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- Indian-origin woman assaulted in 'racially aggravated' rape in UK, man arrested
- 4 protesters shot dead as tensions rise, opposition says
- CJI Gvai recommends appointment of Justice Surya Kant as next CJI
- BJP doesn't need 'crutches' in Maharashtra, says Amit Shah

Assam govt mulls ban on Veer Lachit Sena

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 27: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday issued a strong warning to the Veer Lachit Sena, signalling that the Assam government is seriously contemplating a ban on the organisation following multiple allegations of extortion, intimidation, and public disturbance across the state.

Speaking to reporters here, Sarma said the outfit has been misusing the banner of cultural activities and donation drives to create unrest and even cause environmental damage.

"Veer Lachit Sena has been disturbing the social atmosphere in the name of cultural events. If necessary, we will not hesitate to impose a ban—just like we did in the case of ULFA(I)," the Chief Minister cautioned.

Though he refrained from naming anyone, Sarma hinted that several individuals linked to the outfit are already under the police scanner.

"I am not taking any names, but action will definitely follow," he stated firmly, emphasizing the government's zero-tolerance policy toward lawlessness.

The remarks come a day after a shocking kidnapping incident in Guwahati's Borbari area on Sunday night, allegedly involving individuals associated with Veer Lachit Sena.

According to police, Rahul Mishra was abducted

around 9:30 PM from outside Pratikshya Hospital by a group of 10–15 unidentified men. His friend, Ershad Khan of Goalpara, immediately alerted Dispur Police, leading to a swift rescue operation.

Mishra was later found confined inside two vehicles—a Hyundai i20 (AS01 EM 0718) and a Bolero (AS23 Q 3566)—at Tribeni Path. Police arrested six suspects on the spot and nabbed two more later during follow-up raids. Preliminary interrogation has pointed to possible links with Veer Lachit Sena members, though officials have not yet confirmed direct organisational involvement. Sources in the Home Department said the government has taken serious note of the outfit's alleged involvement in repeated incidents of intimidation and forced "donation" collection from local businesses and individuals. Reports of similar extortion activities under the guise of cultural initiatives have surfaced in various districts in recent months.

Senior police officers confirmed that intelligence and surveillance operations have been stepped up in Guwahati and neighbouring areas to track those connected with such groups. Reiterating his government's firm stance, CM Sarma declared, "No individual or organisation will be allowed to take the law into their own hands. We will ensure that peace and harmony in Assam are not disturbed under any pretext."

Phase two of SIR of electoral rolls in 12 states, UTs from November 4

SIR in Assam to be held with spl order later



NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday said separate provisions of the Citizenship Act apply in Assam, and a special order will be issued for the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in the state.

Assam did not figure in the list of 12 states and Union Territories where the electoral roll clean-up exercise has been announced from November 4.

Addressing a press conference here, Kumar said a Supreme Court-supervised exercise to verify citizenship is about to be concluded in Assam, and the state has separate provisions with regard to citizenship under the Citizenship Act.

"A special order will be issued by the Election Commission to hold SIR in Assam," he said.

"Under the Citizenship Act, there are separate provisions for citizenship in Assam. Under the supervision of the Supreme Court, the exercise of checking citizenship is about to be completed. The June 24 SIR order was for the entire country. Under such circumstances, this would not have applied to Assam," Kumar said.

"So there will be separate revision orders issued for Assam, and a separate SIR date will be announced," he said. Phase two of the special (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Assam govt will welcome SIR: Himanta

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said his government will welcome the Election Commission's move to carry out a special intensive revision (SIR) in the state.

The EC is scheduled to address a press conference later in the day in New Delhi and is likely to announce the SIR of the voters' list in several states.

"I don't know the topic of the press meet. However, whatever instruction we receive from the EC, we will work accordingly," Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of an official function here.

"If SIR is announced nationwide, (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

AJYCP condemns assault on indigenous Dimasa person in Hwaiapur

HT Correspondent
BOKAJAN, Oct 27: Assam Jatiyatibadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), Bokajan Regional Committee, in a press conference held at its office, strongly condemned the physical assault on an indigenous Dimasa person on October 25.

It may be mentioned that a Dimasa tribesman was allegedly assaulted by some individuals over a land boundary dispute at Hwaiapur in West Karbi Anglong on October 25. AJYCP Bokajan president, Sandeep (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

SC refuses contempt action against lawyer in CJI shoe-throwing incident, says will consider preventive guidelines

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to initiate contempt action against a lawyer who had attempted to throw a shoe at Chief Justice of India BR Gavai but said it will consider laying down guidelines to prevent such incidents.

Noting that the CJI himself had refused to proceed against 71-year-old Rakesh Kishore, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said shouting slogans in court and hurling shoes are clear cases of contempt of court but it all depends on the judge concerned under the law whether to proceed or not.

"Issuing contempt notice will only give undue importance to the lawyer who had hurled shoe at the CJI and would increase the shelf life of the incident," the bench said, adding the incident should be allowed to die its own natural death.

The bench was hearing a plea of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) seeking contempt action against advocate Kishore, who attempted to hurl the shoe towards the CJI on October 6 during court proceedings.

Observing that though the conduct of Kishore "amounted to serious and grave criminal contempt which cannot be pardoned", Justice Kant asked whether the court should exercise its jurisdiction when the CJI has already shown leniency in pursuing the matter.

"But once the CJI has pardoned, should we go into this. Although, we are inclined to examine other aspects like the John Doe order and preventive measures," Justice Kant said.

A John Doe order is a type of legal order passed by a court that allows a person or entity to take action against an unknown party or parties.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Priyank Kcharge is a first class idiot: Himanta attacks K'taka Cong leader

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 27: A major political storm has erupted in Assam on Monday after Karnataka Rural Development Minister and Congress leader Priyank Kcharge made controversial remarks questioning the capability and talent of the youth of Assam in the context of India's growing semiconductor industry.

Kcharge's comments have triggered widespread outrage across the state, drawing strong condemnation from Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Chief Minister launched a sharp attack on Kcharge, terming the statement "an insult to the dignity and hard work of Assam's youth."

"Priyank Kcharge has exposed himself as a first-class idiot. His comment reflects a deeply prejudiced mindset that looks down upon the youth of Assam. By questioning their education and capability, he has insulted every young professional from our state. The Congress has not condemned his words, which clearly shows how they view the Northeast. We are exploring legal options against him for his divisive and derogatory remark," Sarma told reporters here.

The Assam BJP also hit back strongly through a scathing post on social media, ridiculing Kcharge for his "arrogant outburst." "If 'talent' means boot-licking (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Mukhyamantrir Nijut Moina Asoni has emerged as a beacon of hope for girls: CM

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 27: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the Mukhyamantrir Nijut Moina Asoni scheme has emerged as a beacon of hope for fulfilling the dreams of girl students in the state.

Inaugurating the centrally organised Nijut Moina 2.0 cheque distribution programme at the Arjun Bhogswar Baruah Sports Complex at Sarusajai here on Monday, the chief minister said that the scheme has empowered girls who are now excelling across various sectors.

It may be noted that the scheme will benefit over 3.5 lakh girl students in the 2025–26 academic year, compared to more than 1.6 lakh beneficiaries in 2024–25.

Under the scheme, students of Classes XI and XII will receive ₹ 1,000 per month, students enrolled in integrated teacher training and undergraduate programmes will receive ₹ 1,250 per month, and postgraduate students will get ₹ 2,500 per month, for a maximum of ten months.

The chief minister said that last year 1,61,302 students benefited from the scheme, while this year 3,50,265 students will receive assistance.

He stated that the increase reflects rising enrolment of girls in higher education.

He added that the scheme has prevented dropouts and instilled confidence among young women.

Sarma said the scheme has also helped in discouraging child marriage in the state.

He informed that the government has taken strong measures to curb the practice and has arrested about eight thousand people involved in child marriage in the last two years.

He said that the government aims to support parents who earlier married off their daughters due to poverty.

The chief minister highlighted other government initiatives for girls, including free college admissions, bicycles for Class IX students, scooters for meritorious higher secondary students, and reservation for women in government services.

He announced that Nijut Moina will now also cover girls studying in the fifth semester of undergraduate courses, as well as those enrolled in state polytechnic institutes and ITIs, with a target of supporting 10 lakh girls in total.

Sarma said that while more funds are needed to expand the scheme further, the state is working toward generating resources while ensuring equitable development.

He also announced that students appearing for the upcoming matric examination will receive ₹ 300 per month from November 15 to the end of the examination period, and beneficiaries of Nijut Moina will receive a special gift in February.

He informed that while the first installment of Nijut Moina 2.0 has been distributed through cheques, the funds will be transferred (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Assam planning 7-year jail for polygamy in new bill

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: The proposed law against polygamy will have a punishment of at least seven years, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

The bill will be introduced in the assembly on November 25, the first day of the winter session, he said at the launch of the second phase of the 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina' scheme.

"If a person marries another woman without legally divorcing his wife, then there will be provision of seven years or more imprisonment irrespective of his religion," he told the beneficiary girls attending the programme.

The accused may say that his religion permits it, but the BJP government will never allow polygamy, he added.

Sarma said, "We will protect the dignity of women in this state at any cost."

The government last year launched the 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina' scheme to support girl education by providing monthly financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 for Class 11 students, ₹ 1,250 for first-year undergraduates and ₹ 2,500 for first-year postgraduates, and BEd students for 10 months.

"Because of this scheme, the enrolment rate rose and the dropout rate of girls declined substantially

KAAC troupe showcases indigenous agrarian dance traditions on global stage

Karbi traditional dance troupe performs at Cultural Olympiad in Thailand



HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 27: A 12-member Karbi cultural troupe showcased a medley of traditional Karbi dances on the world stage at the ongoing five-day 15th Cultural Olympiad of Performing Arts, being held from October 25 to 29 at Burapha University, Pattaya, Thailand.

The troupe performed Ritnong Chingdi (cultivation dance), Han Up Ahi Kebi (community bamboo shoot collection dance), Lengpum Sokchon (paddy pounding dance), and Hacha Kekan (post-harvest dance), depicting the agrarian life and cultural heritage of the Karbi community.

The performance, staged before a packed audience at 6 p.m., drew attention for its distinct rhythm, traditional music and vibrant attire.

The festival has been organised by Akhil Bhartiya Sankruti Sansthan (ABSS) Global Council of Art & Culture, an official partner of UNESCO, to bring together artists from across the world.

Several tribal communities from India are also participating to showcase their traditional performing arts.

The Karbi troupe, representing the Karbi Traditional Music and Cultural Research Institute (KTMCRI) under the Art & Culture Department of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), comprises 12 performers and officials, a team of 20 led by KAAC Executive Member (Art & Culture) Surya Rongphar, Tribal Culture Research Officer Dilip Kathar, and KTMCRI Principal Bonsam Kathar.

The group left for Thailand on October 24. Members of the Karbi Cultural Society, including general secretary Sunil Tokbi, publicity secretary Hingchong Tisso, office secretary Suren Hanse and secretary (traditional attire) Francis Timung, are also part of the delegation.

Speaking after the performance, TCRO Dilip Kathar said the troupe's presentation received enthusiastic appreciation.

"The dance was unique and captivating, with perfect coordination between the footsteps and the rhythm of the drums. Many in the audience (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

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SC allows Centre to examine Vodafone Idea's plea against DoT's AGR demands

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: The Supreme Court on Monday permitted the Centre to consider telecom major Vodafone Idea Ltd's plea seeking quashing of the Department of Telecommunication's additional adjusted gross revenue (AGR) demands for the period up to 2016-17, observing the issue falls within the policy domain of the government.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Vodafone Idea challenging fresh AGR-related demands raised by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT).

The company contended that these additional claims were unsustainable as the liabilities had already been crystallised by the apex court's 2019 judgment on AGR dues.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed the court that the government now holds 49 per cent equity in Vodafone Idea



and that around 20 crore consumers depend on its services.

He submitted that given these circumstances, the Centre was willing to examine the issues raised by the company to ensure consumer interests are safeguarded.

The bench noted the petition has been filed seeking the quashing of additional AGR demands for 2016-17 and further directions to comprehensively reassess all dues.

"The solicitor general on in-

structions states that taking into consideration, the change in circumstances that is the Centre acquiring 49 per cent equity and 20 crore customers utilising the service of the petitioner, the Union is willing to examine the issues raised by the petitioner (company)," the bench said.

"Taking into the consideration the status of the case now, the government has infused substantial equity into the company and that it will have direct bearing on 20

crores customers, we see no issue in the Union reconsidering the issue and taking appropriate steps," the CJI said in the order.

The bench clarified that the issue fell under the policy domain of the Union and said, "There is no reason as to why that Union should be prevented from doing, with that view of the matter, we dispose of the writ petition."

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Vodafone Idea, argued that the DoT's additional demand of ₹ 5,606 crore for FY 2016-17 was unsustainable since the dues had already been determined following the Supreme Court's 2019 verdict.

The AGR represents the income figure used to calculate the licence fees and spectrum usage charges payable by telecom operators to the government.

The dispute over AGR, particularly its inclusion of non-telecom income, led to massive liabilities on telecom operators, with Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel being among the hardest hit. (PTI)

Bristol Myers Squibb launches Kopozgo® (Mavacamten)

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) has announced the launch of Kopozgo® (Mavacamten) in India for the treatment of adults with symptomatic New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class II-III obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (oHCM).

Kopozgo is the first and only oral, selective cardiac myosin inhibitor approved in India that directly targets the underlying pathophysiology of obstructive HCM.

Obstructive HCM is often inherited and can be a chronic and progressive condition.

Patients typically experience shortness of breath, dizziness and fatigue, and may face serious complications, including heart failure, arrhythmias, stroke and, in rare cases, sudden cardiac death.

The condition affects approximately 1 in 500 people worldwide, and an estimated 2.8 million individuals in India may be living with it, although 80-90 per cent remain undiagnosed.

Current treatment options in India, such as beta blockers, calcium channel blockers and disopyramide, are aimed at symptom control rather than addressing the root cause.

Surgical procedures including septal reduction therapy are available but may not be suitable for all patients and require specialised expertise, leaving a significant unmet medical need.

Kopozgo is the first disease-specific therapy that works by targeting the core mechanism of obstructive HCM and improving the functional capacity of the heart. Mavacamten received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), with an import licence issued on March 6, 2025, and is now available for patients in India.

Its approval is based on positive efficacy and safety results from Phase III clinical trials EXPLORER-HCM and VALOR-HCM.

Sensex jumps 567 pts amid global stocks rally on hopes of US-China trade deal, Fed rate cuts

MUMBAI, Oct 27: Benchmark BSE Sensex jumped by nearly 567 points and broader Nifty closed above 25,900 on Monday following a sharp rally in global markets, as softer-than-expected US inflation reignited hopes of Fed rate cuts this year.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 566.96 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 84,778.84. During the day, it surged 720.2 points or 0.85 per cent to 84,932.08.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 170.90 points or 0.66 per cent to 25,966.05.

Prospects of a US-China trade deal and fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the markets' optimism, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, Eternal, State Bank of India, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank were the major gainers.

However, Kotak Mahindra Bank fell the most by 1.74 per cent after its September quarter results. The private lender reported an 11 per cent decline in consolidated net profit for the September quarter.

Bharat Electronics, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were also among the laggards.

PSU banks index outperformed, rallying 2.76 per cent, whereas defence and media shares fell due to profit booking.

"The domestic market witnessed a broad-based recovery owing to progress in the US-China trade talks. Softer-than-expected US CPI data renewed expectations of a FED rate cut this week, boosting investor confidence. Easing global headwinds, coupled with strong domestic reforms, provided cues for domestic earnings growth and justified the current premium valuations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.72 per cent and



smallcap index went up by 0.51 per cent.

Telecommunication surged 2.37 per cent, oil & gas jumped 1.50 per cent, energy (1.44 per cent), realty (1.42 per cent), tech (0.88 per cent), commodities (0.79 per cent) and services (0.66 per cent).

Healthcare emerged as the only laggard. A total of 2,178 stocks advanced while 2,114 declined and 210 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"Indian equity benchmarks ended the session on a strong note on Monday. Softer-than-expected US CPI data fueled expectations of a potential Fed rate cut this week, bolstering investor sentiment. Meanwhile, optimism over progress in US-China trade talks further supported a broad-based market rebound," according to Bajaj Broking Research.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled sharply higher.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹ 621.51 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

Gold falls to ₹ 1,25,900/10 g in Delhi as trade optimism dulls safe haven demand

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Gold prices declined by ₹ 700 to ₹ 1,25,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, tracking weak global trends as easing US-China trade tensions dented safe-haven demand.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal had climbed ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,26,600 per 10 grams on Saturday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also fell by ₹ 700 to ₹ 1,25,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at ₹ 1,26,000 per 10 grams in the previous session.

"Gold resumed trading on a weaker note on Monday as signs of easing US-China trade tensions have increased investors' interest in

riskier assets, creating a negative impact on precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the local bullion market, silver prices slumped sharply by ₹ 4,250 to ₹ 1,51,250 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. The white metal had ended at ₹ 1,55,500 per kg, up by ₹ 2,900 on Saturday.

On Sunday, top economic officials from Washington and Beijing agreed on the framework of a potential trade deal, which is expected to be discussed when US President Donald Trump meets his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in South Korea later this week.

In the overseas markets, spot gold extended the losses for the sec-

ond straight day, by dropping USD 97.86, or 2.38 per cent to USD 4,015.55 per ounce.

Gandhi said investors continued to take profits and withdraw from gold-backed exchange-traded funds, adding further pressure on the bullion prices.

"We believe bullion will remain under selling pressure in the short term, and the downside will intensify once spot gold slips below the USD 4,000 per ounce level," he noted.

Spot silver was quoted 2.03 per cent lower at USD 47.60 an ounce in overseas markets.

Investors are shifting their focus to central bank meetings later this week. (PTI)

Japan-based Honda Motor picks minority stake in domestic renewable energy player OMC Power

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Auto major Honda Motor Co Ltd has picked up a minority stake in OMC Power, becoming the third Japanese company to invest in the homegrown entity, which is working to build a 1 gigawatt renewable energy (RE) portfolio in India, according to industry sources.

The investment has come at a time when OMC Power is entering into a new business vertical where the company will deploy electric vehicle (EV) batteries as a battery energy storage system (BESS) solution, and re-purpose the old EV batteries to support UPS (uninterrupted power supply), like the inverters or some similar kind of applications.

According to industry sources, Honda Motor is learnt to have picked up a 5-10 per cent stake in OMC Power and may increase its share in the future.

In an interaction, OMC Power MD & CEO Rohit Chandra said both companies had been in talks for over 4 years to work out a business collaboration. It is the result of research and development, market studies, feasibility studies, and customer trials, all of which have led to this investment now.

It is also the first investment made by Honda Motor in a distributed energy platform in India, he noted.

"It is a win-win situation for both of us. Our partner is a leader in automobiles. It is coming up in EVs in a big way. Honda Motor will share its technical know-how, and we will provide them with the opportunities in our 1 GW journey," he said.



Honda Motor has become the third Japanese entity to invest in OMC Power, joining Mitsui & Co. and Chubu Electric Power as existing investors.

As per sources, while Mitsui & Co. has a 26 per cent stake, Chubu Electric Power, with a 30 per cent equity stake, is the largest Japanese investor in OMC Power.

In a media statement, OMC Power said the collaboration aims to extend the lifecycle of EV batteries, while addressing the needs of storage-based stationary applications.

"Honda and OMC have demonstrated the potential of repurposing Honda's detachable and portable batteries, originally used in electric two- and three-wheelers, for innovative storage-based clean energy solutions," it said.

Through this strategic alliance, Honda and OMC will co-develop advanced energy storage solutions, creating a new business vertical for OMC. The partnership will enable the large-scale deployment of storage-based solutions for mini-grid stabilisation, telecom infrastructure, rooftop hybrid solar

solutions, and other distributed energy applications, it said.

Minoru Kato, Executive Officer, Chief Officer for Motorcycle and Power Products Operations, Honda Motor Co Ltd, said, "In India, where the shift toward electric motorcycles is progressing, Honda will strive to establish a resource-circulating value chain by facilitating the repurposing of end-of-life electric motorcycle batteries."

Sharing a breakdown of the planned 1 GWp (gigawatt peak) or 1,000 MWP capacity -- which will involve an investment of over ₹ 4,000 crore, Chandra said around 600 MWP will be achieved from rooftop solarisation for customers in the healthcare space, where it has a capacity of 75 MWP.

Around 200 MWP will be added to its green energy for telecom verticals, where the company supplies power to tower companies from 15 MWP capacity.

To serve rural areas, the company plans to add another 100 MWP to its smart grids, bringing its operational capacity to 10 MWP.

Chandra said the fifth segment will be launched next month with the joining of two Honda Motor officials to the management team of OMC Power, who will support OMC Power with their technical expertise.

OMC Power will add 100 MWP in solar EPC space for MSME and C&I (Commercial and Industrial) customers, starting with 5 MWP.

All these projects will be worked out in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, and the northeastern states. (PTI)

'Stranger Things: The Experience' to open at Yas Island from Nov 14

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, is set to host the Middle East debut of "Stranger Things: The Experience" beginning November 14.

Inspired by the popular Netflix series, the attraction will recreate the fictional town of Hawkins, Indiana, offering visitors an immersive walk-through experience. The experience will include detailed sets, live actors, and special effects similar to its earlier editions in New York, London, and Paris.

Visitors will move through locations associated with the series, from Hawkins Lab to the Upside Down. The visit concludes in a "Mix-Tape" zone featuring 1980s-themed food, photo areas, merchandise and elements linked to key moments from the show.

The opening coincides with global anticipation around the upcoming fifth and final season of "Stranger Things."

Liam Findlay, CEO of Miral Destinations, said the



collaboration reflects Yas Island's effort to bring major international entertainment offerings to the destination. "It's an invitation to step into one of the most defining universes of our time," he stated.

The experience is open to both returning fans of the series and those engaging with its storyline for the first time. Further details are available at yasisland.com, and visitors may join the waitlist on the official event site.

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SIR in Assam to

intensive revision (SIR) exercise will begin on November 4 with the enumeration state and continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

The states and Union Territories are: the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Among these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. Phase two of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise will begin on November 4 with the enumeration state and continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

The CEC said the ongoing SIR is the ninth such exercise since Independence, with the last one happening in 2002-04.

He highlighted that the first phase of the SIR was completed in Bihar with zero appeals. "The second phase will be conducted in 12 states and Union Territories. SIR will ensure no eligible elector is left out and no ineligible elector is included in poll rolls," Kumar said at a press conference.

"Phase two of SIR will cover 51 crore voters. While the enumeration process will begin on November 4, the draft rolls will be published on December 9 and final electoral rolls on February 7," he added.

The CEC also ruled out any confrontation with the West Bengal government, where the ruling Trinamool Congress has expressed reservations about the SIR exercise in the state.

"There is no hurdle between the Election Commission and the state government. The Commission is doing its constitutional duty by carrying out the SIR, and the state government will discharge its constitutional duties," Kumar said.

The CEC said state governments were bound to provide the necessary personnel to the Election Commission for the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of polls.

The last SIR in states will serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar was used by the EC for intensive revision. (PTI)

Assam govt will

definitely we will welcome it. We have already conveyed our view to the central government in this regard," he added. The poll panel is likely to announce the first phase of SIR, in which 10 to 15 states will be covered, including those going to assembly polls in 2026.

Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry are scheduled to go to polls next year. (PTI)

SC refuses contempt action

SCBA, contended that the CJI's pardon was in his "individual capacity" and could not bind the institution and its decisions.

"The CJI took the decision in his individual capacity and we being integral part of this institution can't let this incident go. People are making jokes about this incident and glorifying it. Please issue notice to him and if he does not express any remorse, send him to jail from here only," Singh submitted.

He said that since the CJI decided to let him go has emboldened him and if he had been sent to jail on the same day of the attack the glorification of the incident could have stopped.

The court then said it will consider laying down guidelines to prevent such incidents.

Justice Bagchi, while referring to the Contempt of Court Act, asked whether contempt proceedings can be initiated by another bench once the presiding judge who faced the act has chosen not to do so.

"Throwing of a shoe or shouting slogans in court are contemptuous acts on the face of it under section 14 (of contempt of court Act). In such cases, it is left to the judge concerned to decide whether to initiate contempt. The CJI in his gracious magnanimity chose to ignore. Now, is it within the domain of another bench or even the Attorney General to give consent for contempt? Please see section 15," Justice Bagchi said. Singh said that while the CJI had initially decided not to press charges, Kishore later gave media interviews boasting about his act and vowing to repeat it.

Justice Kant replied that since the CJI had opted not to proceed under section 14 of the Act, it may not be open to any other authority to revive the issue.

"That's the end of contempt on the face of the court," he said, adding any instant punitive measure on the day of the incident "might have flared up irresponsible people" and that the Court should now focus on preventive steps. Singh argued that the subsequent conduct of Kishore such as his public statements and glorification of the act constituted a fresh offence.

Justice Kant agreed that glorification of the act raised a "serious concern" and said the Court would examine with the help of SCBA what preventive guidelines could be framed.

"With your suggestions, we would like to lay down guidelines. But giving undue importance to one individual will rather glorify him," he observed.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who supported the SCBA's concern, however said that any action could reignite the controversy.

"His shelf life in social media is for a few more days. He is not such a big man but any action against him will make him one. With issuance of notice, the shelf life might be extended. He might start playing a victim card," Mehta said. Singh said if the court does not take any action then "tomorrow he may say SC did not have guts to take action."

Justice Kant said that in his over two-decade old career in judiciary and Justice Bagchi with a career of over 15-16 years are thick-skinned and not bothered what these people say.

The bench while adjourning the matter for next Monday asked Mehta to collate details of incidents like shoe attacks in different courts.

On October 16, the top court said the right to free speech and expression cannot be exercised at the cost of others' dignity and integrity as it cautioned about the dangers of "unregulated" social media, observing that incidents like the recent incident in the top court are nothing but "money-spinning ventures".

On October 6, Kishore attempted to hurl a shoe towards the CJI in his courtroom which prompted the Bar Council of India to suspend his license with immediate effect.

The CJI, who remained unfazed during and after the unprecedented incident during the court proceedings, asked the court officials and the security personnel present inside the courtroom to "just ignore" it and to let off the errand lawyer with a warning. The incident had sparked widespread condemnation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi while condemning the incident also spoke to the CJI. (PTI)

Priyank Kharge is a

the boss and snatching biscuits meant for Rahul Gandhi's pet, then thank God the people of Assam are talentless. Mr. Junior Kharge, apart from being born as Senior Kharge's son, do you have any actual skill? This father-son franchise has made a habit of insulting Assam," the party said.

Accusing the state Congress unit of maintaining silence, the BJP added, "Once again, their local brigade, including their Paajjaan, will seal their lips with Fevicol."

Notably, while speaking to the media on the Union government's semiconductor investment plans, Kharge expressed displeasure over projects being sanctioned for Gujarat and Assam instead of Karnataka.

"Why are semiconductor industries going to Gujarat and Assam when they should be in Bengaluru? The investments meant for Karnataka are being diverted. What is there in these two states? Is there any talent in Assam and Gujarat?" he reportedly said.

The remarks — seen by many as disparaging and elitist — have been widely criticised across Assam's political spectrum and civil society, with several organisations demanding a public apology from the Congress leader for what they described as an "insult to the people of the Northeast."

Mukhyamantrir Nijut Moina

directly to students' bank accounts on the 10th of every month from next month. Students who face issues can file complaints through the helpline.

Education Minister Ranoo Pegu, Rajya Sabha MP Bhubaneswar Kalita, Lok Sabha MP Bijuli Kalita Medhi, MLAs and senior government officials were present at the event.

AJYCP condemns assault

Saikia, said that it is unfortunate that people coming from outside and staying on indigenous land have assaulted a local person.

He warned that such incidents should not recur, failing which appropriate steps would be taken.

The press conference was attended by AJYCP Bokajan secretary, Niloy Duwarah, AJYCP Central Executive Committee member, Jitu Phukon, and AJYCP worker, Waisong Terang.

Karbi traditional dance

recorded the performance on their phones," he said. He added that presenting Karbi culture on a global platform was a moment of pride and an opportunity to introduce the community's rich heritage to the world. The results of the competition will be announced on October 28.

Over 350,000 girls will receive benefit under the scheme in 2025–26

Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0 cheques distributed to girl students

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Oct 27: Cheques under the Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0 scheme were distributed to girl students in Karbi Anglong through a live-streamed event led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The scheme provides financial assistance to girl students pursuing higher education, aiming to reduce dropout rates and support their education and basic needs.

Under the scheme, students in higher secondary (HS) first year receive ₹ 1,000 per month, graduate students ₹ 1,250 per month, and postgraduate students ₹ 2,500 per month, each for ten months. For the 2025–26 academic year, over 3.5 lakh girl students across Assam will benefit.

In Karbi Anglong, the ceremonial distribution was held at Sarsing Teron (Langkung Habe) Memorial Town Hall. Executive Member of KAAC Education Department Richard Tokbi, along with MAC Rina Terangpi and District Commissioner Nirola Phangchopi, joined the live streaming of the Chief Minister's cheque distribution from Guwahati.

Tokbi said, "This is a joyful day for our students, especially girls, as the initiative empowers them to achieve self-reliance and motivates them to excel. We thank CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma for his vision and EM Dr. Tuliram Ronghang for this opportunity."

In Karbi Anglong, 4,491 girl students will receive benefits—2,172 at higher education level, 2,227 at secondary education level, and 19 under SCERT. Distribution centres included Diphu Government College, Rukasen College, Thongnokbe College, Government Model College, Deithor and Eastern Karbi Anglong College, Sarihajan.

In West Karbi Anglong, 815 girls will benefit, including 163 at higher educa-

tion level and 652 at secondary level.

Our Haflong Correspondent adds: The Assam Mukhyamantrir Nijut Moina 2.0 Scheme 2025 was launched in Haflong with the ceremonial distribution of cheques to girl students by North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council CEM Debolal Gorlosa and Minister Nandita Gorlosa. A total of 2,747 students in Dima Hasao district are being benefitted under the scheme.

The event was attended by District Commissioner Munindra Nath Ngatey and Haflong Municipal Board Chairperson Ripa Hojai.

In his address, CEM Debolal Gorlosa highlighted the importance of the scheme in supporting girls facing financial challenges that hinder their education. He said, "The Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni is not just a scheme, it is a heartfelt promise to the daughters of Assam that no girl will have to discontinue her education due to financial hardship or social barriers."

He also mentioned that under his leadership, meritorious students in the district securing the first, second, and third positions in the matriculation examination are awarded ₹ 20,000, ₹ 15,000, and ₹ 10,000 respectively. Additionally, the council has introduced a free "Super 30" coaching programme for UPSC and APSC aspirants, which has already helped many students achieve success in competitive exams.

Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Nandita Gorlosa stated that the scheme provides financial grants as admission incentives for continued education — ₹ 1,000 for Higher Secondary, ₹ 1,250 for Graduation, and ₹ 2,500 for Post-graduation studies. She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for introducing this initiative, saying it empowers girls to pursue higher education and live with dignity.

The programme began with a wel-



come address by DC Munindra Nath Ngatey, who emphasised the government's commitment to supporting students and urged them to focus on their studies with sincerity.

Alongside the local event, a live screening of the state-level launch was held, where Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma formally inaugurated the scheme in the presence of Education Minister Dr Ranoj Pegu and other dignitaries.

The event at Haflong Municipal Community Field witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and the public. It concluded with a vote of thanks by Assistant Commissioner Kankan Saikia, ACS, who also anchored the programme.

Our Margherita Correspondent adds: The ceremonial distribution of cheques under the ambitious "Mukhyamantrir Nijut Moina Asoni" scheme was

held on Monday at Margherita College and Ledo College under Margherita Co-District.

The programme also featured a live telecast of the central event from Guwahati, where Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma addressed the gathering. In his speech, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that every girl in the state has access to higher education and opportunities for self-reliance.

At Margherita College, Co-District Commissioner Rahul Doley attended as the guest of honour. In his address, he highlighted the visionary goal of the scheme—to empower girl students through education, promote financial independence and eliminate child marriage by enabling continued academic pursuit.

He also stressed that peace and development are key drivers of national growth and urged students to make meaningful

use of the scheme's benefits to build a progressive and educated society.

The event was also attended by Disen Tiponia, MLA Bhaskar Sharma's representative, Suman Khalein, president of Margherita BJP Sadar Mandal, Margherita College Vice Principal Dr Gautam Purkashtya, faculty members and students.

A similar programme was simultaneously held at Ledo College, where Anand Kumar, Chairman of Margherita Municipal Board, interacted with the beneficiaries and lauded the state government's commitment to women's empowerment and equitable education.

A total of 1,372 girl students from across the co-district have been identified as beneficiaries under this transformative initiative. The beneficiaries include students from Ledo College, Ledo Senior Secondary School,

Margherita College, Margherita Public HS School and Tirap HS School.

Under the "Mukhyamantrir Nijut Moina Asoni" scheme, monthly financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 is provided to Higher Secondary students, ₹ 1,250 to Degree students and ₹ 2,500 to Postgraduate and B Ed students. The cheques are credited directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts to ensure transparency and accountability.

The day's events across Margherita Co-District reflected a shared spirit of optimism and progress, celebrating the empowerment of young women who symbolise the bright future of Assam.

Our Nagaon Correspondent adds: The Assam government's flagship scheme for girl students, 'Chief Minister Nijut Moina 2.0,' was ceremonially launched on Monday at Nehrubali Field in Nagaon. The initiative aims to empower around 10 lakh girl students across the state by providing financial assistance for higher education.

The programme was attended by Rupak Sharma, MLA of Nagaon-Batadroba constituency, who distributed cheques to the beneficiaries. The launch was also streamed live from Guwahati, where the Chief Minister formally inaugurated the scheme.

The 'Nijut Moina 2.0' scheme is expected to play a key role in promoting girl child education, reducing child marriage and increasing enrollment of girls in higher education. In Nagaon district, a total of 19,369 girl students are set to benefit from the initiative.

The event was attended by several officials, including District Commissioner Debashish Sarma, Gitanjali Hazarika, president of Nagaon Zila Parishad, and principals of various colleges and schools. Similar cheque distribution ceremonies were also held across other constituencies in the district as part of the programme.

Mock drill on disaster preparedness at Tamulpur HS School



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Oct 27: A mock drill on disaster management was conducted on Monday at Tamulpur Higher Secondary School to raise awareness about disaster preparedness among students and the public.

The event was organised by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) under the initiative of the Tamulpur District Administration. The exercise demonstrated coordinated response measures for various emergency situations, including earthquakes, fire incidents and accidents.

Officials from multiple departments, along with students and staff of the school, actively participated in the drill. Senior district officials, personnel from the SSB, Fire and Emergency Services and the NDRF were also present during the exercise.

Authorities informed that a similar mock drill will be conducted across 41 schools in the district on October 29 at 10:30 AM as part of a district-wide disaster preparedness campaign.

The programme aimed to strengthen awareness, coordination and readiness among students and citizens to respond effectively in times of disaster.

Mega health camp at Naduar registers over 3,400 beneficiaries

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Oct 27: A LAC-wise Mega Health Camp for the Naduar Legislative Assembly Constituency was held on Sunday at Baresahariya Kheta, Pokamura Pathar, Jamugurihat, Sonitpur, under the "Susrusa Setu 2025" initiative of the Government of Assam. The initiative, launched during "Seva Hi Samarpan: Seva Saptah," aims to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. This was the fourth such camp organised in Sonitpur district under the programme.

The camp was inaugurated by Naduar MLA Padma Hazarika in the presence of Co-District Commissioner of Naduar Co-District Manash Kumar Saikia, ADC (Health) Twahir Alam, Joint Director of Health Services Dr Biman Sarma, District Programme Manager (NHM) and other dignitaries and health officials attended the event.

The camp witnessed an impressive turnout with around 3,403 registrations recorded. Ten registration counters, two Mobile Medical Units, one General Laboratory, ten Specialist OPDs, one General OPD, one AYUSH OPD and a Cancer Screening Facility were set up to provide healthcare services. Over 200 health personnel, including doctors, lab technicians, ASHA and ANM workers, and officials from the Social Welfare Department—who also organised a stall on Nutrition



and POSHAN—rendered their services to the beneficiaries.

Organised by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Assam, the Susrusa Setu 2025 health camps aim to provide comprehensive health screening for children aged 0–18 years. The screenings cover more than 50 diseases and conditions, including congenital heart diseases, neurological disorders, cleft lip and palate, congenital malformations and endocrine and haematological disorders. General health check-ups and wellness activities were also conducted as part of the initiative.

NTPC Bongaigaon wins CSR Health Impact Award 2025

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Oct 27: NTPC Bongaigaon, Salakati, has been honoured with the CSR Health Impact Award 2025 under the category of CSR Preventive Project (Rural) for its impactful cancer screening and awareness initiative conducted in collaboration with the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), a joint venture between the Government of Assam and Tata Trusts.

The award recognises NTPC Bongaigaon's CSR project that successfully reached and benefited more than 70,000

people across rural areas of Kokrajhar district through community-based cancer screening and awareness programmes. The initiative focused on early detection of oral, breast and cervical cancers, while also promoting preventive healthcare through structured outreach campaigns. The award was presented by Vimala R, IAS, Resident Commissioner and secretary, Government of Maharashtra, and Nikky Gupta, Founder of Teamwork Communications, at a ceremony held recently in New Delhi. Shubham Pandey, Assistant

Law Officer, NTPC Bongaigaon, received the award on behalf of the 750 MW power station. This recognition highlights NTPC Bongaigaon's sustained commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and its efforts to enhance healthcare access and preventive care in rural communities. The station's CSR interventions—including cancer screening, maternal and child health programmes, and initiatives to strengthen local medical infrastructure, form a vital part of its long-term goal of promoting holistic community development.

Udyam 2025 to empower local entrepreneurs

Fair to showcase MSMEs, women-led businesses and innovation from Assam and Northeast

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: The 13th India Industrial Fair (IIF) – Udyam 2025, organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), Purvottar Prant, will focus on empowering local entrepreneurs, MSMEs and women-led enterprises from Assam and the Northeast. The four-day event will be held from October 30 to November 2 at the Veterinary College Ground, Khanapara, Guwahati.

The fair, organised under the Chief Patronage of the Chief Minister of Assam and the Patronage of the Minister of Industries & Commerce, will be inaugurated by Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for MSME, Government of India, who will attend as the Guest of Honour.

Speaking at a press meet held on Monday, Partha Pratim Pathak, president, LUB Purvottar Prant, said that Udyam 2025 aims to become "one of the largest industrial platforms in Northeast India, bringing together more than 300 stalls from diverse sectors — food processing, renewable energy, electrical and electronics, plastics and packaging, pharmaceuticals, furni-

ture, handloom, handicrafts, waste management and green technologies."

He added, "Our objective is to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs and MSMEs to connect with markets, investors and buyers while showcasing Assam's growing industrial potential. This fair represents our collective effort to build an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' starting from the grassroots."

Pramod Mour, General secretary, LUB Purvottar Prant, highlighted that a dedicated segment titled 'Sayamsiddha' will showcase the success and resilience of women entrepreneurs from Assam and the Northeast. "Women have been driving the spirit of self-reliance in our region," he said. "Through Sayamsiddha, we want to give them the visibility, networking and business opportunities they deserve."

He further announced that LUB members will sponsor free stalls for small-scale entrepreneurs associated with Kisan Sangh, Seva Bharati and Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, ensuring that "every local innovator and artisan gets a fair



platform to participate."

Ashish Deorah, National Joint General secretary, LUB, said that a series of seminars will run alongside the fair to benefit young start-ups and students. "These sessions will help participants understand emerging opportunities in AI, semiconductors, environment and pollution control, and banking. Our goal is to build awareness and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs," he added.

Ravi Sureka, Immediate Past president, said Udyam 2025 is ex-

pected to attract more than 50,000 visitors, including investors, business leaders and policymakers. "We believe this fair will mark a turning point for Assam's industrial growth and bring Northeast India closer to becoming a major hub for innovation and enterprise," he remarked.

With its focus on women's empowerment, local enterprise and regional collaboration, Udyam 2025 is set to emerge as a vibrant celebration of self-reliance and entrepreneurship in Assam.

Pabitra Margherita praises Hindi speaking community

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Oct 27: Union Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of Chhath Puja celebrations. Addressing devotees at a programme organised at Janata Ghat on the Bhogdoi riverbank, Margherita praised the community for contributing to the development of the state and noted the strong bond it shared with various sections of Assamese society. He expressed hope that they would continue working together for a Viksit Assam and Viksit Bharat.

Margherita was accompanied by Kaziranga MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Jorhat MLA Hitendra Nath Goswami, and BJP Jorhat district president and AIJDC chairman Santanu Puzari. The Chhath Puja organising committee felicitated six eminent persons from different communities, including senior Safai Karmachari Mohan Basfor.

Devotees across the state celebrated Chhath Puja on Monday by offering prayers at sunset at different ghats along the Bhogdoi and Brahmaputra rivers. Large crowds carried bamboo trays laden with fruits and earthen lamps to offer obeisance to the Sun God, and many took a dip in the river. The ghats were decorated with lights and mandaps, where idols of the Sun God on a chariot pulled by horses were installed.

At the entrances to the ghats, gates featuring large portraits of legendary singer Zubeen Garg were erected as a mark of respect. In view of his recent demise, organisers announced that the usual nighttime cultural programs would not be held this year.

Vigilance Awareness Week begins at NFR

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: The observance of Vigilance Awareness Week commenced on Monday across Northeast Frontier Railway. Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager, N F Railway, administered the Integrity Pledge at the Railway Headquarters, while Anjani Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), led the pledge at the GM (CON) office in Maligaon.

Divisional Railway Managers, officers and staff from all divisions participated in the Integrity Pledge. Street plays (Nukkad Natak) were organised at both venues to engage employees and the public in promoting ethical values and transparency.

The week-long campaign, themed "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility," aims to foster integrity and eliminate corruption in all aspects of life, including the workplace. The observance will conclude on November 2, 2025.

Chhath Puja shines bright in duo hills district



HT Correspondent

KHERONI, Oct 27: The vibrant festival of Chhath Puja was celebrated with great enthusiasm across Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong, drawing devotees to offer prayers to the Sun God (Surya Bhagwan) and his consort, Usha. Key gatherings took place at Kheroni Ghat on the Kapili River and Bakoliaghat along the Jamuna River, where rituals were performed with devotion and unity.

Celebrations also took place in Silubi, Jengka, Mailoo, Nawaibill, Diphu, Bokajan and Borlangphar, with devotees congregating near rivers and ponds. On October 27, the third day of the festival, the Ast Surya Arghya ritual saw devotees offering water to the setting sun, expressing gratitude for life and sustenance. The festival will conclude on October 28 with offerings to the rising sun.

Chhath Puja, also known as Chhath Parv, is observed over four days in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, involving fasting, prayers and Arghya offerings to the sun, symbolising devotion, gratitude and community unity.

Our Hojai Correspondent adds: Chhath Puja was celebrated with religious fervor on Monday evening across the Hojai district. Devotees thronged the ghats to offer prayers to the Sun God, who is considered the source of life on earth and is believed to fulfill all wishes. People from different communities, including Assamese, Manipuri, Punjabi, Bengali, Marwari, Karbi, and Nepali, gathered at the ghats to seek the blessings of the Sun God.

The Sun idol was placed for prayers at both Shiv Bari Ghat and Natun Bazar Ghat. In addition, devotees observed the rituals in Srimanta Sankardev Nagar, Siliguri Basti, Amtola Basti, Tali Basti, Mandoli Gaon, Lanka, and Lumding. The ghats were decorated with colorful lights, and light gates were erected to mark the celebrations.

Notably, all ghat committees successfully organised the festivities, giving special attention to cleanliness. Police authorities also made adequate security arrangements to ensure a safe and smooth celebration.

SeSTA launches holistic rural development project in KA

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Oct 27: The Holistic Rural Development Project (HRDP) by Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) was launched by the chief executive member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) at Jirsong Asong conference hall on Monday.

"I am optimistic that SeSTA is taking up challenges in health care, education, potable water and renewable energy in the target areas. The organisation shares the KAAC's vision of building self-reliance and a sustainable rural economy," the CEM said.

SeSTA, an NGO operating in northeastern India, is implementing the project with HDFC Bank as the donor agency. The project covers six villages each in Langsompai and Lumbajong Blocks, targeting 5,000 direct and 1,742 indirect beneficiaries, including smallholder farmers, women and youth. It aims to address socio-economic challenges through livelihood programs, agroforestry plantations, digital literacy and renewable energy access.

The initiative focuses on improving education, health care, waste management and agricultural productivity via an integrated, community-led approach. Project goals include ensuring good health, quality education, clean water, affordable energy and economic growth for local communities.

Speaking at the launch, the CEM praised SeSTA and HDFC Bank for promoting inclusive and sustainable rural development. Gloria Vilazonuo, integrator of Karbi Anglong SeSTA Working Block, briefed participants from Langsompai and Lumbajong Blocks about the HRDP and the SeSTA-HDFC partnership.

MP Amarsing Tisso, MLA Darsing Ronghang, Gloria Vilazonuo, and bank officials attended the ceremony.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A promise must never be broken.
- Alexander Hamilton

Gorkhaland issue resurfaces

As 2026 Assembly elections in West Bengal are inching closer, the divisive Gorkhaland issue has been stoked by the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. It has appointed former deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) Pankaj Kumar Singh as an interlocutor to decide whether the Bengal hills can be given greater autonomy. One does not need great political insight to realise that the move is a pointer on the part of the NDA government to needle the Trinamool Congress dispensation in West Bengal. The timing of the appointment underscores the motive of the BJP-led Union government. The scar of partition of Bengal remains till date. Senior BJP leaders from national leadership as well as local ones have time and again shouted warnings from the rooftops about a second partition of West Bengal, given the allegedly unchecked influx of migrants from across the border. Since 2009, the BJP has been winning the Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency. It can be attributed to the party's pledge to find a permanent political solution to the region establishing Gorkhaland.

Gorkhaland stands rooted in controversial past. Time and again, it has reared its head bloodying the hills, both during the Left Front and TMC regimes. Crores worth of property have been set on fire during agitation for a separate state to be carved out of West Bengal. Many CPI(M) activists died opposing it during the Left Front regime. And it took the top TMC leadership, and state government were in for an unpleasant surprise when it suddenly erupted when senior officials were in Darjeeling for a round of talks. Even Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was in Darjeeling on that day. She stands witness to the fury of the Gorkhaland supporters as they set ablaze a long line of vehicles which were part of her convoy.

The promise of a separate state, however, remains unfulfilled till date. It is not quite in black and white but a tacit support for Gorkhaland has always been extended from the saffron camp. Given the nature of saffron camp support, the BJP cannot be stated to have gone back on its word. Moreover, the unbroken string of BJP's victories in Darjeeling cements the contention of its connect with the people of the Queen of the Hills. Thus it cannot be dismissed as yet promise being broken in the field of electoral politics. But the BJP leadership is too keenly aware of the fallout of such a pledge on its vote bank all over the state once it is in cold print. This is truly a delicate issue. It is particularly sensitive to territorial realignments. The statehood for the hills would certainly bring huge political blowback for the BJP from the rest of the state.

Trump, Hamas and the Mirage of peace in West Asia

However loud Donald Trump, the 47th President of the United States, may thunder from the White House podium, his pledge to "disarm Hamas" stands as one of the most formidable challenges confronting his presidency. For all his characteristic bravado and self-assured diplomacy, Trump's ambition to neutralize the Islamist organization that has defined Palestinian resistance for nearly four decades appears less an achievable strategy than a test of geopolitical will. Unless Hamas voluntarily surrenders its arms—an outcome so implausible that even seasoned Middle East analysts dismiss it as fantasy—Trump's words will remain rhetoric against the unyielding force of religious militancy. The President, whose foreign policy persona thrives on spectacle, will need more than words and sanctions. He will need, as his critics quip, "a miracle in Gaza."

Two years of relentless Israeli offensives—leaving over 68,000 Palestinians dead alongside nearly 2,000 Israelis—have reduced much of Gaza to rubble but failed to dismantle Hamas's influence or infrastructure. The organization, founded in December 1987 as a militant offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, has proved remarkably resilient. Its ideological core—anchored in the conviction that "Jihad is its path and death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of its wishes"—remains unshaken despite devastating losses. In the Arab world, where public opinion often diverges from state policy, even the most powerful monarchs of oil-rich nations speak cautiously about Hamas. Their silence reflects not merely fear of retribution but an acknowledgment of the movement's enduring emotional appeal among millions who view it as the last bastion of defiance against Israeli occupation and Western dominance.

The phenomenon of Hamas, both as a religious and political entity, has no true parallel in modern times. History has seen revolts of faith and fury—the Sannyasi rebellion in Bengal in 1771, when Hindu ascetics rose against colonial exploitation, or the Crusades that sent European knights to reclaim the Holy Land—but none have exhibited the same organizational endurance, ideological discipline, and global resonance as Hamas. Its founders, led by the quadriplegic cleric Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, embedded a theological justification for armed resistance within the political vocabulary of Palestinian nationalism. Their rhetoric fused divine mission with terrestrial struggle, ensuring that for many Palestinians, resistance against Israel became not just a political act but a sacred duty.

Hamas's evolution from a local religious movement to a regional power broker is a study in ideological absolutism tempered by tactical pragmatism. While it emerged as a direct challenge to the secular Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), then led by Yasser Arafat, it soon eclipsed the PLO in popular legitimacy. The contrast between Mahmoud Abbas's ceremonial leadership of the PLO and the grassroots mobilisation of Hamas could not be starker. Hamas presents itself as the custodian of Palestinian dignity, portraying the PLO's diplomatic overtures as betrayal. Where the PLO sought negotiation, Hamas preaches resistance; where Abbas calls for coexistence, Hamas invokes jihad.

Over the decades, the movement has survived targeted assassinations, crippling sanctions, internal schisms, and the combined might of Israeli intelligence and Western pressure. The killing of Sheikh Yassin in an Israeli airstrike in 2004 did not cripple Hamas; it canonized him as a martyr and re-

newed the movement's spiritual authority. The first Intifada (1987–1993) marked Hamas's birth in blood and protest, while the second Intifada (2000–2005) entrenched its status as the vanguard of armed struggle. After Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas contested and won the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections—a democratic paradox that handed power to a group the West designates as terrorist. A year later, after a brief but brutal conflict with Fatah, Hamas seized full control of Gaza, transforming the enclave into both a fortress and a prison.

In governance, Hamas has been as contradictory as it is defiant. It administers schools, hospitals, and welfare programs with bureaucratic efficiency while maintaining an iron grip on political dissent. It speaks of peace even as it stockpiles rockets. Its revised 2017 charter moderated some of the original anti-Semitic rhetoric of the 1988 Covenant, distinguishing between Judaism and Zionism and asserting that its struggle is against occupation, not religion. Yet the core objective remains unchanged: the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return for all displaced Palestinians. To its supporters, this is a moral imperative; to Israel, an existential threat.

Ismael Haniyeh, Hamas's political leader in exile, reasserted the group's militant vision in the wake of the October 7, 2023, attacks that reignited large-scale hostilities. In a defiant statement, he hailed what he described as "a political, military, and moral defeat" for Israel, vowing to "expel the Zionist occupier from our lands, our holy city of al-Quds, and our al-Aqsa mosque." Haniyeh's rhetoric, steeped in theological symbolism, serves both as propaganda and as a reminder of Hamas's ideological immovability. For the movement, peace talks, ceasefires, and international conferences are "a waste of time and vain endeavours." Its



worldview, enshrined in its founding documents, is binary: submission to Islamic sovereignty brings peace; resistance to it invites divine wrath. Despite its theocratic rigidity, Hamas occasionally reveals flashes of political realism. Article 6 of its Covenant proclaims that under the "wing of Islam," followers of all faiths—Muslims, Christians, and Jews—can live in security and peace. Article 31 reiterates that "peace and quiet would not be possible except under Islam." This rhetorical generosity, however, is tethered to a theological hierarchy where coexistence is conditional upon Islamic supremacy. In practice, it allows Hamas to frame its mission as inclusive while retaining the right to wage perpetual resistance.

The ambivalence of Arab states toward Hamas reflects this complexity. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates—states with significant leverage in the region—publicly condemn terrorism but privately acknowledge Hamas's role as the symbolic defender of Palestinian nationalism. For all its brutality, Hamas articulates a grievance that these regimes cannot dismiss: the unaddressed dispossession of millions of Palestinians. In an era when normalization with Israel has become a pragmatic priority for Arab capitals, Hamas remains the inconvenient conscience of the Arab world.

Against this backdrop, Donald Trump's grand design for peace appears woefully out of touch with regional realities. His much-publi-

cized 20-point peace plan, marketed as "the deal of the century," sought to redraw borders, secure Israel's recognition among Arab states, and promise Palestinians a semblance of autonomy without sovereignty. But Trump's transactional diplomacy—anchored in economic incentives rather than historical justice—failed to grasp the theological and emotional dimensions of the conflict. To imagine Hamas trading its ideological essence for development funds is to misunderstand the nature of faith-driven politics.

The Gaza question is not one of mere governance; it is about collective identity, divine purpose, and historical memory. For Hamas, laying down arms would mean renouncing not just resistance but existence itself. As long as the movement draws spiritual strength from the Quranic injunction of struggle and martyrdom, it will endure even under siege. Trump may threaten, cajole, or sanction, but dismantling Hamas would require dismantling the belief system that sustains it.

In the final reckoning, Hamas represents both the tragedy and resilience of the Palestinian cause. It thrives where diplomacy fails, gains followers where hope dies, and finds legitimacy in suffering. Israel's military might can destroy tunnels and launch pads, but not ideology. The United States can broker accords, but not faith. Unless Trump or any successor understands that the conflict in Gaza is not merely political but profoundly civilizational, his promises will ring hollow.

The ruins of Gaza tell a story older than Trump's presidency and more complex than any peace plan. It is the story of a people for whom resistance has become identity and martyrdom, memory. Until that story finds justice, no power—American, Israeli, or Arab—will truly silence the guns of Hamas. (The writer can be reached at dipakurmi@pltd@gmail.com)

Persistence of caste prejudice among the educated class

The Constitution enshrined the ideals of equality and social justice, but caste consciousness remains deeply ingrained in Indian society. Among the educated and urban classes, this consciousness manifests itself in subtle forms rather than overt discrimination—such as in employment, marriage, and social networks. Economic progress and modernity have weakened caste, but not eliminated it. In professional spheres, caste-based social capital still influences opportunities and connections. Until equality is established in mindset and behavior, the ideal of constitutional equality will remain unfulfilled

By: Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Caste has been an institution within the Indian social structure, influencing a person's life from birth to death. The framers of the Constitution envisioned an India where individual identity would be based on their abilities, morality, and actions, rather than on their innate social class. To this end, several safeguards were incorporated into the Constitution, including the right to equality, equality of opportunity, and the abolition of untouchability. However, even after more than seven decades, it must be acknowledged that caste consciousness is not limited to villages; it has persisted, albeit in a modified form, in educated, urban, and professional circles.

The Constitution, through Articles 14 to 17, explicitly grants all citizens the right to equality and dignity. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar described this as a means not only to legal equality but also to social and economic equality. He warned that political equality would be unsustainable if social inequality persisted. This warning remains relevant today, as despite the power of law, caste-based thinking, deeply ingrained in society's psyche, has not been completely eradicated.

Education is considered a vehicle for social consciousness, but surprisingly, caste prejudices persist in subtle and sophisticated forms even among the educated class. Caste is often present as an unspoken identity during admissions to universities and professional institutions, in peer relationships, and in social networking. Discussions of "merit" often lead people to harbor prejudices about reservation policies and assume that those from reserved categories are inherently less qualified. This perception challenges the principle of equality even among the educated class of modern India.

Urbanization and industrialization were considered to break down caste boundaries. However, in practice, caste consciousness has revived in new forms even in cities. For example, even in metropolitan areas, most people marry within their own caste groups. Caste and sub-caste remain prominent filters on matrimony websites. This means that while economic progress and modernity have changed external behavior, social psychology has still not been freed from the confines of caste.

The presence of caste cannot be denied even in the professional sphere. Traditionally, trade and business have been dominated by certain castes, and this trend continues implicitly in modern corporate structures. Caste social capital plays a significant role in networking, investment, and access to opportunities. For example, members of a business community are more comfortable offering business support to one another. Similarly, social biases are often at play during job recruitment or promotion under vague criteria such as "cultural fit" or "network fit."

Politically, caste consciousness has also gained new energy in modern democracy.

The urban middle class often considers itself above caste, but during elections, the same class appears to base its allegiance on caste identity. Caste organizations, student unions, and professional associations are now linking their caste identity with the demand for rights. Thus, caste is no longer merely a social institution, but has taken the form of a 'political resource' and 'social capital.'

In urban India, this form of casteism manifests as symbolic rather than overt discrimination. Directly insulting someone because of their caste is now a crime, but subtle forms of this mindset persist in social life. For example, mocking an employee's social background, making sarcastic remarks about reservations, or maintaining social distance from a coworker—these are all forms of caste-based prejudice.

Ethnic consciousness has found a new outlet in the digital age. Pages, organizations, and communities of ethnic groups on social media platforms promote their pride and history. This can be a symbol of cultural self-respect, but it often devolves into competitive ethnicity, creating new divisions in society. The "us" versus "them" mentality now persists even in the virtual world.

Following economic liberalization, it was believed that merit would be paramount in the global market and the private sector. However, studies from the 1990s to the present show that even in the corporate sector, Dalit and backward classes have relatively low participation. The lack of reservations in the private sector has further exacerbated this inequality. Consequently, modernity and marketization have provided the illusion of equal opportunity, but have failed to eliminate the reality of caste inequality.

A large segment of the urban middle class formally rejects caste, but uses caste-related identities in informal life. This contradiction reflects the social complexity of modern India. For example, someone may describe themselves as liberal in the office, but accept caste-based marriage options for their children. This duality makes it clear that the social influence of caste still permeates even the most personal decisions in life.

One reason for the persistence of caste consciousness is that caste is no longer seen solely as a symbol of oppression in society, but also as a support for identity and community. Particularly after the rise of reservation and social justice politics, disadvantaged groups have used caste as a means to protect their rights. This has also led to the emergence of a "positive discourse" of caste, which speaks of self-respect and representation. However, in this process, the boundaries of caste have not been completely eliminated; rather, they have been transformed.

Social scientists believe that caste has now become a "resource network" in Indian urban society. It has evolved from traditional ties to a modern means of communication. Whether in jobs, business, or politics, it still serves as the basis for trust, cooperation, and

the distribution of resources. This makes it clear that modernity has not eradicated caste, but rather reshaped it.

When evaluating the effectiveness of constitutional safeguards, it is also important to understand that law can only provide a framework, but social consciousness changes slowly. Education and economic progress have challenged caste inequality, but the pace of change in social behavior is slow. As long as group identity, rather than individual merit, remains the basis for social respect, opportunity, and recognition, caste consciousness will persist.

Sociologists like André Betienne, M.N. Srinivas, and Gopinath Mohanty have repeatedly pointed out that urbanization in India does not mean the complete disintegration of traditional structures, but rather their reconfiguration. That is, while the outward form of the rural caste system may be broken, its mentality is recreated in a new form in the city. This is why caste-related inequalities persist in subtle forms even in modern fields like the IT sector, media, education, and medicine.

This persistence of caste consciousness presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Indian democracy. A challenge because it limits the ideals of equality and social justice, and an opportunity because this consciousness can be transformed into a broader discourse on social justice. If caste is used as a tool of representation and cooperation rather than oppression, it can strengthen social cohesion.

The way forward lies in a combination of education, sensitization, and policymaking. Value education based on social diversity and equality should be encouraged in schools and universities. Mechanisms such as ethics codes, equal opportunity commissions, and independent audit systems on inequality can be useful in promoting diversity in the workplace. The media and mass media must also play an active role in breaking down racial stereotypes and promoting the ideal of equality.

The Constitution of India is not merely a legal document, but a manifesto for social change. Its spirit dictates that a person's worth be judged by their actions, not their birth. Today, the need is for the educated and working class—who play an exemplary role in society—to lead this change. Until the role of caste in social respect, opportunity, and behavior is eliminated, the dream of equality will remain unfulfilled.

Ultimately, it can be said that Indian society is changing, but caste consciousness remains its deepest root. The Constitution has given us direction, but social reality has not yet fully progressed in that direction. Urbanization, education, and employment have certainly weakened caste, but its influence has not yet ended. Modern India's greatest responsibility is to realize the ideal of equality in both law and practice. Only then will we be able to realize the vision of an India where a person's identity is not their caste, but their humanity.

Preparing for a Productive Rabi: A roadmap for Assam's agricultural growth

By Mowsam Hazarika

As the monsoon gradually withdraws and the fields of Assam begin to dry, the state's agricultural landscape transitions toward the Rabi season—a period crucial for food security, stable farm incomes, and sustainable rural livelihoods. The success of this season depends on timely planning, effective resource management, and strong institutional support. Given the growing challenges of climate change, erratic rainfall, and evolving farming patterns, systematic preparation for the Rabi season has become more important than ever.

Rabi crops, sown after the monsoon and harvested before summer, include wheat, pulses, mustard, potato, maize, and various vegetables. Historically, the Rabi season has been less dominant in Assam due to limited irrigation and its reliance on residual soil moisture. However, recent initiatives by the Government of Assam and agricultural institutions aim to expand Rabi cultivation to enhance land productivity and increase farmers' income. Achieving this requires a scientific and well-coordinated approach to Rabi readiness.

A vital step is assessing soil moisture after the monsoon's withdrawal. Farmers should make optimum use of residual moisture through timely field preparation, which facilitates early sowing and uniform germination. Moisture conservation practices such as mulching, ridge and furrow planting, and minimum tillage can make a significant difference. The adoption of short-duration, high-yielding crop varieties suited to Assam's agro-climatic conditions is equally important. Region-specific Rabi varieties developed by Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and the Department of Agriculture should be effectively disseminated to farmers through field demonstrations and extension networks.

Irrigation infrastructure remains the backbone of successful Rabi cultivation. While rainfall continues to dominate Assam's agriculture, there is considerable potential to expand irrigation through the revival of minor irrigation projects, installation of tube wells, and promotion of river-lift and solar-powered pumps. Community-based irrigation systems can work well in areas where individual ownership is not viable. The solar irrigation initiatives under PM-KUSUM offer a promising pathway for energy-efficient water use. Additionally, technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation can help conserve water and sustain crops in moisture-deficient areas.

Timely availability of quality seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs is another cornerstone of Rabi preparedness. The Department of Agriculture must coordinate with certified bodies, including the Assam Seed and Organic Certification Agency, to ensure the timely distribution of quality seeds for major Rabi crops. The use of improved seed varieties can raise yields by 20–25 percent. Fertilizer management—both organic and inorganic—should be based on soil test results and Soil Health Card recommendations to maintain balanced nutrient use.

Pest and disease management also need proactive attention. Although Rabi crops generally face fewer pest issues than Kharif crops, threats such as aphids in mustard, pod borers in pulses, and late blight in potato remain significant. Strengthening pest surveillance, establishing early warning systems, and promoting eco-friendly pest management through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will help safeguard crops. Training farmers in IPM practices through field schools can build resilience and reduce dependency on chemical pesticides.

Crop diversification should be a central element of Rabi planning. Dependence on a few crops in-



creases economic vulnerability. Expanding the cultivation of pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables alongside cereals can ensure better income stability and soil health. The inclusion of crops like cabbage, cauliflower, and tomato can enhance profitability, especially near urban markets. Crop diversification also supports dietary diversity, contributing to improved nutrition in rural areas.

Climate-smart agriculture must be integrated into all aspects of Rabi planning. With rising climatic uncertainty, farmers need support to adopt resilient cropping systems, water-efficient technologies, and weather-based advisories. The use of mobile-based agro-advisory services can provide timely information on sowing schedules, rainfall forecasts, and pest outbreaks. Institutions such as Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) should be strengthened to ensure that climate information reaches the grassroots level. Market linkages and post-harvest management are equally critical. Farmers often face price volatility and storage constraints, especially for vegetables and potatoes. Strengthening rural storage facilities, cold chains, and farmer-producer organizations (FPOs) can help stabilize prices and reduce post-harvest losses. The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board should facilitate direct marketing platforms and contract farming arrangements that assure farmers of fair prices. Setting up small-scale processing units for oilseeds, pulses, and vegetables will further enhance value addition and create rural employment opportunities.

Effective institutional coordination underpins all these efforts. Rabi preparation must be seen as part of a year-round agricultural cycle, requiring collaboration between the Agriculture, Water Resources, and allied departments such as Horticulture, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry. Extension officers and field staff should play an active role in training farmers, monitoring field progress, and ensuring timely support delivery.

Ultimately, Rabi preparedness is not only about crops—it is about empowering farmers. Strengthening farmers' skills, ensuring access to credit, and building awareness of government schemes are crucial. Small and marginal farmers, who form the backbone of Assam's agriculture, deserve special focus. Self-help groups (SHGs) and FPOs can be vital partners in resource pooling, input management, and collective marketing. Financial institutions must ensure smooth credit flow before sowing begins so that farmers can invest confidently without resorting to distress borrowing.

In conclusion, the Rabi season offers Assam an opportunity to harness its agricultural potential and move toward year-round productivity. With scientific planning, timely interventions, and coordinated implementation, the state can transform the Rabi season into a pillar of rural prosperity. Strengthening Rabi readiness today will ensure that Assam's farmers harvest not just crops—but confidence, stability, and hope for a sustainable agricultural future.

Chhath Puja and the significance of Sun Worship

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuvan

Chhath Puja is an invaluable spiritual treasure of Indian civilization, not merely an annual festival but a profound expression of humanity's eternal gratitude and deep devotion to the supreme power of nature, the Sun God. The roots of this great vow trace back to Vedic times' sun worship, where the Sun was revered as 'Savita' or the 'God of Inspiration,' governing the entire cycle of life in the universe. The rigorous four-day rituals of Chhath Puja elevate the devotees to the pinnacle of physical, mental, and spiritual purity. Though its prevalence is primarily confined to eastern and northern India, its philosophy inspires all of humanity to be respectful towards the fundamental elements of nature. Amidst the hustle of modernity, this puja reminds us of life's most essential truths: sacrifice, self-restraint, and reverence for natural forces.

The Sun is the symbol of the universe's ultimate energy, not only the source of light and warmth but also the foundation of life force. The mysterious energy in the Sun's rays regulates all biological processes, from crop production on Earth to fostering immunity in living beings. In

Chhath Puja, the Sun is worshipped as 'Surya Narayana' or the 'God of Health,' granting longevity, good health, and liberation from all suffering. Alongside, the Sun's consort, 'Chhathi Maiya' or Goddess Shashti, is also revered, primarily as the protector of children's well-being and prosperity. This dual worship reflects the deep emotional commitment of devotees to the prosperity and safety of their families. Offering 'arghya' during both sunrise and sunset symbolizes the eternal cycle of life—birth and death, hope and despair, light and darkness—establishing the principle of maintaining balance.

The first day of Chhath Puja, 'Nahay-Khay,' marks the preparation for this rigorous vow, both physically and mentally. 'Nahay' means bathing, and 'Khay' means eating. On this day, devotees bathe in a sacred river or water body, purifying themselves externally. They then consume only pure, unadulterated, vegetarian food, aimed at preparing the body for the intense discipline of the coming days. This ritual emphasizes not only physical cleanliness but also the resolve to purge the mind of negative thoughts, ego, and greed, sanctifying the soul. According to Chhath Puja's principles, purity is



not merely external but a symbol of inner sanctity. The food consumed on this day emphasizes simplicity and naturalness, bringing humans closer to nature.

The second day, 'Kharna' or 'Lohanda,' is the second, more stringent phase of fasting and restraint. Devotees observe a complete waterless fast throughout the

day, refraining from even a drop of water. After sunset, they partake in sacred food, such as kheer or payas made from jaggery, milk, and new rice, along with roti. This food is

prepared with utmost sanctity, often using a new earthen stove and mango wood fire. After consuming this meal, devotees undertake a rigorous 36-hour waterless fast, the most challenging part of the vow. The purpose of this austere fasting is to push willpower and patience to their limits through physical hardship. Through this, devotees learn to accept life's difficulties with ease, freeing the mind from worldly attachments and establishing a profound spiritual connection with the Sun God.

The third day, the evening 'arghya,' is the most emotional and visually striking moment of the festival. Devotees, along with family and relatives, carry beautifully decorated baskets or 'daalas' to the banks of a water body. These baskets contain various sacred fruits, sweets, and especially 'thekua,' made from wheat flour and jaggery. At sunset, the juncture of day and night, devotees stand in the water, facing east, awaiting the Sun's final rays. Offering 'arghya' to the setting Sun carries a profound philosophical truth, acknowledging life's end, its sorrows, or times of crisis. As the Sun sets, its energy is at its gentlest, and worshipping it during this vulnerable time teaches that, even in life's changing or challeng-

ing moments, we must not lose faith in our source of strength. This worship instills hope for renewal.

On the fourth day, the morning 'arghya' is offered, marking the culmination and success of the vow. At sunrise, devotees stand in the water with the same sanctity, offering 'arghya' to the rising Sun. The rising Sun symbolizes a new day, the return of energy, hope, and new beginnings. During this time, devotees pray to the Sun God for their family's health, longevity, prosperity, and especially their children's bright future. After the morning 'arghya,' devotees partake in the prasad through rituals, breaking the fast, known as 'Parana.' The sequence of the two 'arghyas'—gratitude to the setting Sun and prayers to the rising Sun—imbues this puja with an eternal philosophy of life, where every ending heralds a new beginning.

The cultural and collective significance of Chhath Puja is profoundly relevant. This puja transcends social distinctions. Regardless of caste, creed, religion, or economic status, everyone stands with equal devotion at the sacred riverbanks. This equality and collective worship strengthen the bonds of unity and harmony in Indian society.

2025 PN7: Earth's Mini-Moon Until 2083

By: Satvrat Borah

The discovery of a second moon orbiting Earth has captured the imagination of astronomers and space enthusiasts alike. This is not a plot for a science fiction movie but a real astronomical phenomenon confirmed by NASA. Designated as 2025 PN7, this small near-Earth object has been classified as a quasatellite, meaning it shares a unique orbital dance with our planet around the Sun. Unlike Earth's familiar Moon, which has been a constant companion for billions of years, this new cosmic traveler is temporary, expected to remain in its current relationship with Earth until approximately 2083. The arrival of 2025 PN7 offers a fascinating glimpse into the complexities of celestial mechanics, the nature of near-Earth objects, and the ever-evolving understanding of our place in the cosmos. This article explores the discovery, characteristics, and scientific significance of this temporary second moon, shedding light on why it matters to both science and the broader human perspective.

2025 PN7 is a small asteroid, estimated to be between 18 and 36 meters in diameter, roughly the size of a modest building. To put this into perspective, Earth's Moon has a diameter of about 3474 kilometers, making 2025 PN7 a minuscule counterpart. Despite its small size, its presence is significant. First observed in August 2025 by the Pan-STARRS survey at Hawaii's Haleakala Observatory, this asteroid was initially identified as a near-Earth object. Further analysis by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other astronomers revealed its unique orbital behavior, leading to its classification as a quasatellite. Unlike a true satellite, which orbits Earth directly under its gravitational pull, a quasatellite follows a path around the Sun that is synchronized with Earth's orbit. This phenomenon, known as a 1:1 resonance, means that 2025 PN7 takes approximately the same time as Earth, about 365 days, to complete one orbit around the Sun. From certain vantage points, it appears to orbit Earth, creating the illusion of a second moon.

The concept of a quasatellite might seem confusing at first. Imagine two runners on a circular track, running at the same speed but maintaining a distance from each other. They move in sync, never colliding but always in proximity. Similarly, 2025 PN7 follows Earth around the Sun, maintaining a stable but distant relationship. This behavior distinguishes it from Earth's true Moon, which is gravitationally bound to our planet. Archival images suggest that 2025 PN7 may have been in this quasatellite configuration since the 1960s, unnoticed until modern telescopes and computational models revealed its presence. Its orbit is expected to remain stable

for about 126 years, after which, around 2083, the gravitational influence of the Sun and other celestial bodies will likely pull it away from Earth's vicinity. This temporary nature underscores the dynamic and ever-changing environment of our solar system, where objects come and go in a cosmic ballet.

The discovery of 2025 PN7 is not entirely unprecedented. Earth has had temporary minimoon companions before, such as 2024 PT5, which briefly orbited Earth for a few months in 2024. Other objects, like 2006 RH120 and 2016 HO3, have also been identified as temporary quasatellites or minimoonlike objects. What makes 2025 PN7 stand out is its relatively long duration as a quasatellite, potentially spanning over six decades. This longevity provides scientists with a unique opportunity to study its behavior over an extended period. The asteroid is believed to belong to the Arjuna group, a class of near-Earth asteroids with orbits closely resembling Earth's. These objects are of particular interest because their proximity makes them accessible for study and potential exploration, while their orbits offer insights into the gravitational interactions that shape our solar system.

The scientific significance of 2025 PN7 is multifaceted. First, it enhances our understanding of orbital dynamics. By studying its path, scientists can refine models of how near-Earth objects interact with Earth's gravity and the Sun's influence. These models are crucial for predicting the trajectories of other asteroids, some of which could pose a threat if their orbits bring them too close to Earth. While 2025 PN7 itself is too small to cause any harm, its study contributes to planetary defense strategies. Organizations like NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office rely on such data to monitor and assess potential asteroid impacts. Understanding the behavior of quasatellites like 2025 PN7 helps improve these predictive tools, ensuring humanity is better prepared for future cosmic visitors.

2025 PN7 offers a window into the history of our solar system. The origins of quasatellites are still a subject of research. Some scientists hypothesize that 2025 PN7 could have originated from the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, dislodged by collisions or gravitational perturbations. Others suggest it might be a fragment of the Moon, ejected during an ancient impact event. A notable example is the quasatellite Kamo'oailewa, which some researchers believe could be lunar debris. Determining the composition and origin of 2025 PN7 could reveal clues about the early solar system, including the processes that shaped the terrestrial planets and their moons. Future observations, possibly with advanced telescopes or even spacecraft missions, could

provide spectroscopic data to analyze its surface composition, offering further insights into its history.

The potential for resource exploration is another exciting aspect of studying 2025 PN7. Asteroids, even small ones, are rich in materials like metals, silicates, and possibly water ice. In the future, mining such objects could provide resources for space exploration, reducing the need to launch materials from Earth. For instance, water extracted from asteroids could be used for drinking, fuel production, or radiation shielding in space habitats. While 2025 PN7 is too small to be a primary target for mining, its study contributes to the broader understanding of near-Earth asteroids as potential resource reservoirs. Companies and space agencies, including NASA, are already exploring asteroid mining as a viable future industry. The data gathered from 2025 PN7 could inform the design of missions to larger asteroids, paving the way for sustainable space exploration.

The public's reaction to this discovery has been a mix of awe and curiosity. Social media platforms have buzzed with headlines about Earth's "second moon," sparking both excitement and misconceptions. Some have speculated that 2025 PN7 could cause earthquakes or tidal disruptions, but NASA has clarified that its small size and distant orbit render it harmless. Its gravitational influence on Earth is negligible, and it poses no threat to our planet's environment or ecosystems. Instead, this discovery serves as a reminder of the wonders of the cosmos, encouraging people to look up and ponder the mysteries of the universe. For students and educators, 2025 PN7 offers a tangible opportunity to engage with astronomy. By modeling its orbit or discussing its implications, classrooms can bring complex scientific concepts to life, fostering a new generation of scientists and explorers.

From a philosophical perspective, the arrival of 2025 PN7 prompts reflection on our place in the universe. Earth is not an isolated entity but part of a dynamic cosmic neighborhood where objects like asteroids and comets constantly interact with planets. This small asteroid, invisible to the naked eye, reminds us that the universe is full of hidden wonders waiting to be discovered. Its temporary presence also highlights the impermanence of celestial relationships, much like the fleeting connections in human life. Just as 2025 PN7 will eventually drift away, its brief companionship with Earth underscores the beauty of transience. This perspective resonates beyond science, touching on themes of change, connection, and the vastness of existence.

Looking ahead, astronomers will continue to monitor 2025 PN7 using advanced telescopes and computational tools. Missions like NASA's ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial Impact Last Alert System) and the upcoming PLATO (Planetary Transits and Oscillations of stars) telescope will enhance our ability to detect and track such objects. These efforts will not only deepen our understanding of quasatellites but also contribute to broader astronomical research. The data collected from 2025 PN7 could inform future missions, such as sample return missions or even crewed explorations to near-Earth asteroids. Each observation adds a piece to the puzzle of our solar system's history and future.

2025 PN7 is a remarkable addition to Earth's cosmic story. Its status as a quasatellite, orbiting in sync with our planet for decades, offers a unique opportunity to study the intricacies of celestial mechanics, the origins of near-Earth objects, and the potential for space exploration. While it may not rival the grandeur of Earth's true Moon, its presence enriches our understanding of the universe. As it journeys alongside us until 2083, 2025 PN7 serves as a symbol of the ever-changing, interconnected nature of the cosmos. This tiny asteroid, a fleeting companion in the vastness of space, reminds us that the universe is an endless repository of stories—waiting for us to listen, learn, and marvel.

Economic is Ecological: How our planet and Prosperity are Connected

By: Chafikhur Rahman

In today's world, the link between economy and ecology has become more important than ever. We often think of economics as something about money, business and markets, while ecology is about nature, forests and animals. But in truth, both are deeply connected. A strong economy cannot exist without a healthy environment and a healthy environment cannot survive without a responsible economy. The phrase "Economic is Ecological" reminds us that human wealth and natural wealth are two sides of the same coin.

The Real Meaning of "Economic is Ecological"

The word economy comes from the Greek word oikos, meaning "home" or "household." Interestingly, the word ecology also comes from the same root. Both words talk about how we manage our home, whether it is our house or our planet.

Economics teaches us how to manage resources for human needs. Ecology teaches us how nature manages its own balance. When both are in harmony, people and nature prosper together. When they are out of balance, both suffer.

Nature: The Foundation of All Economies

Everything that supports our economy comes from nature. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the soil that grows our food, the minerals and fuels that power industries, all these are ecological gifts.

If these natural systems collapse, no amount of money can replace them. For example, without healthy forests, there will be no clean air or water. Without fertile soil, agriculture cannot survive. Without stable weather, industries will struggle. The economy depends completely on ecological health.

The Cost of Ignoring Ecology

For centuries, people treated nature as if it were endless. Forests were cut, rivers polluted and fossil fuels burned without thinking of tomorrow. This attitude created fast economic growth for some decades but also caused serious harm to the planet. Today, we see the results: Rising global temperatures and climate change. Unpredictable weather patterns, floods and droughts affecting crops, air pollution causing health problems, Loss of biodiversity: plants and animals disappearing forever.

Each of these ecological problems brings huge economic losses. Floods destroy property, droughts ruin crops and pollution increase medical costs. So, the destruction of nature is not only an environmental issue, it is an economic disaster.

Green Economy: The New Way Forward

Many countries are now realising that economic growth and environmental protection must go together. This idea is known as the green economy. It focuses on development that is both sustainable and fair.

A green economy invests in renewable energy like solar and



wind power. It supports eco-friendly farming and responsible use of natural resources. It creates jobs in recycling, organic agriculture and clean technologies. For example, India's solar energy projects have created thousands of jobs while reducing dependence on coal. In Scandinavian countries, people recycle almost everything, turning waste into energy. These nations show that caring for nature can also mean economic progress.

The Role of Businesses

Companies around the world are also learning that being green is good business. Big corporations are switching to renewable energy, reducing waste and using sustainable materials. For example, electric vehicles are becoming popular not only because they are cleaner but also because they save money on fuel. Clothing brands are using recycled fabrics to reduce pollution. Technology firms are designing devices that use less energy.

Consumers are now more aware. They prefer to buy from brands that care about the planet. So, companies that respect ecology also gain economic advantage.

Farmers and the Local Economy:

In rural areas, the connection between economy and ecology is even clearer. Farmers depend on soil, water and climate. When the environment suffers, agriculture suffers too. Overuse of fertilizers, cutting of trees and over-irrigation harm the very resources that farmers rely on.

Sustainable farming methods, such as organic agriculture, crop rotation and rainwater harvesting, protect nature and increase long-term productivity. When farmers work with nature, not against it, their income becomes more stable.

In many Indian villages, traditional methods like growing multiple crops, keeping livestock and protecting forests have supported both ecology and economy for centuries.

Cities and Sustainability:

Urban areas also play a major role in this relationship. Cities consume large amounts of energy and produce tons of waste. But they can also lead the change toward sustainability.

Modern urban planning includes green buildings, public transport, recycling systems and renewable power. When cities become eco-friendly, they reduce costs, improve health and attract investment. For example, cities with good air quality and clean water are more likely to attract tourism, education and global business. Thus, protecting

the environment is also an investment in future economic growth.

The Role of Individuals:

Every person can help connect economy and ecology through daily choices. Small actions, like saving electricity, avoiding plastic, planting trees and supporting local products, have big impacts when done collectively.

Choosing energy-efficient appliances, reusing materials and reducing waste save money and resources at the same time. Supporting local farmers and artisans strengthens the local economy while reducing pollution caused by long-distance transport.

Education and Awareness:

To build a truly eco-economic society, we must start with education. Schools, colleges, and media should teach young people about sustainable development. Children should learn that the planet is their shared home and managing it wisely is both an ecological and an economic responsibility.

Government policies should also encourage this thinking. Taxes and subsidies can reward eco-friendly practices and discourage pollution. Investments should flow into green technologies, clean transport and conservation projects.

A New Definition of Wealth:

In the past, we measured wealth only in terms of money and GDP. But now we know that real wealth includes clean air, safe water, healthy forests and stable climate. A country cannot be truly rich if its rivers are drying and its people are sick from pollution.

The 21st century demands a new definition of success, one that balances human prosperity with the planet's well-being.

Conclusion: The Future is Eco-Economic

"Economic is Ecological" is not just a slogan; it is a truth of survival. The more we harm nature, the poorer we become and the more we protect it, the richer we are.

The economy must no longer be seen as separate from the environment. They are one system, like two wings of the same bird. Only when both work together can we truly fly toward a sustainable future.

Let us remember: every rupee earned from nature's destruction is a debt we owe to our children. Every investment in ecology is an investment in life itself.

The day humanity learns to make peace between economy and ecology will be the day we secure a future that is both prosperous and green.



Indian-origin woman assaulted in 'racially aggravated' rape in UK, man arrested

LONDON, Oct 27: A 20-year-old woman, locally identified as being of Indian heritage, was attacked in a "racially aggravated" rape in the West Midlands region of England over the weekend.

The police said a 32-year-old man was arrested on Monday morning on suspicion of rape after a manhunt was launched in the wake of the attack on Saturday evening. The West Midlands Police said they were called to the Park Hall area of Walsall following concerns for the welfare of a woman in distress in the street.

Detective Superintendent (DS) Ronan Tyrer, who is overseeing the investigation for the force, described the arrest in the Perry Barr area of the region as a "significant development".

"Our investigation will progress today, and, as always, our priority is the woman who was the subject of this attack," said DS Tyrer.

"She has been updated this morning and will continue to receive full support from specially trained officers," he said.

On Sunday, the force released CCTV footage of the suspect, a white male in his 30s, as part of an urgent public appeal for information related to the

crime they are investigating "as a racially aggravated attack". "This was an absolutely appalling attack on a young woman, and we are doing absolutely everything we can to arrest the person responsible," DS Tyrer said at the time.

"We have teams of officers recovering evidence and building a profile of the attacker so that he can be brought into custody as soon as possible. While we are following multiple lines of enquiry right now, it's vital that we get to hear from anyone who saw a man acting suspiciously in the area at the time," he said.

"It may be that you were driving through the area and have dashcam footage, or you have CCTV that we have not yet recovered. Your information could be the vital breakthrough that we need," he said.

The attacker is described as white, in his 30s, with short hair and wearing dark clothing at the time of the attack. While the police are yet to confirm further details, local community groups have claimed that the victim is a Punjabi woman and expressed concerns as the latest attack comes weeks after the racially aggravated rape of a



British Sikh woman in the nearby Oldbury area.

"At this stage, we are not linking this attack to any other offences," DS Tyrer said in his statement. Specialist officers from the force's Public Protection Unit, local policing officers, and forensic officers are said to be working to recover CCTV, speaking to witnesses, and identifying the suspect. Chief Superintendent Phil Dolby of Walsall Police said his team's focus is on supporting the investigators in identifying and arresting the attacker.

"Walsall is a diverse area, and we know the fear and concern that this awful attack will cause in our

communities," said Dolby.

"We have been speaking to people in the community today to listen to and understand their concerns, and there will be an increased policing presence in the coming days," he said.

Sikh Federation UK quoted local sources to say that the "young woman who was subject to a racially aggravated rape in Walsall is a Punjabi woman".

"The attacker apparently broke down the door of the house where she was living... West Midlands Police have now had two racially aggravated rapes of young women in their 20s in the last two months and urgently need to find those responsible," the organisation said.

The force has made a few arrests before releasing the suspects on bail in their investigation into the racially aggravated rape of a British Sikh woman in Oldbury last month.

British Sikh MPs, Preet Kaur Gill and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, took to social media to express their shock and condemnation at a feared "repeated pattern" of violent attacks on women in the region.

"Deeply shocked and saddened that we are hearing of yet another racially aggravated rape, this time in Walsall. West Midlands Police have reported a rape and assault of a young woman in her 20s in the Park Hall area, described as racially aggravated," said Gill.

"This follows the horrifying reports of a racially aggravated rape of a Sikh girl in Oldbury, and a rape of a woman in Halesowen. The repeated pattern of violence against women in our region, compounded by hate and racial overtones, is deeply disturbing," she said.

The Labour MP for Birmingham Edgbaston in the West Midlands said her thoughts are with the victims and their families as she appealed for the public to come forward with any information that could lead to the arrest of the suspect.

"After the shocking racially aggravated rape in Oldbury that the Sikh community is still reeling from, yet another in Walsall. We're thinking of the victim and need to help the police at a time when more people are feeling unsafe. Spreading of hate has real consequences," said Dhesi, Labour MP for Slough. (PTI)

Cameroon ahead of election results 4 protesters shot dead as tensions rise, opposition says

YA OUNDE (CAMEROON), Oct 27: At least four protesters were killed during clashes with security forces in Cameroon as opposition supporters rallied to demand credible results from the recent presidential election, the local governor said on late Sunday.

Hundreds stormed the streets in different cities following days of unrest and in response to protest calls by opposition candidate Issa Tchirouma Bakary, who claims to have defeated President Paul Biya in the October 12 election.

Cameroon's top court, the constitutional council, is expected to announce final election results on Monday, but the opposition and their supporters have accused authorities of seeking to rig the vote.

According to Samuel Dieudonne Ivaha Di-



bou, governor of the Littoral Region, which includes the economic hub of Douala, four protesters were killed and several security forces were injured in Douala after some individuals attacked security forces and police stations.

The African Movement for New Independence and Democracy opposition party and local media earlier reported that at least two protesters were shot dead by security forces as they sought to disperse the

protests. Videos online showed protesters clashing with security forces, who fired tear gas and tried to disperse the protesters barricading major roads in Douala and other cities, including Garoua and Maroua in the north.

Dozens of opposition supporters, activists and leaders have already been arrested in recent days as protests continued. Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, told re-

porters Saturday that the government arrested several people plotting violent attacks.

One protester, Oumarou Bouba, a 27-year-old trader in the northern city of Maroua, said, "I am ready to stake my life to defend my vote. I voted for Tchirouma because I want change."

Tensions were building up ahead of the election in Cameroon, a country of nearly 30 million people. The decision by the 92-year-old Biya, the world's oldest leader who has been in power for nearly half his life, to seek reelection angered the country's youth and the opposition.

The opposition has accused Biya of having a hand in the disqualification of his strongest rival and of using state machinery to manipulate the election in his favour. (AP)

Hopeful of QUAD meeting early next year: Aus PM Albanese

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hoped that the QUAD alliance will meet in the first quarter of next year, describing the four-nation bloc as an "important forum".

India was set to host the leaders of Australia, the US and Japan for a summit this year, but that now appears unlikely amid political upheavals in Japan and some strain in India-US ties. Speaking during a press conference on Sunday on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit here, Albanese said, "The Quad is an important forum and an important vehicle for us to engage Australia, the United States, Japan and India." "I'm hopeful that there will be a meeting in the first quarter, I would hope, of next year," he said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to host the Quad meeting. Responding to a question about the QUAD's future and its meeting this year, the Australian prime minister said it was a "busy summit season", with US President Donald Trump having a "busy period". Trump is on a three-nation Asia visit. He was in Malaysia for the ASEAN summit, from where he left for Japan. From there, he will travel to South Korea, where he is set to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. (PTI)

For Japan's new leader, key to connecting with Trump could be Ford F-150 truck

TOKYO, Oct 27: President Donald Trump arrived on Monday in Japan where new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is banking on building a friendly personal relationship with the US leader to ease trade tensions.

One key to this strategy might lie in an idea floated by Japan's government to buy a fleet of Ford F-150 trucks, a meaningful gesture that may also be impractical given the narrow streets in Tokyo and other Japanese cities.

It's an early diplomatic test for Takaichi, the first woman to lead Japan. She took office only last week, and has a tenuous coalition backing her.

Trump instantly bought into the idea of Ford trucks as he flew to Asia aboard Air Force One.

"She has good taste," Trump told reporters. "That's a hot truck."

The two spoke over the phone while Trump was mid-flight on Saturday. Takaichi stressed her status as a protégé of the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a favorite of Trump's from his first term, and said she praised him for brokering the Gaza ceasefire that led to the return of hostages held by Hamas.

"I thought (Trump) is a very cheerful and fun person," she said. "He well recognizes me and said he remembers me as a politician whom (former) Prime Minister Abe really cared about," she said. "And I told the president that I extremely look forward to welcoming him in Tokyo."

Trump spent Sunday in Malaysia, where he participated in a regional summit, and departed Monday morning for Japan. While on Air Force One on Monday, he said he planned to talk in Tokyo about the "great friendship" between the US and Japan.

Resetting the trade relationship beneath the hospitality is the search for a strategy to navigate the increasingly complex trade relationship that Trump shook up earlier this year with tariffs.

Trump wants allies to buy more American goods and also make financial commitments to build factories and energy infrastructure in the US.

The meetings in a Japan come ahead of Trump's sit-down with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on

Thursday in South Korea.

Both the US and Japan have sought to limit China's manufacturing ambitions, as the emergence of Chinese electric vehicles, artificial intelligence and advanced computer chips could undermine the American and Japanese economies.

"In light of the planned meeting between Trump and Xi Jinping shortly afterward, Trump may also be considering how he might strengthen his hand by demonstrating the robustness of the US-Japan relationship," said Kristi Govella, Japan chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

Japan's previous administration agreed in September to invest USD 550 billion in the US, which led Trump to trim a threatened 25 per cent tariff on Japanese goods to 15 per cent. But Japan wants the investments to favor Japanese vendors and contractors.

Japan's economy and trade minister, Ryosei Akazawa, has said his ministry is compiling a list of projects in computer chips and energy to try to meet the investment target.

"As far as I know, I'm hearing that there are a number of Japanese companies that are showing interest," he told reporters Friday, though he did not give further details.

Ford trucks in Tokyo would be a powerful symbol

Japanese officials are looking at the possibility of buying more American soybeans, liquefied natural gas and autos.

For Trump, the prospect of Ford trucks in the skyscrapered streets of Tokyo would be a win. The administration has long complained that American vehicles were being shut out of a market that is the home of Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Isuzu, Mitsubishi and Subaru. In a September interview on CNBC, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Japan wouldn't buy US-branded vehicles because "Chevys" were popular with Japanese gangsters.

Takaichi may arrange for Ford F-150 trucks to be showcased in a place Trump gets to see them, Japan's Nikkei newspaper reported. The government is consid-

ering importing the trucks for its transport ministry to use for inspecting roads and infrastructure, though there are concerns that the F-150 could cause congestion on narrow Japanese streets. A Ford spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

Japanese media have reported that Toyota Motor Corp. Chairman Akio Toyoda could announce plans to import his company's American-made cars back to Japan during a dinner with Trump and other business leaders on Wednesday.

The gestures — combined with Takaichi's connection to Abe — should help her deal with Trump, who seems predisposed to like her. "I think she's going to be great," Trump said aboard Air Force One. "She's a great friend of Mr. Abe who was a great man."

In 2016, Abe gave Trump a high-end golf club to celebrate his first election, and the leaders bonded over their love of golf. Trump often expresses sadness about Abe's 2022 assassination.

But there are risks for Takaichi in emphasizing her ties to Abe, said Rintaro Nishimura, who specializes in Japan at advisory firm The Asia Group.

"Because it's Takaichi's first diplomatic engagement I think she wants to start with sort of a bang," Nishimura said. "Succeeding the Abe-line rhetoric is definitely going to be part of this engagement, although some also suggest that leaning too heavily on the Abe line might not exactly be good for her for creating her own kind of portfolio, her status as Japan's leader."

Trump lands in Tokyo on Monday, meeting first with Japanese Emperor Naruhito. After meeting with Takaichi on Tuesday, he will give a speech aboard the USS. George Washington aircraft carrier anchored in Japan and then hold a dinner with business leaders. Trump plans to leave for South Korea on Wednesday.

But aboard Air Force One on Monday, he told reporters that he was also ready to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, should that be an option.

"If he wants to meet, I'll be in South Korea," Trump said. (AP)

EAM Jaishankar, US secretary of state Rubio hold talks in Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held talks with his American counterpart Marco Rubio amid efforts by the two sides to reset bilateral ties that have come under severe strain over punitive US tariffs on Indian goods.

Jaishankar and Rubio met in Kuala Lumpur on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Glad to meet @SecRubio this morning in Kuala Lumpur. Appreciated the discussion on our bilateral ties as well as regional and global issues," the external affairs minister said in a post on X.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after US President Donald Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India including an additional 25 per cent levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

It is understood that Jaishankar and Rubio also broadly delved into the proposed trade pact between the two sides. (PTI)

Navy loses two aircraft from USS Nimitz aircraft carrier within 30 minutes

WASHINGTON, Oct 27: A fighter jet and a helicopter based off the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz both crashed into the South China Sea within 30 minutes of each other, the Navy's Pacific Fleet said. The three crew members of the MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter were rescued on Sunday afternoon, and the two aviators in the F/A-18F Super Hornet fighter jet ejected and were recovered safely, and all five "are safe and in stable condition," the fleet said in a statement.

The causes of the two crashes were under investigation, the statement said.

President Donald Trump, speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Tokyo on Monday, said the incidents

could have been caused by "bad fuel." He ruled out foul play and said there was "nothing to hide."

The USS Nimitz is returning to its home port in Naval Base Kitsap in Washington state after having been deployed to the Middle East for most of the summer as part of the US response to attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on commercial shipping. The carrier is on its final deployment before decommissioning. Another aircraft carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman, suffered a series of mishaps in recent months while deployed to the Middle East. In December, the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg mistakenly shot down an F/A-18 jet from the Truman. (AP)

Screening of Punjab CM's security personnel in view of threat from extremist org TLP

LAHORE, Oct 27: Pakistan's Punjab police have launched screening of all personnel deployed for the security of provincial Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz following threats from Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), an official said on Monday.

Maryam Nawaz, the first woman chief minister of Punjab has also curtailed her public appearance and the security of some senior members of her cabinet too has been beefed up in the face of the threats from the radical party.

The steps are taken after a crackdown against the TLP, now a proscribed outfit, when at least 16 people, including policemen, were killed and over 1,600 injured in clashes between the police and supporters of TLP at Muridke, some 60 kms from Lahore, on October 10. The screening process covers all security personnel stationed at the Sharif family home in Jati Umra Lahore and the Chief Minister's Office as well as other supporting staff.

"The move aims to ensure that no individual associated with any proscribed organisation or having extremist views remains part of the CM's security detail," the official said.

He said the scrutiny is being carried out after intelligence inputs indicated potential risks linked to

individuals with suspected affiliations to the TLP. The official said that the chief minister and her cabinet members are particularly concerned, rather worried, keeping in view the case of slain Punjab governor Salman Taseer.

In 2011, Taseer of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was shot dead by his own security guard for supporting a Christian woman Asia Bibi, who was accused of blasphemy. The security guard Muntaz Qadri, who was a supporter of TLP, later confessed that he killed Taseer for supporting a blasphemy suspect. The federal government declared TLP a proscribed outfit on Thursday, obliging Punjab government's request.

Punjab police claim to have arrested over 6,000 TLP activists so far following the violent clashes over the issue of holding an anti-Israel demonstration outside the US Embassy in Islamabad on October 10.

Control of all the TLP mosques and seminaries has also been given to the Auqaf Department of the Punjab government, officials said.

The TLP claimed that hundreds of its supporters were killed while thousands injured as police opened direct fire on the "unarmed" protesters who wanted to express their solidarity with the people of Palestine. (PTI)

Malaysia's Anwar calls for dialogue over coercion at ASEAN's East Asia summit

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Monday urged Asia-Pacific leaders to choose dialogue over coercion and cooperation over confrontation, as he opened the East Asia summit at a time of sharpening rivalry between the United States and China.

The East Asia summit is a regional forum between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its key regional partners — Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States — to discuss political, security and economic challenges.

"Today we must renew our shared purpose, reassert our objectives, promote principles of forward-looking engagement," Anwar said in his opening remarks. "We continue to advocate for dialogue over coercion...and cooperation over confrontation. We affirm our stand on global peace and security, for multilateralism and international law."

The summit convened after US President Donald Trump left Malaysia earlier Monday for Japan, following his participation in ASEAN's weekend summit meetings. On Sunday, Trump witnessed the signing of several economic agreements with Malaysia, Thailand, and Cambodia — part of Washing-



ton's push to strengthen trade ties and secure access to critical minerals as it seeks to reduce reliance on China.

Trump also attended a ceremony marking a formal expansion of the Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire that Washington helped broker earlier this year.

Analysts say tensions in the South China Sea, the resilience of regional supply chains and ASEAN's response to internal crises, particularly Myanmar's prolonged conflict, would dominate talks in the East Asia summit.

The US delegation is expected to emphasise freedom of navigation, economic security and a transactional approach to al-

liances and trade, presenting Washington as a reliable partner for Indo-Pacific stability, said Ilango Karuppannan, former Malaysian ambassador and senior adjunct fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

By contrast, China, represented by Premier Li Qiang, will likely underscore sovereignty, noninterference and the virtues of connectivity through projects such as the Belt and Road initiative and other regional frameworks, he said.

Their "rivalry sets the backdrop against which every other issue is discussed — from security to trade" but ASEAN is expected to maintain its neutrality, keeping

the focus on regional cooperation, not on taking sides, Ilango said.

"The 20th East Asia summit will be remembered for the signing of the peace deal and US trade recalibration with Southeast Asia," he added.

Anwar, in his speech, again commended Trump's plan to end the Gaza conflict, but said more must be done to ensure a just and lasting political solution for the Palestinian people.

He voiced concern over the recent surge of ballistic missile launches by North Korea and called for engagement. "Once we call for engagement in all areas from Gaza to Ukraine to Myanmar, we should not preclude engagement with (North Korea)," he said.

On Myanmar, he said ASEAN is sticking to its 2021 Five-Point Consensus on peace and dialogue to resolve the civil war triggered by Myanmar's 2021 military takeover. He didn't touch on Myanmar's plan for a general election, but said fighting has subsided and that engagement should continue.

Anwar also said territorial tensions in the South China Sea should be resolved within ASEAN and its regional partners, with a "Code of Conduct" being negotiated to govern behaviour in the disputed global sea route. He

warned that outside pressure could escalate tensions and urged all parties to respect international law.

Earlier, ASEAN members and five partners — China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand — held a leaders' summit of the Regional Economic Comprehensive Partnership, the first since they signed a free trade pact in 2020. The agreement, which covers roughly one-third of global GDP, aims to promote regional economic integration and strengthen supply chain resilience.

In a joint statement, the RCEP leaders said their partnership could bolster the region's economic resilience in the face of current global uncertainties. They reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and vowed to enhance the implementation of the RCEP agreement and domestic reforms.

The RCEP is "a practical hedge against US tariff shocks," said Doris Liew, an economist specialising in Southeast Asian development. Even though their provisions are loose and not seen as strong as some other regional trade blocs, she said their partnership could help them diversify their trade baskets and reduce exposure to unilateral US actions. (AP)

Former Itanagar DC arrested in twin suicide case

Police detain Talo Potom following allegations of harassment, sexual abuse and coercion linked to the deaths of two officials

ITANAGAR, Oct 27: The Arunachal Pradesh Police on Monday arrested former Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) deputy commissioner Talo Potom in connection with the high-profile twin suicide case involving allegations of sexual abuse, coercion and corruption, a senior police officer said.

Potom, currently posted as Special Secretary (PWD) with the Delhi government, surrendered at Nirjuli police station around 7:30 AM and was formally taken into custody, said Papum Pare Superintendent of Police Neelam Nega. He had been untraceable since the matter surfaced on Thursday, prompting authorities to issue a look-out notice.

Potom is wanted under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, including abetment to suicide and criminal misconduct.

The case revolves around the death of Gomchu Yekar, a Multi-



Tasking Staff (MTS) member, who died by suicide at his rented apartment in Lekhi village, Nirjuli, on October 23. A handwritten note discovered at the scene allegedly cited harassment and coercion by Potom and Rural Works Department Executive Engineer Likwang Lowang, who also died by suicide

officials. The notes detailed allegations of sexual exploitation, prolonged harassment, intimidation and financial manipulation, with one note stating that Yekar had contracted HIV and was being blackmailed.

Yekar's father filed a formal complaint seeking strict criminal action against both officials for abetment of suicide, sexual exploitation, mental harassment, criminal intimidation, corruption and endangerment of life. The FIR invokes the BNS 2023, the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, and the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act 2017, requesting forensic examination of the notes as dying declarations.

The complaint also alleges Yekar was coerced into illegal activities, humiliated and abandoned. Initially engaged by Potom to enforce an alcohol and tobacco-free order at Indira Gandhi Park, Yekar reportedly misused his position,

conducting unauthorized raids, assaulting civilians, collecting illegal fines and extorting money using a rented vehicle with a forged 'Magistrate on Duty' nameplate.

The family has demanded an independent investigation, including central agency involvement, citing the accused officials' influential positions. Yekar, originally from Daporijo in Upper Subansiri district, had previously been arrested for impersonating a magistrate and extorting nearly Rs 7 lakh.

Meanwhile, the Arunachal Pradesh Police has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the twin suicides. Itanagar Capital Region Deputy Inspector General of Police Tumme Amo said the SIT, headed by Itanagar SDPO Kengo Dirchi, is coordinating with Tirap SP, temporarily overseeing Longding district. Post-mortem reports of Lowang and verification of Potom's HIV status are pending. (PTI)

'Solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit, courage and sacrifice of our infantry personnel, sentinels of our nation's sovereignty'

CM pays tribute to infantry personnel



ITANAGAR, Oct 27: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday paid tribute to the nation's infantry personnel, lauding their courage and commitment to safeguarding India's frontiers.

In a post on X, Khandu praised the infantry for embodying patriotism and standing as the first line of defence of the country.

"On the occasion of Infantry Day, we pay solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit, courage and sacrifice of our infantry personnel, the sentinels of our nation's sovereignty," he said, acknowledging the challenges faced by soldiers in some of the harshest terrains.

"Their selfless service in defending our frontiers and ensuring peace stands as a testament to the highest ideals of duty and patriotism. We remain forever indebted to our brave soldiers for their unwavering commitment to the nation. Jai Hind!" he added.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein also paid homage to the infantry, echoing nationwide gratitude for the armed forces. "On this Infantry Day, we salute the indomitable spirit, courage and sacrifice of our brave infantry soldiers, the true sentinels of our nation," he said.

Reaffirming the state's admiration, Mein noted that their dedication to defending the borders in every terrain reflects their valour and commitment to the motherland. "I join the nation in paying my heartfelt tribute to our infantry personnel for their selfless service and supreme devotion to duty," he added.

Observed annually on October 27, Infantry Day commemorates the historic induction of Indian Army troops into Jammu and Kashmir in 1947, marking independent India's first military action to defend its territory. The day honours the grit and gallantry of infantry soldiers, who continue to serve in challenging terrains, extreme weather and high-risk conflict zones, upholding the country's sovereignty with unwavering resolve. (PTI)

YCEF prepares for 4th General Conference and 11th Foundation Day

PITAPUOL, Oct 27: The Yachuli Constituency Employees Forum (YCEF) has begun final preparations for its 4th General Conference and 11th Foundation Day Celebration 2025, following a coordination meeting held on Monday at the residence of Er Nabam Tado in Pitapool.

The meeting, chaired by Vice president Tabia Chobin, brought together members of the General Conference Organising Committee and the Executive Committee to discuss the roadmap for the upcoming events. Deliberations focused on commemorating YCEF's institutional journey while reaffirming its founding principles of leadership, social responsibility and community development.

In a unanimous resolution, the Forum decided to observe the 11th Foundation Day on November 19, 2025. Members reiterated their commitment to promoting transformative public service and fostering grassroots unity. The 4th General Conference is scheduled to take place from April 24 to 26, 2026 and will include participation from employees, dignitaries and key stakeholders, with the Chief Guest to be confirmed in consultation with relevant authorities.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Er Gem Dopus, who appreciated the members for their dedication and collective enthusiasm. Senior YCEF figures, including Er N L Tugu, Neelam Teji, Er N L Kamin and Er Likha Topu, were present, reflecting the Forum's culture of mentorship and institutional continuity.

Members emphasised teamwork, transparency and the spirit of service, underlining YCEF's ongoing role in advancing community development and public leadership across the Yachuli Constituency.

Wangki Lowang attends Ram Ata and Narottam death anniversary

DIBRUGARH, Oct 27: The 286th death anniversary of His Holiness Ram Ata, the third Satradhikar of Sri Sri Chaliha Bareghar Satra, and his disciple Narottam, the 18th-century Nocte chief of Namsang and Borduria, was observed with reverence at Namsang village on Sunday. The event was graced by Wangki Lowang, Minister of Environment & Forest, Mining & Minerals, Geology & DoTCL, who inaugurated the evening's cultural performances as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Badonlum Tawisk, ADC Deomali; Wangphoon Lowang, ZPM Namsang; Tapi Tanya, EE WRD Deomali; along with various heads of departments, chiefs and Gaonburas from neighbouring villages.

Jointly organised by Sri Sri Chaliha Bareghar Satra and the Namsang Youth Council, the celebration began with Naam-Prasanga, the chanting of devotional hymns led by Gojen Mahanta, Satradhikar of Merbil Chaliha Bareghar Satra, followed by Hridayar Kotha, an intimate spiritual dialogue among disciples, and the distribution of prasad.

The highlight of the event was the evening performance of Gayan-Bayan and enactment of Bhavna by a troupe of artists from Cahchani, Assam. Around 500 attendees participated, including 100 delegates from Pontuan, a Nocte village in Naharkatiya, Assam.

Narottam, originally named Hote, was remembered for his spiritual transformation and his role in bridging Ahom and Nocte traditions. Initiated into Vaishnavism by Sri Ram Ata, Hote was given the name "Nor-uttam," meaning the noblest among men. Sri Ram Ata presented him with silver and gold-inlaid bangles, symbolising his spiritual rebirth and devotion. Professor Stephen Morey of La Trobe University, Australia, explained that Hote's Ahom title, Latha Khunbao, likely translates to "young prince," combining Ahom and Nocte linguistic roots. The Namsang Youth Council expressed gratitude to Minister Wangki Lowang for logistical and financial support and thanked the villagers for their active participation. The annual commemoration continues to honour the shared spiritual and cultural heritage of the Ahoms and Noctes.

MLA Hayang Mangfi urges unity for Chyangtajo development

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 27: MLA Hayang Mangfi has appealed to his supporters and party workers to work with dedication for the all-round development of the Chyangtajo Assembly constituency.

Speaking to the media, Mangfi emphasised the need to reduce excessive election spending, stating, "Too much expenditure in panchayat elections is wasteful. My experience shows that cash-for-votes culture affects the vision of elected leaders and hinders the implementation of major schemes and development priorities in the constituency."

Mangfi announced several candidates for the upcoming panchayat elections in the Chyangtajo Assembly constituency of East Kameng district. He highlighted the importance of selecting united and capable candidates, ideally unopposed, who can work collectively for the constituency's progress. The MLA also attended the declaration-cum-interaction programme of Smti Yena (Pacha) Bagang Yangfo as the ZPM candidate for the 3-Chyang Tajo ZPM segment at Doimukh. Mangfi expressed confidence in the selection of winnable candidates who can serve the people effectively. "It was a wonderful occasion to interact with the public and reaffirm our commitment to the development and progress of the constituency," added Mangfi.

Northeast youth vital for India's growth: Arunachal Dy CM

Chowna Mein emphasises student leadership and regional unity at NESO meet

ITANAGAR, Oct 27: Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said the youth of the Northeast are a major force in shaping India's future as he inaugurated the North East Students' Organisation (NESO) general council meeting in Namsai district, hosted by the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union.

Addressing student leaders from across the region, Mein noted that India's greatest strength lies in its youth, who make up nearly 64 per cent of the population. He described Northeastern youth as vibrant, talented and full of potential, whose creativity and determination are crucial for nation-building.

He lauded the participation of student leaders



from diverse communities, highlighting their unity and shared commitment to the welfare of the student community. He also emphasized the region's growing prominence in sports, arts, and

innovation.

Welcoming delegates to 'Tropical Namsai', Mein encouraged young people to balance development with cultural harmony. He reaffirmed the state government's support for youth-led initiatives, expressing confidence that NESO platforms will strengthen inter-state cooperation and nurture leadership in the region.

The NESO meeting brought together student leaders from seven Northeastern states to discuss education, employment, cultural preservation, and regional unity. Present were NESO chief advisor Dr Samujjal Bhattacharjya, chairman Samuel Jyrwa, secretary general Mutsikoyu Yohubu, and other dignitaries. (PTI)

Siang Trust conducts free health camp at Ralling

HT Correspondent

PASIGHAT, Oct 27: Siang Trust organised a free health camp at Ralling village, Mebo Sub-Division, East Siang District on Sunday. The camp was attended by surgical specialist Dr Bomni Tayeng, eye specialist Dr Ponung Perme, dental surgeons Dr Mini Ering and Dr Miti Burang, retired additional directors Dr Saibal Bhattacharjee and Dr Runi Tasung, medical staff and Siang Trust representatives, including president Group Captain Mohonto Panging Pao VM (Rtd).

Village elders, the village secretary and Gaon Buras from Ralling and nearby villages also assisted in the camp. A total of 55 patients, including senior citizens, were examined.

Free health services provided included blood pressure and sugar tests, glycated Hb tests, ECG, lipid profile and medicines. Similar camps are planned for residents of other remote villages in the area.

Lottery draw reserves Panchayat seats for women



HT Correspondent

TAWANG, Oct 27: The lottery draw for the reservation of Zila Parishad and Gram Panchayat seats in Tawang district was successfully conducted at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office on Monday, ensuring one-third reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions. The process was supervised by Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Namgyal Angmo, IAS, and witnessed by MLA Nangye Tsering, Zila Parishad Chairperson Leki Gombu, additional DCs of Jang and Lungla, Gram Panchayat member secretaries, political party representatives and members of the public.

Addl. DC-cum-District Panchayat Development Officer Rinchin Leta briefed attendees on the purpose and procedure of the draw and confirmed that two independent witnesses were invited to ensure transparency: Norbu Drema, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee and Sonam Nordzin, president of Tawang District Youth Welfare Society. Tawang district comprises 87 Gram Panchayats and 311 Gram segments.

DC Namgyal Angmo emphasised the transparency of the draw and encouraged participants to raise any queries for immediate clarification. Out of six Zila Parishad seats, two — Tawang and Zemithang-Dudungkhar — were reserved for women, followed by the draw for all 87 Gram Panchayats. The event concluded successfully, reflecting inclusivity and active participation in the democratic process.

No. CHD/UDD/24/NIT/7471 Dated 16/10/2025

GOVT. PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (rupees eight and paise twenty five) are invited by CHD, Urban Development Department from experienced & competent contractors for the work under **SOPD fund for the year 2025-26..**

Detail tender document may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours till 4th November/2025 up to 3.00 pm. on payment of prescribed Bid Cost (non-refundable) for each work in the form of demand draft in favour of 'Principal Secretary, BTC, payable at 'Kokrajhar'.

The last date for submission of the completed tender is 06/10/2025 upto 2.00 pm and shall be opened on the same day at 3.00 pm.

Sd/- CHD,
Urban Development Department,
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/3010

No. CHD/UDD-001/6thASFC/2023-24/2nd INST./NIT-CS/7470 Dated 16/10/2025

GOVT. PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (rupees eight and paise twenty five) are invited by CHD, Urban Development Department from experienced & competent contractors for the work under **6thASFC(Devolution) for the year 2023-24(2nd Installment).**

Detail tender document may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours till 4th November/2025 up to 3.00 pm. on payment of prescribed Bid Cost (non-refundable) for each work in the form of demand draft in favour of 'Principal Secretary, BTC, payable at 'Kokrajhar'.

The last date for submission of the completed tender is 06/10/2025 upto 2.00 pm and shall be opened on the same day at 3.00 pm.

Sd/- CHD,
Urban Development Department,
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/3007

No. CHD/UDD-001/6thASFC/2023-24/2nd INST./NIT-CS/7470 Dated 16/10/2025

GOVT. PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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Sd/- CHD,
Urban Development Department,
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/3004

ENGAGEMENT UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA AXOM

No. 713964/SSA-15015/63/2025

The Samagra Shiksha, Axom invites online applications from Indian Citizens (as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India) for the under mentioned positions under Samagra Shiksha, Axom on contractual basis. The online applications will be received from **27.10.2025 to 10.11.2025**. The posts are temporary in nature and the selected candidates will be initially engaged for a period of 11 (eleven) months only. The contractual engagement will neither be regularized under Samagra Shiksha, Axom nor will be absorbed under any job/programme of Government of Assam in future and no person (s) so engaged shall have any right (s) to claim for permanent abortion in any post (s) in the government or in the Samagra Shiksha, Assam.

Age for categories of post : The candidate should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 62 years of age as on 01-01-2025. The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Matriculation/HSLC Admit Card or Pass Certificate issued by a recognized Board/ Council and no other document shall be accepted in lieu of the mentioned documents.

Sl No	Name of the Post	Essential Qualification and Experience	Pay in Pay Band in Rs	Grade Pay in Rs.	No of Post	Place
1	Equity Officer In-charge (Girls Education, Residential School and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Graduate Degree in any discipline from any recognized university At least 5 years experience in programme management in Govt. Institution, Govt. recognized Society, Govt. Recognized Higher Education Institution, Reputed Research Organization. Candidate must have proficiency in use of ICT in educational purposes. 	30,000/- to 1,10,000/-	13300/	01	State Mission Office

N.B-

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

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

DIPR/DF/HLT/1192/28-Oct-25

CJI Gavai recommends appointment of Justice Surya Kant as next CJI

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Chief Justice of India Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai has recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.

Justice Surya Kant, the second senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI Gavai, is set to become the 53rd chief justice of India on November 24 after CJI Gavai's retirement on November 23.

CJI Gavai, who was sworn in on May 14 this year, recommended to the Union law ministry to appoint Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.

"Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, recommends the name of Hon'ble Mr Justice Surya Kant, the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor to be the 53rd Chief Justice of India," a press note from the top court said.

Justice Surya Kant, who was elevated as a judge

of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, would have a tenure of over 1.2 years as the CJI. He is due to retire on February 9, 2027.

The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years.

According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of documents, which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of Supreme Court and high court judges, states that appointment to the office of the chief justice of India should be the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

The Union law minister would, "at the appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing CJI for the appointment of his successor.

Conventionally, the letter is sent a month before the incumbent CJI retires on attaining the age of 65 years.

Justice Surya Kant, born in a middle-class fam-



Justice Surya Kant brings to the country's top judicial office a wealth of experience spanning

two decades on the bench, marked by landmark verdicts on abrogation of Article 370, free speech, democracy, corruption, environment and gender equality.

Justice Surya Kant was part of the bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance, directing that no new FIRs be registered under it until a government review.

In an order that underlined transparency in the poll process, he nudged the Election Commission to disclose the details of 65 lakh names excluded from the draft electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar.

Justice Surya Kant is also credited with directing that one-third of seats in bar associations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association, be reserved for women.

He upheld the One Rank-One Pension (OROP) scheme for defence forces, calling it constitution-

ally valid, and continues to hear petitions of women officers in the armed forces seeking parity in permanent commission.

Justice Surya Kant was on the seven-judge bench that overruled the 1967 Aligarh Muslim University judgment, opening the way for reconsideration of the institution's minority status.

He was part of the bench that heard the Pegasus spyware case, which appointed a panel of cyber experts to probe allegations of unlawful surveillance, famously stating that the state cannot get a "free pass under the guise of national security."

Justice Surya Kant was part of the bench that appointed a five-member committee headed by former Supreme Court Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2022 Punjab visit, saying such matters required "a judicially trained mind." (PTI)

'Since 1980 when BJP was formed, the country has been led by BJP leaders for 18 years' BJP doesn't need 'crutches' in Maharashtra, says Amit Shah

MUMBAI, Oct 27: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declared that the BJP doesn't need crutches and runs on its own strength in Maharashtra, challenging the party cadre to ensure that the opposition is defeated during the ensuing local body polls in a manner that they are "not seen even with the help of binoculars."

Speaking to party workers after laying the foundation stone of the Maharashtra BJP's new office building near Churchgate railway station in south Mumbai, Shah asserted, "we have proved that the politics of family-run parties will no longer work in this country. It is the politics of performance that will lead the nation forward."

Shah cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a model for the party, saying "Modi ji is the best example of this. A child born in a humble tea seller's home rose, through his dedication, sacrifice, and hard work, to become the prime minister of India."

Referring to the 'double engine' government of the BJP at the Centre and in the state, Shah said the party must also secure victories in the local body polls scheduled later this year, instructing workers to "work so hard that the Opposition is wiped out. They shouldn't be seen even with the help of binoculars."

The BJP doesn't run on crutches in Maharashtra but on its own strength, Shah said.



"I believe that a party which cannot uphold democracy within its own functioning can never protect the democracy of the nation. This is a strong message to all dynastic parties," he said.

Shah said for the BJP, a party of faith is like a temple. "It is from here that party programmes and policies are conceived and is a practical training ground for party workers," he said. Shah said since the Jan Sangh days, ideology-driven politics and people's welfare has been the hallmark of BJP.

"Since 1980 when BJP was formed, the country has been led by BJP leaders for 18 years and it has been a matter of pride," he said.

Shah attributed the party success to the hard work, sacrifice and commitment of leaders and work-

ers. "It is because of the seeds sowed by them that the BJP has become a vatvriksha (banyan tree)," he said.

The BJP runs on democratic principles and hard-working and performance-oriented workers can rise in the party hierarchy, he said.

"I was a booth president and rose to become national president while, PM Modi, hailing from a poor family, led the country three times because of his commitment and sacrifice," he said.

Shah expressed happiness over the new state BJP office spread across 55,000 sq ft area with a library, meeting room, conference room, a 400-seat auditorium, and offices of the state BJP president and the chief minister. "The CM will remember that he reached the post because of the party," he said.

Shah said the BJP under PM Modi has implemented all its ideological commitments like abrogation of Article 370, construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, CAA, triple talaq and some states have implemented the uniform civil code.

"All our ideological stands have been cleared and now we are focusing on Viksit Bharat in 2047," he said. The BJP has the responsibility of conducting principled politics for the future of the country, Shah said.

The Pahalgam terror attack was avenged with Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, proving to the enemies that no one can fiddle with army and borders, he said. (PTI)

There will be multi-level base-camp for parking, Shah said. "I have told Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis that there should be three to four rooms for accommodation of party workers like myself," he added.

Referring to the undivided Shiv Sena headed by Uddhav Thackeray, Shah said that in 2014, the BJP asked for a "respectable" seat sharing, but the alliance broke.

"We fought the elections on our own after a long time and we emerged as the single largest party with Devendra Fadnavis as the CM. Earlier we were in the fourth position in the state politics but today we are the number one party," he said.

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Akhilesh as pregnant woman taken to hospital in bullock cart

HAMIRPUR/LUCKNOW (UP), Oct 27: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav decided the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Monday after a video showed a pregnant woman in Hamirpur district being taken to hospital on a bullock cart through a muddy, waterlogged, unpaved road when an ambulance allegedly failed to reach her village.

He asked Uttar Pradesh's health minister to show concern for people's hardships beyond ceremonial appearances.

Sharing the video on X, Yadav accused the state government of "turning ambulances into bullock carts" and questioned its claims of development.

"Under the BJP's misrule, ambulances in Uttar Pradesh have turned into 'bull-ances'. Will a trillion-dollar economy run on bullock carts? The chief minister should look at the condition of roads and ambulances during his next field visit, or use Delhi's binoculars or drones if needed," he wrote in Hindi.

The incident occurred on Saturday in Parsadwa Dera Gau Ghat Chhani village, where the pregnant woman was taken about seven kilometres to the Sisolor Community Health Centre on a bullock cart by her 60-year-old father-in-law, Krishna Kumar Kevat, after an ambulance got stuck due to the muddy, unpaved road.

The journey through the swampy and uneven track took nearly three hours. Doctors informed the family that the delivery was still two days away and discharged her after primary treatment. Locals said around 500 residents of the area face similar hardships every monsoon as the road turns into a muddy swamp, isolating them from nearby towns.

"In emergencies, we have no option but to carry patients on our shoulders or bullock carts," said social worker Arun Nishad, adding the villagers had staged a six-day protest in March last year, demanding a proper road.

The then sub-divisional magistrate had assured them that construction would begin after the Lok Sabha elections, but no work has started even after more than a year, he added. (PTI)

Lalu's elder son locked in a multi-cornered contest in Mahua

MAHUA (BIHAR), Oct 27: A piquant multi-cornered contest is underway in Mahua assembly constituency of Bihar, where people believe they will be voting for their beloved party, represented by the sitting MLA, even if they backed a rebel.

"Clarified butter shall always fall in the lentil soup", is a common refrain here from die-hard RJD supporters, who insist that even if they voted for Tej Pratap Yadav, who was expelled by his father and founding president Lalu Prasad, it will "still benefit the party".

The party's official candidate from the Vaishali district seat is sitting MLA Mukesh Raushan.

"Dal ghee mein hi girta hai" is a loose translation of the adage blood is thicker than water they attribute to Yadav's mother Rabri Devi, a former chief minister, who is rumoured to be secretly rooting for her elder son.

This has bewildered Raushan, who has been trying hard to convince the electorate that they must cast their vote in his favour if they want Tejaswini Yadav, who aims at a hat-trick in neighbouring Raghapur, to become the chief minister. (PTI)

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'Notices have been issued to all the states and Union territories' Stray dogs: SC slams states & UTs for not filing affidavits, flags continuous incidents

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: The Supreme Court on Monday slammed the states and Union territories, which have not filed their compliance affidavits in the stray dogs case, and said continuous incidents were happening and the country was being "shown as down" in foreign nations.

The apex court directed the chief secretaries of the states, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order. The top court said except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), none of the other states and UTs have filed their compliance affidavits. "It is October 27 today. No response, nothing. And continuous incidents are happening. Your country is being shown as down in foreign countries," a three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria said.

It noted that pursuant to the August 22 order, only three compliance affidavits were filed.

"Notices have been issued to all the states and Union territories. As they have not responded, let the chief secretaries of all the states, other than... remain present before this court next Monday at 10.30 am along with their respective explanations as to why the compliance affidavits were not filed," it said.

The bench noted that during the hearing, there was no representation from states which have not filed their affidavits.

The top court was hearing a suo motu case relating to stray dogs.



On August 22, the apex court expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-NCR, and directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

It directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, and specially-modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

The bench also impleaded all the states and UTs in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

During the hearing on Monday, when one of the advocates referred to some guidelines, the bench said, "Let the authorities come and point that out."

It said notices were issued to all the states and UTs on August 22,

and it was widely reported as well. "Your officers don't read newspapers? They don't read social media? They want a formal notice to be issued to them? The order (of August 22) mentioned everything. Everyone has reported it that all states and Union territories are being issued notices. Don't come up with all these excuses," the bench said. The top court said once the authorities were aware of the development, they should have come forward as it was a matter of public interest litigation.

It also questioned the Delhi government as to why it has not filed its compliance affidavit.

The bench said it would direct the chief secretary of Delhi to appear before it as the compliance affidavit was filed by the MCD, and not the Delhi government.

"Ask your chief secretary to remain present on November 3 along with an explanation as to why no

compliance affidavit has been filed till today. You are in Delhi, the order was passed in Delhi and in your presence, and nothing has happened," the bench told the counsel appearing for Delhi government.

The counsel said Delhi government would file an affidavit before the next date of hearing.

"You ask him (chief secretary) to remain present. He may file it on that day, he may come up with an explanation also. Otherwise, cost will be imposed along with any other coercive measure as the court may deem fit," the bench observed.

When one of the lawyers referred to cruelty against stray dogs, the bench said, "What about the cruelty to humans?"

One of the advocates said the maintenance departments of high-rise societies in Delhi-NCR should be impleaded in the matter.

"Make some sensible suggestions. Give a suggestion which is practical and which can be accepted and reasonable. Don't give an absurd kind of a proposition in court," the bench said.

The top court also said that it was gradually and slowly monitoring the issue so that ultimately, the objective was achieved.

The bench said the chief secretaries should remain present before it on November 3 otherwise "we will hold the court in auditorium".

In its August 22 order, the top court modified its earlier direction prohibiting the release of vaccinated stray dogs from pounds in Delhi-NCR, calling it "too harsh", and ordered the canines be released post sterilisation and deworming. (PTI)

Cyclone 'Montha': Evacuation drive continues in Odisha amid light rain in southern districts



BHUBANESWAR, Oct 27: The Odisha government was evacuating people from vulnerable places amid light rains in eight southern districts where a "red alert" has been issued as the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal on Monday intensified into cyclonic storm 'Montha'.

Revenue and Disaster Management minister Suresh Pujari said officials, local people's representatives, Anganwadi workers, ASHA didis and others are convincing the people living in vulnerable areas to shift to safer places.

The evacuation drive is going on with priority on pregnant women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and the process will be completed by 5 pm on Monday, much before the intensity of rain and wind increases, the minister said.

Noting that some people are reluctant to shift to relief centres, the minister said police will guard their houses when they take shelter in cyclone centres. He said all arrangements have been made at cyclone shelters, including food, medicine, lighting for people, and care is also being taken for domestic animals.

Pujari said, so far 128 rescue teams (over 5,000 personnel) of NDRF, ODRAF, Odisha Fire Service and others have already taken position in eight vulnerable districts, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi and Kandhamal.

He said that "red warning" (take action), predicting extremely heavy rainfall and strong winds (gusting up to 80 kmph), was issued for these eight districts.

The minister said that the priority of the government is to ensure "zero casualty" and arrangements have been made to minimise damage by taking advance measures. He said special attention is being given to the hilly areas, particularly in Gajapati, Koraput and Malkangiri districts, where there is a possibility of landslides.

Pujari said that though rainfall has started on Monday, the intensity of rain and wind will intensify on October 28 and 29 as forecast by the IMD.

He said that the reports of pre-cyclone light rains came from the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput,

Nabarangpur, Gajapati and Ganjam due to the impact of cyclone 'Montha' that has started moving towards the east coast at a speed of 18 kmph.

Montha means fragrant flower or beautiful flower in Thai language.

The system is located at 600 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), 750 km south of Gopalpur (Odisha), he said.

The minister pointed out that it is good for the state as the cyclone speed has reached 18 kmph against Sunday's rate of movement of only 6 kmph. "When the cyclone moves at speed, it reaches the coast early and therefore fails to gather energy in the sea. Therefore, we hope that the expected damages will be less," he said.

All the districts of the state have been put on alert and directed to get ready with men and machinery for rescue operations, if at all the impending cyclone changes its trajectory.

The minister further said that the state government is in touch with the Indian Coast Guard and may hire their chopper if there is a requirement. "Our Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) D K Singh is in touch with the ICG," he said, adding that some fishing vessels of Andhra Pradesh have been shifted to Odisha waters, keeping in view the rough sea conditions there.

The SRC said all the schools and Anganwadi centres are closed in the eight southern districts till October 30 in the wake of the impending calamity. He said power backup has also been made in all critical institutions like hospitals and drinking water supply units.

"The power distribution company has been asked to restore electricity within 24 hours of the cyclone crossing the districts," the SRC said.

The weather office also hoisted Distant Cautionary Signal No-1 (DC-1) at all ports of Odisha and advised fishermen not to venture into the sea till October 29.

The IMD on its bulletin at 1.45 pm of Monday said: "The cyclonic storm 'Montha' over Southwest & adjoining areas of Bay of Bengal moved with a speed of 18 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centered at 0830 hours of Monday at about 570 km of Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), 600 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and 750 km south of Gopalpur (Odisha)."

The system is likely to move north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by the morning of October 28, the IMD said.

"Continuing to move further north-northwestwards, it is very likely to cross Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam around Kakinada during the evening/night of 28th October as a severe cyclonic storm with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90-100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph," the statement said. (PTI)

We must continue to introspect, remain prepared for war-like situation: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: India must remain ready for a "war-like situation" as the four-day military conflict with Pakistan in May showed anything can happen anytime along the frontiers, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

Addressing an event, Singh said that though India gave a "firm response" to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, it should serve as a case study to learn and chart the future course of action in dealing with national security challenges.

The defence minister said the effective use of indigenously manufactured military equipment during the May 7-10 operation bolstered India's reputation both regionally and internationally.

"Although we gave a firm response with a firm resolve and our forces are fully prepared to defend the country's borders, we must continue to introspect," he said.

"Operation Sindoor should serve as a case study from which we can learn and chart our future course. This incident has once again shown us that anything can happen at our borders, anywhere, at any time," the minister said.

"We need to be ready for a war-like situation, and our preparedness must be based on our own foundation," he said.

The defence minister emphasised that the present-day global uncertainties call for an in-depth assessment of every domain, with 'indigenisation' being the only way to deal with the challenges.

"The established world order is weakening, and conflict zones are increasing in many regions. It has, therefore, become necessary for India to redefine its security and strategy," he said.

Singh asserted that the world

witnessed the power of the Akash missile system, BrahMos, Akash-ter air defence control system and other indigenous equipment and platforms during Operation Sindoor.

The credit for the operation's success goes to the brave armed forces as well as "industry warriors" who worked on the front lines of innovation, design and manufacturing.

He described the Indian industry as one of the most important pillars of defence alongside the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

Singh pointed out that the government is creating a level-playing field to enhance defence manufacturing and strengthen the domestic ecosystem, and the industry must make full use of this opportunity.

"We're striving to ensure that the defence equipment is not just assembled in the country, but a real manufacturing base is established to create the equipment embodying the spirit of 'Made in India, Made for the World,'" he said.

"Numerous initiatives such as the Quantum Mission, Atal Innovation Mission and the National Research Foundation have been taken to develop a culture of innovation and R and D. Our industry must accomplish what has not yet been achieved in the country," he said.

The defence minister said that before 2014, India was completely dependent on imports for its security needs, but today it is manufacturing the defence equipment on its own soil.

"Our defence production, which was only around ₹ 46,000 crore in 2014, has now increased to a record ₹ 1.51 lakh crore, of which ₹ 33,000 crore has been contributed by the private sector," he said. (PTI)

NGT directs Mizoram to submit fresh reports on solid waste and sewage management

The matter pertains to original application monitoring solid and liquid

AIZAWL, Oct 27: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday directed the Mizoram government to submit a fresh comprehensive report on solid and liquid waste management after irregularities were found in the initial report.

The revised Action Taken Report (ATR) with timelines of implementation, fund allocation, and executing agencies should be filed through an affidavit via e-filing at least one week before the next hearing on November 5, the tribunal said.

The Principal bench of the NGT, chaired by its Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, held a hearing on October 13 regarding compliance by the Mizoram government with the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and other environmental issues.

The matter pertains to original application monitoring solid and liquid waste management across

states, in line with two Supreme Court orders of 2014 and 2017. The bench examined the status report submitted by the Mizoram government and found ineffectiveness in planning and execution strategies as well as gaps and deficiencies in bridging the gaps in solid and liquid waste management in spite of regular periodic monitoring by the tribunal.

The status report was also not filed as an affidavit of the state chief secretary nor certified by any senior state secretary, raising concerns about the accuracy of data, it said.

Based on the report, the tribunal observed that the total estimated solid waste generation in Mizoram is 398.15 tonnes per day (TPD), of which only 330.5 TPD is being processed and 67.65 TPD remains unprocessed, contributing to legacy waste.

It said that no clear information is provided on door-to-door segregation



gated waste collection and transportation by 28 urban local bodies (ULBs).

The report also did not disclose the status of composting plants and RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) baling centers and lacked time-bound targets for addressing gaps in

waste processing, it said.

As far as liquid waste management is concerned, Mizoram generates 51.81 MLD - 31.37 million litres per day (MLD) from urban areas, 20.44 MLD from rural areas - and 10 MLD treatment capacity exists in

Aizawl leaving an urban gap of 21.37 MLD, the NGT said.

Out of the 11 districts in the state, plans in 10 districts are yet to be finalised and the proposed 27 MLD sewage treatment capacity has no timelines for implementation, it said.

The tribunal directed the Mizoram government to submit fresh comprehensive reports comprising solid waste generation, collection, transportation, processing, legacy waste, gap analysis, timelines, and fund allocation.

It directed that funds must be allocated to each local body and the executing agency must finalise work plans, which should be disclosed in the next report.

The tribunal further directed the Mizoram government to submit a comprehensive report on sewage management, including generation, conveyance, treatment, gap analysis, timelines, and utilization of treated water. (PTI)

National Red Run 3.0 at Chumoukedia on Oct 30



HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 27: The Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS), in collaboration with the Nagaland Olympics Association and the Nagaland Athletics Association (NAA), will hold the National Red Run 3.0 at Chumoukedia on October 30.

The event will be hosted by the Nagaland government and supported by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). The Red Run 3.0 is a flagship initiative aimed at raising awareness on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), promoting healthy and active lifestyles, and engaging youth and communities in collective action for health and well-being.

The event's open (general) category run, covering 2 km, is expected to see participation from around 700 runners. This includes representatives from schools, colleges, youth organisations, churches, government departments, local communities, NGOs, and other partners. In addition, the 10 km competitive category will feature state-level champions from 35 states and Union Territories, each represented by two boys and two girls.

Meanwhile, in view of the event to be held from Agri Expo at 4th Mile to C.T. Square Chumoukedia, the Dimapur police commissionerate on Monday issued a traffic advisory for the safety and convenience of the runners and the road users. In the advisory, Dimapur commissioner of police Aotula T Imchen said the entire right-hand side stretch of NH 29 from Agri Expo till 7th Mile junction will be closed for all vehicular traffic.

It said this stretch will be exclusively reserved for the Road Race runners and event management. All feeder/approach roads on this side of the stretch will be closed to all motorised traffic for the duration of the event.

The restrictions will commence 4 am till 7 am on October 30. The left-hand side of NH 29 (opposite lane) will be used as a two-lane for vehicles plying towards Chumoukedia, as well as vehicles travelling towards Dimapur. Overtaking, stopping and parking of vehicles have been strictly prohibited along this stretch, while the maximum speed limit in this stretch has been fixed at 30 km/hour. Entry and exit of heavy vehicles will be restricted from 3rd Mile junction to Patkai junction except for school buses and emergency service vehicles.

Tripura suspended Constable for bribery charges

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Oct 27: Tripura Police on Monday has suspended Constable Amir Khan Bhuiya, currently posted in West Tripura, following allegations of bribery.

According to Tripura Police, a criminal case has been registered against Constable Bhuiya and four others under Amlai PS Case No. 2025/AMT/111, dated October 26, 2025, under sections 329(3), 324(3), 117(2), 351(2), and 3(5) of the BNS Act, 2023. Investigations into the matter are currently ongoing. "In addition to the criminal proceedings, a departmental inquiry has also been initiated against Constable Bhuiya for gross misconduct and involvement in illegal activities during his posting at the office of the Superintendent of Police, West Tripura," said a statement from Tripura Police.

According to the suspension order issued by West District Superintendent of Police Namit Pathak, Constable Bhuiya's headquarters during the suspension period will be at the A.D. Nagar Police Lines under the control of the AC DAR, West Tripura.

Nagaland women penal condemns murder of woman

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 27: The Nagaland State Commission for Women (NSCW) on Monday strongly condemned the inhuman and brutal murder of a woman, a resident of Old Ministers' Hill, Kohima, on the night of October 24, which shocked the conscience of society.

"Such a heinous act is not only a grave crime but also an affront to humanity and the sanctity of life," the NSCW said.

The body of the 22-year-old woman was found under mysterious circumstances at Old Ministers' Hill Colony in Kohima on February 25.

The police have formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case. The deceased reportedly hails from Jakhama village and currently resides in Kohima.

The commission said it has taken suo motu cognizance of the case and is closely monitoring all developments.

It appealed to the law enforcement agencies to expedite the investigation and ensure that the perpetrator(s) of this heinous crime are brought to justice without delay.

The commission said no stone will be left unturned until justice is delivered to the victim and her bereaved family.

The NSCW also sought cooperation of the colony citizens and the public in extending all necessary support to the investigating authorities to ensure a fair, transparent, and swift process of justice.

Stating that such acts of barbarity have no place in a civilized society, the commission said it stands in solidarity with the victim's family in their time of grief, assuring them of every possible support in their pursuit of justice.

Tripura progressing under PM Modi's marg darshan: CM

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Oct 27: Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Sunday said that Tripura has always been ahead in the Mann Ki Baat programme across the country, and people from all sections of society eagerly listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech.

He said that Tripura is moving forward following the Prime Minister's Marg Darshan (guidance).

The Chief Minister said this while listening to the 127th episode of Mann Ki Baat along with party workers at Takarjala under West District.

Dr. Saha said, "Tripura is always ahead in the Mann Ki Baat programme across the country. It holds a very good position. Today, I came to Takarjala, a Janajati-dominated area, to listen to the Mann Ki Baat programme. This time, the 127th episode has been held here. Everyone has played a special role behind the success of the Mann Ki Baat programme in Tripura. People from all sections want to hear the Prime Minister's speech."

He further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi raises several important issues through Mann Ki Baat which no one had thought of earlier.

"Only then do people come to know about these matters. Many issues come to light through Mann Ki Baat. In today's episode, the Prime Minister spoke on various topics — for



example, he suggested collecting plastic properly and using it scientifically instead of throwing it everywhere. This is a very unique and thoughtful idea which we had never thought of or heard before. Therefore, the people of Tripura should definitely listen to the Mann Ki Baat programme," Dr. Saha said.

The Chief Minister also responded to criticism from the opposition, saying, "The opposition often shouts, asking who listens to Mann Ki Baat and who watches it? I tell their leaders to come with me and see how many people lis-

ten to and watch Mann Ki Baat across the country — and how many do so in Tripura as well. People will not always listen to negative talk."

"In this inspiring episode, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and reminded us of his unparalleled contribution to the unity and integrity of our nation. He also called upon countrymen to collectively celebrate the greatness of the Vande Mataram song and share their thoughts through the hashtag #VandeMataram150," he added.

Sikkim CM virtually attends high-level task force meeting on tourism in NE Region

GANGTOK, Oct 27: The Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Monday virtually attended the third meeting of the high-level task force on tourism in North-Eastern Region.

Tamang said that in order to strengthen regional collaboration, the Ministry of DoNER has made four North Eastern states - Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya - as members of the committee who are working collaboratively to identify opportunities and address challenges in the region's tourism sector.

"Attended the third meeting of the high-level task force on Tourism in the North Eastern Region virtually today from Samman Bhawan," he said in a Facebook post.

A high-power committee has been constituted under the direction of the Union Minister of DoNER Jyotiraditya Scindia, in the presence of Union Minister for Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the development and promotion of tourism in the North Eastern Region, Tamang said.

Tripura: Woman digital content creator arrested for 'spreading' obscenity

AGARTALA, Oct 27: A woman digital content creator has been arrested in Tripura on the charge of spreading obscenity through social media, police said on Monday.

Madhavi Biswas became a popular content creator on Facebook for her unique style of slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Manik Saha and MP Biplab Kumar Deb on different issues.

Acting on a complaint lodged on Sunday by one Paramita Ghosal of Rannagar, a police team raided the house of Biswas at Jogendranagar in West Tripura district and arrested her. West Agartala police station's officer-in-charge Rana Chatterjee said on Monday.

"Biswas was accused of spreading obscenity through social media platforms. A case under various provisions of IT and BNS has been lodged against her. She will be forwarded to the court on Monday," he said.

A complaint was lodged against her at East Agartala police station last month for slamming the prime minister for his brief visit to Maa Tripura Sundari temple. She was detained and questioned.

Tripura Human Rights Organisation, an NGO fighting for rights, on Monday condemned the arrest of the digital content creator. (PTI)

Nagaland to host 22nd annual CPA India Region Zone-III conference

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 27: Nagaland is all set to host the 22nd annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III conference from November 9 to 13. The conference will be held at the Nagaland Legislative Assembly in Kohima under the theme "Policy, Progress & People: Legislatures as Catalysts of Change".

The CPA India Region Zone-III series is a vital platform for the eight northeastern states to discuss and find common solutions to regional challenges, covering topics from economic development to policy issues and developing a stronger, unified voice for the region. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be the chief patron of the conference, while Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio will be its vice patron. Nagaland assembly Speaker Shringain Longkumer, who is also the chairman of the CPA India Region Zone-III, has invited all the presiding officers of the northeast legislatures and dignitaries to attend the conference.

The event will showcase plenary sessions, expert panels, practical workshops, stall exhibition and cultural programmes that highlight legislative innovation, procedural reforms, transparency and inclusive governance across the region.

Six militants including woman arrested for extortion in Manipur

IMPHAL, Oct 27: Security forces arrested six militants, including a woman, belonging to different proscribed outfits for alleged involvement in extortion activities and threatening officials in various districts of Manipur, police said on Monday.

Two cadres of PREPAK who were involved in extortion and threatening of government officials, doctors, and the public in the valley area were arrested from Thongkhong Luxmi Bazar in Imphal West district on Sunday.

Security forces arrested a woman cadre of

the Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) who was involved in extortion within Thoubal district from Wangjing area of the district on Sunday.

Police arrested two cadres of the Kangleipak Communist Party (MFL), who were involved in extortion from Hiyanglam Terapishak Sekmajin area in Kachhing district on Sunday.

One cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army was arrested from Khangarok in Thoubal district. (PTI)

Pradyot vows to fight for future generations, says people's faith is his strength

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Oct 27: Tipra Motha Party founder and royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma on Monday reiterated his commitment to serving the people of Tripura, asserting that his political journey is driven not by alliances or financial power but by the unwavering support of ordinary villagers.

Speaking at a joining ceremony in Agartala, Debbarma said his politics has always centered on unity and development, transcending religion, caste, and

ethnicity. "I am not in politics for personal gain or power. I am fighting for the next generation," he said, calling for harmony among tribals, non-tribals, Bengalis, Christians, and Buddhists.

Debbarma criticized the prevailing political culture for focusing on party competition rather than people's welfare. "Everyone talks about politics — BJP, CPIM, Congress, Tipra Motha — but no one thinks about the next generation. My idea of Thansa (unity) is not about party politics but about people standing to-

gether," he said. Without directly naming any party, Debbarma questioned the recent claims of mass joinings by rivals, suggesting that such numbers are often exaggerated for political optics. He stressed that Tipra Motha's strength lies in its grassroots connection, noting that the party had independently won 13 seats — an unprecedented feat for a regional force in Tripura.

"The government has not yet held Village Council elections because they fear the people's verdict," he remarked.

Agricultural runoff, settlements in Manipur's Loktak lake degrading river water quality: Study

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Changes in land use, including agriculture, settlements, and shifting cultivation, are directly degrading the water quality of rivers feeding into the Loktak Lake -- one of India's most iconic freshwater ecosystems and a designated "Ramsar Site" in Manipur -- threatening biodiversity and livelihoods of local communities, a study by the Nagaland University has found.

Loktak Lake is home to 132 plant species and 428 animal species, and supports hydropower, fisheries, transport, and tourism.

However, in recent decades, the lake has been listed under the Montreux Record -- a global warning list for wetlands undergoing serious ecological damage. Reduced fish populations, rising pollution levels and increased sedimentation have now become growing concerns.

A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

These sites are recognised for their ecological significance, such as supporting biodiversity or providing critical habitat for waterfowl. The convention was signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

The study was published in the International Journal of Environment and Pollution, a peer-reviewed journal publishing research on environmental contaminants and their impact on health and ecosystems.

"The study highlights the pressing environmental challenges arising from agricultural runoff, human settlements, and shifting cultivation, which are directly impacting the river water quality in the region. The study confirms that agricultural runoff, settlements and shifting cultivation in Loktak catchment are directly degrading river water quality, with Nambul and Khuga rivers emerging as most polluted due to high land-use distur-



bances," said Jagadish K Patnaik, Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University.

To understand the root cause, researchers at the Nagaland University conducted field sampling across nine major rivers -- Khuga, Western, Nambul, Im-

phal, Kongba, Iiril, Thoubal, Heirok and Sekmai -- that drain into Loktak Lake.

Using detailed Land Use Land Cover (LULC) maps, the team compared different types of land activities such as agricultural areas, dense and degraded

forests, settlements, Jhum cultivation and water bodies, against water quality indicators like dissolved oxygen (DO), biological oxygen demand (BOD) and temperature.

"Our study confirms that land use decisions across villages and forest landscapes upstream are directly impacting water quality downstream. This makes community-based land management and stricter control of agricultural runoff and waste discharge crucial for restoring Loktak Lake," said Eliza Khwairakpam, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Nagaland University.

"Land management is not just an environmental concern but a livelihood protection strategy for the people of Manipur. Catchment-wide land regulation, sustainable agriculture practices and controlled Jhum cycles will be vital for protecting India's only floating national

park and the endangered Sangai deer habitat within the lake," she added.

The Nambul River was identified as the most polluted, with low oxygen levels and high organic contamination, directly linked to 47 per cent agricultural land and 11 per cent settlement areas in its sub-catchment. The Khuga River showed the second poorest water quality, despite having higher forest cover.

Researchers attribute this to extensive Jhum (shifting) cultivation, which was recorded at 42 per cent in the region.

In contrast, rivers such as Iiril and Thoubal, which flowed through greater forest-dominated landscapes, displayed better water quality, highlighting the protective role of natural vegetation.

The research was supported by the Forest Department, Government of Manipur, which provided LULC maps and the Manipur Pollution Control Board for field assistance. (PTI)

SATISH SHAH CREMATED; NASEERUDDIN SHAH, RATNA PATHAK ATTEND FUNERAL

MUMBAI, Oct 27: Family members, friends, and colleagues from the film and television industry bid a tearful adieu to veteran actor Satish Shah, who was cremated here on Sunday afternoon.

Industry veteran Naseeruddin Shah, his wife Ratna Pathak Shah, who was also Satish Shah's co-star in "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai", other actors from the fan-favourite show, and members of the film fraternity attended his final farewell.

Satish Shah passed away on Saturday at the age of 74 following a kidney ailment.

The mortal remains were brought to his home in Bandra (East) in an ambulance at around 11 am on Sunday.

The same ambulance was later decked up with marigold flowers and two photographs of the actor on the front and rear sides of the vehicle.

The body was later carried in the vehicle to Pawan Hans Crematorium in Vile Parle area for the last rites.

Actors Rupali Ganguly and Rajesh Kumar, co-stars of Satish Shah in "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai", turned emotional as they bid him a final goodbye.

Other show team members, including actors Sumeet Raghavan, Anang Desai, Paresch Ganatra, producer JD Majethia, writer-director Aatish Kapadia, and actor-director Devan Bhojani, also attended the funeral.

The actor's close friends and colleagues, such as Pankaj Kapur, Supriya Pathak, Swaroop Sampat, Suresh Oberoi, Poonam Dhillon, were also present.

Other members of the film fraternity, including Neil Nitin Mukesh, Dilip Joshi, Farah Khan, Jackie Shroff, Ali Asgar, Tiku Talsania, Sudhir Pandey, Sharat Sax-



ena, and Avatar Gil, also attended the last rites.

Satish Shah, a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), first appeared in minor roles in films such as "Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan", "Gaman", and "Umrao Jaan".

He later went on to create a niche for himself with his performance in films and TV shows such as "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron", "Maalamaal", "Hero Hiralal", "Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi", "Filmi Chakkar", "Hum Aapke Hai Koun..!", "Saathiya", "Main Hoon Na", "Kal Ho Naa Ho", and the sitcom "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai", among others.

He is survived by his wife, Madhu Shah, a designer. (PTI)

HOW 'MOGAMBO' COSTUME WAS READIED IN 7 DAYS, DESIGNER AGASTI RECOUNTS IN MEMOIR



NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Madhav Agasti received ₹ 35,000 for Amrish Puri's iconic 'Mogambo' costume which he designed in seven days using a latest embroidery machine and ecstatic on seeing it for the first time, the actor gleefully remarked 'Mogambo... khush hua', says a memoir by the ace stylist.

Agasti, 76, shares several such anecdotes in his book 'Stitching Stardom: For Icons, On and Offscreen' as he recounts his five-decade-long career during which he also designed a variety of dresses for politicians and leaders like PV Narasimha Rao, Pranab Mukherjee, Ram Nath Kovind, LK Advani, Balasaheb Thackeray and Farooq Abdullah among several others.

He designed costumes in over 350 Bollywood films.

He made Puri's costume for ₹ 25,000 but producer Boney Kapoor loved it so much that he increased the remuneration by ₹ 10,000 on seeing the final dress.

For their project 'Mr India', director Shekhar Kapur and Boney Kapoor walked into Agasti's shop in 1985.

Briefing on the role of the villain, he was specifically told that Puri should look both Western as well as like an Indian zamindar.

"It was not an easy task, though. Getting the 'mixed look' right meant I had to do a lot of research - going through foreign magazines, newspaper clippings, and encyclopaedias on film history," Agasti recalls.

He finally opted for an all-black coat with a golden monogram and complemented that with a long, frill shirt and big shoes to give Puri the look of an autocratic and a merciless 'foreigner' while the zamindar feel came with the breeches.

Agasti had told Kapur that he would reveal the outfit only on the sets.

"Puri's first sentence at RK Studios in Chembur when he saw the costume was 'Mogambo... khush hua!' -the iconic lines he says in 'Mr India'. His approval meant a lot to me," he says.

"It took me seven days to make the costume. I bought the latest embroidery machine then and made it for ₹ 25,000 in my Bandra store," Agasti writes, adding Kapoor loved the costume and increased the remuneration by ₹ 10,000 on seeing the dress.

Agasti says his memoir, published by Penguin, is his way of sharing the story of his life - how he struggled,

learned, grew, and adapted through the many phases in his life and changes in the tailoring and design industry.

Born in Nagpur on October 24, 1949, Agasti moved to Gwalior in 1967. From there, he moved to Delhi, Moradabad, Aligarh, a few places in Odisha and then to Kolkata before settling in Mumbai in 1973.

It was Yash Chopra who opened the doors for him in the Hindi film industry. Chopra entrusted him with considerable work, leading to collaborations with actors like Anil Kapoor and Saeed Jaffrey.

The designer mentions one day in the winter of 1984 when then Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah was at the Delhi airport with friends and fellow politicians, Sharad Pawar and NKP Salve.

"Out of the blue, he noticed Salve's bandhgala - designed by me - and said he was mighty impressed with its look and cut. After probing further, he expressed a desire to get something stitched from me. Abdullah was ecstatic when he was told that I was at the airport too," the book says.

Within minutes of being introduced to Abdullah, Agasti took him to the VIP lounge at the airport and took his measurements there.

"I first made a sherwani for him. He loved it so much that I followed that with a suit, a pathani, a safari, and a kurta; he remains my client to date," he writes.

Agasti says his brush with politicians was organic - often one contact led to the other, and they would feel comfortable getting their clothes designed by him after the initial experience.

He also worked with politicians like Balasaheb Thackeray, Jawaharlal Darda, Sushilkumar Shinde, Murli Manohar Joshi, Ghulam Nabi Azad, PC Alexander, LK Advani, Vilasrao Deshmukh, Manohar Joshi, Narayan Rane.

He stitched kurta-pyjama, shawl and also kurta-lungi for Thackeray.

"Once I asked Abdullah to send an off-white Kashmiri shawl for me. The Jammu and Kashmir leader sent that and an additional saffron-coloured one as well. I gave that to Balasaheb, who was thrilled to bits."

Agasti says contrary to popular perception, politicians are among the best paymasters - not a single leader has ever negotiated rates with him. (PTI)

Aayush Sharma collaborates with People Media Factory for new film



NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Actor Aayush Sharma, known for his work in projects such as "Loveyatri" and "Antim: The Final Truth", has teamed up with the production banner People Media Factory for his upcoming film.

The production banner shared the news on Sunday on the occasion of the actor's 35th birthday. The post on the banner's official X handle featured the poster with the actor's picture and "Happy Birthday Aayush Sharma" written over it.

"Wishing the charming and talented #AayushSharma a very Happy Birthday. We're beyond excited to have you join the People Media Factory family... #HBDAayushSharma," read the caption.

Sharma said it's an honour for him to team up with the banner for the "ambitious project".

"It's a big honour to team up with People Media Factory for an ambitious project. For the past few years, I have been watching the films produced by them, and it has always been a cinematic treat for me. I believe it is one of the production houses that's pushing the boundaries in Indian cinema. I am excited to take this journey," Sharma said in a statement.

Sharma will next feature in "My Punjabi Nikaah" alongside Sanjay Dutt. The film is directed by Sohail Khan and is set in Punjab. (PTI)

It's a film I will always be proud of: Kriti Sanon on 'Do Patti'

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon celebrated one year of her film "Do Patti" and said it's the project she will always be proud of.

Directed by Shashanka Chaturvedi, the film was produced by Kanika Dhillon alongside the actress, which also marked the first production for Sanon under her production banner Blue Butterfly Films.

Featuring the actress in a dual role, the film also starred Kajol and Shaheer Sheikh. It released on Netflix on October 25.

Sanon shared a video of the film's trailer on her Instagram story on Saturday. "It's been a year of my first butterfly. A film I will always be proud of... my first production... @bluebutterflyfilmsofficial. Happy one year," she wrote.

Sheikh shared a picture on his Instagram handle alongside his co-stars and added a lengthy note along.

"A year ago, we sent this story out into the world. Today, I look back with so much gratitude. Thank you @kanika.d @kritisanon @beatnikb05 @kajol @martratssepp @netflix_in @kathapictures @bluebutterflyfilmsofficial," it read.

"The love and support from our audience was the best part. Thank you for watching, for sharing, and for making this film so special. This success is yours as much as it is ours. #thankyouAudience #DoPatti," he added.

The film also starred Tanvi Azmi and Brijendra Kala in pivotal roles. (PTI)



Amitabh Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and others mourn veteran actor Satish Shah's death

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Actors Amitabh Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Kareena Kapoor Khan, among others, shared posts on their respective social media handles as they remembered the late actor Satish Shah.

Shah, known for his notable work in projects such as "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron" and "Main Hoon Na" and the sitcom "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai", passed away at his residence in Bandra East in the afternoon on Saturday. He was 74.

Bachchan shared a note on his blog on Sunday as he remembered the late actor.

"Another of us passes away... Satish Shah, a young talent, and has left us at a very young age... And the stars they favour not... to us all... And

these times of the grim... it bodes not well to express in normalcy... foreboding us in all at each moment... It is in the ease to abide by that age old wordage... but the show must go on... and so it does as does life... Each day an express of an alternate... or wherever the 'show' must guide us to... hence... even in distress and glumness despondency, the face of normalcy and the act of work, persists... but no... improper to pursue normalcy," he wrote.

Jonas shared a story on her Instagram handle on Saturday evening and wrote, "Rest in peace Satishji."

Khan wrote, "Rest in glory Satish Shah."

Roshan shared a post on his X handle and said Shah's "legacy will continue to inspire."

"Rest in peace, dear Satish Sir. I will never forget the kindness you extended to a newcomer like me on set. Your humour and legacy will continue to inspire. My deepest condolences to the family & friends."

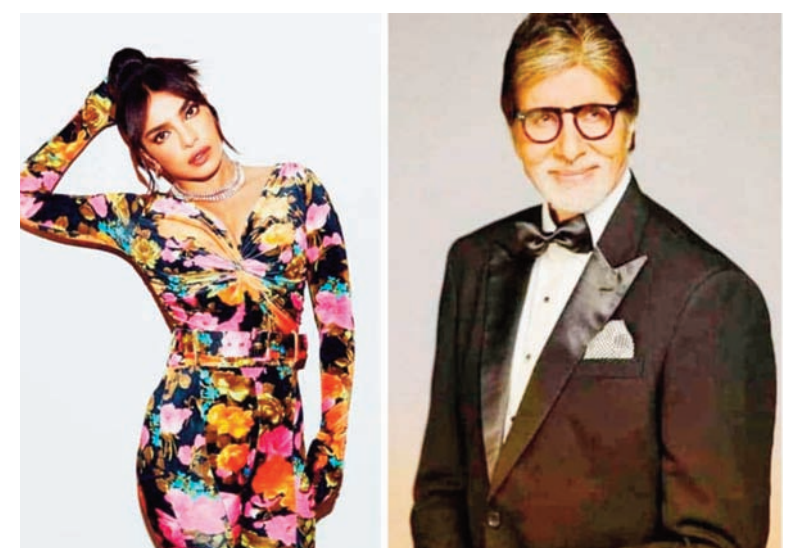
Anupam Kher remembered the comedic actor by posting a video on his Instagram handle. "What is happening? In the past 3-4 days so many good people have left, that too the ones that have worked with me. Behind this empty smile of mine is a lot of sadness. Satish Shah... I used to say Satish mere Shah (Satish, my king)," he said in the video.

"He was a great friend of mine, it is just shocking. I am revisiting Switzerland where we shot 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' and I saw the news that Satish Shah is no more, he

was in 'Dilwale' and 'Hum Aapke Hai Kaun' and in so many more. He used to laugh and make us laugh," he added.

A graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Shah initially appeared in minor roles in films such as "Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan" (1978) and "Gaman" (1979). He became a household name after he featured in filmmaker Kundan Shah's 1983 cult classic "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro", playing the role of the corrupt municipal commissioner D'Mello.

He was also known for his roles in television series such as "Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi" (1984), where he portrayed 55 different characters across 55 episodes, and "Filmi Chakkar" (1995). (PTI)



Nagaland's Nischal, Lemtur slam centuries to frustrate TN in Ranji Trophy

Skipper Sai Kishore would be hoping to break partnership as quickly as possible before Nagaland entertain thought of taking the first-innings lead in game

BENGALURU, Oct 27: Underdogs Nagaland showed they are made of sterner stuff as their batters fought tooth and nail all day to score 365/5 and frustrate Tamil Nadu who would be fancying their chances of enforcing a follow-on after a mammoth 512-run first-innings total in a Ranji Trophy Group A match here on Monday.

After promising TN left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh had left Nagaland reeling at 150/4 on Sunday by taking all the wickets, including a hat-trick that had reduced the northeastern side to 3/9 early on, opener Dega Nischal and middle-order batter Imliwati Lemtur slammed fine centuries on Monday to frustrate the rival bowlers.

On a high-scoring wicket, overnight batter Nischal who was 80 not out, came back refreshed to add another 81 runs to be unbeaten on 161 (350 balls, 4x24), while veteran Nagaland batter Lemtur dug deep to score 115 not out (203 balls, 4x17, 6x3) as the side reduced the lead to 147 runs going into the final day.

Nischal and Lemtur's unbeaten 205-run sixth-wicket partnership would now be weighing on Tamil Nadu skipper Sai Kishore's mind, given that Nagaland now look quite capable of overhauling the rival's mammoth first-innings total if they bat sensibly on the last day of the rubber.

Gurjapneet, who played two unofficial ODIs for India A against the touring Aus-



tralia A side in Kanpur last month, could not get the vital breakthrough while the rest of the Tamil Nadu bowlers, barring left-arm spinner DT Chandrasekar who got the only success on the day, toiled all day without making inroads.

Yugandhar Singh, the only batter to fall on the day, added just nine runs to his

overnight score of 58 before being dismissed by Chandrasekar on 67. The 20-year-old's, 129-run fifth-wicket stand with Nischal on Sunday had provided stability to the Nagaland side after Gurjapneet's hat-trick.

Nischal and all-rounder Lemtur batted patiently on Monday, playing the ball on

merit without trying any audacious shot.

The 31-year-old left-arm spinner Lemtur was a revelation with the bat as he notched up his maiden century in his 43rd first-class match. Lemtur's previous best was 61, with his batting average just over 13-per-game.

But on Monday, he gave Tamil Nadu a mighty scare, and their skipper Sai Kishore would be hoping to break the partnership as quickly as possible before Nagaland entertain the thought of taking the first-innings lead in the game.

Brief scores:

In Dimapur: Tamil Nadu 1st innings 512/3 decl in 115 overs vs Nagaland 365 for 5 in 127 overs (Dega Nischal 161 not out, Yugandhar Singh 67, Imliwati Lemtur 115 not out; Gurjapneet Singh 4/57).

In Vizianagaram: Baroda 1st innings 363 in 109 overs (Vishnu Solanki 132; Atit Sheth 86, Mahesh Phithiya 54; Kavuri Saiteja 4/71, Tripurana Vijay 3/63) vs Andhra 43 for 2 in 16 overs (Bhargav Bhatt 2/9).

In Nagpur: Jharkhand 1st innings 332 in 125.3 overs vs Vidarbha 239 for 2 in 88 overs (Aman Mohd 145 not out, Dhruv Shorey 48).

In Kanpur: Odisha 1st innings: 243 all out in 77.1 overs vs Uttar Pradesh 380 for 6 in 128 overs (Madhav Kaushik 67, Karan Sharma 121, Aaradhya Yadav 101 ret hurt, Sambit Baral 3/52). (PTI)

It's high time current KSCA committee announces dates for election: Venkatesh Prasad



BENGALURU, Oct 27: Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad on Monday urged Karnataka State Cricket Association's incumbent administrators to conduct election rather than clinging on to peripheral clauses in the by-law to delay the proceedings.

Prasad along with seasoned administrator Vinay Mruthyunjaya and former Indian women's cricket team captain Shanta Rangaswamy said election should be initiated at the earliest to avoid the prevailing state of chaos in the association.

"We have all been waiting for the announcement (of the election) to happen. It was supposed to happen long back and by this time a new committee should have taken over the running of the association," said Prasad here during a select media gathering.

"So, obviously, you know, it (election) was supposed to be held before 30th of September according to rule and the KSCA by-law. So, I think it's high time the people who are running the show now at KSCA should call for an election," he added.

The tenure of the current regime headed by BCCI treasurer Raghuram Bhatt was ended on September 30, but a definite date for election is yet to be announced, though the speculation was that the polls would be conducted either in October or November.

The KSCA secretary A Shankar and treasurer ES Jairam had resigned taking the moral responsibility for the stampede near Chinnaswamy Stadium following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's victory in the IPL 2025.

In the tragic turn of events, 11 fans were killed and several others left injured.

"There is no secretary, no president as he has gone to BCCI, no treasurer or even vice president for that matter. So, it's high time they announce the dates for the elections. In fact, there is a rule which specifies that vacancies have to be filled within 45 days.

"It has not happened either. It has been five months since they resigned. He (president) is not in position for the last 30 days now. The cricket season has started. We don't know who is running (the association), who is passing the

balls because they don't have any authority, if I can say that," said Mruthyunjaya.

Prasad, who will be contesting in the elections, said the whole episode has tarnished the image of KSCA in cricketing circles.

"I think it's important for us to put more pressure on them to say that, you know, they need to call for elections. It's high time and it's important.

"You know, at one stage, KSCA was looked up to by all the associations. But now, we are seen as, you know, and they are laughing at it. Even the Women's World Cup matches were taken away from us. As a cricketer, it hurts me," said Prasad.

Prasad and Mruthyunjaya said it is a silly act by the current set of administrators to raise the nine-year-clause in their attempt to reject the nominations of some of the contestants in their panel.

"I am given to understand that the managing committee (which is responsible to call for election) is trying to misinterpret the by-laws to disqualify a few eligible, able administrators through the nine-year rule. But that didn't apply to a lot of them (the present committee)."

"The KSCA by-law says that an administrator may be able to serve for a period of nine years in the BCCI and nine years in the state association, as they are deemed mutually exclusive.

"Yes, there was a restriction after nine years as per Lodha Committee's original recommendation. But subsequently on 20th September 2019, the Supreme Court came up with an order, telling that nine-year rule will not be applicable to somebody who has completed nine years in a managing committee (of a state association). This benefit is only for state associations, and not there even for the BCCI," said Mruthyunjaya.

"So in my opinion, there is nothing which has adversely affected the current by-law because there have been registered because there has been no further orders (by the SC). They have even conducted an election for the vice-president (K Srinam) who has completed nine years. So how can there be a new interpretation now?," he added. (PTI)

Pratika Rawal ruled out of the Women's World Cup

NAVI MUMBAI, Oct 27: In a major blow to India, in-form opener Pratika Rawal was on Monday ruled out of the remainder of the Women's World Cup after injuring her knee and ankle during the game against Bangladesh.

The 25-year-old had twisted her right ankle during India's last league match at the DY Patil Stadium here on Sunday.

"The manner in which she fell, it became clear that she would not be available for the knockout games. It is very unfortunate," a BCCI source told PTI.

Rawal's right foot got stuck into the turf on the final ball of the 21st over as she ran in from deep midwicket to stop the ball, and collapsed immediately grimacing in pain.

Indian players ran towards their teammate while a stretcher was also taken to the spot, but Rawal walked off the field with assistance from the support staff.

Rawal has been in stellar form throughout the tournament, amassing 308 runs from six innings at an average of 51.33.

She hit her maiden World Cup century in the game against New Zealand. In the process, she also became the joint-fastest to 1000 runs in women's ODIs.

Rawal has also forged a prolific alliance with Smriti Mandhana at the top of the order.

India are set to take on defending champions Australia in the semifinal on Thursday while the final is scheduled for Sunday.

There are also doubts over Richa Ghosh's fitness as well. The wicketkeeper batter had sustained a blow to her finger against New Zealand and subsequently sat out the Bangladesh match. (PTI)

In-form Bellingham key for Real Madrid as it ended its losing streak in clasico against Barcelona

MADRID, Oct 27: The day after the first clasico of the season saw Real Madrid celebrating the end of its losing streak against Barcelona, and hailing the return to form of Jude Bellingham.

Bellingham had an assist and a goal as Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 on Sunday to halt a four-game losing run against the Catalan rival. The England international showed all the signs that he is near top form again after missing the first part of the season because of a shoulder surgery.

Bellingham has now scored in consecutive matches, having found the net for the first time this season in Madrid's 1-0 win against Juventus in the Champions League on Wednesday. He has shown no signs of physical ailments, and has been crucial in helping the team control the pace in midfield and attack.

Bellingham underwent surgery in the summer and didn't play his first match until coming off the bench in a Spanish league game against Espanyol in September. He made only his eighth appearance of the season on Sunday.

"I feel very good," Bellingham said. "I've worked hard these past few months with the physios and in the gym. I'm very happy now because I feel great and ready for what's to come."

Bellingham scored the winner against Barcelona thanks to clever positioning after a cross into the area. Teammate Eder Militao got to a long cross by Vinicius Junior and headed the ball back toward the goal, finding a wide-open Bellingham behind the defenders for an easy touch into the open

net.

"These are my favorite goals," the 22-year-old Bellingham said. "A lot of people say it's luck, but for me it's how I understand the game. When the ball goes here or there, position changes everything and I'm always ready if it comes to me. Militao got his head to it and then I was there to score."

Bellingham showed his form again while helping Kylian Mbappe open the scoring. After receiving a ball near the midfield line, Bellingham quickly turned around a defender and sent Mbappe a perfect through ball between a couple of Barcelona players. Mbappe entered the area and calmly found the net for Madrid's first goal.

"They play very high up the pitch," Bellingham said. "We have Mbappe and it's easier up front. I turned and passed, and then he shot and scored."

Madrid coach Xabi Alonso praised Bellingham and said he is expected to keep improving the more he plays.

"He's had three very good games and we knew that before the last break he needed minutes to get going and get a feel for things," Alonso said. "He's done better than expected after the break. He's a player who's very much about feeling, transmitting and connecting. He's played some very good games."

The victory in the clasico left Alonso's team five points ahead of Barcelona in the Spanish league standings.

Madrid's next match is at home against Valencia in the league on Saturday. (AP)

Surya's batting form doesn't concern me: Gambhir backs T20I captain



NEW DELHI, Oct 27: India's head coach Gautam Gambhir is not perturbed by T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav's poor form as "failures are inevitable" when the team is focussed on playing an ultra-aggressive brand of cricket.

While India won the Asia Cup tournament last month in the UAE under his captaincy, Suryakumar's own form with the bat left a lot to be desired as he managed just 72 runs in seven innings.

However, he has now found backing from the team's head coach.

"Honestly, Surya's batting form doesn't concern me because we have committed to an ultra-aggressive template in our dressing room. When you embrace this philosophy, failures are inevitable," Gambhir said during a discussion on JioHotstar.

"It would be easy for Surya to score 40 runs off 30 balls and avoid criticism, but we have collectively decided that it's acceptable to fail while pursuing this approach," he added.

Even as Surya was struggling with the willow, the likes of Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma lit up the tournament with their explosive batting.

Gambhir said the focus is not on individuals but on the team as a whole. "Currently, Abhishek Sharma is in good form and has maintained it throughout the Asia Cup. When Surya finds his rhythm, he will shoulder the responsibility accordingly.

"In T20 cricket, our focus isn't on individual runs but on the brand of cricket we want to play. With our aggressive style,

batters may fail more often, but impact ultimately matters more than mere runs," Gambhir said.

During the interaction, Gambhir spoke about his vision for building a fearless team culture, and his partnership with Suryakumar.

"Surya is a great human being, and good humans make good leaders. While he speaks highly of me, my role is simply to advise him fairly based on my reading of the game. Ultimately, this is his team.

"His free-spirited character perfectly matches T20 cricket's essence, it's about freedom and expression. Your off-field personality reflects on the field and in the dressing room, and Surya has maintained this atmosphere brilliantly over the past 1.5 years," Gambhir said.

"From our first conversation, we agreed: we will not fear losing. I don't aim to be the most successful coach; I want us to be the most fearless team," the head coach said. Gambhir admitted that his players are bound to make mistakes as they seek to become a fearless outfit.

"In big games like the Asia Cup final, I told the players it's okay to drop a catch, play a bad shot, or bowl a poor delivery. Human beings make mistakes. Only the opinions of those in the dressing room matter.

"Surya and I consistently agree: we will never fear mistakes. The bigger the game, the more fearless and aggressive we must be. A conservative approach only gives the opposition an advantage. With the talent we have, if we play fearlessly, we will be fine," Gambhir said.

India beat Pakistan in the final to win the Asia Cup. (PTI)

Kevin De Bruyne likely out until 2026 with severe thigh injury, a blow for Napoli and Belgium

NAPLES, Oct 27: Napoli has had its fears confirmed with the news that Kevin De Bruyne has a severe lesion to his thigh muscle and will be sidelined for several months.

De Bruyne immediately pulled up and clutched the back of his right thigh after converting a penalty to set Napoli on the way to a 3-1 win over Inter Milan on Saturday.

The former Manchester City midfielder looked distraught and had to be helped off the field by two medical staff. He was later seen sitting on the bench with his thigh heavily strapped and crutches alongside him.

"Following the injury that occurred during the match against Inter, Kevin De Bruyne underwent instrumental tests at the Pineta Grande Hospital and that showed a high-grade lesion to the femoral bicep in his right thigh," Napoli said in a statement on Monday.

"The player has already started the rehabilitation process."

The Serie A team did not give an indication of when De Bruyne is expected back but it is a similar injury to that sustained by Napoli and Belgium teammate Romelu Lukaku during a preseason friendly. Lukaku will likely be back

in January.

The penalty took De Bruyne's tally to four goals in eight Serie A matches. It also helped send Napoli joint top of the league but it could have come at a hefty cost.

Fellow midfielder Stanislav Lobotka is also out injured while Frank Anguissa will be with Cameroon at the Africa Cup of Nations between December and January.

The news will also be a blow to Belgium which has crucial World Cup qualifiers coming up next month. De Bruyne has netted six goals in his past five matches for his country. (AP)

Babar Azam gets a chance to answer coach's questions in T20 series against South Africa

RAWALPINDI, Oct 27: Babar Azam gets an opportunity to answer all the questions from white-ball coach Mike Hesson over his technique and skillset in Twenty20 cricket when Pakistan takes on South Africa in a three-match series starting Tuesday.

Babar, who needs only nine runs to break Rohit Sharma's all-time record of 4,231 runs in T20 internationals, hasn't been selected in the format since December. In that time, Pakistan has played 26 T20s.

Babar has scored 4,223 runs at an average of 39.83, but Hesson had concerns over the premier batter's strike rate of 129.22. He also wanted improvement in Babar's technique.

Since taking over in July, Hesson has favored Sahibzada Farhan, Saïm Ayub and Fakhar Zaman for the top three batting slots.

Without Babar, Pakistan won a bilateral home series against Bangladesh before losing 2-1 in

Bangladesh. Pakistan also won 2-1 against West Indies and the tri-series in the United Arab Emirates before losing three times to archrival India in the "no handshake" Asia Cup.

Now the absence of Zaman for the series against South Africa has forced Hesson to "endorse" Babar at No. 3, a batting position where he has scored 1,166 runs in 35 T20s at an average of 44.84.

According to Hesson, Zaman wanted to play in first-class cricket to gear up for the ODI series against South Africa in Faisalabad next month and team management agreed to give the left-hander a break from T20 cricket.

"That's created an opportunity for another top-order player and it's a great opportunity to get Babar back into the squad," Hesson said.

"He's likely to bat at three so it's a role that I'm very confident that he'll be able to do well, and it also gives our squad some options coming into the World Cup."

Popular pick

Babar has a strong fan base, and strong crowds turned out in Lahore and Rawalpindi to cheer for their star player during the recent drawn 1-1 test series against South Africa. They left the stadium in big numbers the moment Babar got out.

Babar scored 131 runs in four test innings against South Africa, falling to spinners three times. His top score of 50 was not enough to save Pakistan from an eight-wicket loss at Rawalpindi in the second test.

Understrength South Africa

Injury to David Miller forced the Proteas to hand over the T20 cap-

taincy to Donovan Ferreira, who recently endured a shocking four-wicket loss to Namibia in a one-off game. Miller strained his right hamstring during a training camp in South Africa.

Fast bowler Gerald Coetzee was also ruled out of the white-ball tour to Pakistan because of a pectoral muscle injury he sustained against Namibia, when he was limited to 1.3 overs. Another promising fast bowler, Kwena Maphaka, was ruled out with a hamstring strain.

Matthew Breetzke, who will lead South Africa in the ODI series against Pakistan, and uncapped Tony de Zorzi were drafted into the T20 squad.

The series will also mark the return of Quinton de Kock in white-ball format after the left-hander reversed his ODI retirement last month. He hasn't played in the shortest format since South Africa lost last year's T20 World Cup final to India. (AP)

Skating body investigates after toy missile seen with Chinese ice dancers at Grand Prix event

LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND), Oct 27: The International Skating Union is investigating after two Chinese ice dancers were shown with what appeared to be a toy ballistic missile during a Grand Prix figure skating event.

TV footage showed Ren Junfei and Xing Jianing sitting with a large toy in the shape of a missile labeled "DF-61" as they were waiting for their scores in the "kiss and cry" area at the Cup of China on Saturday. The toy was briefly held up by Ren, Xing and a coach, then placed across Xing's lap.

The DF-61 is a new Chinese-made, land-based intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear weapons which was unveiled at a military parade last month.

"The ISU is aware that an inappropriate soft toy seems to have been among those thrown onto the ice by spectators following a performance at the ISU Figure Skating Grand Prix Cup of China event on 25 October," the ISU told the Associated Press in an e-mailed statement late Sunday.

"The soft toy was subsequently held by the skaters who had just performed. The ISU regrets the incident and will investigate further." Ren and Xing placed eighth of 10 pairs in the ice dance event, which was won by Madison Chock and Evan Bates of the United States. (AP)

Bavuma returns from injury to lead SA in India, squad packed with three frontline spinners

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 27: Captain Temba Bavuma returned to the South Africa squad on Monday for the two-Test series in India after recovering from a calf injury.

The series begins on November 14 with matches scheduled in Guwahati and Kolkata.

Bavuma was not part of the recent two-match series in Pakistan that his team drew with the hosts. Majority of the squad from the Pakistan series has been retained with David Bedingham making way for Bavuma.

Bavuma, who led his team to the title in the previous World Test Championship cycle, is also likely to play the preceding shadow series against India A beginning in Bengaluru on November 2. The A series will also mark the return of Rishabh Pant from injury.

South Africa spin trio of Simon Harmer, Keshav Maharaj and Senuran Muthusamy had made big impact on the turning tracks in Pakistan and they could trouble the Indian batters in their own backyard.

It remains to be seen what kind of pitches India dish out, having not opted for rank turners against



the West Indies earlier this month. Kagiso Rabada and all-rounders Corbin Bosch, Marco Jansen and

Wiaan Mulder provide the pace options. The first Test gets underway on

November 14 at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, before the side heads to Guwahati, where the ACA Stadium will host its maiden Test match from November 22.

"We've kept the bulk of the squad that competed in the two-match series against Pakistan. Those players showed real character and fought hard to come from behind and draw that series," head coach Shukri Conrad said.

"We are anticipating a similar challenge in India, and many of the players who stood up in those conditions will once again be key for us."

"Pakistan was a squad effort and India will demand the same. Every player has a role to play in ensuring we remain competitive in what is always a tough place to tour," he added.

South Africa Squad for India Tests: Temba Bavuma (captain), Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne, Dewald Brevis, Zubayr Hamza, Tony de Zorzi, Corbin Bosch, Wiaan Mulder, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Senuran Muthusamy, Kagiso Rabada, Simon Harmer. (PTI)

Captain Cummins ruled out of Ashes opener, Smith to lead Australia

CANBERRA, Oct 27: Australia captain Pat Cummins has been ruled out of the first Ashes Test due to a back injury, with Steve Smith set to lead the side in his absence.

The Australia captain has been sidelined with a back stress injury since July and had earlier this month said he was "less than likely" to feature in the first Test against England in Perth starting November 21.

"We've run out of time," head coach Andrew McDonald told reporters here.

"We sort of flagged this a week or so ago that it would take sort of four plus weeks to get him up and running and we've run out of time, unfortunately, but really optimistic and hopeful for the second Test match."

"We've grappled with it for a little while. The nature of the injury is that you never know and you're sort of taking it a day by day," he added.

McDonald said the talismanic pacer will resume bowling this week and is hopeful the captain will be fit in time for the second Test in Brisbane, starting December 4.

"He'll be back bowling this week, and that's a huge step. That was the big variable that we wanted to add in. We're on the journey to



that that second Test match, and very hopeful that that will be a positive outcome.

"We'll see how he pulls up and then we'll make decisions moving forward," McDonald said.

"I know that sounds really boring and everyone wants a time frame and what's the risk associated with it. There's better people than I to speculate on what that is."

He will travel to Perth with the Test squad next month.

"Patty will be around the group as well, he'll come to Perth ... and it'll almost be one of those things where you'll see him and it'll almost be a question of, 'Why isn't he playing in Perth?' That's where we think he'll be placed by that stage," said the coach. Smith, who has captained Aus-

tralia six times in Cummins' absence since 2021, will lead the side.

"We flip into Steve Smith being the captain and we're incredibly fortunate to have such an experienced captain," McDonald said.

"He's filled in for Patty six times since Patty's taken over, so they're a good working sort of couple, so to speak. I don't want that to be a grab or anything, but they work well together and there'll be a nice hand over and Patty will be around the group as well."

Scott Boland is likely to join Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood in Australia's pace attack in Perth.

"Losing your captain is not ideal, but when you talk about Scott Boland being the potential replacement, it's not a bad position to be in." (PTI)

Indian shuttlers handed tough draws at USD 475,000 Hylo Open Super 500



SAARBRÜCKEN (GERMANY), Oct 27: A host of Indian shuttlers, both experienced and youngsters, will face stiff competition with several tricky first-round encounters lined up across categories as they continue their quest for glory at the USD 475,000 Hylo Open Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

In the men's singles, 2021 World Championships bronze medalist Lakshya Sen, who reached the finals at Hong Kong Open, will be pitted against fifth seed Christo Popov of France, while US Open champion Ayush Shetty opens against Denmark's Victor Lai.

Former world No.1 Kidambi Srikanth, who reached the final of the Malaysia Masters earlier this year, will take on compatriot Kiran George in an all-Indian clash, while S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian faces Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao and Tharun Manjappalli, a semifinalist at the Macau Open Super 300, will square off against second seed Jonathan Christie of Indonesia.

In the women's singles draw, Anmol Kharb, who reached the semifinals of the Arctic Open

Super 500 earlier this month, will meet Denmark's Julie Dawall Jakobsen. Rising shuttler Unnati Hooda, the winner of the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters, has been drawn against Brazil's Juliana Viana Vieira.

Anupama Upadhyaya will lock horns with Ukraine's Polina Buhrova, while Rakshitree Sree Santhosh Ramraj takes on Spain's Clara Azurmendi. Shriyanshi Valishetty, who clinched the Al Ain Masters Super 100 title earlier this month, faces a tough opener against third seed Line Højmark Kjærskeld of Denmark.

Aakarshi Kashyap begins her campaign against Turkey's Neslihan Arin, and Tanya Hemanth will face fourth seed Lin Hsiang Ti of Chinese Taipei.

In men's doubles, the Indian pair of Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K. will take on the French duo of Christo and Toma Junior Popov in their opening round.

In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde will face Canada's Jonathan Bing Tsan Lai and Crystal Lai in their first-round match. (PTI)

Zampa to miss start of T20I series against India, Sangha drafted in

MELBOURNE, Oct 27: Top Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa will miss the start of the five-match T20 International series against India due to personal reasons with Cricket Australia drafting Tanveer Sangha in the squad. The series begins on Wednesday in Canberra.

According to a report in 'ESPN-cricinfo', Zampa is expecting his second child with wife Harriet.

The 23-year-old Sangha has featured in seven T20Is for Australia, picking up 10 wickets with his leg-spin. A regular with Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL), Sangha has not played an international match since 2023. He had made a memorable debut against South Africa, returning figures of 4 for 31.

Sangha was also part of the Australia A squad that toured India earlier this year, claiming seven wickets in the three one-dayers against India A. He is currently the leading wicket-taker in the ongoing One-Day Cup, with 10 wickets from four matches for New South Wales.

Zampa had missed the first ODI against India in Perth but played the next two matches. Australia won the three-match ODI series 2-1 after clinching victories in the first two games. (PTI)

Shreyas Iyer admitted to ICU after internal bleeding

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: India ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has been admitted to a hospital in Sydney and is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after suffering internal bleeding resulting from a rib cage injury sustained during the third match against Australia. Iyer, who had taken a brilliant catch while running backwards from backward point to dismiss Alex Carey, appeared to have injured his left rib cage in the process.

According to sources, Iyer fainted in the dressing room and his vital parameters were alarmingly low. He was rushed to the hospital soon after with scans revealing he sustained a "laceration injury to the spleen".

"Shreyas Iyer sustained an impact injury to his left lower rib cage region...He was taken to the hospital for further evaluation. Scans have revealed a laceration injury to the spleen. He is under treatment, medically stable, and recovering well," the BCCI said in a statement on Monday.

"The BCCI Medical Team, in consultation with specialists in Sydney and India, is closely monitoring his injury status. The Indian Team Doctor will remain in Sydney with Shreyas to evaluate his day-to-day progress," the



statement added.

The 30-year-old will remain under observation for 2-7 days.

"Shreyas has been in ICU for the past couple of days. After the reports came in, internal bleeding was detected, and he had to be admitted immediately," a source privy to the development told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"He will remain under observation for anywhere between two to seven days depending on recovery, as one needed to stop spreading of infection due to bleeding."

The BCCI medical team acted swiftly after Iyer's vital parameters fluctuated upon his return to the dressing room.

"The team doctor and physio didn't take any chances and took

him to the hospital immediately. Things are stable now, but it could have been fatal. He's a tough lad and should be fine soon," the source added.

Initially, Iyer was expected to be out of action for about three weeks, but the recovery period may now be longer.

"Since there has been internal bleeding, he will certainly need more time to recover, and at this point, it's difficult to put a definite timeline on his return to competitive cricket," the source said.

The 31-year-old is expected to remain in the Sydney hospital for at least a week before being declared fit to travel back to India. Iyer is not part of India's T20 squad. (PTI)

Rajen Borgohain and Gopal Borgohain Memorial Football Tournament Kicks Off in Kapahera

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Oct 27: The Kapahera Anchalik Sports Association has launched the Rajen Borgohain and Gopal Borgohain Memorial Running Trophy Invitational Prize Money Football Tournament at the historic Kapahera Stadium. The tournament, which began on Sunday, has drawn huge crowds and is expected to attract sports enthusiasts from across the state. In the day-night inaugural match, Shalbagan FC emerged victorious, defeating Dhing's New Star Club 4-1.

Ramakanta Dewri, MLA of the Marigaon constituency and president of the Kapahera Anchalik Sports Association, formally inaugurated the tournament.

Eldarson Hembrom scored two goals for Shalbagan FC, while Raj Kumar Hembrom and Swndwn Brahma added one each.

Santi Rabha scored the only goal for New Star Club.

The match was officiated by former national referee Ohiduj Zaman, who was assisted by Kalyan Baruah, Pallabjyoti Nath, and Apurba Bora.

The tournament's organizing committee, led by president Suresh Deka and secretary Dikram Borgohain, announced that the next match will feature Tezpur City FC against Raha Katahuri FC on October 28.

The tournament's opening ceremony included a tribute to the late legendary singer Zubeen Garg, with the inaugural match dedicated to his memory.

Dhull, Doseja fifties extend Delhi's lead to 329 against HP

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Yash Dhull smashed an attractive 70 off only 59 balls while Ayush Doseja continued his good form with an unbeaten 62 as Delhi extended their overall lead to 329 runs against Himachal Pradesh on the third day of their Ranji Trophy group D match here.

Play was called off early due to bad light as Delhi raced to 196 for 4 in just 32 overs courtesy Dhull and Doseja's rollicking stand that yielded 125 runs in 19.3 overs.

This was after Delhi dismissed Himachal Pradesh for 297 in their first innings to ensure a first-innings lead of 133. Veteran pacer Navdeep Saini took 3 for 52 while young Money Grewal had 2 for 47 to show for his efforts.

Delhi are gunning for six points and one might see them declaring at the overnight score in order to get maximum overs on the final day to register an outright win. Coming to bat in the second session, Delhi, in their bid to score quickly, were reduced to 53 for 3 when Dhull was joined by southpaw Doseja.

For around four overs they weren't getting the big

shots going but then Dhull started attacking with some crispy shots square off the wicket. The cheeky Doseja also followed suit with some deft shots off slow bowlers as the scorecard suddenly gained momentum.

Since the light deteriorated in the afternoon, the Dhull-Doseja pair knew that they have to up the ante.

At one point, HP skipper Ankush Bains spread his field to stop the steady flow of boundaries. Yet Dhull bisected the fielders stationed at deep point and deep extra cover boundary off pacer Vaibhav Arora.

The shot of the day was a bent knee slog sweep that sailed deep into the extra cover stand of off-spinner Mukul Negi's bowling.

Dhull's innings had eight fours and two sixes while Doseja hit eight boundaries.

Once the former India U19 captain was holed out, Doseja tried maintaining the momentum with Anuj Rawat for company. But it became so dark that umpires had to stop the proceedings.

Brief scores: Delhi 430 and 196/4 (Yash Dhull 70, Ayush Doseja 62 batting). HP 297 (Sidhant Purohit 70, Navdeep Saini 3/52). (PTI)

There is so much to do in life besides what you do professionally: Rohit



SYDNEY, Oct 27: Rohit Sharma attributed the success he had in the just-concluded ODI series against Australia to the preparation "in his own terms", which stemmed from the self-realisation of life having more angles to it than just being professionally committed. Rohit made an unbeaten 121 here to guide India to a nine-wicket win over Australia which helped the visitors avoid a whitewash. The hosts won the three-match series 2-1.

"Since the time I started playing, I never had four to five months to prepare for a series, so I wanted to utilise that. I wanted to do things in my own way, on my own terms, and that actually worked out well for me, understanding what I need to do for the rest of my career," Rohit told the BCCI website.

Rohit was adjudged man of the match and man of the series against the Aussies, despite playing competitive cricket for the first time since the IPL in May.

"It was important to utilise that time because, like I said, I never had so much time, and I prepared well back home. There are differences between conditions here and back home but I have come here so many times, so, it was just about getting into that rhythm."

"So I give a lot of credit to the way I prepped before coming here, giving a lot of time to myself first. That was very important because sometimes you need to understand that there is so much to do in life besides what you do professionally. But I got a lot of time in my hand, and I utilised that," he added.

Rohit cherished the big, match-winning partnership that he had with long-time associate Virat Kohli.

"I enjoy playing in Australia, today also...to get a big one and get the team through. When we started to bat, obviously, it was a bit of a challenge with two new

balls, the pitch was slightly misbehaving at the start and we knew that once the shine of the ball is off, it will get a bit easier."

"Fantastic partnership (with Kohli) after a long long time. I think we did not have a 100-run partnership for a long time. It was good to get that partnership from a team's perspective, looking at how we were placed at one point."

"(Shubman) Gill got out a bit early, and we knew with (injured) Shreyas Iyer not being there, there was an added responsibility on batters. We enjoyed every moment we spent out there, there was a lot of chatter between the two of us."

"We have played so much cricket together. We understand each other really well, so much experience between the two of us and we used it pretty well," he reminisced.

Despite the series defeat, former skipper Rohit found some positives.

"A lot of positives from the series, especially Harshit Rana who has been playing white-ball cricket in Australia for the first time, and the way he bowled in both the games (Sydney and Adelaide), it was a fantastic effort from him," he added.

The 38-year-old also had a word of appreciation for the Australian crowd and Indian supporters.

"Very, very grateful, firstly, to have people standing beside you. Whenever we have played, people have come out and supported not just the two of us, but the entire team."

"In Australia, the crowd never disappoints. They come out in large numbers to watch cricket because two good teams playing, they want to watch quality cricket."

"Unfortunately, we could not cross the line with the series, but we enjoyed coming here. Really, really grateful to the crowd for their support throughout Australia. I hope they continue to do that," he said. (PTI)