoor Ahmed, ADC, general secretary, Karbi Anglong Sports Association (KASA) Dr. Pankaj Tiri, District Sports Officer, Riripon Ronghang, Chairman, Bakulia Municipal Board, Hemsing Teron, Chairman, Block Level Coordination Committee, Bipul Bora and Chairman, Education Board, Langsomepi Educational Block, Khoyasing Teron and other dignitaries were present during the inaugural ceremony. There are 22 teams participating in the tournament. The winner of the tournament will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹ 40,000, runners up with ₹ 20,000 and third place with ₹ 5000.